

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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October 16-31, 2022

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**Correction and clarification**

It is the policy of 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin' to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition, date, news item or the article. You can contact at 9858394403 or email at editor@reachladakh.com. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone numbers.

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**11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit held in Leh**  
 Minister for Environment's stress on need for responsible tourism



**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

LEH: The 11th edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) began on October 11 at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh.

Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF-CC) and Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav, presided over the opening session of SMDS. Chairman/CEC, Advocate Tashi Gyalson; MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; GOC 14 Corps Lt. Gen Anindya Sengupta; Principal Secretary Forest, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, PCCF Ladakh, Jigmet Takpa and President IMI, PD Rai were also present.

Youths from different states, UTs, and districts of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) presented a declaration with collective recommendations from the 5th Indian Himalayan Youth Summit held on October 9 on the theme 'Sustainability and Entrepreneurship for the youths of IHR'.

Highlighting the significance of the declaration presented by the youth from the Himalayan states and UTs to the youth summit, the Minister stated that the youth have a huge responsibility and pivotal role to play in the overall development of the mountain regions. He added that the current government under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is striving to preserve ecological, social values, cultural and historical assets, especially in the entire Himalayan region.

Terming Ladakh a peaceful and unique destination for visitors, he stressed the

...Continues on Page 2

**Hill Council, Leh, hosts Mountain Legislators' meet**  
 Discuss EPR policies and implementation in Himalayan States



**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

LEH: LAHDC Leh hosted the Mountain Legislators' Meet themed, 'Extended Producer Responsibility: Policy to Practice' on the occasion of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit XI in the Assembly Hall of the Council Secretariat on October 11.

Issues of climate change and solid waste management, including the need for extending EPRs in the mountain states and UTs of the nation, were discussed during the meeting. Virtually attending the meeting, delegates from the United Nations Environment Programme and the European Union also presented their visions and projects to tackle waste management.

Report compiled on Brand Audit in Leh by the govt. school students and volunteers of NYK Leh were presented by Secy IMI and founder Little Green World during the meet.

CEC Tashi Gyalson presented the declaration of the MLM and moved a resolution on the need for extending EPRs in the Indian Himalayan Mountain States and UTs.

While addressing the house he stated, "If producers are bringing the waste to the mountains, they should also take responsibility to take it back, or they should not bring it at all."

The resolution was unanimously passed and signed by all the elected representatives present during the meeting.

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## Indian Himalayan Youth Summit-V inaugurated in Leh

L-G advises youth to focus on sustainable practices

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Indian Himalayan Youth Summit-V organised by Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) and Sustainable Development Forum of Ladakh with support from the UT Administration and LAHDC Leh as a part of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) XI inaugurated on October 9 at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra (SSK).

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur attended the inaugural session.

Terming the Himalayan region, most important ecologically as they determine the climate of the country and the world, LG Mathur stressed the need for youth taking part in the Summit to deliberate and record the outcomes of the event so that it could be heard and implemented at both regional and national levels.

He emphasised the need to focus on quality tourism and spreading the benefit of tourist activities in all parts of a region rather than allowing it to concentrate in a few places. He stated that tourism enables the consolidation of the cultural aspect of a region and emphasised the need for Himalayan states to respect, own, and propagate their culture for the overall benefit of society. He emphasised the need to balance the environment, economy, and socio-cultural aspects to achieve sustainable tourism.

LG Mathur suggested that youth may focus on primary sector activities such as growing medicinal and aromatic plants, buckwheat, etc. as there are



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur during the launch of e-vehicles during the Indian Himalayan Youth Summit-V.

tremendous livelihood opportunities without causing any damage to the environment. He informed about various initiatives taken by the Administration along with the Hill Councils to provide employment to the youth and encourage and support aspiring entrepreneurs from Ladakh.

LG Mathur stated that youth from Ladakh have better opportunities than youth in other parts of the country. He informed that the rationalization of wildlife boundaries has been initiated to benefit the people of Ladakh and make them prosperous.

Later, LG Mathur launched e-vehicles and handed over keys to officials from three government offices.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson informed that the Summit is a platform for youth from Ladakh to interact with youth from other Himalayan states and UTs to discuss

common issues and learn from each other. He stated that youth can make a lot of difference in coming up with possible solutions and drafting policies for the benefit of the people of the Himalayan regions.

Namrata Neopaney informed about the journey of the Indian Himalayan Youth Summit since its first edition held at Kohima in 2013.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillors- Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Stanzin Choshphel; elected representatives; Principal Secretary, Dr. Pawan Kotwal; Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas; Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Jigmet Takpa; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; Vice President, IMI, Amba Jamir; Member of Governing Council, IMI, Rigzin Spalbar, district officials and 24 participants from 11 mountain states and UTs were present in the event.

## MP meets student leaders in Jammu, discusses issues



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

JAMMU: MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal met representatives of the Students Union of Leh and Kargil headed by ALSAJ President, Rinchen Namgyal and ALSWAJ President, Mohd Hassan on October 5 and discussed various issues about the student community of Leh and Kargil districts of Union Territory of Ladakh.

During the meeting the student leaders put forth student-related issues including admission of Ladakhi students in various colleges & universities, dedicated Library for Ladakhi students, the appointment of a Nodal officer to assist Ladakhi students, funds for Students Unions, Hostel facilities for Ladakhi students, fixation of rental charges for accommodation, LPG Gas cylinder for Ladakhi students, Scholarship & students concession, Women Help Groups to assist Girls Students, Medical Funds for the needy Students, issues related and B.Sc. Nursing Admission and Hostel Admission in GMC Bakshi Nagar. The delegation also discussed issues related to the State Public Service Commission.

Student leaders appreciated MP JTN and LAHDC Leh headed by Chairman/CEC Tashi Gyalson for organising Free Coaching and special arrangements for transportation and accommodation for the SSC aspirants during the recent SSC examination by sending EC Ghulam Mehdi and Councillor Tsering Sandup as special caretaker

President Kargil Student Union also discussed the pending matters related to DSSRB recruitment of 2016 where exams for the 200+ posts of class IV have been conducted but results are still awaited and Rs.400 each collected from the thousands of candidates for the vacancy advertised in 2019 but no exam was conducted till date.

MP JTN assured to look into the matters as well as to provide all possible assistance to the student community of Ladakh.

## Nubra Sport and Adventure Festival 2022 to be held on Oct 19

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Chairman/EC Sports, Tsering Angchuk convened a meeting at Sub-Divisional Magistrate Office, Nubra, and discussed preparation and way forward for the conduct of five days Nubra Sport and Adventure Festival 2022 scheduled to be held from October 19 to 23, 2022.

The festival is aimed at promoting mass participation in sports and showcasing the potential of adventure sports which further opens a new arena for the local economy in adventure-based sports and tourism in the Nubra valley.

The meeting discussed logistical requirements and strategies for the smooth conduct of the festival.

Deputy Chairman directed all the school principals to ensure the participation of school students in huge numbers in sports during the festival. He stressed that the



potential in sports should be harnessed and the talented players could represent UT Ladakh on national and international platforms with proper guidance.

Polo matches, Archery tournaments, Cycling, marathons, and Rock Climbing will be part of the festival. Besides, there would also be musical concerts and stalls displaying local cuisine, handicraft/handlooms, and artworks during the festival.

The different sports activities would be spread over other areas of the region, including Polo match at Turtuk, Cycling at Hun-

der, Marathon at Summor, and Rock climbing at Turtima

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor, Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi; Councillor Panamik, Tsering Sandup; Councillor Hunder, Kunzang Lotus; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Nubra; HoDs of concerned departments; Zonal Education Officer, Nubra; Zonal Education Planning Officer, Nubra; Principals of Government Higher Secondary Schools, Disket, Sumoor, Partapur, Bogdang, Tyakshi and Turtuk, and other concerned representatives and stakeholders.

## State Transport Authority decides on contract carriage permit system in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In light of ongoing dispute between the transport unions of Kargil and Leh district, Saugat Biswas, Chairperson, State Transport Authority, Ladakh clarified that under the Motor Vehicle Act, Transport Authority decides the routes or areas for which Contract Carriage Permits are issued to an applicant.

On October 3 a press conference was held in which, Saugat Biswas informed that due care has been taken to maximise the benefits for every such applicant

for a Contract Carriage Permit be it from Leh or Kargil district. The vehicles will be issued permits for plying in the territory of the district in which they are registered as well as the National Highways of Ladakh. In addition they will also ply to the tourist spots in the vicinity of NH-1D.

For plying in the inner routes of Ladakh, all contract carriage permit holders will be eligible for Temporary Permit which may be issued by the concerned ARTOs on the basis of a demand for vehicles. Biswas further informed that the MoU for reciprocal

movement of vehicles between J&K and Ladakh will continue.

It was also informed that the Transport Department will regularly review the implementation of the permit system and if required modifications will be made to further improve upon the system after a defined period. Earlier, Regional Transport Officer UT Ladakh, Regional Transport Authorities of Ladakh, and Commissioner/Secretary Transport Ladakh held a series of meetings with the Taxi/ Tempo Unions and other transport associations of both the districts; however, the associations could not reach any mutually agreeable solution on the issue.

The State Transport Authority of Ladakh on October 3 decided on the areas/route(s) to be allowed for the Contract Carriage Permits for vehicles registered in both the districts of Ladakh.

## 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit held in Leh

...Continued from Page 1

need for sensitizing and promoting sports, adventure, and spiritual and environmentally responsible tourism in the region.

The Minister also spoke on the issues regarding notified wildlife sanctuaries and the rights of the people residing in such areas of Ladakh. He asked the UT Administration and the Hill Council to draft and compile all the issues. He assured that MoEFCC, GoI along with the Administration would make efforts to find amicable solutions to protect the rights of the people of Ladakh.

The Minister also informed about 2022 being declared the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development and stated that such seminars and discussions would help to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development and the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems.

CEC Tashi Gyalson and MP JTN stated that Ladakh is making efforts to become organic and working collectively to reduce the carbon footprint in the region. They spoke about the ongoing projects on harnessing solar and geothermal energies in Ladakh along with the progress in the field of agriculture and horticulture in the region. They also spoke

about the recent introduction of Electric Vehicles (EVs) with EV policies and subsidies- a step forward in achieving the Prime Minister's vision of making Ladakh carbon neutral. Both of them extended their gratitude to the Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav for his assistance in clearing all the requisitions on wildlife clearance required for carrying out developmental works in Ladakh. They also informed about the role of local stakeholders, including the youth in the sustainable development of the mountainous regions.

Principal Secretary Forest, President IMI, GOC 14 Corps, and PCCF Ladakh also addressed the gathering and shared their valuable thoughts during the occasion.

Later, President IMI, P.D Rai also submitted the report from last year's SMDS-X which was held in Darjeeling and was launched by the MoEFCC Bhupender Yadav in the presence of all the dignitaries.

Dy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Executive Councillors, Administrative Secretaries, DC Leh, Councillors, BDC Chairpersons, officers of UT Administration and District Administration Leh, heads of religious and political organisations, and delegates from around 12 states and UTs of the mountain states also attended the inaugural session.

## National Helpline for senior citizens launched in Ladakh



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The National Helpline 14567 for senior citizens was launched in Ladakh. Operationalized by Helpage India in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI, and Department of Social & Tribal Welfare, Ladakh, 'Elderline' was inaugurated by Commissioner/Secretary, Social & Tribal Welfare Dept, Ladakh, Padma Angmo, along with renowned artist, Morup Namgyal, Dr Rajesh Kumar, State Head Helpage India (H.P & Ladakh) among other dignitaries.

The Elderline aims to connect and engage with senior citizens and serve them in a compassionate manner through the National Helpline No 14567 and provide assistance, information and support to help them live with dignity.

Commissioner/Secretary, Social & Tribal Welfare Dept, Ladakh, Padma Angmo (Chief Guest) congratulated Helpage India and NISD on the launch of Elderline and stated that for making Ladakh a model old age-friendly UT, community participation is critical. She urged for regular coordination and collaboration between the community, NGOs, Volunteers, and Social Welfare Dept and other Departments like Health and Medical Education Department, Higher Education Department, and Rural

Development Department. Commissioner/Secretary sought the involvement of all stakeholders in formulating the UT policy for Old Age people and stressed the need for a robust survey through the University of Ladakh for getting reliable data related to senior citizens and the issues that they face while formulating the policy. She said that training programmes for geriatric care have been made in the last year and more such training shall be held for the same in future.

Earlier in a detailed presentation, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, State Head (H.P & Ladakh) Helpage India briefed about Elderline and its objectives and how the Helpline is functioning in various states and UT across the country. Talking about the vision of making Ladakh an age-friendly UT, Dr Rajesh Kumar stated that a positive difference in the lives of senior citizens can be made by creating a reliable national helpline that acts as a platform for redressing the grievances of the senior citizens of India, by providing necessary information and intervention through a collective of highly committed partners including Govt Agencies, Non-Profit Organizations, private sector and volunteers. Mental health issues springing from isolation, neglect, poverty and loneliness are issues that are observed among the elderly as per the national data. He spoke about the four important compo-

nents that are required to make any state or UT age-friendly viz. income security, food security, health security and access to elderly care and security of shelter in the form of State-run old age homes/ Day Care Centres and said that Helpage India would like to work with the UT Administration to make Ladakh among the most elder friendly UT in the country.

Padma Shri Awardee, Morup Namgyal who was invited as a special Guest, urged the senior citizens to live with pride, claim their rights, and ask for help without any inhibitions. He exhorted the youth to treat the elderly with compassion and have the empathy to understand that in the circle of life we all will one day be old and must not treat our elders as disposable.

Director, Social and Tribal Welfare Department, Ladakh, Amit Singh Chandel stated that the social fabric of Ladakh is quite strong and the people must strive to keep it intact. He stated that the mandate of Social Dept is to serve the people in all sectors and shall continue to do so.

Manager, Elderline, Ladakh, Dr Abhishek Sharma presented the vote of thanks and urged everyone to spread awareness about this initiative so that everyone can benefit.

The elderline launch event was also attended by, Numberdars/gobas of Shey/Housing Colony; LBA members; staff of Helpage India, media and other concerned officials.

Later in the day, Comm/Secy, Padma Angmo also visited Elders village (Ghantsoskhang) at Shey run by Helpage India Ladakh. She appreciated the layout, winter-friendly construction and design of the dormitories and other buildings and complimented Helpage India for having a beautiful campus to welcome the senior citizens.

Meanwhile, Assistant Professor, DAV College of Education, Abohar, Ajay Kumar Khosla took a session on Happy Classrooms for Elementary Teachers at PARAS Hall, Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh.

A session on Experiential Learning was held at Main Auditorium, DIET Leh headed by Principal Cambridge International School for Girls, Jalandhar, Deepa Dogra.

Similarly, a resource person from CBSE, R P Singh took a session on Skill/ Vocational Education for the vocational trainers and Head of Institutes at Mini Hall, DIET Leh.

Several other modules, such as Learning Outcomes and Pedagogies, National Education Policy, School Library, and Python Basics are scheduled to be held in the coming days.

## Meeting held to strengthen LBA run schools

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To develop infrastructure and strengthen overall standard of education in Riglam school and Khatse Jamyang school a meeting was held on October 12, at Riglam public school.

Education and fund raising committee of the Ladakh Buddhist Association deliberated about issues related with academics and infrastructure and ways to strengthen and develop overall standard of education and infrastructure in both LBA run schools and hostels.

Committee members unanimously decided to organise a fund raising event to gather voluntary financial contributions engaging individuals, businesses, charitable organisations with good intent and motivation.



Education and fund raising committee of the Ladakh Buddhist Association during a meeting to strengthen schools run by LBA.

Riglam school was established in the year 2010 to cater to the educational needs of underprivileged children specially children belonging to economically poor families of far flung and deprived villages across Ladakh. The school is managed and administered by Ladakh Buddhist Association. The school aims at

providing unbiased integrated holistic education to all our students. The vision of the school is to develop a place of excellence where children can achieve full potential in their creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual development in a caring and stimulating environment.

## Second meeting of State Broadband Committee held in Leh

5G services in Ladakh by 2023



During the 2nd State Broadband Committee (SBC) of the Union territory of Ladakh.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 2nd State Broadband Committee (SBC) of the Union territory of Ladakh was held under the chairmanship of Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on October 11.

Advisor Narula observed that there has been a lot of improvement in terms of additional towers that have come up in Ladakh after it became a Union Territory. He said that the identification of land and required paperwork for setting up additional towers should take place during the winter season so that work can start immediately in the next working season. He stated that digital communication in Ladakh should be upgraded most urgently and asked the telecom operators to start rolling out 5G services in Ladakh by 2023.

ADG (Rural), Sachin Lamba apprised the participants that since the first SBC meeting, 62 villages of Ladakh have been provisioned under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme. RJIO has installed 4G BTS in 54 of these villages, he added.

He informed that at the time of the first SBC meeting, the total BTSs in Ladakh stood at 898 with 547 on fibre. At present, he informed that the total BTSs have increased to 1231 (37% increase) with 746 (36% increase) on fibre.

Further, he shared that a list of 330 villages/hamlets was provided by the Ladakh administration to DOT for the provisioning of mobile connectivity. Out of these, 192 have been planned under the USOF scheme and the work has been awarded to BSNL while the remaining villages will be planned under phase II, he added.

He also informed that RJIO and Airtel now have ring topology of OFC in Ladakh through the Zojila and Manali routes.

As the telecom network is the backbone on which other sectors ride, Advisor Narula exhorted that non-provision of telecom connectivity to villages is the most pressing issue in Ladakh. Highlighting the difficulties faced by the public especially the students, in far-flung areas he urged the telecom operators to make internet connectivity a top

priority in unreached areas. He asked them to appoint dedicated officers on the ground to address the grievances of the people.

Principal Secretary of the IT Department, Sanjiv Khirwar, stated that to ensure complete coverage of villages, 128 Project sites (Mobile Towers) covering 192 villages have been sanctioned by DoT. Additional 133 villages/hamlets have been sanctioned by DoT under the 4G Saturation project, he added. The Principal Secretary asked the telecom operators to come up with a winter action plan to address the issues faced during the winter months.

CGM, BSNL, J&K Circle, Sanjiv Tyagi apprised the meeting that BSNL has been onboarded on PGCIL fiber to ensure redundancy in the BSNL network for the Ladakh region.

Sr. DDG, J&K LSA, Sunita Chandra urged the telecom operators to ensure the maintenance of the existing infrastructure so that good quality of service and availability of the network is ensured to the public.

Dhananjay Gawanday of COAI said that private operators need to step up their involvement in the region. There is a requirement to cater not only to the local population but also to the security forces, tourists, and migrant population in the region, he added. He further said that in areas where power supply is a constraint, Ladakh has got a good potential for solar power and as it develops further, operators would also look forward to having access to green energy.

## Training on various modules by CBSE team in Ladakh



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In continuation to the training programme that started on Sept 28 on various modules by the CBSE training team, several meetings/programmes were conducted at different venues on October 1.

A meeting regarding the Bhoti language/framing of syllabus under CBSE with the Bhoti Language Core Committee was chaired by Member of Parlia-

ment, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal. Discussion on various issues viz. nation-centric curriculum, publication, syllabus structure, pattern, marking distribution, inclusiveness, etc was held.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC, Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Director School Education, Dr. Safdar Ali and Head COE, CBSE, Chandigarh, Anjali Chhabra also attended the meeting.

## Corrigendum

In the *Reach Ladakh* report titled 'Grazing land is now buffer zone, reus village heads bordering LAC' published in Vol 10 Issue 18 October 1-15 issue, the continuation of news on Page2 is of some other old news used inadvertently. The correct continuation is "We are not seeking permission to go across LAC we want access to rear our livestock freely on our land", he added. Talking about the lack of basic facilities, Sarpanch Sonam

Angchuk requested MP Ladakh and the Govt. of India to provide telecommunication facilities, he said in this digital world. Changthang has been deprived of good communication facilities. The villagers demand the involvement of local people in the decision making and good telecom facilities."

The inconvenience is regretted.

## Why juniper should be state tree of Ladakh?



By Jigmet Namgial

Julley everyone, I am Juniper tree known locally in Ladakh as SHUKPA. I hope you all are happy and in good health but sadly, I am neither happy nor healthy. I will share the reasons for my ill-health and how you all (especially the higher authorities) can help me and pull me out of this troublesome time but let me first recall the strong association we shared from last so many centuries and decades.

I am always grateful for the kind of respect and care I got from the people of Ladakh. Irrespective of communal lines, we always shared a very close and strong relationship. Whether it was a celebration or mourning, I always formed a part of it. When most of my companions (other trees of Ladakh) shed their leaves in winter months to take a break, I decided to stay green for I know the people of Ladakh will need me the most during winters as you 'ALL' will be celebrating the most auspicious occasion of LOSAR. I recall the innumerable times when I got myself burned just to produce the smoke with that particular fragrance. I always pushed myself to work more in order to add more branches so that everyone gets their share of SHUKPA in their homes. Sometimes living alone on the ridges of high mountains, I ask myself if it was all worth doing and am I being forgotten. The thought strikes because currently I am really in a bad situation and almost on the verge of getting extinct. Sadly, noone seems to care.

Till now I have tried my best to serve you all but sadly I am sick and it is becoming hard for me to keep up. If the situation continues to stay the same I am afraid, I will not be able to survive for long in Ladakh. The changing climatic conditions (global warming), modernization (the current generation do not protect and care the same like the older ones) and developmental works are taking a toll on my health. Sometimes I do not get enough water needed for my daily activities and sometimes due to the shortage people overharvest me which makes it hard to regenerate. To be frank, I am not able to maintain my population which declined exponentially in the last 1-2 decades. Fortunately, I have found a solution for the current problem but for that I will need the support of you all. In my opinion, if I am declared the state tree of Ladakh, I will be much more protected and conserved. Firstly, more people will get to know about me which will strengthen the conservation efforts. Secondly, a state will never want its state tree to get extinct and therefore, the authorities will surely undertake various plantation programmes in order to increase my population. I wanted



The LAHDC has provided protection to the Shukpa and is maintaining it as a Juniper Preservation Plot. (Courtesy Hillpost)

to share this with you all a very long time ago but I was waiting for a perfect moment and I have heard that we have now become a Union Territory. Earlier we formed a part of Jammu and Kashmir, and they already had a state tree (Chinar Tree) and there was no way that I could have been declared the state tree. So, I felt this is the time to talk to you all and through this letter I want to appeal to the people of Ladakh to help me in getting the status of state tree. Like you all,

Ladakh is very precious to me as well and I do not want to get extinct. Please act, your Juniper tree needs help. Let your voice reach the concerned authorities by posting #ISupportJuniperAsStateTree on your social media accounts.

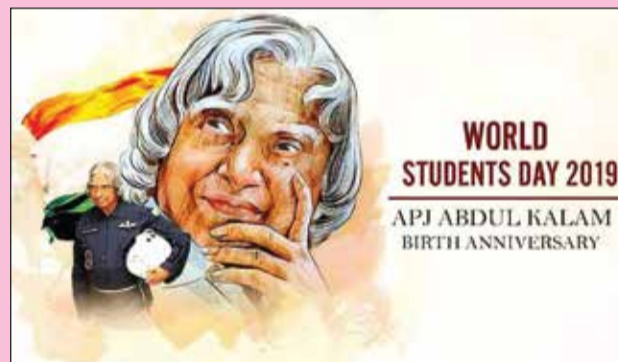
(The writer is pursuing a PhD. Agroforestry from SKUAST-Jammu. You can send your views and comment at [jigmetnamgial1@gmail.com](mailto:jigmetnamgial1@gmail.com))

## The World of Juniors

### World Students' Day

India celebrates World Students' Day on October 15 every year. The day is marked to celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. People's President, as Dr Kalam was popularly called, served as India's 11th president from 2002 to 2007. He was elected with the support of then Bharatiya Janata Party-led govt under the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the main Opposition party, Indian National Congress.

He was an aerospace scientist, teacher and played a crucial role in the success of Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, which earned him the title of "Missile Man of India". India's missile defence programme reached several milestones under him.



However, he wanted the world to remember him as a teacher. Dr Kalam was a president everyone knew about. Students, children and teachers looked up to him and he loved to interact and listen to new ideas. His famous quote, "you have to dream first to succeed" inspired a generation of students and children to do what they love. His thoughts and quotes are still widely shared. Kalam was a man of principle and ideas and he surpassed the expectations of his job and which is why it was thought fit to mark his birth anniversary as World Students Day.

Courtesy: Business Standard

## DID YOU KNOW



- Decorated Easter Eggs are one of the oldest forms of decorative artwork in the world.
- For those of an artistic bent, there is great potential to be found in a carefully drained Ostrich Egg, one could even make themselves a lamp from such an egg!
- The first Global Handwashing Day was held in 2008, when over 120 million children around the world washed their hands with soap in more than 70 countries.

● Bandra Worli Sealink has steel wires equal to the earth's circumference. It took a total of 2,57,00,000 man hours for completion and also weighs as much as 50,000 African elephants. A true engineering and architectural marvel.

● Shampoo was invented in India, not the commercial liquid ones but the method by use of herbs. The word 'shampoo' itself has been derived from the Sanskrit word *champu*, which means to massage.

● When Dr Rajendra Prasad was appointed the President of India, he only took 50% of his salary, claiming he did not require more than that. Towards the end of his 12-year tenure he only took 25% of his salary. The salary of the President was Rs 10,000 back then.



Bandra Worli Sealink

## SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

### The call that never fails



The first-ever cordless phone was created by God! He named it 'prayer', and it never loses its signal. Plus, you never have to recharge it. Use it anywhere as and when you would like to.

That is what someone had written recently, and I have done only a few minor changes. I liked it so much that it moved me into 'penning down' this piece. If you go deep into its meaning, you would wonder that the signal of prayer indeed never ever gets disrupted, and it 'gets across so clearly and effectively'.

Prayer is indeed a way of looking not only within but without as well. It helps us understand the perplexities of life, and enables us to get over them smoothly and painlessly. When you give a prayer-call, you are doing so with all internal forces as well as external ones that you think can help you and deliver your requests that are just and beneficial for all.

Yes, prayer has to be only with good intentions so that your aspirations that are noble are answered and you become a 'vehicle' in bringing about changes for the good of others. It has to come from the depths of your heart and mind. That is why Mahatma Gandhi had this to say: "Prayer is not asking, it is a longing of the soul. It is a daily admission of one's weaknesses, and it is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

The fact is that prayer helps us calm down and our agitated minds are controlled to think of better and useful things. It helps us stabilise ourselves so that we are able to track the right course of life.

Therefore, making prayer a part of your daily doings is a must. As American religious leader Edwin Harvey had said: "A day without prayer is a day without blessings, and a life without prayer is a life without power."

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

**In Conversation with**

**Ashraf Ali Sheikh**, Member, Maulana Azad Education Foundation, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India

*Interviewed by Skarma Delegs Namgail*

**Q. Brief us about Maulana Azad Education Foundation, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India. What are its role and importance?**

The Ministry of Minority Affairs ensures a more focused approach towards issues relating to the notified minority communities namely Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jain. Under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, there are many departments such as the Haj committee, Central Waqf Council, etc, and likewise, Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) is also one of them. The Foundation is a voluntary, non-political, non-profit making social service organization, established to promote education amongst educationally backward sections of Society. It is fully funded by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India.

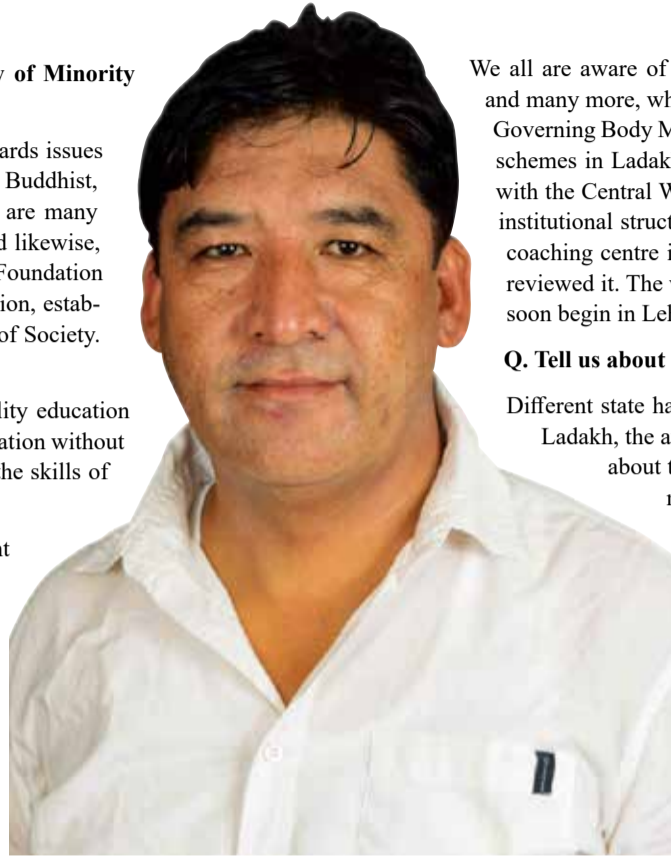
Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) strives to provide quality education and also provide scholarships for students who can't continue their education without financial support. The foundation also tries to encourage and enhance the skills of local artists.

There are various schemes for education, grant-in-aid, skill development programme, and many others which can be availed by the beneficiaries.

**Q. Sir, you mentioned providing employment opportunities and encouraging local artists, but if we talk about Ladakh the reality seems a bit different. After UT status in Ladakh, there have been many beautification projects, carried out by the non-locals despite having very skilled and talented local artists. What do you have to say about it?**

Talking about the beautification projects carried out by the non-locals, I am not aware of it, but if that is the situation, then the UT administration and the stakeholders should sit together and discuss the issues. Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been conducting an exhibition for the past few years namely "Hunar Hut" under which we have taken works, crafts, cuisines, etc, from different states for exhibition. From Ladakh, we have exhibited the Pashmina, wood carvings and cooper works at the national level in the past years. So through these platforms, we have been trying to encourage people.

**Q. What are the various schemes provided by the Govt. for the minorities and how many of them have been implemented in Ladakh so far?**



We all are aware of various scholarship schemes like pre-matric, post-matric, financial aid, and many more, which are provided by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. After becoming the Governing Body Member of Maulana Azad Education Foundation, I have tried to implement schemes in Ladakh for hostel facilities, coaching centers, etc. We are in continuous touch with the Central Waqf Council (CWC) and Ministry for the enhancement of education and institutional structures in both Leh and Kargil. We have also discussed setting up a UPSC coaching centre in Ladakh for which last year members from CWC came to Ladakh and reviewed it. The work for the UPSC coaching centre has already started in Kargil and will soon begin in Leh also.

**Q. Tell us about your work and what are your plans and priorities?**

Different state has different problems and we try to find a solution to these problems. In Ladakh, the awareness about the schemes for minorities is very low, people only know about the scholarship schemes and apart from that, they don't have much information. There is a scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PM-JVK), which offers funds for education, health, and many more. In regions like Changthang and Nubra, many schemes have been introduced and have been approved from both ends also. The seats for the scholarship have been increased and the system has been improved to make it hassle-free because earlier there were many inconveniences students were facing.

**Q. Ladakh after UT status there have been continuous demands for safeguard, so according to you how important is the safeguard for the people of Ladakh?**

The safeguard for the people is very important but there has to be a clear idea of which safeguard are the people demanding. There is a different kind of safeguards there as statehood, council empowerment, etc., so having a clear idea and information regarding them is very important.

**Q. How aware people are about the role of MAEF and various Govt. schemes? What are the initiatives taken by the govt to create awareness?**

**MESSAGE TO THE READERS**

“Media has been playing an important role in bringing up the problems faced by the people and would like to congratulate each journalist that the power and influence of media have increased and so are the voice of people.”

*...Continues on Page 6*

**Fortnight Highlights**



The 7th edition of Ladakh Zanskar Festival 2022 organised by Department of Tourism and Culture UT Ladakh, District Administration Kargil and LAACL Kargil held in Padum. Stalls of local arts, crafts, archery exhibition matches, horse races, yak rides were major attractions.



Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal met Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of Jammu University on October 5 and discussed various issues about the students belonging to Ladakh pursuing higher education in Jammu.



MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, and Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphele conducted a day-long joint tour in Martselang Constituency on September 30 and reviewed various developmental works being carried out by the concerned departments.



72 teams including 580 boys and 500 girls of the Under-14 and Under-17 age group from 36 government and private schools participated in a 3-days long Inter-School Tournament 2022 held at Thulus Spang, Taisuru.



A ten-day workshop on 'Basic Steps/Technique of Modern Archery' for the students of various schools of Khalitse zone commenced from October 1. The workshop was organised and initiated by Councillor Khalitse, Lobzang Sherab along with Archery Association Ladakh.

## Review meeting of Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, other projects held



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviewed the status of various projects viz. Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, Revised Home Stay Scheme, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, and other important developmental projects on October 3 at Civil Secretariat, Leh.

Mufti Sajjad Hussain, Chief Wildlife Warden/ Member Secretary, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee apprised the meeting that 18 community telescopes for the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve have been procured through the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and an equal number of beneficiaries have been selected by the selection committee for the distribution of telescopes.

He said that the selected beneficiaries will undergo training from the experts of IIA, Bangalore regarding the operation and handling of the telescopes from October 3 to 7, 2022, at Hanley village. The training will be followed by the distribution of

telescopes and light management material which will help in livelihood generation for the locals, he added. Tourists can use these telescopes for basic night sky gazing, and identification of constellations among others. He said that the project Himank authorities have been requested for the construction of the entry gate and other infrastructure of the reserve.

Principal Secretary, Dr. Kotwal said that Hanle Dark Sky Reserve located in Hanle of the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, the highest astronomical observatory in the world is going to be a unique facility in India. He shared that it is one of a kind and the entire process of putting up this facility together should be very well documented.

Regarding homestays in protected areas, sanctuaries, and national parks in Changthang, Nubra, and Hemis, the Chief Wildlife Warden shared that the proposal for the requirement of funds for the revised (approved) home stay policy for the items already approved in the Home Stay Pol-

icy of the Tourism Department will be submitted for the targets of 2022-23. The other items approved under the policy like renewable energy equipment and toilets are being incorporated in the CAMPA Action Plan, he added.

Detailed discussions also took place on important developmental projects viz. the Construction of the office of the Chief Forest Conservator, Forest parks and Green parks at Chuchot, Sumur Nubra, and the construction of Forest Department guest houses at Nyoma, Hanle, Tangste, Hunder, and Khalsti. It was informed that the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has been assigned the work of preparation of Detailed Project Reports.

The meeting also discussed the declaration of the Union Territory of Ladakh as an Air Pollution Control Area; the finalization of recruitment rules of the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, and the approval and adoption of the logo for the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee.

The meeting was attended by Jigmet Takpa, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest; Mufti Sajjad Hussain, Chief Wildlife Warden/ Member Secretary, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee; Shrikant Suse, District Magistrate; Mohammad Ali, Divisional Forest Officer, Leh; Deputy Director (K) PDMD; Pankaj Raina, Wildlife Warden Leh.

## Div Com meets airlines operators to regulate winter cargo rates



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas who is also the Secretary Civil Aviation Dept had a meeting with all the airlines operating from Ladakh and the officers of the Airport Authorities of India and KBR Airport Leh to discuss the reasons for differential cargo rates in winter.

It had been brought to the notice of the Div Com that there is an in-

crease of about Rs 40/kg for flying in cargo from New Delhi to Leh in the winter months when compared to the rates in the summers. The representatives from the merchant association were also present during the meeting.

In the meeting, the functioning of KBR airport was also discussed in detail. The Director of the Airport was instructed to ensure the timely attendance of the airport staff, and cleanliness at the airport with spe-

cial attention to public conveniences and drinking water facilities. The airport authorities should test heating facilities etc, for the winters well in advance, he instructed.

There will be coordination meetings between the merchant associations and the airlines as well as the cargo agents again before the closure of roads to control the cargo prices, said Biswas.

The meeting was attended by the Director, KBR Airport, Airport Authority of India; Assistant General Manager, Airport Operation, CNS, KBR Airport, AAI; Terminal Manager, KBR Airport, AAI; Manager CNS (Commercial), KBR Airport, AAI; Duty Manager, KBR Airport, AAI; Manager Air India; Manger Go First; Manager Vistara; Manager Indigo; Manager Spice Jet and other concerned officials.

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to be on for one more year

Meeting held for the preparation of calendar/action plan

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Ladakh, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan chaired a meeting for the preparation of a calendar/ action plan under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on October 6. Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations shall continue for another year and will culminate on August 15, 2023.

Secretary said that in the second year of celebrations, the endeavor shall be to enhance the outreach of this programme even further to touch the lives of every Indian. The emphasis shall be on high Jan Bhagidari (public participation), he added.

He further stated that instead of piecemeal events, the new approach shall be to organize long-term campaigns which will last anywhere between 3 months and 1 year on themes that articulate the vision of a new India and resonate with every Indian viz Empowerment of Women and Children; Contribution of tribal communities to the nation building; Development of border regions/villages; Sustainable de-



velopment under the concept of LIFE; Health and wellness (with emphasis on Ayush); Languages of India; Unity of the country; Swachhta; Freedom struggle and celebrating 'Unsung Heroes'; Atmanirbhar Bharat; Inclusive development; Vocal for local among others.

Secretary, Kacho Mehboob directed the DC, Leh/Kargil and all HoDs to prepare their Action Plan/Calendar for the campaign in line with the identified themes.

He told the officials that the programmes under the aforesaid campaigns should combine physical as well as digital components to operationalize massive outreach and integrate popular mechanisms like quizzes, competitions, etc. for mass appeal.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an ongoing celebration to commemorate 75 years of a progressive independent India and undertake fresh resolutions for the next 25 years of the country's Amrit Kaal.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Leh/Kargil; Director, Industries and Commerce; Director, Rural Development; Director, Tourism; Director, Urban Local Bodies; Director, Social and Tribal Welfare; Director, Health; Joint Director, Information and Public Relations, Deputy Secretary, Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Leh; OSD/Under Secretary, Tourism and Culture besides other concerned officers.

## Ladakh Scouts wins 2nd edition of LG Horse Polo Cup

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 2nd edition of LG Horse Polo Cup 2022 was concluded at Horse Polo Stadium Goshan, Drass on October 12. The final match was played between Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre Red Team and Himalayan-B Drass which was won by Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre Red Team by a margin of 3-1 goals.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur for taking the initiative for the revival of horse polo by introducing LG Polo Cup.

CEC congratulated all the 11 participating teams, especially the winner and runners-up teams who reached and participated in the final match. He stated that traditional horse polo as a game involves a lot of vigor and



Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre Red Team after winning the 2nd edition of LG Horse Polo Cup 2022.

physical activity and needs to be promoted among the youth of Ladakh.

Referring to Horse Polo Stadium Drass, he said it is one of the best grounds in Ladakh and informed that Rs 5 crore and 84 lakh have been sanctioned for the pavilion

and other required infrastructure will be developed and improved.

Teams from different parts of Ladakh including Drass, Chuchot and teams of Ladakh Scouts and Animal Husbandry Department Leh participated in the 5-day tournament.

## In Conversation with Ashraf Ali Sheikh

...Continued from Page 5

In previous years, there was not much awareness about the schemes and roles including me, I only knew about the scholarship scheme before becoming a part of MAEF. After becoming part of the foundation, I realized that the work done by the foundation is great. There are many schemes under MAEF, which we are trying to get availed by the maximum beneficiaries in Ladakh. There are

many formalities and paperwork that needs to be done. To increase awareness about the schemes we have invited members from different villages and regions and told them about the schemes so that they can further promote and spread them in their respective regions. We have also contacted people and informed them about the same. Apart from that, we have websites, which provide information, my only appeal to the people is to take the first step, and after that, if anyone faces any issue they can contact us.

## Kacho Asfandyar Khan releases two new books

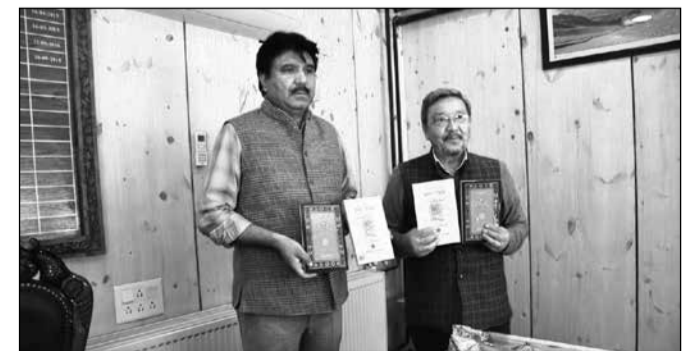
### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Kacho Asfandyar Khan's long-awaited books titled 'Parkala-e-Guftar' and 'Api Tso' were released on October 4 at Council Secretariat, Kargil.

The book was released by Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan.

Feroz Ahmed Khan lauded the efforts of the author for releasing his 8th and 9th book. He appreciated and congratulated the author and his family members for publishing the thought-provoking book with a different name and theme.

"These books will prove fruitful for people belonging to different parts of Kargil to know the basics of our rich culture, traditions and religious way of life, pursuits from close quarters and



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan, and Kacho Asfandyar Khan during the book release.

generate discussion and devise strategies for further development of knowledge-content on Kargil and the outside world," he added.

He highlighted the hard work and dedication of the author for collecting information from various parts of the world and putting them in the form of books

on different topics. Khan said the two books are witnessing the hard work and dedication of the author.

The author also shared his experiences with his long-awaited books which he said will prove fruitful for writers, students, and research scholars.

## MP inaugurates Jio tower at Zangla



MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgail being welcomed by the people of Zanskar.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgail visited the Zanskar subdivision and inaugurated Jio Tower at village Zangla on October 11.

Congratulating people, JTN also

announced that Zangla is the first Village in Zanskar to connect digitally with VTL OFC 4G. He informed about the developmental works sanctioned during his tenure including 15 Jio towers, Power Grid, 50-Bedded Hospital, road connectivity, etc.

He also assured the people of Zanskar that the road of NPD will connect up to Neraq by ending of November this year. It was also announced that 20 more towers are sanctioned for Zanskar and the airport project is submitted to higher authority for early sanction.

The villagers of Zangla headed by the Chairman Block Development Council (BDC) Zanskar Block also presented a colorful and traditional welcome to the MP.

Councilor Cha constituency and SDM Zanskar also addressed the gathering and congratulated the people of the Sham area for getting 4G connectivity.

## 10 days training on scientific management of sheep and goats in mountain concludes



MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgail being welcomed by the people of Zanskar.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 10 days training programme on scientific management of sheep and goats in mountain themed, 'Production improvement, sustainable development and livelihood improvement of threatened tribal nomads of Ladakh through scientific Changthangi sheep and Pashmina goat rearing concluded on October 5 at Directorate of extension SKUAST-Kashmir Shalimar campus.

The training programme was

sponsored by DST-STI, HUB Project Govt. of India for the field staff and SRF/ KVK-Leh field staff.

As per the statement by Dr. Feroz Din Sheikh Principal Investigator the objective of the training programme was to get hands-on training to counter the problems faced by nomads of UT-Ladakh.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganaie, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K on August 26. During this training, various theoretical lectures were

delivered on scientific sheep and goat management by professors of SKUAST-K. Under the training programme exposure visits to different research stations like Mountain Research Centre for sheep and goats, Shuhama and Mountain Livestock Research Institute, and Manasbal for practical classes were done.

The valedictory function was chaired by Senior Professor Hilal Mussadik Khan (Chief Scientist and Head MLRI Manasbal) as the chief guest. The function was also attended by Dr. FD Sheikh PI of the Project/Course Director and other CoPIs/Course coordinators DR Khurshid Ahmed Dar, Dr. Nazir Bumla, and Dr. Henna Hamdani.

In the end, Certificates were also distributed amongst the trainees. The trainees gave their feedback and highly appraised the Directorate of Extension staff for the successful conclusion of the programme.

## CEC Feroz Khan attends closing ceremony of Ladakh Drass Festival

LAHDC Kargil committed to revive rich culture and traditions of Drass: CEC

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan attended the closing ceremony of Ladakh Drass Festival 2022 on October 12 at Dak Banglow Drass.

The festival was organised by Ladakh Academy of Art Culture and Languages Kargil (LAACL) and Tourism Department Kargil.

CEC, Kargil said that LAHDC Kargil is committed to revive the rich culture and traditions of Drass valley. From next year, Ladakh Drass Festival will be organized in June or July for the participation of national and international tourists. He stated that such a festival will promote the rich culture and will also help to generate employment opportunities and boost the local economy.

CEC further said that the Council is committed to providing platforms for the talented youth to showcase their talent whether it is traditional Horse Polo game



or any other event. He assured to organise such festivals on a great scale in the future.

EC Mubarak Shah urged the Hill Council to provide the best horses from Animal Husbandry Department for the players of Horse Polo. EC Shah thanked Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, RK Mathur for reviving traditional polo game.

While speaking on the occasion, EC Tashi also appreciated the organisers for successfully organising fruitful programs in Drass. He gave ample examples of Zanskar Festival and stressed for cultural exchange and promotion

of cultural heritage of Drass.

AD Tourism highlighted the week-long Ladakh Drass Festival 2022. He informed that the festival was divided into literally and cultural activities which was running into a parallel session. The AD further informed that many poets and writers from Drass valley and from different parts of Kargil participated in literary and cultural events.

Cultural artists from different parts of Ladakh including Zanskar, Drass, and different parts of Kargil and Leh district participated in the festival.

## DC Kargil holds meeting on SVEEP activities for SSR 2023

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) reviewed Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities under ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2023 on October 6.

DC stressed the officers to work with zeal in better coordination and mobilize field functionaries within their jurisdiction to increase the percentage of enrolment, particularly in the newly eligible 18+ age group focusing on sensitization via social media platforms, radio, announcements, short video messages of icons, jingles, skits, mass awareness programs, banners, hoarding, posters, etc.



DC Santosh directed District SVEEP Nodal Officer to frame a detailed calendar for SVEEP programs and ensure full cooperation with all the stakeholders.

He also stressed on maximum publicity of the programs via all available sources for mass awareness and sensitization in close coordination with the Nodal Officer SVEEP and Election Cell DC Office Kargil.

The meeting was attended by

the Deputy District Election Officer, Kargil, Principals of GDC Kargil, Drass, District Nodal Officer ELCs (Chief Education Officer), AERO/Tehsildar Kargil, Social Welfare Officer, DPO, District Informatics Officer NIC Kargil, Election Naib Tehsildar Kargil, District Nodal Officer SVEEP (ATO Tourism) besides representatives of Tehsil office Shakar Chiktan, MC and other concerned officials were present.

## Nehru Yuva Kendra hosts district-level Yuva Utsav in Kargil

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: District Level Yuva Utsav themed, 'Take Pride in Our Heritage and Legacy' was organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Kargil, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India at Auditorium Hall, Kargil on October 11.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan was the chief guest, ADC Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Wani was the guest of honor and CPO Abdul Hadi was the special guest.

CEC, Feroz Ahmad Khan welcomed the initiatives being undertaken by the NYK Kargil that provides a platform to youngsters and extended his cooperation towards such nation-building events.

While stressing studying the culture, he said that it is the culture that keeps the identity of a nation alive. He also appreciated the youth of Kargil and hoped that NYK would organize more such programs in the future.

ADC, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Wani said there is no dearth of



talent among the youth in Kargil but they need platforms and opportunities. He appreciated the youth for showing their excellent performance and hoped for the same zeal and dedication in the future.

Six different events, Young Artists Contest, Painting, Young Writers Contest, Poem, Photography Contest, Declamation Contest, Cultural Fest, and Yuva Samvaad were held during the day-long event.

Assistant Professor GDC Kargil, Dr. Javid Naqi, and women scientists, KVK Kargil, and Dr. Rinchen Dolkar were also the jury members along with others

jury members belonging to different academic backgrounds.

Jigmet Spaldon, District Youth Officer welcomed the guests and participants and briefed about the objectives of organizing such events.

More than 300 young boys and girls showed their talent in their respective categories. Cultural teams belonging to the remotest corners of the district added colours to the event.

After the competitive events, prizes were distributed among the winners of all events followed by the addresses of all guests.

## Awareness camp held for micro and medium enterprises in Ladakh

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: An awareness camp for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of Ladakh (MSMEs) was held on October 11.

The awareness camp was organised by the Incubation Centre Leh of Industries & Commerce Department in collaboration with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) & Sayaansh (e-commerce portal, striving to educate sellers about the challenges in E-commerce).

The interactive sessions covered various topics such as the issuance of the Importer/Exporter Code (IEC), incentive schemes, Market Access Initiative (MAI)/Market Development Assistance (MDA) schemes, among others. The experts - Sahil Mahajan

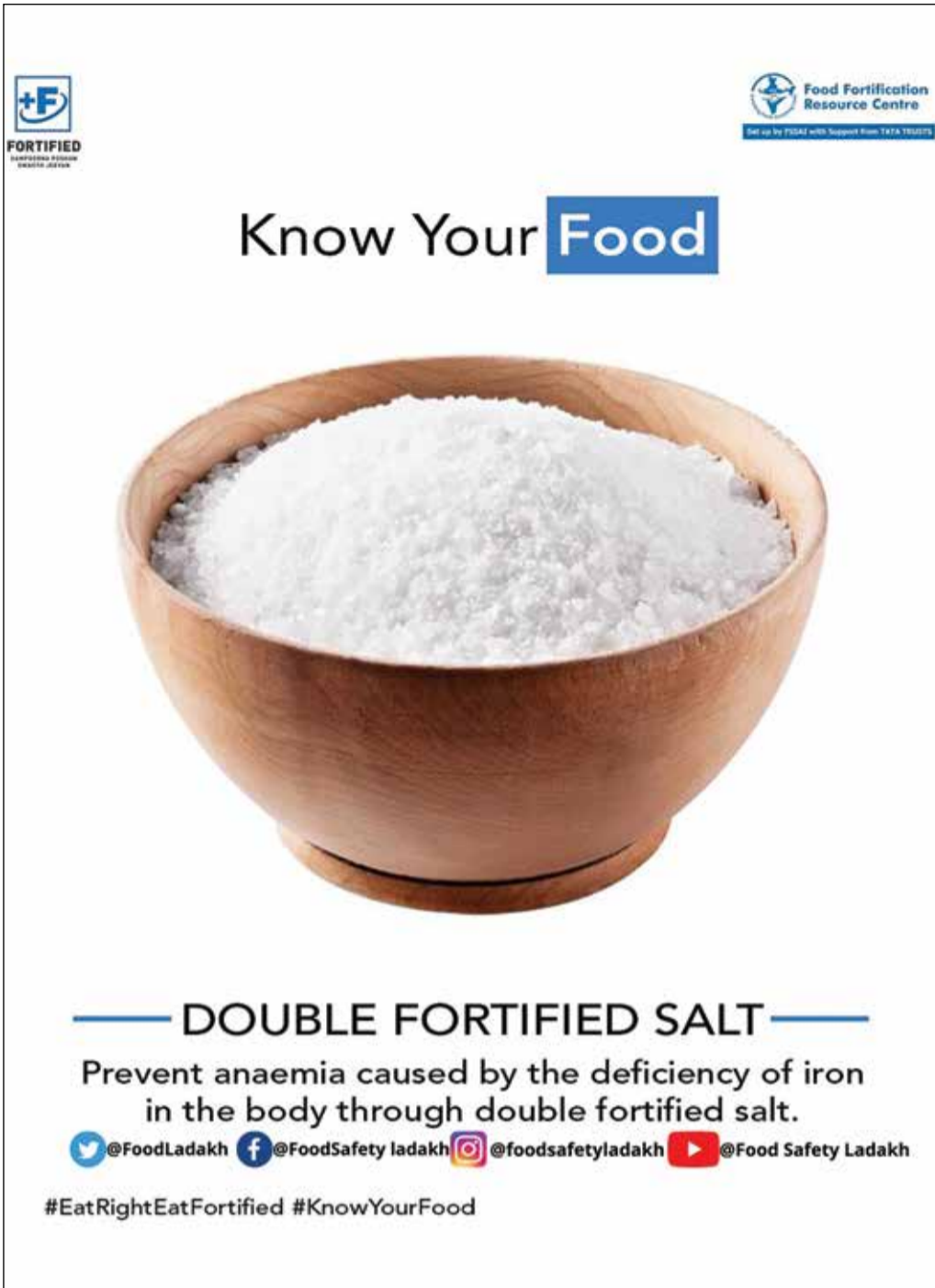


(Owner of Sayaansh E-commerce portal) and Gaurav Gupta (FIEO) gave detailed insight on how exporters can safeguard their shipments and money for exports. Also, the entrepreneurs were briefed about Indian Business Portal and Indian Trade Portal.

Entrepreneurs, incubatees, and various SHGs attended the camp. The attendees flagged various

queries concerning their respective fields and explored possible solutions with the experts.

Later, the participants expressed their gratitude to the I & C Dept for conducting such camps to fill the information gap which can assist new and struggling entrepreneurs to navigate through challenges in their entrepreneurial journey successfully.



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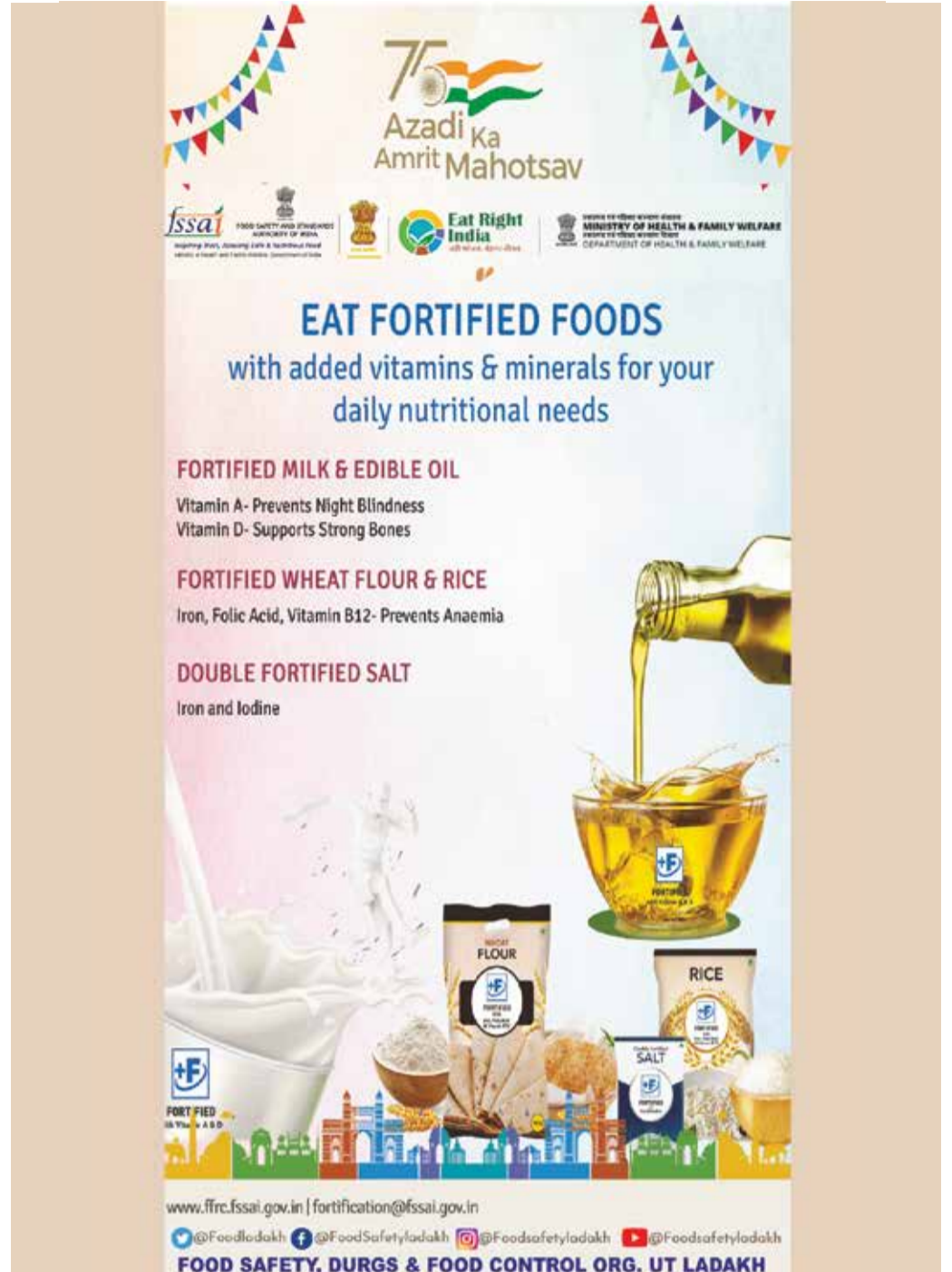
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