

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

VOL. 10 ISSUE 9 PAGES 8

May 16-31, 2022



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All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone numbers.

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

Owner, Publisher & Printer:
Tundup Dorje

Editor: Stanzin Dasal

Reporter: Tenzin Dajon

Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup

Layout: Raul Chhokkun

Published at:
Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter
Contact: 9858394403

Printed at:
Ala Printing Press
3636 Katra Dina Baig
Lal Quan Delhi - 110006

Praying for harmony, Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with religious fervor

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Muslim community in and around Leh gathered to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with religious fervour and gaiety on May 3. The day started with an offering of morning prayers to the Almighty.

A congregation of the Shia community was held at Pologround whereas the Sunni community assembled at Eidgah, Leh.

Dr. Abdul Qayum, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam greeted all the people on the occasion and said, "After two years the COVID restriction has eased and we are offering the prayers together at Eidgah. He said that the festival will strengthen the bond of communal harmony and spread the message of peace, harmony and brotherhood".

Talking about the growing hatred and violence in the name of religion he said, "The Constitution of India assures equality to every citizen irrespective of caste, religion, gender and prevents discrimination. Today on the occasion of Eid I appeal to everyone to follow and value the constitution of India framed to maintain peace and harmony".

"During the holy month of Ramadan we prayed for prosperity, love and happiness and I appeal to every single Ladakhi to stay united, promote mutual



A congregation of the Shia community at Leh Pologround.

tolerance and harmony, thus prospering Ladakh", he added.

A cake-cutting ceremony was also held at Eidgah.

Ashraf Ali Barcha, President Anjuman Imamia congratulated and wished everyone for peace, prosperity and communal harmony in Ladakh. He also extended his greetings to the paramilitary, military forces guiding at the borders areas.

"The celebration marked the culmination of the fasting month of Ramadan by the Muslim community and I am sure

that my Muslim brothers and sisters must have brought positive inner change and thinking which will be implemented in day to day life", he added.

Ashraf Ali Barcha further prayed for peace and prosperity in the world and appealed to everyone to keep humanity intact.

Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the most celebrated festivals in Islam, marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, a month when Muslims across the world hold fast from dawn to dusk. The day falls on the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month ac-

cording to the Islamic calendar.

President, Ladakh Buddhist Association, Thupstan Chhewang on behalf of the Buddhist community of Ladakh wished all the Muslims and prayed for peace, love, and compassion in a world affected by intolerance, hatred and war.

Islam has its own calendar, the Hijri calendar, the dates of Islamic holidays shift every year in the Gregorian calendar. The Hijri calendar is a totally lunar calendar that estimates how long it takes for the moon to complete each phase. The start of any Islamic month is marked by the sighting of a new crescent moon by religious officials. A lunar year has 12 months but roughly 354 days, which is about 11 days fewer than a solar year. As a result, each year the dates of Islamic holidays advance by 10-11 days.

Eid al-Fitr always falls on the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month according to the Islamic calendar. It is believed that the Holy Quran was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad during the month of Ramadan. So, Muslims consider this a holy month and hold fast from dawn to dusk and dedicate themselves to praying to Allah. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of this month. With a sumptuous meal, get-togethers Muslims celebrate this festival to mark the successful completion of Ramadan

LBA, LGA& students protest against CIBS V-C Prof Bidyanath Labh, burn his effigy



The protestor burning the effigy of Prof. Baidyanath Labh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Ladakh Buddhist Association, Ladakh Gumpa Association with students of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) protested against Vice-Chancellor, Prof Baidyanath Labh on May 7.

Gathered outside the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, members of LBA, LGA, students and people in and around Leh raised black flags and slogans against Prof Baidyanath Labh.

Addressing the media, Thupstan Chhewang, President of LBA alleged that the VC, Prof Baidyanath Labh took several decisions regarding CIBS without consulting the board members which clearly shows that VC has a vested interest in destroying CIBS.

"He tried to start new courses in CIBS which was not required at all as other colleges and the University of Ladakh

fulfils all subject requirements to study other courses. CIBS is the soul and heart of Ladakh, where the art and culture of Ladakh have been taught and preserved. It is established with some aim and objectives and today conspiracy is being hatched to destroy the very essence of CIBS. We are not going to accept any such plans", he added.

He said, "Prof Labh's intention was very clear from the fact that he took a number of a decision against the CIBS norms to destroy the Buddhist Institution and we don't understand whether the decision is from him or the direction of Government."

He further alleged that the UT administration, Hill Council and MP Ladakh fails to solve the CIBS issue and completely ignores the demands. He warns to start aggressive agitation in entire Ladakh if the UT administration continues

to ignore the demands.

Thupstan Chhewang in strong words said that Prof Labh will not be allowed to enter Leh as VC of CIBS as he had been trying his best efforts to destroy CIBS however he can visit Leh as a citizen of the Nation as we have no personal enmity.

The protestor burned the effigy of Prof. Baidyanath Labh.

Thupstan Chhewang also reiterated the five demands put forth to the government during the massive rally organised by LBA and LGA on April 11 at Polo ground. The demand includes enactment of anti-conversion law, the inclusion of the Bhoti language in the 8th schedule of the 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.

District Police, Leh, arrest 2 drug peddlers, 1750 grams ganja seized



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In yet another breakthrough in its continuous effort to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, the District Police, Leh arrested one drug peddler and seized 1110 grams of Ganja on May 11 in Leh.

The accused, named Samser Sheikh S/o Shantu Sheikh R/o Pratapganj, Murshidabad, West Bengal was caught by the team of police post-Housing Colony, Leh during the random traffic checking at Airport- Skalzangling road. The police recovered ganja and concealed contraband substances in medicine bottles and beedi packets.

The case was registered under FIR No 60/2022 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act at Police Station Leh and an investigation has started.

In another incident, one more drug peddler named Vivek Kumar S/o Sonelal Prasad R/o Pipra, Santpur West Champaran Bihar was arrested on May 5 by team of Police post Choglamsar during the random Naka checking at Kuze-Buddha Chowk, Chuchot Yokma. The police recovered 640 grams of ganja from his possession.

The case was registered under FIR No 55/2022 u/s 8/20 NDPS Act at Police Station Leh and an investigation has started.

District Police Leh requests the general public to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers and join hands with Ladakh police in the fight against the menace of drugs in the district.

It is further reiterated that consistent efforts are being made by District police Leh to keep the society especially youths free from the scourge of drug menace and a person found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with strictly as per law.

L-G Mathur meets Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment

Requests for Rehabilitation/De-addiction centres in Ladakh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur with Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur met Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar in New Delhi on May 5.

LG Mathur apprised about various non-government organisations (NGOs) working for the

benefit and development of Ladakh, including those running old age homes. He informed about the ongoing census to collect the data on the number of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in Ladakh and shared that Unique Disability ID (UDID) will be distributed to PwDs to enable them to avail benefits of

various government schemes.

LG Mathur stressed on the need to set up a Rehabilitation Centre/De-addiction Centre in Ladakh to control drug abuse.

He requested for a training programme by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to sensitize and inform the people and the NGOs about various schemes/programmes and provisions under the Ministry.

Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment suggested that UDID cards may be distributed to PwDs and a camp may be organised to understand the problems and demands of PwDs. He stated that training centres may be started to provide skill training and employment opportunities to PwDs.

Ladakh win 3 gold, 1 silver medal in National Athletics championship

CEC, Hill Council, Leh, felicitates athletes for their outstanding achievements

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A team of athletes from the Cerebral Palsy Association of Ladakh represented UT Ladakh in the recently concluded National Athletic Championship being conducted by the Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India in New Delhi.

Athletes Chimet Angmo secured Gold medal in Shot Put and 100-meter race, Ahsaan Ali secured Gold in Long Jump F 38 category, and Stanzin Lakshpel secured a Silver medal in the 200 metre race.

Appreciating their outstanding performances at the National Championship, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyal-



son and Dy Chairman/EC Sports, Tsering Angchuk felicitated and presented them with a token of appreciation for their accomplishments. He further assured to assist them and to provide necessary sports facilities in future.

EC Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphel; Councillor Sku-Markha, Sonam Nurboo; Councillor Lamayuru; Morup Dorjay and Councillor Kungyam, Thinles Norbu were present during the occasion.

IITs to collaborate in entrepreneurship development in Ladakh

Series of workshops being organised by Industries Department



Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh organising the first in the series of workshops on 'Enterprising Ladakh'.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh organized the first in the series of workshops on 'Enterprising Ladakh' on May 8.

Teams from three IITs(IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay & IIT Delhi) were invited to assist in the development of an entrepreneurship and incubation eco-system for the entrepreneurs of Ladakh. The members Dr. Anil Verma, Professor in Chemical engineering, Head continuing education program, IIT Delhi; Dr. Anil Wali, MD FITT, IIT Delhi; Dr. Amitabha Bandopadhyay, Department of Biological Sciences and bioengineering, IIT Kanpur, professor-in-charge, SIIC (Incubation centre); Ankit Saxena, in-charge of social innovation, IIT

Kanpur; Shakti Tripathy, Senior manager, Desai Sethi school of entrepreneurship, IIT Bombay interacted with various agencies and budding entrepreneurs from Ladakh.

Commissioner/ Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Saugat Biswas stated that the purpose of the workshop is to assist the youth of Ladakh to become successful entrepreneurs who can generate employment by sustainable utilisation of resources in Ladakh. He exhorted on the need for technology interventions, training and capacity building for the youth to understand the mechanism of entrepreneurship on a deeper level and plug all identified gaps.

Director, Industries and Commerce Dept, Ladakh gave a de-

tailed presentation on the importance of enterprise in Ladakh. He informed about the milieu in which the youth of Ladakh is placed and the various challenges faced in developing entrepreneurship.

Over 40 active entrepreneurs and aspiring ones from various domains such as food processing, handicrafts, handlooms, textiles, pashmina, emerging technologies and business areas participated in the workshop. The entrepreneurs stressed to the forum for assistance in developing harvesting techniques keeping in mind the fragile ecosystem and exhorted that machinery should be developed to harvest without harming the wildlife dependent on the resources. Discussions on processing technologies, storage, packaging and marketing took place on a one-on-one basis with the experts. Many of the entrepreneurs shared their success stories with the forum. Various problem statements are posed before the experts for the development of solutions.

The team, which is on a visit to Ladakh will interact with entrepreneurs, students of the University, Colleges, ITIs & Polytechnic both in the Kargil and Leh districts.

CEC, DC review arrangements for HH Dalai Lama's visit

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, along with DC Leh, Shrikant Balasahab Suse reviewed necessary arrangements for His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama's visit to Ladakh this summer.

They visited summer residence of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in Leh (Photang Geyphel ling) and the teaching ground at Jivetsal, Choglamsar on May 10.

The officials were accompanied by ADC Leh, Sonam Chosjor; President LBA, Thupstan Chhewang; President LGA, Ven Shatup Chamba; President LBA Youth Wing, Rigzin Dorje; President LBA Women Wing, CRO Ladakh, Dhondup Tashi; SE PHE Leh, Xen Construction,



Officials conducting a meeting during their visit to summer residence of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in Leh (Photang Geyphel ling) and the teaching ground at Jivetsal, Choglamsar.

Xen PDD, Xen PHE, and various other officials.

CEC Tashi Gyalson reviewed the existing infrastructure and discussed various measures for the renovation and the additional infrastructure required at the Photang and teaching ground. CEC Gyalson directed Xen Construction Division to expedite

the installation of the lift at Photang Geyphel-ling for the convenience of the 14th Dalai Lama during his stay in Leh. He also instructed all the departmental officers to exercise the required up-gradation and renovations required at the entire campus and initiate actions within the given timeframe.

District Police, Leh introduces drug abuse reporting web portal

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Drug abuse and illicit liquor trade reporting web portal an initiative by District Police, Leh was launched by ADGP, Ladakh Police, Satish Khandare on May 12.

The website portal aims to eradicate the menace of drugs from society and has been designed with the intention that the public could directly report the activities of drug abuse to the Leh police, and action can be taken, keeping the confidence

of the informer safe.

<https://www.drugsfreeleh.com> can be accessed from any device and information can be shared with District Police Leh. It is important to mention that the information reported can only be accessed by SSP Leh and thorough enquiry/action shall be taken on the information provided. The website also hosts the list of De-addiction centres across India, information on the harmful effects of drugs and how

to identify a drug user, so that the general public is also aware of the common trends of drug uses.

ADGP Ladakh and SSP Leh informed that the launch of the web portal is actually extending the information outreach to the general public which will definitely help the police department in fight against the drug abuse and requests the general public to use the web portal to share information wholeheartedly without any hesitation.

Ladakh schools to go for online tracking, monitoring and evaluation

Commissioner/Secretary reviews progress on the development of ERP software for the School Education Department

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: UT administration has deployed a team of experts to prepare comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software to track the physical, mental and academic progress of every child in Ladakh from birth to their movement to the higher education system.

The initiative was made in continuation of various edutech interventions being made to modernise the school education system in the government school of Ladakh. The child/student tracking system would be used to assess the individual progress of a child and enable the teachers/schools to make customised interventions to improve the performance of the student.

The ERP software will integrate with the 'Birth Registration database', Anganwari Centres, parents and also the health department to track the overall progress of the child/students in various aspects. Besides, the software will also act as a central portal to address all the administrative issues of schools and their teaching/non-teaching staff.

Commissioner/ Secretary, School Education Department, UT Ladakh, Ajeet Kumar Sahu chaired a meeting with a team of experts and officers of the School Education Department on May 10 and reviewed the progress on the deployment of the software.

The objective of this e-Governance project is to impart quality education, improve operational efficiency and effective-



Commissioner/ Secretary, School Education Department, UT Ladakh, Ajeet Kumar Sahu chairing a meeting with a team of experts and officers of the School Education Department.

tiveness through standardization of processes and data, and have a centralized information system connecting all stakeholders which include Students, Parents, Staff, Schools, Zonal Education Officers, and the Department of School Education.

Hitachi MGRM Net official, Satya Narayan Sarangi gave the Commissioner/Secretary a detailed presentation on the design, development, implementation, training, and handholding support for software and services for school, teacher, and students' performance management systems. He briefed the Commissioner/Secretary about the School Expert System, Digital Learning Platform, and Analytics which are the three components of this platform.

General Manager, Hitachi for e-governance applications, Ruchika Gupta apprised the Commissioner/Secretary that through this software all the government schools in UT Ladakh will be working on a unified platform where they'll have a standard workforce and a standard list of reports. She informed that

the activities conducted at the school level will also be consolidated at the departmental level.

At any point in time, if the School Education Department wants to access the consolidated data of the schools such as student enrolments, current employee strength, student drop-outs, etc. in the Union Territory can be easily tracked through the consolidation of data at the school level, she added.

Commissioner/Secretary, A.K. Sahu said that the implementation of this e-Governance project should be done in a phased wise manner beginning with the four zones of Leh, Kargil, Nubra, and Drass. He said this platform should be an ever-evolving platform with engaging learning material, audiobooks in Ladakhi, and also content created by teachers, with approval from the District Institute of Education and Training. He said that Smart Classrooms should be integrated with this platform. Commissioner/Secretary believed that this platform would evolve as a good digital infrastructure model for school education in UT Ladakh.

Ladakh – A step closer to sustainable tourism development

By Dr. Mohammad Deen, Tashi Thokmat, Parishmita Gogoi

Ladakh, also popular as the “land of high passes” or sometimes known as the “Little Tibet” is India’s northernmost Union Territory located between the Greater Himalayas and Karakoram ranges. The scenic beauty of this region having a total population of around 2,50,000 is purely nature’s bliss.

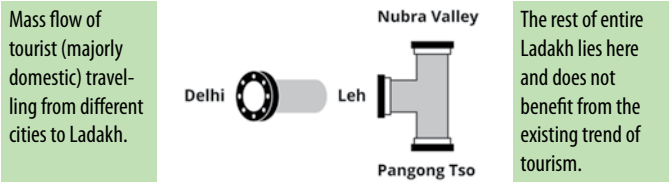
Ever since it started, tourism is one of the main sources of economy for the population of Ladakh. The peak season lasts between May to September. But is the current model of conventional tourism in Ladakh sustainable?

With an exponential rise from 527 arrivals in 1974 to more than 300,000 in 2019 before the pandemic, the tourism industry of Ladakh is undergoing an unconstrained growth. In 2021, domestic tourism influx has reflected a form of revenge tourism after the pandemic, and now the enthusiasm for the season of 2022 is already at its height. Unfortunately, majority of the tourists are visiting only to a few popular hotspots, namely, Leh, Hunder (Nubra Valley), Spangmik (Pangong Tso) along with some of the popular monasteries around the Leh city every season at the cost of the rest 90% of the population living outside of these hotspots. These visitors, especially domestic, who arrive to experience the nature and landscape of the region, are not aware of its fragile ecosystem.

The current trend of conventional tourism in Ladakh has created numerous adverse impacts that are largely overlooked by both service providers who are benefitting the most out of this trend and visitors. The major impact is on the region’s agriculture system. Tourism is easy money as most people believe and therefore, many locals have migrated to Leh to engage themselves in tourism practices leaving behind their age-old sustainable agriculture practices. Today, 30-40% of the farm lands of Ladakh remain uncultivated and the remaining agriculturists do not earn much.

This decline in sustainable agriculture with an uncontrolled tourism influx has certainly led to the following issues:

- a. Income disparity among the population leading to a limited option to generate livelihood leading to youth migration
- b. Dilution of local culture and tradition
- c. Environmental degradation; loss of carrying capacity of the mentioned hotspots with excessive consumption of resources



To mitigate these issues, LEHO – Ladakh Environment and Health Organization, a local NGO based in Leh, Ladakh has taken a step to promote sustainable tourism development in Ladakh by establishing homestays and model community villages. LEHO’s mission is to work towards environment conservation, culture heritage, and community development through self-sustaining development modules based on local renewable natural resources.

Three villages, namely Takmachik, Likir and the triplet Shara, Sharnos & Phuktse are adopted by LEHO in the period of 2019-2022 covering west, central and south-east of Ladakh to promote sustainable tourism. A total of 46 homestays have been established in the three villages while identifying local attractions with mutual discussion and agreement with the community members. All homestays facilitate with two private rooms with modern bathrooms, sustainable hot water facility, filtered drinking water, emergency chargeable lights, on-site free parking, traditional Ladakhi dining space, kitchen (on request) & authentic local meals, beautiful kitchen gardens & farms providing farm-to-tables experiences, and more.

Moreover, every village have e-scooties available for rent to explore the neighbourhood by the visitors while supporting more locals other than the homestay owners in their livelihood generation. Also, the village café, museum and souvenir store that would sell both local food products and traditional artisanal items could build more engagement between the visitors and the locals.

With intent to revive the old agricultural practices and motivate the production of local food in Ladakh, every homestay owner is encouraged to grow his/her own vegetables and domesticate milking cattle for their guests. The homestay owner can also buy those local products from their neighbours if he/she cannot manage so. This will provide an additional income and motivate the non-homestay owners to engage more in farming. Additionally, 5% of every homestay booking

tariff is contributed as the Community Development Fee that could be utilised for various development occasions of the village.

Not only that, this model provides alternative livelihood to many other stakeholders within the community like the village-level tour operator, local guide, cultural troop, café and museum owners, story-tellers, artisans and so on. The enthusiasm of the newly-trained hosts (homestay owners) and village-level tour operators, especially guided by tourism experts and resource persons from All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) and All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association (ALHGA) under the training and skill development programmes organized by LEHO, seem promising with the services. Also, public awareness programmes are conducted in every village to spread about sustainable tourism and importance of preservation of culture as well as conservation of environment in Ladakh.

Takmachik, the first certified organic village of Ladakh, is 120 km from Leh towards west and falls within the Sham Valley of the union territory but with just 9,600 ft height approximately (Leh = 11,500 ft), it is a great destination to acclimatize and enjoy the warmth of its bountiful nature and farms like buckwheat, apricot orchards, and many more.

Likir, the craft village of Ladakh, is 60 km from Leh towards west, and apart from its artisanal uniqueness it also offers insight into Buddhism, with its Klu-kkhyil monastery housing close to 70 monks. Height = 11, 978 ft approx.

Shara, Sharnos and Phuktse, the triplets, 65 km from Leh towards south-east, offers a special insight into its history, especially architecture, as it is the only Ladakhi village with a fully restored old town. Sights like the himalayan petroglyphs (rock carvings) by the bank of river Indus and soothing village walks by the lovely willow trees make an interesting stay. Height = 16,788 ft. approx.

Tourism is all over Ladakh and not just in Leh or around Nubra and Pangong. So we need to motivate tourists to explore other places in a sustainable way while contributing positively to the local’s economy and to the preservation of the natural environment. But sadly, there are not enough infrastructures to facilitate most tourists in the rural villages of the region. Therefore, LEHO has supported these 03 villages by establishing responsible tourism models to generate livelihood of the villagers in a sustainable way while reviving the loss in agriculture system. Today, LEHO looks forward to promote this model in 16

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International Nurses Day

Every year International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May to commemorate the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday. This day also celebrates the contribution done by nurses to society around the world. On this day the International Council of Nurses organisation produces an International Nurses kit to educate and assist health workers globally with a different theme every year.

Nightingale became an important figure in nursing in the 1850s during the Crimean War. At that time she was stationed at the Barrack Hospital at Scutari (Üsküdar; now a district of Istanbul), where she headed a group of nurses that cared for injured British soldiers. When she first arrived at the hospital, she was struck by the desperate condition of the facilities, and as a result she imposed strict stan-

dards of care and ensured that the wards were kept clean and well stocked with food and medical supplies. Nightingale's experiences at Scutari led her to campaign for reform in health care and nursing, and in 1860 she opened the Nightingale School of Nursing at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. The school's success prompted the establishment of similar training schools for nurses elsewhere. Among these early institutions was a nursing school at Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary (now Sydney Hospital) in Australia, which opened in 1868 and was headed by St. Thomas-trained nurse Lucy Osburn; the Bellevue Training School for Nurses in New York, which opened in 1873 and was the first institution in the United States founded on Nightingale's principles; and a nursing school in Fuzhou, China, which was established in 1888 by American nurse Ella Johnson and was that country's first Nightingale-based teaching institution. These pioneering schools provided a fertile foundation for the subsequent growth and advance of the modern nursing profession.



SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

In a way, death is a fulfilment



Life is highly uncertain. You never know what is up there the next moment in your fate. We dream, plan and resolve to do this and that, a hundred things. But are we going to be lucky enough to be there to execute them and be done with them?

What I am trying to say is that, quite often, good people are ‘taken away’ much before their time to bid adieu. Several such tragedies have happened in the last few months. But the latest tragedy was the least expected as God showed no mercy on him even though he had many things to do before he could declare: Mission accomplished!

Fare well, my dearest friend, Sonam Dorjay, Serchu. You left us too soon and too suddenly. You were too young to say ‘Good Bye’, and you had many things to do in the service of mankind, the people of Ladakh. For me, more than a loved and well-respected member of our extended family, you were a great friend, worthy of trust, love and kindness. A great human being that you were, you used your qualities of head and heart in general and as a successful lawyer and a politician, in particular.

But the most important quality you had was that you were a good, true human being. If you loved and respected people, they too showed their love on you. Very rare people get that kind of love and respect that you could. Public service was your passion, and you went out of the way to help the poor and the needy.

Since illness had taken you over for quite some time, we, your friends and family members, had resigned to the tragic end. We knew that God needed you more than we did. After all, God loves to have good people around Him.

Dear friend, you are no more around, but you will live in your hearts forever. And we take solace in the fact that, as Sigmund Freud says “The goal of all life is death”.

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

DID YOU KNOW



- National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year on 21 May to spread awareness about the violence caused by the terrorists and also in the memory of former Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi who passed on this day.
 - Water is our body’s mechanical oil—without it, it can’t function. You lose about 8 percent of your body water while on a flight. This is because the humidity in the climate-controlled environment can be as low as 10 to 15 percent.
 - The most popular, but likely wrong, theory is that yawning increases levels of oxygen to the brain. A more plausible theory: Yawning cools the brain down. A study conducted on mice found that as mice sucked in air, their jaws stretched—this increases blood flow to the brain. This combination of cooler air intake when yawning mixed with the blood flowing to the brain is thought to eventually cool the brain down.
 - Research shows that goats are socially aware of the environment they’re in. They can “differentiate between other goats’ happiness or displeasure by listening to their voices,” according to *National Geographic*.
- Source : Readers Digest.

In Conversation with
Tsewang Dorjay, President PAGIR

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Tell us about yourself and your childhood memories.

I am from Stok village of Leh district and was diagnosed with a disability at the age of 8. When I was small, I kept falling ill and do not remember the exact cause of my illness very clearly but I slightly remember that I fell and got injured. I got operated on and hospitalized for around six to seven months. After that got bedridden for a long time and had to quit my school and was able to study till Class 1.

Gradually with the support of a walking stick, I managed to walk and one day, while listening to a radio I came across the training opportunity provided by the handicraft department. I joined the training and learned thanka painting and other art from Ka Angchuk, Olthang pa for almost 4 to 5 years.

Apart from painting, I love writing tsoms, poems and filmmaking. I used to shoot in Pagir and also worked on a documentary film on PAGIR themed 'Jungwa'. I don't get much time but during my free time, I do paint.

Q. You are working as a President of the People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights PAGIR. Could you tell us more about PAGIR, its work and the role it played in changing social perception?

PAGIR was founded by Late Mohd. Iqbal along with three other co fellows in the year 2007, for an equitable and inclusive society for the people with disability in the Ladakh region. I met Founder PAGIR, Late Mohd Iqbal and Achay Kunzang in the year 2007 and worked as a member till 2013-14. After that, for almost two years I was running a small shop in Choglamsar and rejoined PAGIR. This is my third year serving as the president of PAGIR.

PAGIR focuses and works on developing an inclusive environment for the specially-abled person. It awares disabled people about their rights and promotes their participation in various activities and empowers them economically. Today in PAGIR there are around 500 members, 12 staff, 15 board members and around 10 advisors.

A solarised hostel building is in the line of the inauguration and once it becomes functional 20 people will be accommodated. The hostel will not be a place to lock them up will be more of a skill training centre. PAGIR along with its aim to work for the rights of persons with



disabilities is also working towards environment protection themed, 'Jungwa Shrung-skyob'. It is a social program initiated by PAGIR to reduce pollution and conserve nature. The differently-abled members of Pagir turn the waste materials into usable products like carrying bags, cushions, face masks, decorative items, purses, pen stands, file covers, etc.

Q. What do you think about how society behaves toward disabled persons? Do they get equal treatment in society?

Society's attitude toward specially-abled people is changing but we can't say that there are no issues. People with disabilities face discrimination in every aspect of their lives- health, education and work- lack of social inclusion and exposure. There are many cases, especially in far-flung areas where many disabled people are not getting their due rights. We still come across families who are reluctant to give information about disabled children. They are kept inside without any exposure from an early age with no friend circles and people to talk to thus categorized as disabled. Many are deprived of physiotherapy, speech therapy and many other treatments because of not disclosing about disability.

The acceptance of one's disability by near and dear ones can make a lot of contributions to one's confidence.

The lack of inclusive and accessible public spaces and the building is also a concern. Today we see many public spaces and government buildings which are not disabled-friendly. While on the other hand effort is also made to bring change. Some of the changes may require very little investment, while others may require a bit more planning and expense. Either way, an important tip worth remembering is that a little thoughtfulness goes a long way and improved access is easily achievable when the perspective of disabled people is taken into consideration. I hope with greater awareness and collaborations we will see more disabled-friendly spaces in the future.

Q. Is there a barrier and challenges to inclusive education for students with a disability?

Education is very important and I must say that every child should get it. In Ladakh, the challenges and barriers to inclusive education

...Continues on Page 6

MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“When we talk about change and creating an inclusive environment for disabilities, action is needed. Social inclusion and exposure are must to change the lives of specially-abled people.”

Fortnight Highlights



Three stone crushing units and one hot and wet mixing plant in the Kurbathang area of Kargil were sealed after found indulging in illegal mining activities on May 5. Following the report of the general public about illegal mining in the district, Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Deputy Director, Geology and Mining, Ladakh, District Mineral Officer, Naib Tehsildar, Kargil and SHO Kargil conducted a surprise inspection.



Scientists of KVK Kargil and experts of the Horticulture Department advised farmers in Kargil district to adopt suitable management strategies to fight the spread of brown/yellowtail moth disease on apricot trees in Kargil.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, met Minister of Labour and Environment, Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi and discussed various issues about the labourers and wildlife in Ladakh.



Red Cross Society, Leh observed Red Cross Day by organising an 'Anti-Smoking and Alcohol' programme in Girls Higher Secondary School, Leh and a 'Blood Donation' camp at Post Office, Leh on May 8.



Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve visited Bal Ashram Kargil and celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr with the students. He interacted with students of the Bal Ashram and took stock of the facilities being provided to them.

IIT experts interact with students at EJM College, Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: An interactive session was organised by the Eliezer Joldan Memorial (EJM) College Leh with the students of EJM College, ITIs & polytechnic with the delegates from IITs on May 11.

The IIT delegates include Dr Anil Verma, Professor in Chemical Engineering, Head Continuing Education Program, IIT Delhi; Dr Anil Wali, MD FITT, IIT Delhi; Dr Amitabha Bandyopadhyay, Department of Biological Sciences and Bio-Engineering, IIT Kanpur, professor-in-charge, SIIC (Incubation centre), IIT Kanpur; Ankit Saxena, In-charge of social innovation, IIT Kanpur and Shakti Tripathy, Senior Manager, Desai Sethi School of entrepre-

neurship, IIT Bombay. Principal EJM College, Dr Sameena Iqbal addressed the gathering and welcomed all the experts and highlighted the importance of this type of interactive session. Further, she added that this kind of session should happen in future as well.

During the interactive session, students/aspiring entrepreneurs showed interest and discussed business and entrepreneurship ideas in various domains such as food processing, handicrafts, handlooms, textiles etc. They also spoke on the importance of branding, packaging, digital marketing of local products, pricing and market segmentation with the experts from IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Mumbai.

The experts informed the gathering about different business ideas, the importance of being aware of their surroundings and providing a solution to the existing problem, development of ideas, business establishment, ideas to make business functional and pursue entrepreneurship based on their passion. They suggested sharing problem statements with the incubation centre (Ladakh) for handholding & expert guidance for the upcoming projects of aspiring entrepreneurs.

IIT experts interact with entrepreneurs of Kargil



A team of a delegation from IIT interacted with the local entrepreneurs, Self-Help Group members and progressive farmers of the Kargil district at the Council Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A team of delegations from IIT interacted with the local entrepreneurs, Self-Help Group members and progressive farmers of the Kargil district on May 10 at the Council Secretariat.

The IIT delegates include Dr Anil Verma, Professor in Chemical Engineering, Head Continuing Education Program, IIT Delhi; Dr Anil Wali, MD FITT, IIT Delhi; Dr Amitabha Bandopad-

hyay, Department of Biological Sciences and Bio-Engineering, IIT Kanpur, professor-in-charge, SIIC (Incubation centre); Ankit Saxena, in charge of social innovation, IIT Kanpur and Shakti Tripathy, Senior manager, Desai Sethi school of entrepreneurship, IIT Bombay.

The meeting made deliberations on apricot processing, organic farming, food processing, handicrafts, handlooms, branding,

packaging, digital marketing of local products, pricing and market segmentation.

DC, Kargil, and Santosh Sukhdeva suggested the experts plan for entrepreneurship development in Ladakh according to the demography and topography of the region which is different from plain areas.

He emphasized conducting an interactive session of budding entrepreneurs of Kargil with entrepreneurs from Leh who are already in the field to gain exposure.

The experts gave a patient listening to the local entrepreneurs and progressive farmers and also suggested fruitful mechanisms to resolve their issues.

They further emphasized the local entrepreneurs remain in touch with the incubation centre in Leh for further suggestions and expert guidance.

Horticulture experts inspect Yellow-tail moth infestation in Nubra



Experts inspecting the orchards infected by the yellowtail moth in Nubra.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: In wake of the recent outbreak of leaf defoliator (yellow-tail moth) infestation in the Nubra sub-division, a team of experts headed by the District Horticulture Officer, Leh, including Entomologist, SKUAST, Leh; Horticulture Development Officer, Nubra and field staff of Horticulture Department, Leh visited the infected villages on May 10.

Village representatives of Tyakshi and Pachathang villages accompanied the expert team.

The team visited Bogdang, Turtuk and Tyakshi

village of Nubra from where a report has been received regarding the appearance of this pest on fruit crops. It was informed that the infestation of leaf defoliator (yellow-tail moth) is seen in apricot trees and some forest trees like willow etc. in sporadic form only.

The team observed that the pests are in their initial stages of appearance due to a congenial environment and can be managed by mobilizing and convincing the farmers to adopt several integrated pest management (IPM) methods. The IPM methods include removing the webs in which the pest larvae reside by clipping with the help of loppers and destroying it by dumping them into pits and covering them with soil.

Further, it was informed that the trees having large dead, injured twigs and branches need to be discarded, otherwise it becomes a shelter for insect larvae. All such branches need to be removed and destroyed by deep burial or burning. Also, orchard sanitation needs to be carried out by cleaning the orchard floor.

The training/awareness-cum-demonstration program ended with good interaction between the farmers and experts.



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In Conversation with Tsewang Dorjay

...Continued from Page 5

for students with disability are not much but there needs a lot of understanding and awareness regarding inclusive education. Inclusive education—which fully engages all students, including students with disabilities or other learning challenges, in quality education—has proven particularly effective in helping all students learn, even while challenges to implementing inclusive education systems remain. A disabled child might need special attention and time to understand, and thus need special strategies, plans and recommendations. Although students with disability are getting enrollment in private schools but have come across that they are being dropped and asked to change schools because they are taking time to learn. A special school is there but we stress inclusive education because it will give more exposure, inclusion and quality ed-

ucation. Similarly, sports facilities in Ladakh shall be made accessible for persons with disabilities and initiatives shall be taken up to encourage the participation of PwDs in sports activities.

Q. What are various government schemes for a specially-abled person?

Recently, the Social & Tribal Welfare Department, UT Ladakh has come up with Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) for the person with disabilities which is being issued. The UDID card will be the single document of identification, and verification of the disabled for availing various benefits in future. Many people are still not aware and are not applying for the card, I appeal to everyone to apply and avail the benefits. Surveys are important for updated data to identify children and the type and degree of disability so that crucial medical help and requisite support can be provided.

Ladakh – One step closer to sustainable tourism development

...Continued from Page 5

more villages in the next phase of the project.

However, any village that is chosen to promote as a tourist destination must have at least one prominent attraction to increase the footfall in a sustainable way and the government plays a vital role in it. The government of U.T Ladakh should identify and establish unique tourist attractions in every village and should develop a set of guidelines as a part of Ladakh Tourism Policy with an idea of declaring the entire union territory into an “incredible ecotourism destination” of the world.

Furthermore, all the adversities led by conventional mass tourism in Ladakh cannot be solved if one simply diverts the tourist into different alternative destinations. There is need to conduct appropriate surveys on the carrying capacity of each new des-

tinuation, and create awareness and capacity among all stakeholders to avoid mass tourism into these places and overall Ladakh in future. LEHO has also prepared a set of sustainable tourism guidelines that would be shared with UT Govt. and LAHDC (Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council) while doing its level best to alleviate the issues and foster sustainability in terms of environment, local economy, agriculture and culture & tradition.

Lastly, in the long run, the main responsibility remains with the local tour operators, village ecotourism management committee in support of all villagers who would look after the overall development of the village and community without hampering the environment, revived culture and tradition as well as local agriculture in the most sustainable way. If this is managed successfully, we can surely consider Ladakh to be a step closer to sustainable development through tourism.

NOTICE



I, Tsewang Dorjay S/o Tsering Namgail & Yangchan Dolma R/o Skara, Leh UT Ladakh lost my class 10th Pass Certificate duly issued by Central Board of Secondary Education through Ladakh Public School Leh under Roll 2274971 with Registration No. C114/24010/0052 and Session Annual 2012-14 and also lost my 12th pass certificate duly issued by Central Board of Secondary Education through Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh under Roll No. 2751049 with Serial No. SSCE/2026/ 0284396. Now I have to apply for issuance of duplicate Pass Certificates. Objection if any may be sent to the CBSE Regional Office, Sector 5 Panchkula-134109 (Haryana) within 7 days from date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I, Irshad Ullah Khan S/o Late Ahadullah R/o Zangsti, Leh UT Ladakh Prop M/s Coffee Culture has applied for the change in Name and style of the Coffee Shop as M/s Coffee Culture to M/s Café Montagne. If anyone has objection please contact Assistant Director Tourism Leh within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

3 Ladakh Scouts organises Regional archery competition in Diskit, Nubra

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: Regional archery competition under Operation Sadbhavana was organised by 3 Ladakh Scouts under the aegis of Siachen Brigade, Partapur from May 1 to 3.

A total of 12 local teams and 72 players participated in the event. The tournament was played on a knock out basis wherein a total of 20 rounds were played.

The tournament aims to encourage the competitive spirit among the youths of Ladakh and to promote healthy relationships between the Indian Army and the local population.

Brig PD Thakur VSM, Commander Siachen Brigade officers



and civil dignitaries were present. The event turned out to be a great success that witnessed the presence of more than 800-900 locals from 10 villages in far-flung areas of Diskit and Sumoor region.

Prominent people of the region including Head Lamas of the monastery, sarpanches, teachers, ESM, SDM and other dignitaries were present.

During the championship, the local population were extended medical facilities, CSD facilities and the dedicated team of officers and JCO's to motivate youth to join the Indian Army.

The winner and runner up team were felicitated with a trophy and cash prize from Brig PD Thakur.

Workshop on effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021 in Ladakh held



During the two-day workshop for effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021 in Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A two-day workshop for effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021 in Ladakh was held for duty bearers of ICPS, legal services authority, police and other functionaries on May 10 and 11.

The workshop was organised by Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department UT Ladakh supported by UNICEF India.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magarey, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee of J&K and Ladakh High Court joined the workshop virtually and highlighted the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021 in Ladakh.

He stressed the collective efforts of the concerned departments for the successful implementation of the Act in Ladakh and focussed on the development of a friendly mechanism to deal with all kinds of crimes reported against juveniles.

Justice Magarey also stressed proper sensitization and awareness of concerned officials from respective departments regarding the rights and protection of juveniles.

Reaffirming justice delivery as the main agenda of the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021, he instructed all the concerned officials to work effectively so that nobody is left out in availing justice which is the fundamental right of every citizen.

He also put forth suggestions regarding rehabilitation and social-reintegration which mainly includes restoration of a child in need of care and protection, registration of child care institutions, open shelter, foster care, special homes, place of safety, sensitization of police officials, counselling centres etc.

Justice Magarey said the program assumes great importance as Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) have to deal with the children in light of the Old Act as well as the new Central Act and are required to be sensitized to different provisions of the Act and the Rules.

"Capacity building is our main agenda and is part of the Action Plan for the current year as ap-

proved in the Fourth Round Table Conference held on October 09, 2021. You should be aware that effective Implementation of Juvenile Justice System is being monitored by Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India," he said.

Regarding Child Care Institutions, Justice Magarey said new ideas are emerging and there is a paradigm shift in the ideas of dealing with children in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection. The J.J. Act is comprehensive legislation that addresses the basic needs of children.

"The Act delineates at the outset, the child-friendly principles that should guide all the agencies associated with the welfare of the children while implementing the provisions of the Act," he said.

Justice Magarey said the Act has vested multiple responsibilities upon the JJB. The Board is to ensure that children are protected by the juvenile justice system. This puts huge responsibility upon the JJB for protecting the child. The JJB'S has to go beyond its functions," he said.

He said under section 19 of the Act, powers have been conferred upon the Children's Court to ensure follow-up on the rehabilitative measures adopted for the child and yearly evaluation of reports to evaluate the progress of the child in place of safety.

"The CWC have a responsibility towards children in need of care and protection. Society has great expectations in this regard. The CWC can only discharge its functions in the true spirit of JJ Act, once it is sensitive to the needs of children with knowledge and competence about the different provisions of law," Justice Magarey said.

He said, " Juvenile Justice System can't be implemented in isolation. There has to be, complete coordination and collaboration to help the child in distress and the child in a difficult situation that is why we have invited participants from the Departments of Health, Police, ICDS, Education and Bal Ashram and all concerned stakeholders. All have to unite to help the child in Conflict with Law and Child in Need of Care and Protection."

Justice Magarey said that besides capacity building, the formula-

tion of Rules under the JJ Act, the Creation of full-time Principal Magistrates in the Districts, a detailed plan to bridge the infrastructure and institutional gaps, data management and monitoring, capacity building at various levels to be initiated, expansion of counselling services, a Special Cadre of Police Officers to discharge the duties of Special Juvenile Police Units and Child Welfare Officers, Child-Friendly Police Stations, Creation of Shelter Homes, Special Homes, Children Homes and Observation Homes is must.

Resource persons Bharti Ali from HAQ Organization and Nimisha Srivastava from Council To Secure Justice gave a detailed presentation on the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021 and model rules 2016 and introduction and its principles, JJB and CWC its structures and functioning structural aspects of JJBs, powers of CWC its functions and other related aspects.

On the concluding day, Commissioner Secretary, Padma Angmo said the workshop helped concerned officials and trainees to gain in depth knowledge of the importance of the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021 for its implementation in UT Ladakh.

Regarding the awareness of the Act, she said a mass campaign will be run to educate the general masses and assured that in future, more such workshops will be conducted at a larger scale for the sensitization of officials from the concerned departments.

Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Abdul Rashid Malik who joined the workshop virtually, also thanked the participants, organizers for conducting such a resourceful workshop.

He requested resource persons to draft a detailed report which would highlight issues related to implementation of Juvenile Justice Act in Ladakh for higher administrative perusal. Stressing over the need of collective efforts for the effective implementation of Juvenile Justice System, Malik said JJA can't be implemented in isolation. He said coordinated efforts of all departments including Health, Police, ICPS, Education and others will help in effective implementation of JJA in districts.

Training, capacity building on MSTAR applications to schools held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A team of experts from Hitachi MGRM Net conducted training and capacity building for the staff of government schools on Managing, Scheduling, Tracking, Analysing and Reporting (MSTAR) applications on May 11.

The team was deployed by the Directorate of School Education, Ladakh to prepare comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software.

Director of School Education, Ladakh, Safdar Ali who emphasized the need to bring automation in Schools of Ladakh asked to ensure easy access to data for all stakeholders in the education sector for proper management, monitoring and functioning of the education system in the region.



Chief Education Officer, Kargil, Mushtaq Ahmad, Zonal Education Officers, Principals, Lecturers, School Headmasters and teachers attended the training session here at Syed Mehdi Memorial Auditorium Hall, Kargil.

The MSTAR application is aimed at managing data, people and processes, scheduling resources, tracking progress and performance, analysing outcomes and reporting MIS, analytics and dashboard. The

training on Edutech and software is aimed to modernize and digitalize the school education system in the government school of Ladakh to track the physical, mental and academic progress of every child in Ladakh from birth to their higher education.

The experts trained the teachers on the school expert system, school management system, analytics and digital learning platform.

The ERP software will integrate with the birth registration database, Anganwadi centres, parents, and health departments to track students' overall progress in various aspects. The software will act as a central portal to address all the administrative issues of schools, their teaching, and non-teaching staff. The session ended with a question-and-answer session.

AMRUT 2.0: Government sanctions ₹120 crore projects for Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sewerage Treatment Plant for Kargil and extension of existing sewerage network in Leh town was sanctioned by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Government of India in the second meeting of the Apex Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary MoHUA under AMRUT 2.0 on May 10.

The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the proposals submitted by States/ UTs under AMRUT 2.0 for consideration/approval under Tranche 1 of State Water Action Plans (SWAP). Total assistance of ₹120 crores has been allocated to the UT of Ladakh under the scheme.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development

Department, UT of Ladakh presented the proposal submitted under the scheme. The Secretary HUDD informed the Chair that the UT has envisaged projects for 24x7 urban water supply, sewerage system, development of parks and rejuvenation of water bodies under AMRUT 2.0 for the 2 districts of UT, i.e. Leh and Kargil. At present, two proposals are submitted to Apex Committee under SWAP Tranche 1 are for the Sewerage system of Kargil and Leh. He also informed that at present there is no sewerage system in Kargil and the proposal also included the distribution network and STPs.

Given the topography and challenges presented by the extreme cold climate-appropriate com-

patible technology would make the pipeline network and STPs resilient to freezing.

It is pertinent to mention that Prime Minister launched AMRUT 2.0 on 1 October 2021 to develop water-secure cities in the spirit of AatmaNirbhar Bharat. It targets to provide reliable 2.68 crore new water tap connections to all in about 4,800 statutory towns. Also, it proposes to get universal household coverage of sewerage/ septage services in 500 AMRUT cities through 2.64 crore new sewer connections. Rejuvenation of water bodies, green spaces and parks are other components of this Mission. Outcome-based funding is its major feature. The total indicative national outlay for AMRUT 2.0 is ₹2,99,000 crore.

NOTICE

Whereas Tsering Namgail F/o Tsewang Dorjay R/o Skara, **Leh UT Ladakh** has lost the Birth Certificate of his son which is issued by Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh with Registration No. 15101 and Date of Birth 29th December 1997 and now he has applied for issuance of duplicate Birth Certificate in lieu of lost documents. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office of **Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh** within 7 days from date of publication failing which new Birth Certificate will be issued accordingly.

**Registrar Birth & Death,
Municipal Committee Leh**



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Attractions:

- Traditional healer
- Activities like archery and yak riding
- Local festivals and treks

Accessibility

- 65 km away from Leh
- Book a taxi or board a bus

Attractions:

- Traditional agriculture
- Activities like wood-carving or traditional cooking
- Local festivals and treks

Accessibility

- 115 km away from Leh
- Book a taxi or board a bus



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Attractions:

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- Activities like pottery, weaving or meditating
- Local festivals and treks

Accessibility

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