



In Conversation with

Rigzen Wangmo

Road safety awareness should take precedence over traffic violations in Ladakh



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# Reach—Ladakh

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### Reach Ladakh Bulletin

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# LBA, LGA organise massive rally, put forth five demands

#### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Ladakh Buddhist Association and All Ladakh Gonpa Association, Leh organised a massive rally in Leh demanding enactment of anti-conversion law, inclusion of Bhoti language in the 8th schedule of Indian constitution, creation of a separate department for culture, immediate commencement of recruitment process in Ladakh and restoration of 1961 Govt. order for construction of a monastery in Kargil.

A copy of the memorandum was submitted to the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh through Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas on April 11. The memorandum reads, "We, the Buddhists of Ladakh, are completely dismayed by the Union Government's apathy towards our serious and immediate concerns about our survival in the face of continuing conversions and assaults on our language, culture and faith, and hereby resolve:

(a) We shall not rest till we achieve our goal of life with dignity.

(b) We shall fight for the enactment of an anti-conversion law to prevent the conversion of our girls through allurements, misrepresentation, use of subtle coercive tactics and in the name of inter-religion marriages.

(c) We shall ensure due recognition of the Bhoti language as a medium of instruction in keeping with the National Education Policy.

(d) We shall prevail upon the Government to ensure faster recruitment to end the educated unemployment.

(e) We shall aim for the establishment of a department of culture exclusively devoted to preserving our rich and ancient culture and heritage.



People gathering at Chowkhang Vihara for the rally called by LBA and LGA

(f) We shall have a Gonpa in Kargil."

The resolution further reads, "We express deep anguish over the Government's stony silence on each issue. The official attitude verges on insolence. Winds of hope and positivity sweeping the rest of the country are being stopped at our doorstep. The Government is overlooking our genuine claims while drum-beating achievements on two fronts: enactment of anti-conversion law in at least nine party-ruled states and encouraging teaching in mother- tongue throughout the country. Its disregard for us on both the counts is unacceptable."

Addressing the media, President, LBA, Thupstan Chhewang said, "The protest rally is not being organised in Leh only, same protest is carried out by the branches of LBA in Changthang, Nubra, Zanskar, Kargil and Khaltse. We expected to meet L-G after the rally to submit the resolution copy but we came across that he is not available in Leh. We strongly condemn this act

because LG is avoiding us".

He accused LG Ladakh of not being able to deliver a good administration, thus failing to live up to the people's expectations. He said that the UT administration failed to solve the unemployment crisis and was also unable to utilise the budget allocated by the government.

Talking about the CIBS, Thupstan Chhewang said that the institute is the soul and heart of Ladakh, where the art and culture of Ladakh have been taught and preserved.

"CIBS is established with some aim and objectives today conspiracy is being hatched to destroy the very essence of CIBS. We are not going to accept any such plans", he added.

LBA stressed the enactment of anti-conversion law in Ladakh. They stated that One of the reasons for our decade's long campaign for separation from the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State and elevation as the UT was to stop the conversion of our girls. Now that we have a UT we find that it has not measured up to our expectations and we continue to be subjected to ignominy. the Buddhist population of Ladakh has, as a consequence of conversions, declined from an overwhelming about 80 percent in 1947 to less than 40 per cent (2011 Census). The issue of conversions is the single biggest irritant between the Buddhists and Muslims. The law shall be one for all and against none.

Rigzin Dorjay, LBA, Youth wing President, Kunzes Dolma, General secretary, LBA, Women wing; Ven Shedup Champa, President, Ladakh Gompa Association; Sonam Dorjay, President, LBA Leh unit addressed the gathering at Pologround, Leh.

# Residential school Gya, a hope for reviving government schools in rural areas

Education  $\overline{b}$ eing a social process, community participation is must to revive and sustain government schools



Deputy Chairman, Hill Council, Leh Tsering Angchuk addressing during the inaugural ceremony of Residential School, Gya.

### Tenzin Dajon

Gya: Residential Government High School at Gya was inaugurated at village Gya in Leh district by clubbing Middle and High school under the SAMAGRA scheme of the centre on April 9.

Low enrolment in Government schools

has always been a serious issue in various parts of Ladakh. Many schools have been closed also. To keep the government schools running effectively and efficiently there has been a demand for government residential schools in rural areas to overcome issues like transportation, low enrolment, staff and poor education system etc. For example; Govt Cluster School, Skagam Zanskar has been demanding a residential school as a better alternative. Various efforts have been made to revive government schools in Ladakh, but the schools have often failed in providing effective education in comparison to private schools. Therefore parents have always preferred private over government institutions. Residential schools can be a revolutionary step in providing quality education and reviving defunct schools in rural areas by clubbing nearby schools.

Inaugurating the Residential school, Tsering Angchuk, Deputy chairman, LAHDC, Leh said that the building of the school and hostel are yet to be developed properly by next year, but at the beginning, we are going to run the hostel with limited infrastructures. He appreciated the effort of the people from Gya to Rumtse for their contribution and advised them to support the administration at least for three years as it will take little time to fully functional or streamline the school. He said that the school will be a model for other regions too.

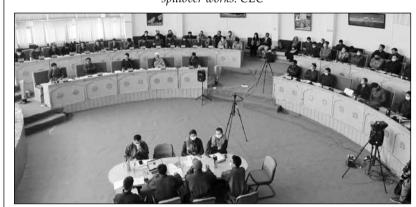
Thinlays Gyurmet, VC Chairman of Gya School shared, "Three years back, the strength of government school was only 25. It was quite difficult to convince the parents to send their children to government school. But we continue our effort for years, as a result, our school has shown 100% pass results for four consecutive years. We arranged regular classes for students during the lockdown time and it was very helpful in scoring the enrolment. As of now, the strength is 57. Now parents are ready to bring back their children again."

Chuskit Angmo, a teacher said that the school will help students to adapt to community living. Unlike non-residential schools, students will get more time to interact with teachers to clear their

...Continues on Page 3

### Two-day General Council meeting of 6th LAHDC, Leh, held

Draft CAPEX-Budget 2022-23 focuses mainly on the completion of ongoing/ spillover works: CEC



During the two day General council meeting (GCM) of 6th LAHDC, Leh at the assembly hall, Council Secretariat, Leh.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Two day General council meeting (GCM) of the 6th LAHDC, Leh to discuss the Draft Capex Budget for the year 2022-23 was convened under the chairmanship of CEC/Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson on April 4 at the assembly hall, Council Secretariat, Leh.

The house unanimously passed two resolutions, inclusion of the Bhoti language into the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution, the need for introducing Bhoti as one of the official languages of UT Ladakh and the need for having a policy on mental health with the prevention of alcoholism as well as drug abuse in Leh.

The session started with the celebration of the symbolic 'Bhoti Language Day'. The house also observed two-minute silence mourning the demise of former Executive Councillors and Councillors of LAHDC Leh in the year 2021.

District officers which include, DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, CPO, Leh, Superintending Engineer, PWD Circle Leh, Assistant Commissioner Development RDD, Leh and District Treasury Officer, Leh were felicitated by the Council for the exemplary efforts in the completion of planned projects and financial expenditures in the District Plan of the financial year 2021-22. Chairman, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Gyalson congratulated the house for achieving a historic expenditure ever under District Capex

Budget with the expenditure of INR 191.709 crore out of INR 210.01 crore which is 91.26 percent.

Addressing the house, CEC Tashi Gyalson informed that the ceiling under District Capex Budget 2022-23 is INR 233.32 crores. He further shared the developmental achievements of the 6th LAHDC Leh to date which include sectors like Power, Renewable energy/ Carbon neutrality initiative, Health, Telecommunication, Tourism, Education, Sports, Housing for all, etc.

It was also informed that the outline of the draft CAPEX-Budget 2022-23 focuses mainly on the completion of the ongoing/spillover works. He added that five new schemes have been considered by each Councillor and other emergent public demands. He further added that the Councillor's Constituency Development Fund (CCDF) has been fixed as ₹85 lakh for major works and ₹15 lakh for Machinery and Equipment. Funds for clearance of previous work done liabilities under various schemes have been also earmarked.

The Chairman stated that the work on the new scheme "Nyalbachan-la-Rogs" (Housing for Poor) shall start from this year as the required land for the said purpose has been identified. He also stated that the construction of passive-solar Indoor stadiums in all the

...Continues on Page 3

## LG inspects new model of Rebo tent

Stresses on bringing innovations in designs



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur; Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson; Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee and Secretary Ravinder Raina during the Rebo tent inspection.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur inspected the new model of Rebo tent made by the Department of Animal Husbandry in collaboration with Yak Herder Cooperative Ltd with the help of women self-help groups (SHGs) of Changthang area at Dairy Farm, Changspa on April 9.

LG Mathur appreciated the efforts of the members of Yak Herder Cooperative Ltd in preparing the new model of the Rebo tent. He emphasised on the need to engage women SHGs in Changthang area in harvesting wool and making Rebo tents and other products throughout the year for better income generation.

He stressed on the need to bring innovations in the Rebo tent designs and suggested few new models of Rebo tents may be set up in different villages in Changthang area to assess their quality.

General Secretary, Yak Herder Cooperative Ltd, Urgain Chodon raised issues related to yak herders of Changthang, viz. ex-

tending various facilities such as tarpaulin, milk churner, etc; changing the nomenclature of barzee and yakzee systems to enable the herders to avail of funds provided by Department of Animal Husbandry; construction of sheds for yaks to protect them from predators; allotment of land for construction of the office and provision of training programmes; conducting exposure tours to other hilly areas outside Ladakh to meet people engaged in herding yaks; provision of insurance of yaks; creation of yak centres, etc.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson; Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi; Councillors; Chairman of Block Development Councils (BDCs); Secretary Ravinder Kumar and officials from Department of Animal Husbandry were also present.

# Mahabodhi to organise week-long International Festival of Yoga and Meditation in June

Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena attends Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting & 75th-day countdown Yoga Mahotsav

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

New Delhi: Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena attended Inter -ministerial committee meeting of International Day of Yoga (IDY 2022) held at Vigyan Bhawan on April 6.

Cabinet minister of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal; Cabinet minister of Culture & Tourism, G. Kishan Reddy; State minister of Ayush, Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai; Secretary of the ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Koteja and Dr Ishwar Basavareddy, Director Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) along with all senior officers of Ministry of Ayush & other ministries like Home, Culture, Tourism, External Affairs etc. were present in the meeting.

All heads of yoga organizations in the country also attended the meeting. Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena of MIMC & Pujya Chidanand Saraswaty were the main Yoga organizations heads invited to express their view on this occasion.

Suggestions were sought from the representatives of various central ministries. IDY 2022 gets special significance as the Government of India has an ambitious plan to take participation to the level of 25 crores. All the



Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena addressing the gathering during the 75th-day countdown event as Yoga Mahotsav held at Red Fort.

members explained how they plan to celebrate & also submitted suggestions to make it a grand success.

Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena was invited as a representative of Ladakh to celebrate IDY in Ladakh. It was mentioned that Mahabodhi International Meditation and Yoga Centre is involved in various Yoga activities for the last 30 years & has been training Indian nationals & foreigners in Yoga & meditation. Hence, MIMC will be organizing the IDY 2022 in collaboration with various institutions in Ladakh both governmental and non-governmental. MIMC was also asked to conduct the yoga countdown event at various places in Ladakh. Mahabodhi will be holding a week-long International Festival of Yoga and Meditation from 20-26th June to mark the 8th International day of yoga.

On April 7, Bhikkhu Sanghasena also attended the 75th-day countdown event as Yoga Mahotsav held at Red Fort. Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla; Cabinet & state ministers of Ayush, Secretary of the ministry of Ayush, Director MDNIY, members of Parliament, Ambassadors of Various countries, Heads of Yoga Organizations & a large number of people & students who actively participated in Yoga were present.

Addressing the gathering, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena said that MIMC is the first to pioneer yoga and meditation in Ladakh three decades ago. He requested all to promote Ladakh as the hub of spirituality, yoga, and meditation not just for India but for the whole world.

### Two-day General Council meeting of 6th LAHDC, Leh held

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Sub-Divisions has been proposed this year.

It was also informed that INR 2.00 lakhs for each Panchayats of Leh district has been earmarked under District Capex Budget for the restoration/conservation of Old Heritage sites. He added that full funds have been allocated to Community Development (CD) Normal works as per the total estimated cost for the completion of the project during the financial year.

The house discussed the department-wise allocated budget, which includes departments like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, District Motor Garage, School Education, Higher Education, ICDS, Polytechnic, Rural Development Department, Employment and Labour on the first-day session

All the councillors of LAHDC Leh sought answers to their queries during the question hour to the concerned Executive councillors holding different

### Workshop to boost Food processing industry in Ladakh held

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh organized a workshop with the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) Palampur (Lab of CSIR) in Food Processing Technologies under One District One Product, medicinal plants, and other produces of Ladakh on April 12.

An expert team comprising three scientists from CSIR-IHBT, Palampur who are domain experts in various fields participated in the workshop.

Commissioner/ Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Ladakh Saugat Biswas informed that the purpose of the workshop is to identify gaps and requirements of the existing and budding entrepreneurs in the domain of food processing. He exhorted that the motto of the Industries and Commerce Dept is to assist people to develop business enterprises leveraging the local potential of Ladakh and to assist them to grow businesses at the national and international levels.

The UT Administration is imple-



During the workshop on food processing organised by Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh with the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) Palampur (Lab of CSIR).

menting various schemes for the generation of self-employment and livelihood like the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME), Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK), NRLM, etc which can benefit from the value addition of an institution like IHBT- Palampur can provide, said Biswas.

The participants from DIHAR (DRDO), the Institution of Sowa Rigpa, and the Horticulture department of Ladakh made brief presentations about the potential and challenges that the food processing industry faces in Ladakh.

About thirty entrepreneurs participated in the workshop from

both Kargil and Leh districts who shared their experiences, needs, and requirements with the experts. Discussions on processing technologies, storage, packaging, presentation, and marketing took place on a one-on-one basis with the domain experts from IHBT. Horticulture produces such as Apricot, Sea buckthorn, buckwheat, Zeera, medicinal herbs, cosmetic products, apricot oil, etc. were at the centre stage of discussions.

Various decisions were taken regarding DPR preparation, technology transfer, capacity building, and exposure visits for entrepreneurs and Self-Help groups during the workshop.

### Ladakh administration constitutes Ladakh Pharmacy Council, Pharmacy Tribunal

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh has constituted the Ladakh Pharmacy Council and Ladakh Pharmacy Tribunal which has been notified on April 8 and published in the Ladakh Gazette on April 11.

UT Ladakh Administration has already notified the Ladakh Pharmacy Rule on March 01.

The constitution of the Pharma-

The constitution of the Pharmacy Council and Tribunal is an achievement for pharmacy certifi-

cate holders and pharmacists holding registration under the erstwhile repealed J&K Pharmacy council.

The registration process for the Ladakh Pharmacy Council would commence soon after the first meeting of the Council.

### Ladakh University signs MoU with University of Kashmir to support various academic activities



During the signing of the Mou with University of Ladakh (UoL) and University of Kashmir

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: University of Ladakh (UoL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with University of Kashmir to support each other in conducting joint academic activities for the growth of their

respective departments/centres/ courses and also for the promotion of quality research work, including undertaking joint research projects and supervision of research programmes.

The MoU was signed by

Vice-Chancellor, UoL, Prof SK Mehta and Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof Talat Ahmad on April 9 in presence of Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, at Raj Niwas.

Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, Padma Angmo, was also present on the occasion.

LG Mathur stressed on the need to publicise the unique geology of Ladakh both nationally and internationally and publish booklets, identify client groups-both tourists and education tourism and prepare geological tour circuits for students and set up UNESCO-recognised geoparks in Ladakh.

### Residential School Gya, a hope to revive government schools in rural areas

..Continued from Page 2

doubts. The school will provide value-based education in a stress-free environment which enables them to determine their inner talent and flourish them to the fullest potential.

Education being a social process, community participation is a must to revive and sustain government schools. The residents of the region have proved this spirit and with the help of LAHDC Leh residential school in Gya is established.

Sonam Dorjay, CEO, Leh said, "Community role is very important to make education sustainable and residential schools can play a more important role in delivering education door to door in far-flung areas."

Dy CEO, Kharu informed that the residential

school is 100% funded by the union government, which includes food, medication, maintenance of the hostel etc.

Extracurricular activities like sports, theatre and meditation help students to develop various important skills like communication, leadership and critical thinking etc. which are often lacking in rural students. In residential schools, such skills can be imparted easily and effectively. Mipham Otsal, President, Ladakh Theatre Organisation, NSD alumni have been talking about the importance of Theatre in education. He says that it is a complete form of art that includes both visual and performing art, thus improving body, speech and mind in students.

Dy Chairman shared that from this year LAHDC Leh is going to start a theatre in schools to provide holistic education.

# Road safety awareness should take precedence over traffic violations in Ladakh



By Khadim Hussain

The man behind the wheel plays an important role in most of the crashes. Crashes occur either due to carelessness or lack of road safety awareness of the road user in most cases. Hence, road safety education is as essential as any other basic skill of survival. Despite global stagnancy and uncertainty owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and

consequent lockdown, road accidents have managed to claim 29,415 lives just between March and June, with an additional 51,970 casualties. This shows clearly that road safety continues to be a major developmental and public health concern, acting as a leading cause of death and injuries worldwide. India still ranks first in the number of road accident death across 199 countries despite conducting enormous innumerable road safety campaigns and awareness.

In ancient times, there was no transportation system, with the passage of time human beings tamed animals as a mode of transportation. The invention of the wheel marked the turning point in human civilization. Carriages that could carry three-four passengers, driven by animals, came into usage. In the sixteenth century invention of automatic mechanized vehicles helped people to move from one place to another place faster. World's first car was invented in 1770 by Nicholas Joseph Cugnot. After that, there was no turning back, and vehicles of different sizes and shapes began to be developed and introduced. With all these new inventions and development, a threat to human life also came along. And for safety and smoothness of traffic on the road different ways and means were introduced. Several rules were introduced to make the road safest and reduce the number of accidents. Even Manusmriti and Kautilya's Arthashastra contain road rules and relations in great detail. The rules have been modified from time to time, keeping in view the local/topical needs and requirements. New regulations have been laid down for different categories of road users.

Modern city living is getting more and more associated with traffic hazards. This can be attributed to complex and complicated road structures as well as the increasing human vehicular populations. Enhanced lifestyle and increase in the number of privately owned vehicles have made travelling on the road the most dangerous task to be undertaken. Though the number of vehicles increased, the length and breadth remained static. The only way left by the authorities to cope with the problem was to improvisation on the already existing structures. Hence, flyovers and other road accessories are constructed to ease traffic moments. All such hi-tech construction works involved



engineering skills of a higher order and traversing them requires driving skills of the higher-order which only a few road users have. Though this has eased congestion, the chances of accidents have increased. And in maximum cases accidents are occurred because of human folly. Free flow of traffic has resulted in an increase in speed, which in turn has resulted in a maximum number of accidents on flyovers because of drivers' inability or incompetence to manipulate the speed properly. Most drivers lack initiative judgment and defensive driving skills, the necessary qualities that drivers must possess. Most drivers are unaware of road realities and ignorant about road signs and markings. They have the least hint of things to come by the way they behave. Some callous behaviour including improper parking, improper maintenance of vehicles causes air and noise pollution which creates inconvenience to others. Overspeeding, rash driving, crossing the road in the wrong places and many more are behaviours that are of concern. One such wrong act by a road user can be the cause of chaos and confusion on road. And most the people either blind or unconsidered about this do things according to their whims.

Road safety education has become an essential aspect of road management. Making people aware of road situations and giving them precautionary tips would be of great help to redeem the situation. An ideal road safety education program should be able to:

- (i) Inculcate the sense of road discipline in the mind of every road user
- (ii) Develop willful respect for road rules
- (iii) Help road users tide over any adverse situation on the road
- (iv) Instill in the mind of road users a sense of fellow feeling.

**Specific road awareness Program**: Knowledge of road rules- an understanding of why road rules are broken, and why doing so is dangerous. Enrolling students in road safety patrol so that they get a feel of the road and its rules.

Correct Road Attitude Program: An understanding that orderliness on road has nothing to do with low traffic density (many cities in India have a high density of traffic yet road rules are scrupulously followed) is important and worthwhile to wait for your turn, on the road. Rules have to be followed in letter and spirit. Road users have to understand the value of Life & Let Live rather than Live and Let Die!

Time management is vital while taking on the road. Much of the stress is due to having insufficient time to reach the intended destination, which is compounded by confusion on the road. "Drive with reason this summer season".

The writer is an Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Kargil. You can send your views and comment on kargilarto@gmail.com



### Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir

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# SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

## Ride your wishes to your destination



When you wonder if wishes can come true, it is just like asking: Do dreams come true? Of course, not necessarily. Wishes are somewhat 'crystalised' form of dreams, and they will remain unrealised so long as one does not 'act on them'. You have the proverbial saying: If dreams were horses, beggars would ride. What does that really mean? That means that if wish-

es could make things happen, then even the most destitute among us can have all that we want.

This, at its face value, is a very pessimistic thought, and seems to suggest that dreams and wishes die out as the day and night replaces each other. That means, the phrase does not really give one a positive outcome, and makes one believe that just as dreams fade away as soon as you open your eyes, a wish too vanishes away as soon as you close your eyes to sleep.

This popular phrase was first recorded around 1628 in a collection of Scottish proverbs. A quick research reveals that it was in 1605 that William Camden's literary work; 'Remaines of a Greater Worke Concerning Britaine' used this phrase. James Carmichael had used another version of it in 1628. And yet another modified version was used by John Ray in 1670. A version that is quite like the version we use today was introduced by James Kelly in 1721.

The version we use today is a 'mixed-and-redone' version of all the previous versions. But the essence of the phrase has surely remained unchanged. If it could mean, apparently, that dreams and wishes are nothing but a 'fleeting' phenomenon of the nature of one's unstable mind, then it can be equally interpreted to mean a more definitive and useful idea that promises to give one a ray of hope. In this sense, we are bound to believe that if one gets down to working hard on one's dreams; one will surely ride the horse right up to the goal!.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

fessional speaker

### In Conversation with

# Rigzen Wangmo, Educationist

Interviewed by Tenzin Dajon

Q. Congratulations on getting an opportunity to study at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Brief us about the course and what is your plan after completing the course at Harvard?

Harvard has many schools like Harvard Business School, Law School and Medicine School etc. I applied to the program: Teaching and Teacher Leadership at Harvard Graduate School of Education. The program emphasizes the critical role that teachers play in Education ecosystem. I have been working on teacher training and teacher education for the past few years during which I realized that if we could improve the elementary education system and work on teacher development then we can bring concrete change in the education system which would lead to better student learning outcomes.

Through my program at HGSE, I will acquire Knowledge, skills and mindset to work for the development of our teachers. It has always been my belief that if we strengthen the elementary education system, it will enable students to become independent learners in their later stages. Therefore, my goals are to Strengthen Elementary education system and Teacher development.

#### Q. How do you see the education system of Ladakh?

The Standard of education has improved to a great extent as compared to earlier days. There was a time when the pass percentage of schools was very low, even below 50 percent; today we are seeing better results in most of the schools. Seeing this we can say that there is an improvement but the overall education system still needs improvement. Our system is based on grading only. We need to adopt other parameters to understand whether the system has improved or not. So it is difficult to conclude.

I have a keen interest in elementary education. In my five years of experience in the field of education, I have seen that unless a child has a good foundation he/she struggles even in their higher studies. They are unable to understand the concepts and are not even able to choose a career. The solution is to improve elementary education by providing students better foundational education through activity-based teaching practices. Also, we need to focus on teacher-centric approaches along with student-centric approaches for better learning outcomes.



### Message to the readers

Ladakh could be a role model to the world in providing an excellent education if all the stakeholders work collectively.

Q. How do you see the teaching skill status in Ladakh? How important is it to develop the skills, and teacher training programmes?

Now the recruitment process has become rigorous it would be wrong to say that our teachers lack skill, it's just that there's a lack of effective training and support. Earlier one could become a teacher even after matriculation. Now the government has modified the selection process and made it better, comparatively. Teacher's training is important even after landing in the profession because it is vital to remain updated. For instance, the pandemic has taught us the importance of technology in education and teachers were forced to use it regardless of their expertise and exposure. Evolution in teaching skills is natural with time and these skills can be imparted through training and other additional support. It is good that many young teachers are in the teaching profession in Ladakh and are willing to get trained and re-equipped with required skills. We must provide them platforms where they could upgrade their teaching skills, share their concerns and seek support.

Teacher training is one of the vital contributors of effective students' learning outcomes. During my two years of fellowship at Teach for India, I learned about different pedagogical aspects, which led to better learning outcomes. This opportunity allowed me to understand some of the deeper correlations between the two. In the second year of my fellowship, my co-fellow and I started a Teacher Training Project in my school, aimed at introducing innovative teaching practices, envisioning a holistic approach toward addressing the different needs of the school. There was a noticeable positive change in students' classroom learning.

# Q. We often talk about reviving government schools. How can we improve enrolment and quality of education in government schools?

The government is spending huge resources on education including infrastructure and human resources. Sometimes I think that we are wasting these resources. Recently, I went to a village called Ursi and asked the villagers about their school. They said that the school has been standing there without students for three years. Now it is important to know why parents are not sending their children to gov-

...Continues on Page 6

## **Fortnight Highlights**



A team headed by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Leh conducted a surprise market checking of various vegetable shops /Kiryana shops at Skalzangling, Skara and Bus-stand areas. A fine was imposed on 20 shops for selling expired items and not following the norms.



As a part of a five-day training programme for Traffic Police personnel in Leh district, Indore 'Dancing Cop' Head Constable, Ranjeet Singh demonstrated his traffic management skills to the Traffic Wing Police



World Health Day themed, 'Our Planet Our Health' was celebrated at SNM, hospital, Leh.The day was organised by National Health Mission, Leh. Padma Bhushan awardee, Dr Tsering Landol (Retired Gynecologist) was the chief guest.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson convened a meeting to review the overview of the 'Subsidy Component' of Leh district for the financial year 2022-23.



Free SSC coaching arranged by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh for the aspirants from the Leh district was formally launched by the Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh on April 8.

# **CEC inaugurates Community Museum at Sasoma village in Gya**



Dignitaries during the inauguration of Community Museum at Sasoma village in Gya.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Gya: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson inaugurated Community Museum at Sasoma village in Gya on April 3.

The Community Museum is a joint collaboration between National Museum Institute, New Delhi and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh.

CEC Tashi Gyalson congratulated and appreciated the people of Gya, Sasoma village for the Community Museum. He also appreciated the contribution of the people for creating a source of income for themselves and also preserving the heritage. He stated that the museum will become a self-sustaining place and will also provide a boost to tourism. He suggested that the people must work on preserving the rich culture and heritage of Ladakh and appreciated the efforts of Ama Tsogspa (Women's Alliance of Ladakh). He shared that LAHDC, Leh is working towards the preservation of art and culture of Ladakh in collaboration with the Cultural Academy.

EC Art/Culture, Stanzin Chosphel congratulated the people of Gya and National Museum Institute for the establishment of Community Museum. He said that LAHDC Leh will continue to extend full support to such initiatives in future.

Professor, Dr Manvi Seth shared that the Community Museum at Gya, Sasoma is the first of its kind in India. She also highlighted the role played by National Museum Institute in the creation of this museum. She thanked LAH-DC Leh, Ama Tsogspa (Women's Alliance of Ladakh) of Gya village and the people involved in it. She added that this community museum has been established the international museum norms in mind. An MoU is also being prepared regarding this.

Councillor Igoo, Constituency, Sonam Thardos also addressed during the occasion.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dy chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Vice-Chancellor of Ladakh University, Surinder K. Mehta; Councillor Chushul Constituency, Konchok Stanzin; DC Leh, Shrikant Suse; Brigadier Yogesh Sharma; Dy. Secretary/Special officer Culture-G1, Tsewang Paljor; Former Councillor and Ama Tsokspa president, members, sarpanch; nambardar and villagers.

# In Conversation with Rigzen Wangmo

...Continued from Page 5

ernment schools. Even if the quality of education does not match, abandoning government schools is not a sustainable solution. Our economic situation is very fragile. Therefore, all the stakeholders including elected representatives, parents, teachers and villagers could collectively solve this issue.

We need to understand that 'quality education' is not about getting 100% marks. Rather than focusing on marks and grades, we should focus on meaningful education. In this regard, rural areas have more resources than urban areas as children can learn traditional knowledge along with academics.

# Q. Schools of Ladakh are now affiliated with CBSE. What is your take on this development? Are we prepared for it?

I heard that our teachers are going to get 3-4 day training. I believe it is not enough, maybe they will get a glimpse about the board. The basic content of CBSE is not very different from J&K Board but the rigor surely is. That's why we need to be well equipped to meet that rigor. The pandemic has already created a huge gap in learning, now the change of board could be stressful to the students. Therefore teachers should be well trained and well equipped. Regular teacher training is important with follow up.

For students, we should give additional support, counselling, and an inclusive teaching environment. In this way, we will overcome the stress and adapt to the new system with time.

# Q. You have trained the teachers of both monastic and non-monastic schools. What are the challenges they are facing?

Apart from having a weak foundational education, one thing that lacks in rural education is exposure. Working in SECMOL I have noticed that many students clear matriculation, 12th and college but their foundation remains weak, they are unable to understand basic things. This poses a huge question mark on the education system. Foundation is not only about learning textbooks; instead, we need to use additional resources. By connecting textbooks with the real world, by focusing on application and

activity-based education, we can strengthen the foundation.

Many changes have occurred in monastic schools now, and their teachers are willing to learn and get trained. However, they seem to be lacking in few aspects like science and technology, communication and modern teaching practices. Similarly, the non-monastic schools lack spiritual education, which is again an important component of education. Therefore both systems have some gaps yet to be fulfilled.

# Q. What reason do you see that most of our students are introverted? How do you deal with such students at SECMOL?

We still have that colonial mindset resulting in an inferiority complex. In my observation, students who speak English are more outspoken and students who cannot speak English automatically feel less confident. Many students come to SECMOL, instead of judging them based on their English speaking skill, we try to identify their strengths and skills. You will be shocked to know that when a student joins SECMOL they are not able to tell his/ her name. This is because they have always been left behind in their learning environments. Neither do they get any platform nor appreciation from teachers. Thus, they consider themselves worthless and lack confidence, so we provide them open platforms to work on their skills and provide them support, space, and opportunities and gradually they develop courage and self-esteem. The whole process requires a lot of reinforcement.

## Q. Besides school and teachers, how important is the parent's role in child education.

Unfortunately, many students are living in hostels, and junior students living in a hostel are more unfortunate. We have a tradition of sending our children to hostels right from the LKG due to which they remain cut off from the indigenous knowledge and parent's involvement. Parent engagement is very important to provide a wholesome education. A parent should not only focus on results focus should be made more on the overall growth of a child. Education is not only a task of teachers and students. It requires support from policymakers to the parents.

# Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine and Surgery course offered by NISR gets affiliated with University of Ladakh



Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Professor S K Mehta handing over the formal letter of affiliation to the Director, NISR Leh, Dr Padma Gurmet.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Leh: Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS) course offered by National Institute

of Sowa Rigpa has been affiliated with the University of Ladakh (UoL).

In this regard, a brief handing-over ceremony was held at the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, Leh on April 7. Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Professor S K Mehta handed over the formal letter of affiliation to the Director, NISR Leh, Dr Padma Gurmet.

While appreciating the efforts of the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa in conducting the BSRMS course, Vice-Chancellor Mehta assured all possible support from the University of Ladakh concerning academic affairs

Director Padma Gurmet appreciated the efforts of Professor S K Mehta for affiliating the BSRMS course with the University of Ladakh.

Dean, Academic Affairs, UoL, Professor Deskyong Namgyal and other senior officers of the University of Ladakh were also present during the ceremony.

### DC, Leh, approves action plan of MGNREGA for 2022-23

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: DC, Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse approved the annual action plan under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNRE-GA) for the year 2022-23.

The action plan for the year 2022-23 under MGNREGA envisions achieving 3001 works generating a total of 15.42 lakh man-days under different categories, such as Micro Irrigation (737), Land Development (1431), Rural connectivity (516), Rural sanitation (109), Promotion of livestock (86) and Water conservation and harvesting (47)



among many others.

The Block Development Officers were asked to emphasise achieving the targets timely with special focus on the greywater management units which is essential part of JJM, plantation drive as well as water conservation works under MGNREGA this year. He also directed the officers to make optimum utilization of the working season.

DC, Leh, impressed upon the officers that the DPRs should be prepared well in time.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Leh, Sonam Nurboo urged the BDOs to achieve 80% of the targets by October. He also instructed them to upload the data on the MGN-REGA portal as and when works are completed.

## ITBP's North-West Frontier celebrates 16th Raising Day



ITBP

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The North-West Frontier of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) celebrated its 16th Raising day at the Parade ground of ITBP 24th Battalion in Choglamsar, Leh on April 1.

Lhari Dorjee Lhatoo, Inspector General, North-West Frontier was the chief guest of the Raising Day. He was accompanied by M. Kumar, DIG, North-West Frontier, ITBP and Sandeep Khosla, DIG, SHQ (LDK), ITBP.

, Lhari Dorjee Lhatoo while highlighting the motto of the

ma-Nishtha (Valour-Determination-Devotion to Duty),' spoke about the great achievements of the ITBP and its great contribution to ensuring the safety and security of India. He said that one of the major objectives of ITBP is to instil a sense of security in the border areas and prevent any form of border crimes. He also praised the incomparable duties being performed by Himveers with zeal and vigilance at the forward post of Ladakh.

'Shaurya-Dridhata-Kar-

The raising day parade comprised all the sector's contin-

gents. The marching contingents marched with full zeal and confidence by showing their enthusiasm for Raising Day.

DIG, SHQ (LDK), ITBP, Sandeep Khosla congratulated all the participants for their enthusiastic participation in the ceremony.

L.D. Lhatoo presented a total of 74 D.G Insignia Medals/Commendation Rolls and 34 IG Commendations letters to the officials of North-West Frontier and under command units/formations for their exceptional achievements, best work efficiency, the spirit of bravery, perseverance and dedication to their duties. Trophies in different categories were also awarded to the best battalions during the ceremony.

ITBP Force came into existence in 1962. At present, it is deployed at forward posts of high altitude areas till 18,900 feet and protecting the India-China Border with bravery. It is also playing an important role in building a strong nation.

### **NOTICE**

I, Tsering Angchok S/o Late Skalzang Namgail R/o Diskit, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK1020160018156 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.

# The Art of Living in collaboration with SIDBI **launches 'Project Signature'**

Aims to grow 40,000 plants in Ladakh



#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 'Project Signature', a CSR initiative of SIDBI in collaboration with The Art of Living to plant 40000 plants in Ladakh region was launched at EJM College on April 11.

The project aims to increase green cover and provide more economic opportunities for local people in the region. Out of 40000 plantation, 20000 are the locally grown willow and poplar

varieties in forest regions and the remaining 20,000 are exotic medicinal plants and herbs with high commercial value. The varieties will be planted at an altitude of 11,482 feet.

Inaugurating the project, Tashi Gyalson, CEC, Hill Council Leh said, "I congratulate the Art of Living and SIDBI for this much needed initiative. Ladakh is one of the most loved tourist places in the country and an initiative like this will enhance the beauty, tourism and economics of the beautiful valley."

S Raman, CMD, SIDBI said, "Project Signature is going to be a significant project for the region because when these plants grow and start producing fruits, woods and herbs, we envision to leave behind a green signature in this heavenly place land that

Rangaraj Shriramulu, Director, The Art of Living said that the project will be a boon in the time to come, not just to help fight climate change by increasing the green cover but to provide opportunity to ensure the gift of precious medicinal herbs is made available to more people.

The Art of Living has always come forward for the welfare of the people and the planet. So far, it has planted 81 million trees in 36 countries and 26 Indian states.

### Government Degree College, Nubra, bags District Green **Champion award**



Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Srikant Balasaheb Suse presenting the award to Dr. Tsewang Motup, Principal of the College.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Nubra: Government Degree College, Nubra was recognised as 'District Green Champion Award 2021-22' for its green initiatives to make the campus sustainable and eco-friendly.

Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Srikant Balasaheb Suse presented the award to Dr. Tsewang Motup, Principal of the College. He congratulated the entire team of Govt. Degree College Nubra.

The college has been striving to make the people of the area aware about importance of a clean and green environment through various outreach programmes like cleanliness drives, street plays, rallies and lectures, etc.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE) has recently released a list of institutions from across India, which actively participated to keep their campuses clean, green and sanitized. GDC Nubra received 'District Green Champion' Award by the MGN-CRE, Union Ministry of Education, under the Swachhta Action Plan 2021-22.

The parameters for the ranking included water management, use of alternative energy sources (solar energy), greenery management, waste management and land-use management on the campus boundary. The award is a national recognition for Swachhta activities in which the institution engaged during the previous years and for its future endeavors.

### Govt Degree College, Drass, bags District Green Champion award

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Drass: Govt Degree College, Drass received District Green Champion from Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Government of India for various initiatives undertaken during the year 2021-22.

Santosh Sukhadeve, Deputy Commissioner/ CEO, LAHDC Kargil presented the award to Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal, GDC Drass.

GDC Drass has been continuously contributing to enhance the beauty of the campus and its surrounding. The college has also campaigned against the use of plastic bags, proper disposal of garbage, cleaning of streams, town area and adjoining villag-



Santosh Sukhadeve, Deputy Commissioner/ CEO, LAHDC Kargil presenting the award to Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal, GDC Drass.

es. The college organized many people of Drass towards clean and green environment. Semi-

nars, debates, painting and poster awareness programme for the making competition for students related to swachta of the environment was also carried out.

# **Meeting on Smart City Mission held in Kargil**

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Team Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC) Smart City Mission Ladakh discussed the implementation of Smart City Mission in the Kargil district during a meeting at the conference hall on April 12.

Rupayan Dutta, team member PWC detailed various aspects and features of a smart city which includes integrated traffic and transport management system, multi-tier car parking and bus stand, development of truck terminal, improvement and widening of circular Kargil road, pedestrian safety, infrastructure promotion, street furniture, foot universal design, addressing traffic jam, provisions for smart e-vehicles, e-buses and e-bikes besides other facilities.

All the stakeholders gave their



During the meeting of Smart City Mission, Kargil

feedback and suggestions regarding the possible challenges that may occur during the execution of the smart city project in the district.

Appreciating feedback in the meeting Dutta assured that all valuable suggestions will be included in the final plan and will be reflected in the DPR of the project.

She said that in the future more

meetings will be held with all the stakeholders regarding features of the project and start implementation on the ground level.

Councilor Town Haji Abass; Executive Engineer R&B II, PHE, PDD, I&FC, Assistant Director Tourism, ARTO Kargil, ward members of Municipal Committee Kargil besides other concerned officers were present during the meeting.

# **CEC discusses waste management, Deposit Return System in Leh**



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh Adv. Tashi Gyalson convened a meeting with the officials of TOMRA, a Norwegian multinational corporation working on waste management and discussed various measures on the issues regarding waste management in Leh on April 9.

Discussion the management of solid waste products and the examples of Deposit Return System (DRS) to cover Used Beverage Containers (UBCs) was carried out. Officials from TOM-RA put forth their suggestions on various hybrid models for implementing the model DRS system to manage waste generation.

CEC, Tashi Gyalson appreciat-

ed their innovative steps for the management of single use plastics and other waste materials at large. He further discussed initiating DRS with a pilot project in Leh soon. He further instructed CPO Leh to constitute a task force committee in this regard to assist and monitor the progress of the said project.

The meeting had the presence of Executive Councillors of LAH-DC Leh; President, Municipal Committee Leh; Chief Planning Officer, Leh; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh; Supervisor, Project Tsangda; Commercial Councillor, Embassy of Norway; Head of Asia-Public Affairs, TOMRA; Director Head of Indian sub-continent, Public Affairs, TOMRA, and the Market Analyst, Public Affairs, TOMRA.

# Mega plantation drive to be held in Chushul under 'Go Green Go Organic'

EC reviews necessary preparations for the plantation drive at Chushul



Preparatory meeting for the mass plantation drive organised by the 'Go Green Go Organic' Committee of Chushul village to be held on the World Environment Day on 5th June 2022.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Executive Councillor for, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee discussed plans for the mass plantation drive organised by the 'Go Green Go Organic' Committee of Chushul village to be held on the World Environment Day on 5th June

The members informed that the collaboration on the Go Green project since 2014 with the Hill Council, Leh resulted in eleven phases, of which ten are already completed.

EC Tashi Yakzee instructed the members to accomplish the plans for the mass plantation drive in a phased manner which would be

of great benefit to the people of Ladakh. The members emphasised the importance of the meeting in respect of environmental challenges and the goal to make Ladakh completely organic.

He also instructed the members to complete the given specific work at the earliest. He enquired all departments about the current situation and the requirements to achieve the goals planned for the mega plantation drive to be held soon.

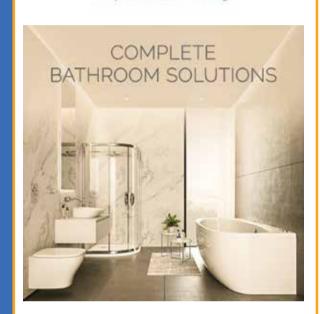
The meeting was attended by EC, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor; Councillor Chushul, Konchok Stanzin; ADC Leh, BDC Durbuk, Officials from the Agriculture, Forest, Horticulture, Health, RDD, I&FC, Command Area Department, R&B, PDD & PHE Department Leh, Representatives from DIHAR, SKUAST and the organising committee members of Go Green organisation.



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