

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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August 1-15, 2022

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HH the Dalai Lama visits different religious place in Leh

Interacts with religious leaders, stresses on living in harmony for a happy world



His Holiness Dalai Lama at Imam Bargah Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: His Holiness Dalai Lama visited different religious places in Leh, including Chowkhang Vihara, Jama Masjid and Imam-e- Bargah mosque and Moravian Church on July 23, making it a first public appearance after his arrival in Leh on July 15.

His Holiness visit to all religious places sends across the message of peace, unity and brotherhood among everyone and preaches the importance to value and respect each other religion or faith for harmony and peace. His Holiness stresses on the importance to live with the spirit of oneness, keeping aside small differences.

His Holiness stated, "We human beings are all same, mentally, physically and emotionally, and all of us seek for happiness and have a right to be happy. Thus, we should always try to help one another whenever we can and live happily to create a peaceful and happy world."

At Chowkhang Vihara, President, Ladakh Buddhist Association, Thupstan Chhewang offered mandala to His Holiness.

Greeting people gathered at Chowkhang Vihara, His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed gratitude to the people of Ladakh for the faith and devotion.

His Holiness said that he is determined to continue his contribution in flourishing Dharma and stresses everyone to study, understand and practice dharma for the benefit of all sentient beings. His holiness said that just reciting mantra is not ok, one should study the word of Buddha and practice it in daily life.

...Continues on Page 2

His Holiness the Dalai Lama concludes 3-day teachings in Leh

Preaches on 'A Guide to Bodhisattva's way of life' & Avalokiteshvara empowerment



Stanzin Dasal

CHOGLAMASAR: His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama taught Chapter 9 of Shantideva's A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life on July 28 and 29 and conferred Avalokiteshvara Empowerment on July 30 at Jevetsal, Choglamsar.

Thousands of devotees from different parts of Ladakh and hundreds of tourist seeked the blessings and teaching of His Holiness.

His Holiness stresses on the importance of developing compassionate heart and warmheartedness which is a key factor for meaningful life and one's own health and mind. His Holiness spoke about living a life with good heart because everyone is living in a community depended on each other, thus helping each other and spreading happiness.

Talking about the preservation of culture and tradition, His Holiness stated that Tibetan even after living in exile succeeded in preserving Tibetan tradition and Buddhist philosophies by taking different measures. His Holiness also spoke about the re-establishment of traditional monastic centres of learning in South India with the support of the Government of India, as well as NGOs and charitable organisations.

"If people in the Himalayan region, from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, are able to preserve their Buddhist cultural heritage, they will make a great contribution to the flourishing of Buddhism in the world", His Holiness added.

His Holiness also stressed on the importance to study, develop and promote buddhist philosophies. The Dalai Lama emphasised the importance of the people of Ladakh preserving their deep Buddhist cultural heritage through the study of Buddhist texts.

His Holiness advised not to be just satisfied with rituals and prayers but to try and understand Buddha's teaching.

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Kargil Vijay Diwas: Leh pays tributes to martyrs of Kargil war

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Department of Tourism Leh in collaboration with the Ex-Servicemen League celebrated the 23rd Operation Vijay Diwas at the War Memorial, Leh to commemorate India's win over Pakistan on July 26, 1999.

Paying tributes to the brave hearts that made the ultimate sacrifice defending the nation, the chief guest of the occasion, Principal Secretary, Dr. Pawan Kotwal said that July 26 is a day of great pride for the nation as our valiant forces routed the enemy and took back the occupied territory. Highlighting the role of the Ladakh Scouts in winning the war, Dr Kotwal said that the Ladakh Scouts have been awarded gallantry awards such as Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra awards among others for their valour and heroism in the defense of our motherland.

The borders of our nation are secure because our forces are always ready to defend our borders, he added.



Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphele paying tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Honouring the sacrifices made by the Indian Army during the Kargil War, President LBA, Thupstan Chhewang said that Pakistan's conspiracy to capture the border failed miserably as the brave Indian Army gave them a befitting reply. Emphasizing the important role played by the Ladakh Scouts in the three-month-long war, Thupstan Chhewang said that soldiers of the Ladakh Scouts defeated the enemy and changed the course of the battle.

Expressing his gratitude to the Ladakh Administration for collaborating with the Ex-Servicemen, President of the Ex-Servicemen League, Honorary Captain

Sonom Morup said that the struggles endured, challenges faced and sacrifices made by the Ladakh Scouts must never be forgotten. He hoped that in the future Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on a grander scale so that the Kargil war will be a part of the memory of the younger generations.

EC, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphele; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi; Commandant, Ladakh Scouts, R.S.Parihar; Additional Secretary, Home Department, Tashi Dolma; War Veterans and next of kin of slain soldiers paid homage to the soldiers who laid down their lives in the 1999 war.

'Reway Otzer' free UPSC coaching programme launched in Leh

30 deserving students from Leh district to get coaching



During the launch of the Free UPSC Civil Services examinations coaching programme at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Free UPSC Civil Services examinations coaching programme named, 'Reway Otzer' for 30 deserving students from Leh district was launched on July 23 at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh. The free SSC coaching programme was also concluded on the same day.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsong launched Reway Otzer- the free UPSC Civil Services examinations coaching programme, during the event. Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, virtually attended the event.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillors, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof RK Mehta; Deputy Commissioner Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, and Madhu Prabhakar and GR Patel from Samkalp were present during the event.

LG Mathur appreciated Hill Council Leh for taking the initia-

tive of providing free coaching for students from Leh for SSC examinations and also for coming up with the thought of providing free coaching for UPSC Civil Services examinations aspirants. He also appreciated

Hill Council Leh for successfully handling the administrative and logistics matters for the free SSC coaching programme and also for engaging a non-commercial and professional organisation like Samkalp for providing coaching to youth from Leh.

Calling youth the future of Ladakh, LG Mathur stated that more than 800 youth would soon become a part of the Administration and play a pivotal role in the development of the society. He stressed the need to develop the skill of distinguishing right from wrong among the youth.

LG Mathur stated that the Administration and both the Hill Councils have managed to meet the aspirations of the people of Ladakh by providing employment opportunities to around

1600-1700 youth of Ladakh through the SSC examinations for various posts and the recruitment in Ladakh Police over the last three years.

LG Mathur shared the initiatives being taken to improve infrastructure to conduct online exams, including SSC, UPSC, and banking, in Leh and Kargil and the approval given for the Examination Centre project for both Leh and Kargil. He also expressed best wishes to youth appearing for SSC exams.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsong thanked the UT and District Administration, Samkalp, and the officials involved in successfully conducting the free SSC coaching programme for youth from Ladakh. He wished to Ladakhi youth to do well in the SSC exams.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, informed about the initiative taken to provide free SSC and UPSC Civil Services examinations coaching to youth from Leh.

Officials from Samkalp briefed about their organization and the free UPSC Civil Services examinations coaching to be provided to 30 youth from Ladakh in Delhi.

Students who availed benefits of the free SSC coaching programme shared their experiences.

HH the Dalai Lama visits different religious place in Leh

...Continued from Page 1

After Chowkhang Vihara, His Holiness visited the newly renovated Sunni mosque, Jama Masjid at main market.

Dr. Abdul Qayum, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam briefed His Holiness about the mosque its architecture and the provision of Himalayan information and learning centre with library in one part of the mosque. He greeted His Holiness and expressed gratitude for visiting the mosque.

His Holiness said, "Whenever I get opportunity to

visit other religious places I do offer my prayers since all religion preaches compassion."

At Shia Mosque, Imam Bargah, Anjuman Imamia representative reiterated the inauguration of mosque by His Holiness in 2006 and said that His Holiness presence in every religious places sends across a message of unity, peace and brotherhood among everyone not only in Ladakh but to the world.

His Holiness was also given a warm welcome in Moravian church where song in appreciation of his contribution to peace and harmony in the world was presented.

CEC, Kargil, reviews arrangements ahead of HH Dalai Lama's visit to Zanskar



CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan reviewing the necessary arrangements for His Holiness's visit to Zanskar with the concerned officers.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Ahead of the 3-day visit of His Holiness Dalai Lama to Zanskar, CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan reviewed the arrangements in a meeting with the concerned officers on July 28.

SDM Zanskar, Sonam Dorje appraised the meeting that the arrangements regarding the visit of His Holiness Dalai Lama are going on smoothly besides necessary arrangements including deployment of 4 water tankers,

30 tents, 30 tarpaulin, 8 reserved rooms for VIPs in Dag Bungalow, PA system and other arrangements are made.

CEC Khan asked the officers of the concerned departments to assure all arrangements are in place before His Holiness scheduled arrival date of August 11, 2022.

He advised the closure of schools in the Zanskar sub-division including Rangdum on August 11, 12, and 13th given the preaching sessions of HH Dalai Lama, con-

sidering the preaching sessions as a part of moral education & ethical learning.

DC Kargil was asked to appoint ADC Kargil as Nodal Officer at the district level and SDM Zanskar as Nodal Officer at the Zanskar sub-division level for the overall supervision.

The concerned officers were asked to work in close coordination with each other to make the visit of His Holiness Dalai Lama successful.

Demchok gets first-ever household water tap connection under Jal Jeevan Mission



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsong along with Secretary, Power Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar; DC Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Councillor during the inaugural ceremony of the tap water connection under JJM at Demchok.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Demchok, one of the eastern-most villages located adjacent to the LAC got Functional Household Tap Connections for the first time under Jal Jeevan Mission. A ceremonial event was organised by the Department of Public Health and Engineering (PHE) Leh on July 27.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsong along with Secretary, Power Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar; DC Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, and GOC Uniform Force, Major General V Hariharan inaugurated the FHTCs and handed them over to the residents of Demchok.

CEC Gyalsong congratulated the people of Demchok for getting household water tap connec-

tions under JJM and appreciated the team of JJM Leh and the concerned contractors for completing the project within the stipulated timeframe. He also expressed his gratitude to the Indian Army for their cooperation with the administration during the implementation of the project at Demchok.

He emphasized that fast-track developments in border areas of Ladakh in recent times are a sign of good governance towards strengthening border regions and ensuring all the basic facilities to the residents which have been lacking. He assured that all the other grievances put before him would be addressed at the earliest possible.

Secretary Ravinder Kumar also congratulated the people of

Demchok and informed them that the Administration is working collectively with the Hill Council to strengthen border regions and its people by ensuring all possible facilities.

Expressing happiness over the successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Demchok, DC Shrikant stated that he took special responsibilities to ensure the timely implementation of this project in the extreme border villages of Leh district.

Councillor Nyoma and BDC Nyoma on behalf of the people of Demchok expressed their gratitude to all the dignitaries for their support in successfully executing the Jal Jeevan Mission project and further congratulated the people of Demchok village.

Advisor reviews preparedness for Independence Day celebration

Stresses on public participation in the national campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga' from August 13 to 15



Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula chairing a review meeting for the preparation of Independence day celebration in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula chaired a review meeting on July 24 for the preparation of Independence day celebration in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The main events on Independence Day will be held at the Polo ground, Leh, and the Khree Sultan Cho Stadium, Kargil. The Independence Day parade will include a flypast by the Indian Air force over Polo Ground, Leh to commemorate 75 years of Independence and march past by contingents of Ladakh Police, CRPF, ITBP, Ex-Servicemen, National Cadet Corps, and school students from Leh and Kargil districts. In a display of the Ladakh police force's canine power, the police force's dog squad and their handlers will also participate in the parade. This will be followed by vibrant cultural music and dance programme, honouring the nation's freedom struggle and celebrating its 75 years of Independence by various groups such as the Ladakh Musical Society, Ladakh Cultural Academy, and school students among others.

Advisor Narula exhorted that no stone should be left unturned in

grandly celebrating the 75 years of Independence in the Union territory. He directed that the Raj Niwas, all government buildings in Ladakh and Ladakh Bhawans across the country be illuminated during the 3-day long celebrations starting from August 13 to August 15, 2022. He said that iconic buildings including the Leh Palace should be lit up to mark the festivities and streets be decorated with flags and lights.

Advisor Narula directed for adequate arrangements for parking, seating, drinking water, and deployment of health personnel besides refreshments for participants especially school children during the event.

The year 2022-2023 has been declared as the year of Persons with Disability by the Ladakh Administration. Keeping with this theme and to ensure the participation of Persons with Disability in public events, Advisor Narula suggested inviting their representatives to be a part of the grand celebration.

He also asked the departments to ensure public participation in the national campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga' by hoisting the tricolour atop houses from August 13 to

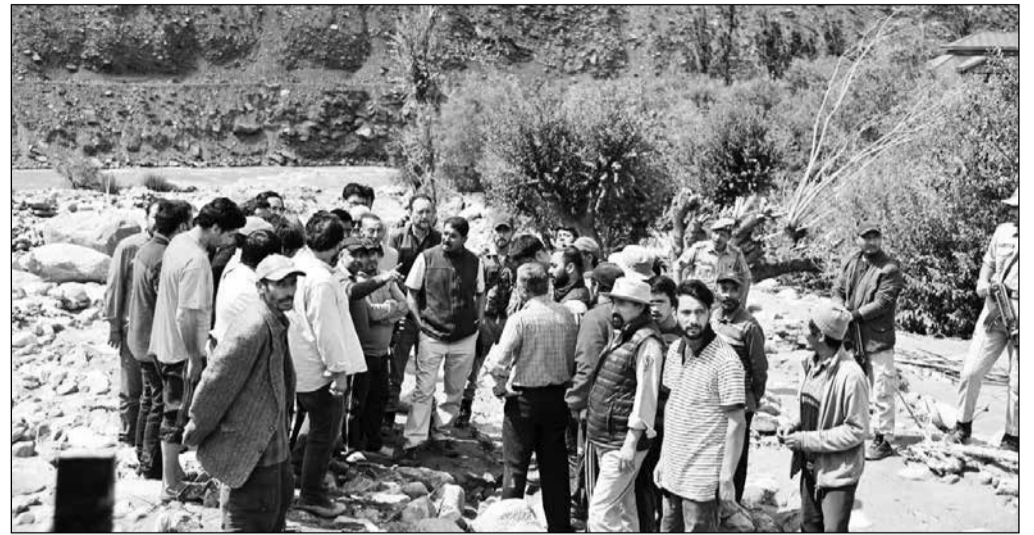
15, 2022 and suggested that the general public be encouraged to attend the Independence Day function carrying the national flag.

Secretary Tourism and Culture, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan apprised the meeting that the tricolour will be hoisted in all the border areas including the entry and exit points of the Indus River in India and the Amrit Sarovar locations besides it being hoisted at important historical sites and mountain peaks such as Umling La pass which at 19,300 feet is now the highest motorable road in the world, other peaks include Khardung La, Chang La etc.

The main event shall be open to the general public after two years of covid when the event could be attended only by invitation keeping with the covid protocols, although wearing face masks to the event will be mandatory.

The meeting was attended by all Administrative Secretaries; Deputy Commissioner, Leh/ Kargil; SSP Leh/Kargil; Officers of the Indian Air Force, ITBP, HQ 14 Corps; Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B), Heads of Departments and other concerned officials from both Leh and Kargil.

Divisional Commissioner visits flood-hit areas of Kargil district, assesses damage



Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, Saugat Biswas during his visit to the several flood-hit areas of Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, Saugat Biswas visited several flood-hit areas of Kargil including Kargil town, Khawos, Sangrah, and Stakpa on July 28 and took stock of the situation and damages caused by flash floods besides measures being taken by the administration for relief and rehabilitation.

Divisional Commissioner conducted an extensive tour of flood-affected villages and took first-hand appraisal of the situation, extent of damages, and ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected families. He also took stock of damages to irrigation land, canals, and khuls, standing crops, trees, roads, and residential houses.

The concerned officers were asked to speed up the process of assessment of damages in coordination with PRI members and ensure the preparation of the restoration plan at the earliest.

At Brigade Bagh, Titi Chumik, and Baroo-Sokh areas, Saugat Biswas assessed the debris clearance works and directed to clear debris at the earliest and extend all support to flood-affected families. He further directed to make the National Highway functional at the earliest. At Sangrah, he assessed the damage caused by flash flood and visited damaged

houses and agriculture fields that have come under debris.

To make motorable activity without hindrance, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officers to send a request to NIT Srinagar to engage a structural engineer to check the certification of the Sangrah Bridge.

He inquired from the officers about the status of the progress of works about the excavation and trailing of Sangrah Nallah and damage assessment works related to the Revenue Department and directed to do the allotted works at the earliest.

Divisional Commissioner also visited Khawos village where he took stock of the loss of agriculture and other infrastructural assets.

He directed to do the trailing and excavation of Nallah and the rebuilding and restoration of the village school building at the earliest. Further, he directed to prepare a DPR for all the recurring components about flood restoration works including Khaus and Sangrah Nallah.

At Khaus, the Divisional Commissioner also took an assessment of Rural Development works as well. He also interacted with the dislocated families of last year's flash flood and enquired about the status of works

on new houses.

The family members extended gratitude to the UT Administration for extending necessary support for the reconstruction of their houses.

At Stakpa village, Div Com was informed about the status of the excavation and trailing works. It was informed that DPR regarding the trailing of Nallah has already been drafted. Moreover, the villagers demanded that 40 affected families must be relocated to a safer place. They also demanded protection walls and nallah trailing.

The Divisional Commissioner was also informed that machines of the Mechanical Division are on the ground to remove the debris and boulders from Khaus village. He added that excavation works are going on war footing across all flood-affected areas of the district.

Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil Santosh Sukhadeve; SSP Kargil Anayat Ali Chowdhury; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Superintending Engineer I&FC, Superintending Engineer R&B, SDM Kargil and Sankoo besides senior district officers and engineers of various engineering wings accompanied the Divisional Commissioner during the tour.

L-G reviews work progress of Industries & Commerce department

Emphasises on conducting extensive training programs for local craftsmen



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur reviewed the progress of works under the Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh on July 19.

The status of various projects and schemes, viz. Industry Development Schemes/Policies; progress in the pashmina and sea buckthorn sectors; progress on implementation of various schemes such as Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017 &

Weaver Mudra, District as Export Hub; capacity-building and promotion; issues concerning industrial estates; handloom & handicrafts and Comprehensive Handicraft Policy & Action Plan, etc. were discussed during the meeting.

LG Mathur directed the concerned officials to conduct a large number of training programmes in the handicraft sector, especially in wood carving, and directed to distribute requisite tools to the woodworkers. He also instructed to prioritize the Industrial Development Policy/Schemes and stressed the need for the handholding of local entrepreneurs.

Commissioner/Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Saugat Biswas, apprised LG Mathur of the Comprehensive Policy and Action Plan for handloom and handicrafts. He shared that it shall be acted upon immediately for livelihood generation. He also apprised of operationalizing a store in the main market of Leh town for the promotion and sale of local handicraft and handloom products of Ladakh.

Director, Industries & Commerce, Ladakh; Joint Director, Handloom & Handicrafts, and other concerned officials from the Industries and Commerce Department attended the virtual meeting.

161 existing sites, 142 new sites to get 4G services in Ladakh: MoS, Communications

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Minister of State for Communication, Devusinh Chauhan stated that BSNL will convert 161 existing sites into 4G and additional 142 4G sites are planned in the Union Territory of Ladakh. This was stated in response to the question raised by the MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal during a Parliament session on July 27.

JTN asked the Ministry of Communication about the processes of implementing BSNL 5G/4G in India; plans to install a 4G network on all the existing BSNL Towers and whether the government has any proposal to cover all the uncovered hamlets/villages/ areas including Border outpost of Army and ITBP under



USOF.

In response to the question, MoS Communications, Devusinh Chauhan said, "Under Atma-nirbhar initiative of the government, BSNL floated the Expression of Interest (EOI) on January 1, 2021, for registration-cum-Proof of Concept (PoC) from Indian Companies interested in participating in 4G tender. PoC has been provisionally completed. BSNL will convert the existing 161 sites into

4G and additional 142 4G sites are also planned in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Further, the cabinet in its meeting held on 14.06.2022 has, inter alia, reserved spectrum for BSNL for providing 5G services."

The minister also said, "The uncovered villages of the country, including the Union Territory of Ladakh, are being covered by the Government, under USOF scheme, and Telecom Service Providers in a phased manner".

He further said that the proposal for 4G mobile services at Border Out Posts (BoPs) of Border Guard Forces (BGFs) including Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has been received from MHA for processing and approval.

Glimpses of HH the Dalai Lama 's teaching at Jivetsal

Photos by Dorjay Kaya



Hot butter tea being served to the monks assembled at the Jevetsal teaching ground.



Devotees folding their hands welcoming His Holiness at the teaching ground on first day.



Students, monks, and people gathered at Jevetsal.



An old man listening to the teaching being translated through radio set.



Devotees assembled at the teaching ground.

The World of Juniors

Draupadi Murmu: India's First Tribal President

Draupadi Murmu a 64-year-old tribal leader from Odisha sworn in as the 15th President of India on July 25.

Murmu was born on June 20, 1958, in Odisha's Mayurbhanj. Born in the Santhal community, the 64-year-old struggled with poverty in her childhood in one of the most remote and underdeveloped districts of the country. She has a bachelor's degree in Arts from Ramadevi Women's College in Bhubaneswar.



Murmu started her political career in 1997 as a councillor in Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat.

In 2000, she became a minister during the BJP-BJD coalition government in Odisha. She was conferred the Nilkanth award in 2007 for best MLA by Odisha Legislative Assembly. She has been an MLA twice on a BJP ticket from Odisha's Rairangpur (2000 and 2009). Murmu created history as she became the first women governor of Jharkhand, the first tribal governor of a tribal state, the first Odisha-born woman to be a governor.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Making self, others feel good



How to make yourself and others feel good? That is at the very root of living a good, purposeful and meaningful life. Maybe, some of us who don't understand the potent of this seed-thought may take pleasure in mocking those who understand its underlying vital force that makes life an accomplished one.

Anyway, let us come to the 'real thing' and see what are the ways to make ourselves and others remain happily progressive. I was reading the Shantideva's book, 'A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life' a few days ago, and here is an extract: "First of all, I should make an effort/to meditate upon the equality between self and others/ I should protect all beings as I do for myself/ because we are all equal in wanting pleasure and not wanting pain."

Yes, that defines the step 1 to make a good move for a good life. The concept of equality between two individuals paves the way for a higher ground where one can further practise the ways to good feelings for each other.

The next step could be polite talk with those you converse with so that both the sides feel equally good. And, when needed, one has to come out with words of praise that the other guy is worthy of. But the praise has to be genuine. If the person you are talking to is your senior in age, then talking respectfully does the trick. If he/she is younger, then the best way is to show a loving attitude.

Also, I find it very rewarding to call friends or neighbours over for a cup of tea, once in a while. The kind of 'gup-shup' that invariably takes place over everything under the sun, particularly about the people around you, may get quite fascinating.

And, lastly, it pays to use positive words like, 'So good to see you' or 'See you again as soon as possible' at suitable moments. Let us realize that life is all about hearty talk and cooperative spirit.

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

DID YOU KNOW



Hiroshima after the bombing

- More than 40% of the world's annual output of mangoes are grown in India, far ahead of the competition from China, Thailand and Bangladesh.

- The records include the longest garland made of cakes of cattle dung (2 km), for performing yoga on horseback (10 hours), and for lighting electric bulbs by passing a wire through one's nose and out of one's mouth (30 sixty-watt bulbs). Sometimes record-seekers go too far - as do their parents.

- India also holds the record for the most candidates for a single constituency - 1,032 candidates stood for the Modakurichi assembly seat in the Tamil Nadu state elections in 1996.

- Hiroshima Day is observed on 6 August. It is the day when in 1945 an atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. This was the first use of nuclear weapons and just after three days of Hiroshima, another nuclear weapon was dropped on Nagasaki. This happened during World War II, that is, 1939-45. The explosion which was caused due to the bombing wiped out 90% of the city. It immediately killed 70,000 people and tens of thousands later died due to radiation exposure.

In Conversation with Stanzin Nurboo, Traditional Sculpture

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Can you tell us a little about yourself? How did you start learning traditional sculpture and shaped yourself as an artist?

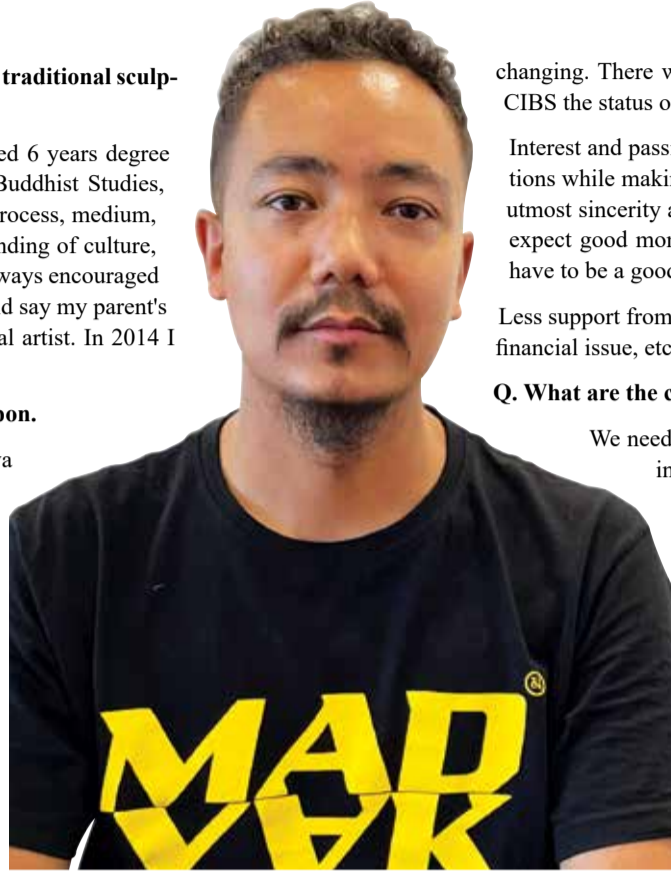
I studied till class 8th from Govt. Middle School, LehDho, and pursued 6 years degree course in Ladakhi traditional sculpture from the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh Ladakh. During the course, we didn't just learn about the art, the process, medium, etc, but the ability to communicate, to relate to the reality the understanding of culture, values of the work, sacred, and the work of human virtues. My family always encouraged me to become an artist because they believed in me and my skill. I would say my parent's support had a huge influence on me to learn and work as a professional artist. In 2014 I completed my course at CIBS and started working as a professional.

Q. Tell us about your first work and the statues you have worked upon.

In 2013, I made a small statue of 1st His Holiness Dalai Lama Gyalwa Gendun Drub at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, Bylakuppe, Karnataka. The project was carried out during my training days. Later, with references to my work I carried out several projects including Gyaltsab je (one of the key disciples of Je Tsongkhapa) at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, Bylakuppe, Karnataka in 2015, sculpted 13 feet statue of thousand armed Arya Avalokiteshwara at Thukjey monastery in Tsokar, Changthang with one of my colleagues and worked for different monasteries like Sera monastery in Karnataka, Agling, Thiksey and Achinathang monastery in Ladakh. In 2019, I sculpted the statue of Guru Padmasambhava in Keylong, Himachal Pradesh, and also worked as a contemporary artist in Dharamsala. Along with the monastery, I also worked in shrine rooms of many families.

Q. Can you tell us about the status of traditional art in Ladakh? Are youths in Ladakh interested in pursuing it?

Traditional art is a very important part of our culture and tradition. But with time we are witnessing various changes such as the material used in sculpting the statues changed from clay to cement, brass, bronze, etc. One can easily observe that a maximum of the ancient statues in monasteries of Ladakh are made of clay and is also believed that clay statues have more spiritual values. The value of clay idol is more as it consumes a lot of time and is the best material because it is eco-friendly. Today with time the demands and process of making statues are



changing. There was a time when there was no proper institute to learn the arts but after CIBS the status of traditional art grew better.

Interest and passion to learn traditional art are very important. There are certain specifications while making a statue which is very important to follow and for which learning with utmost sincerity and dedication is important. Also, many give up in between because they expect good money from a very difficult start. To get good work and more projects you have to be a good artist.

Less support from the family, lack of confidence to continue it professionally, less patience, financial issue, etc are other issues

Q. What are the challenges faced by the artist of Ladakh?

We need to value the artwork as we give it to the government job. Hardly people in our society ever glorified the fact of being an artist; no one spoke about artists as being special or better. Very few encourage the child to pursue art or sports as a profession which is why the seriousness towards these fields is less. If we won't make the importance of the art known there will be no interest in it. Secondly, the faith and importance of local artists are less.

Despite having all the talent and skills, several big projects in Ladakh are offered to people from other states because in our society there is this narrative set that whatever is not local is best. Tendering process is also an issue because most of the big projects are funded by the government. The contractors try to complete the project with fewer expenses, thus, end up hiring less experienced people and average-looking projects. Once the project is finished you can't do anything about it. People need to be more attentive and aware of what is being built around them and find the differences. There are many instances of statues and stupas in and around Leh which can be easily differentiated. Some very limited people restore and work on stupas and much of the work is carried out by daily wagers and labour from outside which spoils the very essence of the stupa. A good artist will charge more but will be delivering work with perfection.

...Continues on Page 6

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Have faith in yourself and what you do. Also, the elders need to believe in what the child is doing, encourage and support them because talent and skill are useless if we won't nurture and polish them.”

Fortnight Highlights



Integrated Child Development Services, Khatse conducted a gram panchayat level awareness camp on various schemes under the umbrella of Social Welfare and ICDS department at Saspol village.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Shrikant Suse, and President LBA, Thupstan Chhewang with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama at Photang Geyphel-ling in Leh.



University of Ladakh (UoL) and Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to introduce courses related to various aspects of film and television productions.



NCC Cadets of UT Ladakh to attend the Independence Day parade camp at New Delhi. Executive Councillor for Agriculture and Information, Stanzin Chospheal flagged off the team on July 26 from Leh.



The Fit@ 50 + Trans Himalayan expedition led by Padma Bhushan awardee Bachendri Pal reached Leh on July 19. The five-month long expedition consisting of 12 ladies, all above 50 years of age, was flagged off from Pang-Sau Pass in Arunachal Pradesh and involved traversing the Himalayan Ranges from East to West- from Arunachal Pradesh to Ladakh, covering a distance of 4,977 km and crossing 37 mountain passes.

Seminar on Raw Material Supply Scheme for weavers held in Kargil



Participants during the seminar on Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) for weavers of Handloom and Handicraft Department, Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A seminar on Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) for weavers of the Handloom and Handicraft Department, Kargil was organised by National Handloom Development Corporation, Kullu Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce UT Ladakh on July 20.

EC, Handloom and Handicraft, LAHDC, Kargil Aga Syed Mehdi Fazily thanked UT Administration for organizing the awareness program about the various government schemes for the benefit of the local weaver community. He requested that such programs should be conducted in the future as well for the benefit of the locals.

He stressed conducting training programs in weaving, knitting, and tailoring fields to enhance the skills of weavers.

Joint Director Handloom and Handicraft Department UT Ladakh, Lakshay Singhal said that the UT Administration is committed to developing the skills of the weaver community in Ladakh and in this regard, many more programs and training sessions will be conducted in the future.

He said the department will open weaving centers in every village of Ladakh for which land identification and other necessary initiatives have been already taken up and these centers will be made functional within 6 months.

Singhal said such programs are aimed to improve the skills of the weaver community and make them entrepreneurs and independent so that they earn their livelihood with dignity.

Assistant Manager, National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, S.S Shinde briefed about the RMSS which aims to provide a 15 percent subsidy on cotton, wool, Indian silk, and natural fiber direct purchase from the government along with a 7 and a half percent subsidy on transportation cost. The program ended with the distribution of identity cards and passbooks for weavers.

Yarn Supply Scheme & Eco-Friendly Dyeing workshop for artisans of Leh held

Industries Dept.collaborates with National Handloom Dev. Corp

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Industries & Commerce Department Ladakh in collaboration with National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC) organised a training workshop on Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) for weavers of Handloom and Handicraft Department Leh on July 22.

CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalsen stressed the need to set up a sustainable industry in the handloom and handicraft sector of Ladakh. He added that such a programme would help and encourage local entrepreneurs knowing that Ladakh has a huge potential in developing this sector. He also appreciated the steps taken by UT Administration Ladakh in providing a good platform for Ladakhi entrepreneurs at various levels. "Hill Council, Leh is working collectively to encourage local entrepreneurs in this sector by providing adequate subsidies on various machinery and equipment.

The department of Industries will soon secure GI tagging of various products including Pashmina, seabuckthorn, etc. he informed. Ladakh needs to grab the opportunities provided to up-skill and



Beneficiaries getting Yarn passbook from CEC, Tashi Gyalsen during a training workshop on Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) for weavers of Handloom and Handicraft Department Leh.

scale up their growing businesses," stated CEC Gyalsen.

Commissioner/Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas stated that more beneficiaries should be identified for the scheme. He reiterated that this sector shall be infused with the latest technology, machinery, and qualitative value addition for the maximum benefit of the trainees. Weavers will learn marketing skills to promote their products and will also be given extensive training that shall enable them to make their mark in the global market.

He extended gratitude to the Development Commissioner, Handlooms, and the MD NHDC for

commencing engaging activities with the artisans of Ladakh at a quick call of the Department of Industries, Ladakh. The NHDC has deputed an officer to Ladakh for coordinating engagements with the artisans of Ladakh during the summer months, he informed.

The seminar concluded with a demonstration by the NHDC team on eco-friendly dyes and natural dyes wherein the participants learned their application methods and different properties. Yarn passbooks were also distributed to the beneficiaries with which they can claim subsidies on the direct purchase of yarns and dyes from the mills.

'Bijli Mahotsav' held at Mudh village in Changthang region



During the skit performance on the future of the power sector in Ladakh at Mudh, Changthang.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

MUDH: Bijli Mahotsav under the banner of Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya-Power @2047 celebration was carried out at Mudh village of Nyoma sub-division in the Changthang region on July 27.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Chairman/CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen highlighted the importance of celebrating the 75 glorious years of India's independence and stated that the confidence and morale of the people residing in the border region have been boosted by the fast-track development that has been taking place in all sectors, post-formation of Ladakh as a Union Territory.

He stated that villages like Mudh, Nyoma, and Nidar have been connected to the power grid and the remaining villages in Changthang and the Nubra region will also get connected to a 24x7 power supply through grid connection soon. He further appreciated the Union government led by PM Narendra Modi for significant improvements in the power sector of Ladakh over the last few years.

Secretary Power Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar emphasized that the UT Administration and the Hill Council are working hard to achieve positive developments in all sectors. He added that around 25 locations have been electrified with grid connection in the

last two years and replacement of solar power batteries has also been taking place frequently.

He also informed that around 400 locations across the nation are observing 'Bijli Mahotsav' by celebrating achievements

DC Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse congratulated the people of Mudh and its adjacent villages for getting connected with the power grid. He also requested Secretary Power and the concerned officials of PDD for their assistance required in addressing a few shortcomings in the Nyoma belt which has been recently connected with the power grid.

A cultural programme and skit on the future of the power sector in Ladakh were showcased by the villagers and school students.

Councillor Nyoma Ishey Spalrang and BDC Chairperson Nyoma, Urgan Chodon were the guests of honors. Chief Engineer PDD Ladakh, SDM Nyoma, Executive Engineer PDD Leh, Sr. JM Power Grid Ladakh, village representatives, children, and people of all ages participated in the event.

District Hospital, Kargil, gets 500 LPM oxygen plant

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan inaugurated a 500 LPM Oxygen Plant installed under the CSR &SD initiative of NHPC Ltd at District Hospital Kargil on July 26.

Executive Councilor, Aga Syed Mehdi Fazili; Bikram Singh, Group General Manager of NHPC; CMO Kargil, Dr. Munwar Hussain Wazir; Medical Superintendent, DH Kargil, Dr. Kacho Liyaqat Ali Khan besides other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

CEC Khan said that the need for oxygen facilities was felt during the Covid-19 pandemic and so far every Community Health Centre (CHC) in Kargil has now an oxygen facility available. He also said that the hospital at Kurbathang has already an oxygen facility available. He said that oxygen facilities will ease the public at large and the patients



CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan during the inauguration of 500 LPM Oxygen Plant at District Hospital, Kargil.

and will help handle critical patients during emergencies.

CEC on behalf of the administration of LAHDC, Kargil thanked NHPC for making the oxygen plant functional.

Bikram Singh, Group General Manager said that NHPC along with electricity generation is doing many welfare works under CSR and the oxygen plant has been installed under the same.

He thanked CEC Kargil and DC Kargil for their support from time to time in installing the oxygen plant. Singh said that they will continue its welfare works under CSR in the Kargil district.

He also informed that NHPC has already installed a 500 LPM oxygen plant at CHC Sankoo which was earlier inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh RK Mathur.

MP raises question regarding KBR Airport in Parliament

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal raised a question regarding declaring or operating Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, Leh as an International airport, establishing a custom office, and also the provision of a cargo terminal in the new building of the airport on July 21 during the ongoing parliament session.

In response to the question, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh

(Retd) stated that the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, Leh is a domestic airport and is notified as Custom Airport by the Ministry of Finance under Custom Act, 1962. He said that at present no such proposal is under consideration. Regarding the declaration and operation of Leh airport as International Airport, Minister replied that it depends upon traffic potential and the demand from the airlines for operation of International flights, bilateral air services agreements, besides provision

for ground lighting facilities, instrument landing system, adequate runway, length, immigration, health, and Animal & Plant quarantine services, etc.

Replying to the proposal to make provision for cargo at the New Terminal Building of KBR Airport, Leh, it was stated that it is in the planning stage. However, the Domestic Air Cargo movement is being facilitated through the interim building which has an annual handling capacity of 22, 161 metric tonnes, he added.

In Conversation with Stanzin Nurboo

...Continued from Page 5

Q. How do you see the scope and potential of traditional sculpture? What needs to be done to promote it?

There are the scope and very good potential if you have patience, work hard and get well trained. Traditional art got very good potential which needs to be promoted further because so far one can pursue traditional art professionally from the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies which is the only institute available and apart from that many learn from private teachers. The introduction of more institutes is needed so that aspirant artists can have an option to pursue the course professionally.

The perception of learning art as a last option needs to change because artist plays an important role in

society. Also, we need to give importance and value to the local artist so that we could encourage more and more best of the artist from our region and promote the Ladakhi style of art. It will be great if we could impart the importance of Ladakhi art and culture to everyone and most importantly if possible to the school-going children so that they can value and have in-depth knowledge of the ancient art and culture of Ladakh.

Q. What is your advice to the young aspirant artist?

There will be confusion and doubts while learning the art, many will not support or discourage you but the point is to go on and work with patience and dedication if you want to excel. Learning is a process, getting exposure and interacting with different artists will help.

Three-day mega health fest commences in Diskit



Dignitaries during the three-day long mega health fest at Mini Stadium, Diskit.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: Three-days long mega health fest organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, and National Health Mission, UT Ladakh commenced at Mini Stadium, Diskit, Nubra on July 20.

The mega health fest was inaugurated by Deputy Chairman, LAHDC, Leh, Tsering Angchuk in presence of Councillor Hunder, Kunzang Lotus; Deputy

Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, G A Raghu-vanshi.

Mission Director, National Health Mission, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad; Director, Health Services, Dr. Dorjey Motup; Chief Medical Officer, Leh, Dr. Nurzin Angmo; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Nubra; Elected representatives of Block Development Councils; Head of various departments of the sub-division and other con-

cerned officers/officials and the public were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk expressed gratitude towards MoHFW and NHM Ladakh, the Health Department, and all its workers for organising a mega health fest in the Nubra sub-division. He urged the public to avail of various health services provided in the health fest and also appealed to the public to take advantage of the health schemes of the central government.

Around 24 stalls offering different health services are installed for the three-day health fest. It includes yoga and fitness, ABHA health card, Covid-19 vaccination, tuberculosis awareness, free diagnosis, and counseling services.

The health fest is open for all with no entry charges.

Kargil DC assesses Jal Jeevan Mission work in Drass

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve took a detailed assessment of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works undergoing in different villages of Drass on July 26.

DC, Kargil visited the villages of Matayen, Prandass, Ol-Byaras, Mushkoo, Holiyal, Murad Bagh, and Bhimbhat.

At Matayen, DC Kargil took a door-to-door assessment of the establishment of FHTC connections under the JJM and also visited SR Tank having a carrying capacity of 15,000 gallons of water at a single time and caters to more than 80 households in the village.

Further, DC Santosh was informed that almost all households have been connected with a water supply and will be made functional at the earliest.

He also visited Prandass village where he took a detailed assessment of SR Tanks and water pipes across the villages. He was informed that from the water supply, 175 households will get benefitted and the scheme has been successfully implemented in the village.

The Deputy Commissioner assured that measures will be taken to keep the scheme functional throughout winters in the whole subdivision.

DC Santosh also visited other villages of Drass like Ol-Byaras, Mushkoo, Holiyal, Murad Bagh,



Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve assessing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works in different villages of Drass.

and Bhimbhat, where he interacted with PRI members and villagers.

He took a detailed assessment of the functioning of pipes, SR Tanks and directed to make sure to provide water at the doorsteps of every household.

He also directed to provide Har Ghar Jal certification to the villages where 100 percent FHTCs have been completed and directed to speed up the works under JJM to complete them before this year's Independence Day.

The DC also applauded employees of PHE and other agencies for the smooth execution of JJM works in the subdivision and expected to reflect the same works in other areas of Kargil.

Earlier, the DC Kargil took a detailed meeting with BDC Chairpersons of Drass and Bhimbhat

during which he was informed about the status of execution of JJM works. DC Santosh extended gratitude for their support and efforts in the execution of works and expected similar support in the future as well.

He also interacted with villagers and PRI members and addressed their grievances related to link roads, vacancy in schools, and other development works. DC Santosh assured necessary redressal of the grievances at the earliest.

Executive Engineer PHE Mohammad Hassan, BDC Chairperson Drass Noor Mohammad, BDO Drass, Incharge SDM Drass, Assistant Executive Engineer PHE, representatives of the third party besides other concerned officers accompanied the DC Kargil during the tour.

poets including two student poets Kancez Fatima Neezu, GDC Kargil, and Mohd Younous Anees, student of Sankoo campus of GDC Kargil.

Two-day Ladakh Festival, Kargil, 2022 concludes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Two-days long Ladakh Festival Kargil 2022 was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium Bemathang on July 23 and 24.

The festival was inaugurated by CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan.

CEC Khan hailed the artists from Lahoul Spiti district, Leh district, and local artists for presenting their culture and diversity at the festival. He emphasized the preservation of culture and tradition for the promotion of tourism. He said that Zanskar Festival which is scheduled in September will also be held at a mega level that will ensure the participation of huge tourists.

He said that these festivals are instrumental in preserving the culture and tradition of the region. CEC, Khan further emphasized the extension of the tourist season from two to four more months including the winter solstice. He appealed to both government and private tourism stakeholders to play their role in the promotion of the tourism sector.

Secretary Tourism and Culture, Mehboob Ali Khan said that



Ladakh, having its unique geographical features and cultural diversity, has the potential to boost tourism.

He spoke about various initiatives taken by the department for tourists in the region especially the compulsory acclimatization, infrastructural development, and exploration of adventure sports and tourist attraction sites.

Chief Guest of the concluding day, EC, Phuntsog Tashi said that the festival is aimed to promote tourism and make Kargil a tourist retaining destination. He said that LAHDC Kargil is committed to promote tourism and said that it has taken various initiatives like infrastructural development and exploration of adventure sports and tourism attraction sites.

EC Tashi also said that Zanskar Festival which is scheduled in

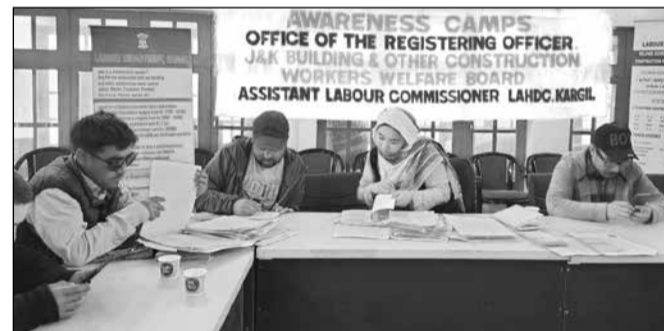
September will also be held at a mega level that will ensure participation of huge tourists.

DC Kargil thanked the Tourism Department and Ladakh Academy of Arts Culture and Languages for successfully conducting the festival. He said that Kargil has a rich cultural and linguistic diversity that must be a good fortune for the promotion of tourism in the district.

He also spoke about various initiatives like homestay policy and other tourism-related activities taken by Tourism Department and District Administration Kargil.

On the occasion, traditional archery matches and horse polo were also played. Artists from Lahaul, Spiti, Leh, and Kargil presented a colorful cultural program that enthralled the audience.

Week-long awareness program on labour laws and schemes held in Zanskar



During the week-long awareness program for public representatives of Zanskar sub-division regarding labour laws, welfare schemes, and the importance of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: Week-long awareness program for public representatives of the Zanskar sub-division regarding labour laws, welfare schemes, and the importance of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign was organised by Labour Department on July 28 in Zanskar.

The weeklong program was con-

ducted with public representatives at Tourist Dak Bangalow Padum.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Kargil Raziya Khatoon explained labour welfare scheme, who is eligible, how to apply, and benefits to labour under welfare schemes. She further briefed about the implementation of la-

bour laws, contact labour Act, payment of wages Act, etc.

The public representatives were also informed about Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Raziya Khatoon said that the idea behind the initiative is to invoke a sense of patriotism among people and to promote awareness about the Indian National Flag.

Later, public representatives raised some queries regarding schemes, procedures, etc. They appreciated the efforts of labour department Kargil in organizing the awareness/registration drive and providing the services at Zanskar.

Meanwhile, at the camp office, Labour inspector and team issued labour forms, educational assistant forms, and form 'C' and provided the services of on-spot renewal of the cards.

Govt. Degree College, Kargil, organises multi-lingual poetic symposium

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A multi-lingual mushaira was organised by the Department of Urdu, Govt. Degree College, Kargil in collaboration with

National Service Scheme (NSS) on July 27.

For this poetic symposium, twenty seven poets of Ladakh were invited out of which 17

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR EXCISE RANGE LEH-KARGIL

Public Notice

It is for information of the general public of the locality of Hunder, Nubra, Leh, that Mr. Rigzen Motup S/o Tsultim Dorjay, Hunder Leh has applied for liquor license i.e. Retail vend of foreign liquor in a bar attached to a restaurant (LAEL-4) at Hunder, Nubra under name and style M/s The Dunes Bar and Restaurant.

Objection, if any may be filed in the office of Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range Leh-Kargil within a period of sixty days from the publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry period of this Notice.

Excise Range Leh-Kargil

Dated: 31/07/2022
No: E1/ER/24/2022/30/22

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR EXCISE RANGE LEH-KARGIL

Public Notice

It is for information of the general public of the locality of Stok village, Leh, that Mr. Jigmed Wangchuk Namgyal S/o Raja Kunzang Namgyal, Stok Place, Stok Leh has applied for liquor license i.e. Retail vend of foreign liquor in hotel (LAEL-3) at Stok, Village Leh under name and style M/s Willow Kitchen and bar.

Objection, if any may be filed in the office of Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range Leh-Kargil within a period of sixty days from the publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry period of this Notice.

Excise Range Leh-Kargil

Dated: 13-07-2022
No: E1/ER/24/2022/30/20



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