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VOL. 10 ISSUE 23 PAGES 8 In Conversation with

People's Voice

What do people have to say after 3 years of UT status?

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reach—Ladakh

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MC, Leh, strives towards eliminating manual scavenging

Launches the world's first robotic scavenger 'Bandicoot' on a trial basis



During the launch of Bandicoot Robot, on a trial basis, to eliminate manual scavenging in Leh

Deachen Spaldon & Tsewang Norbu

Leh: While India celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, commemorating 75 glorious years of progressive India and its rich history, culture, and achievements, a section of people in India who do manual scavenging dive into sewer tanks to flush out stagnant filth inside.

The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 defines 'Manual Scavenger' as "a person engaged in or employed for manually carrying human excreta". The employment of manual scavengers is prohibited as a criminal

Govt of India has passed certain acts to prohibit manual scavenging such as -

- The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993
- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013 or M.S. Act 2013

• Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Despite that, 472 manual scavenging deaths across the country have been recorded between 2016 and 2020 and 26 in 2021 according to Bezwada Wilson, national convener of the Safai Karmachari Andolan.

Figures seem dismal yet major initiatives have been started for the prohibition as well as rehabilitation of the people working in this field.

The issue of manual scavenging in Leh is not as huge as in big metropolitan cities but with growing modernization and lifestyle change of the people, the problem cannot be ignored.

Areas like Diskitsal often face choked drainage issues resulting in flooding of the wastewater in parks and roads.

Aiming to mechanize sewer cleaning,

...Continues on Page 2

2-day National Education Policy (NEP) conclave commences at University of Ladakh

NEP 2020 an instrument to change society says, LG Mathur



Releasing draft of the four-year undergraduate curriculum framework based on NEP-2020.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Leh: A two-day conclave on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) in UT Ladakh was held at Taru campus of the University of Ladakh on December 9 and 10.

Besides the senior faculty of the University of Ladakh, Principals and faculty from all the constituent colleges and Polytechnic Colleges, representatives from Institutes like GB Pant, DIHAR, SKUAST, etc, sat together to chalk out the action plan for implementation of the NEP from the next academic cycle of 2023-24.

Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education Dept, Padma Angmo who is also the Mission Director of Ladakh Skill Development Mission stated that NEP heralds a revolution in education with greater emphasis on vocational education, employability skills, and multiple entries and multiple exit options which throws open a plethora of choices and flexibility

for the students to pursue holistic education. She flagged the target of achieving a 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio by 2035 as given in the NEP 2020 and stressed the need to improve the status of higher education in Ladakh so that the students can have the option to get the same quality education here.

In the inaugural address, Vice Chancellor, S K Mehta stated that while the NEP implementation has already started in the University of Ladakh for the PG courses from the current session, the Colleges will be ready for the roll-out of NEP from the next session. In a detailed presentation, he extensively discussed the main features of NEP, the integration of general education with vocational education and experiential learning, the emphasis on research, need to highlight the regional languages and local culture and heritage. While flagging the various hallenges faced by Higher Education

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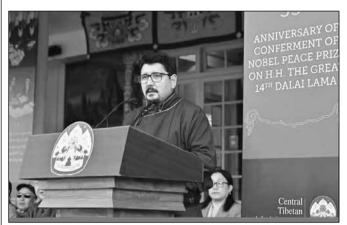
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Hill Council, Leh attends 33 years of Dalai Lama's Nobel Peace Prize celebration in McLeod Ganj



Chairman/CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson addressing the gathering during the 33rd official commemoration of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DHARAMSALA: Chairman/CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson accompanied by Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk, and Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor attended the 33rd official commemoration of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala as special guests on December 10.

Member of Parliament Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal was the chief guest of the occasion.

Eminent dignitaries including Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration, Penpa Tsering: Convenor of the All-Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet, Sujeet Kumar (MP Rajya Sabha), and the officials of CTA as well as a large number of the public gathered to celebrate the commemoration day.

CEC Gyalson congratulated His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on behalf of the people of Ladakh, irrespective of all religious or social backgrounds, on this momentous occasion. He reiterated that the current Hill Council, Leh is committed to the equal welfare and development of the Tibetan community in Ladakh. He also hoped that His Holiness would visit Ladakh next summer to bless the people with his words of wisdom.

Extending his congratulations, MP Ladakh JTN mentioned that the people of Ladakh and Tibetans share a close relationship in terms of cultural similarities for which His Holiness has a special place in his heart for the people of Ladakh. He further highlighted the need for strengthening the Bhoti-speaking regions and hope that the union government would consider the importance of this language and take the decision of strengthening it in the future.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for advocating peaceful solutions based upon tolerance and mutual respect to preserve his people's historical and cultural heritage.

Leh celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Students performing during the celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Leh.

Deachen Spaldon

LEH: Stressing the importance of inclusivity, the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated on December 3. The event was organised by the Chief education office, Leh at hotel Zen Ladakh.

The day was themed, 'Transformative solutions for inclusive development, the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world'.

Chief Guest of the occasion, CEC LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyaltson said, 'The main aim of celebrating this day is to provide equal opportunities to every specially able person.' He urged people to rise above the social stigmas and look for proper solutions to raise awareness.

CEC assured to send 20 specially-abled persons on Winter educational tours outside Ladakh every year fully sponsored and supported by the council.

Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk stressed the importance of a friendly event today for children with special needs for their inclusivity in all areas of life. Impressed by the confidence and dedication of the children, he congratulated everyone involved in organising the event.

He further added that the Hill Council, Leh, and the Ladakh Administration are making all possible efforts to make Ladakh accessible for all by adding inclusive facilities in terms of infrastructure and special needs of persons with disabilities.

Inclusive Education coordinator Rinchen Dolma and Nodal officer Nahida Bano briefed about the programme and urged for support from the public in removing the social stigmas and raising awareness.

Students from Kharu, Durbuk, Nubra, Nyoma, Leh, and Khaltse - participated in the event. The program was followed by cultural dances, plays, and folk music sung by students who were from places as far as Charasa (Nubra). The enthusiasm and energy of the students were admirable.

The representatives from NGOs such as Rewa, Munsel, and Pagir were felicitated for their work.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated to observe the issues affecting people with disabilities and to improve their well-being and basic fundamental rights. The 10th goal of SDG of 2030 is linked to reducing inequality within and among countries by empowering and promoting the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, including persons with disabilities.

2-day National Education Policy (NEP) conclave commences at University of Ladakh

...Continued from Page 1

Institutions, he also stated that the main challenge is to make education accessible for all so that Students with disabilities can have opportunities for equal participation across the educational system.

On December 10, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, today attended the valedictory programme of the two-day conclave. A draft of the four-year undergraduate curriculum framework based on NEP-2020 was released.

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ladakh Skill Development Mission, the University of Ladakh, and various Sector Skill Councils for the introduction of skill/vocational courses, setting up of lab infrastructure, implementation of skill development programs in colleges, ITIs and government schools of Ladakh to enhance the employability of youth of Ladakh through various training.

Terming NEP-2020 as an instrument of changing society, LG Mathur emphasized that a lot of preparation is involved before the four-year undergraduate course is launched in Ladakh. He stressed the need for a periodical review to iron out glitches and to ensure that the students along with the teaching staff are both physically and mentally prepared for its implementation. He appreciated the participants of all the constituent colleges for reaching a consensus and producing the four-year UG curriculum framework for its implementation from the next academic session 2023-24.

LG Mathur advised the University of Ladakh and Higher Education Department that a target may be fixed to provide certification to the skilled population of Ladakh and produce a degree holder in a skilled area to change the perception and psychology of the people to ensure that various trades get the respect they deserve. He suggested that every single constituent college of the University of Ladakh may have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

with other universities to seek help from outside to strengthen the education system and to get support for the credit system so that the University of Ladakh is at par with the best universities of the country.

He emphasised the need to make concerted efforts to upgrade the infrastructure and resolve issues of teaching/non-teaching staff to develop a platform for the overall growth and strengthening of the University of Ladakh and the Higher Education Department.

LG Mathur stressed the need for an institutionalized mechanism through regular meetings with students to prepare the groundwork for the implementation of the four-year undergraduate courses in colleges in Ladakh. He emphasised the need for teaching and non-teaching staff of the University of Ladakh to develop a strong and harmonious relationship with students for strong performances and good results.

Terming the University of Ladakh as a young university, LG Mathur stated an ecosystem may be

developed that is unique to Ladakh to lay a strong foundation for academics as well as the culture of the University.

Distributing certificates to the students who took part in the three-month long foundation course in screen acting jointly organised by UoL and Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, he congratulated FTII for conducting the three-month long foundation course and for agreeing to conduct courses for the next academic year at UoL to develop new talent in Ladakh. He also congratulated the participants on the successful completion of the foundation course.

Director, FTII Pune, Prof Sandeep Shahare, informed about various courses provided to them to aspiring artists and filmmakers from Ladakh. Calling Ladakhi youth talented, he stressed the need to nurture and provide exposure to them.

A film prepared by FTII students who took part in the foundation course was screened during the event.

MC, Leh, strives towards eliminating manual scavenging

...Continued from Page 1

contribute towards Mission Zero Manual Scavenging, and aid in achieving the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Municipal Committee, Leh launched Bandicoot Robot, on a trial basis.

The World's First Robotic Scavenger 'Bandicoot' is designed and developed by Genrobotics, a national award-winning Start-up, to eliminate manual intervention from cleaning confined spaces like sewer manholes and provide a safer workspace for sanitation workers. Bandicoot is a major technological innovation to build a manual scavenging-free India.

Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh, Stanzin Rabgais informed that Genrobotics' Bandicoot was procured after seeing their operational performance in 17 States and UTs of the country. He stressed that this initiative would successfully promote the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, by implementing mechanical tools for cleaning sewers and ending manual scavenging.

The robot has been brought to Leh on a trial basis to prohibit manual scavenging and promote the dignity and livelihood of the sanitation workers here in the region, he added.

He further added that keeping given health and safety while cleaning the manholes manually, such an initiative brings about a big transformation in this field. Manhole-to-machine hole is the concept behind it. In addition to that, demos and training are being given to the sanitation workers to understand the proper operation of the machine.

Bandicoot Robot consists of two units, a stand unit, and a robotic drone unit. The robotic drone unit with a multi-functioning robotic arm dives into the manholes for cleaning or unblocking operations. The customizable diving depth of the robotic drone, with added features of carbon fiber body, smart user interface, 4 IP68 proof cameras, operational assistance, and corrosive resistance enables the robot to perform its operation in any hazardous or corrosive sewerage environments effectively for a longer period.

When asked about the policies and regulations from the government regarding the third-party workers cleaning dry toilets in the region, he mentioned that registration of the workers has been done in the Municipal Committee, Leh. A dedicated helpline is being maintained by the same for any household needing to get connected with the workers, whereby charges will be maintained and decided by the workers themselves.

As the health and safety of the workers are of utmost priority, Stanzin Rabgais mentioned that proper safety gear and equipment such as masks, PPE kit, and boots are being ensured by MCL.

On the topic of the survey conducted by the government of India every year – Swach Survekshan and where Ladakh stands on it, he mentioned that both Leh and Kargil city participated in the survey. UT Ladakh's ranking in this survey was 144th last year which has been improved this year to 70th position and hoping that the ranking will further improve in the coming years.



Public Notice

It is for information of the general public of the locality of Chubi, Leh that Ms. Phuntsog Angmo D/o Tsetan Tundup R/o Chubi Leh Ladakh has applied for grant of Bar with Restaurant license (LAEL-4) at Chubi, near petrol pump under Name & Style The Yeti Kitchen Bar & 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.

Inspector Excise Range Leh-Kargil

No: 10.12.2022

UT-level Kala Utsav 2022 held in Leh

16 students to represent UT Ladakh in National Kala Utsav



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The UT-level Kala Utsav 2022 competition, organised by Samagra Shikha, School Education Department, UT Ladakh was held at PARAS Hall, Boys Higher Secondary school Leh on November 29.

A total of 32 students, including 16 from each district of UT Ladakh, participated in the UT-level Kala Utsav 2022. The students performed in different categories of performing and visual arts, including Dance (folk), Vocal Music (traditional/folk), Instrumental Music (melodic), Instrumental Music (percussive), Solo Acting, Visual art (2D), Visual art (3D) and Indigenous toys and games.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, was the chief guest of the occasion. The jury consisted of experts from the field of performing and visual arts from both districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Dy Chairman Tsering Angchuk lauded the enthusiastic participation from both districts. He added that Kala Utsav has allowed the incorporation of art and culture in the school curriculum and stressed that every school should mandatorily incorporate such events in their school calendar to harness the potential from a young age.

He said that the Council would extend support to upscale the celebration of Kala Utsav in the district.

Congratulating the participants, he expressed hope that the winning streak of UT Ladakh at the National Kala Utsav would continue this year as well.

Chief Education Officer, Leh, SD Namgail added that such events promote the artistic skills of the students developing an inclusive and holistic education. Adding that it becomes a means to preserve and promote our rich art, culture and tradition and give exposure to interested students,

he said that all schools should conduct similar events.

The 16 finalists of the UT-level Kala Utsav 2022 include Stan-

zin Samchok, DPS Leh (folk dance); Tsering Yangdol, GHHS Shargole, Kargil (folk dance); Mushtaba Ali, GHHS Bhimbat Drass, Kargil (folk song); Yasmeen Fatima, Suru Valley Public School, Kargil (folk song); Tsering Nurboo, Lamdon Model Sr Sec School, Leh (instrumental music-melodic); Tsering Lamo, GHS Chumathang, Leh (instrumental music-melodic); Jigmet Jimmy, GHS Garkhone, Kargil (instrumental music-percussive); Padma Choskit, GHS Garkhone, Kargil (instrumental music-percussive); Stanzin Namgyal, GHSS Timisgam, Leh (solo acting); Ummul Banin, GHSS Shargole, Kargil (solo acting); Jigmet Chosdon, DPS Leh (visual art-2D); Mustafa Ali, GHSS Trespone, Kargil (visual art-2D); Zarifa Banoo, GHSS Sankoo, Kargil (visual art-3D); Sonam Stanzin, GHSS Saspol, Leh (visual art-3D); Sohrat Fatima, GHS Kaksar, Kargil (indigenous toys and games) and Shurjaat Ali, AGS, Harka Bahadur, Kargil (indigenous toys and games).

These 16 selected finalists would represent UT Ladakh in the National Kala Utsav-2022 scheduled in RIE, Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 3rd to 7th January 2023.

Kala Utsav is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under the Samagra Shiksha scheme to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talents of school students.

Ladakh Administration rolls out major road & infrastructure projects

Widening of roads, construction of bridges, installation of funicular systems and wayside amenities are being taken up

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: UT administration is constructing major road projects in the border areas as well as roads and tunnels for improving internal connectivity.

Commissioner/Secretary, PWD, Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviewed the progress of work on the roads and infrastructure projects at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on December 10. He added that the administration should spare no efforts to ensure improving the connectivity.

While reviewing the progress on widening of the Kargil Zanskar Road, Sahu asked Deputy Commissioner Kargil for early completion of all pending issues concerning the acquisition of land for making an encumbrance-free corridor available to NHIDCL for working. He also asked SE Kargil and Executive Engineer Sankoo for early payment of work done liability of contractors on this road related to repairs and maintenance of the said road.

CE mechanical apprised the meeting that sufficient manpower and machinery have been deployed on Kargil Zanskar Road for keeping the road open during the winter. He also appraised that newly imported high-capacity Snow Blowers would also be deployed on this road for efficient clearing of snow. It is pertinent to mention that the UT administration recently imported 6 units of self-propelled snow cutter blowers for fast snow-clearing work at a cost of ₹22.20 crores.

M/S RITES who is preparing DPRS for tunnels of Namkila, Fotula, Hambotingla, Khardungla and Kela also briefed that the preliminary survey work and feasibility assessment have been completed on these tunnels. Sahu asked them to get the technical vetting of these tunnels done by the BRO at an early date so that the proposal is presented to the higher authorities for consideration and approval.

construction Chushul-Dangti-Fukchey-Demchok (CDFD) road was also discussed in the meeting. BRO authorities apprised that the construction of the CDFD road is important both strategically and from a tourism point of view. Sahu asked the DC Leh to immediately constitute a committee to examine the proposal and submit his recommendations early for consideration and funding through MoRTH. He also asked DC Leh to provide land availability certificate for the proposed bypass roads connecting NH-1 and NH-3 from the northern and southern sides of NH to ease traffic congestion in Leh town.

Further, the meeting also discussed the construction of major bridges across Ladakh. Sahu asked both the DCs to send proposals of bridges, if any are required, in their districts along with full justification and cost-benefit analysis. He also asked all agencies to take up a few pilots for

constructing bridges using Ultra High-Performance concrete to gauge its effectiveness.

Commissioner/Secretary, PWD, Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviewing the progress of

work on the roads and infrastructure projects at the Civil Secretariat, Leh

He also asked CE Himank to early organise a workshop on modular and new technology for bridges and asked CE PWD Ladakh to provide all support to BRO to organise it.

Issues concerning the construction of the Zojila tunnel, its approach roads and related issues were also discussed. Reiterating the instructions of the Minister of RT&H in the recent meeting held in Delhi, Sahu asked the NHIDCL and BRO to ensure the construction of avalanche protection sheds at all vulnerable locations on the national highway so that the tunnels and roads being constructed remain safe and can be used optimally.

Further, it was informed in the meeting that a Detailed Project Report is being prepared for the installation of a Funicular system in Ladakh. A funicular system is a suitable medium of public transport for hilly terrain and works well on steep slopes.

Sahu directed the concerned to ensure completing all the work in a time-bound manner to take the required action for implementing the directions of the Minister of RT&H and LG in this regard.

2nd State Level meeting of Narco Coordination Center (NCORD) held



During the 2nd State Level meeting of the Narco Coordination Center (NCORD)

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula chaired the 2nd State Level meeting of the Narco Coordination Center (NCORD) on December 9.

The concerned officials from various departments apprised the Advisor about the Action Taken Report (ATR) as per the directions given in the 1st State level meeting of NCORD viz monitoring of drug situation in the UT; implementation of National Policy on NDPS; monitoring of district level NCORD meetings; establishment of de-addiction and rehab centres; promoting anti-drug awareness and preparing a plan for mass awareness drives, among others.

Advisor Narula stated that setting up de-addiction centers in Lada-kh is imperative and instructed both DCs to identify spaces on an immediate basis. He stressed the need for capacity building and training programmes for existing NGOs and officials to well equip them to deal compassionately and professionally with this problem.

ADGP, Ladakh, S S Khandare

apprised the Advisor that hiring of technical and non-technical manpower for the newly sanctioned Ladakh Forensic Science laboratory is already underway through National Forensic Science University, Gujarat and equipment shall also be procured from the same. He assured that the Forensic Science Laboratory shall be functional by April 2023.

Commissioner/ Secretary, Higher Education Department, Padma Angmo outlined the salient features of District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs) under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE). Broadly the role of DDACs is to provide services for identification of individuals with harmful use and dependence of any substance, motivational counseling, detoxification/de-addiction treatment, aftercare and reintegration into the social mainstream. She highlighted the need for a robust survey on drug abuse in Ladakh to understand its causes on a deeper level.

Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department, Ladakh, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan apprised the Advisor that installation of anti-drug signages is already in process in hotels, bars, tourist places, etc, and shall be fully implemented by March 2023.

Director Health Services, Dr Motup Dorje apprised that 60 ASHAs were trained in Tobacco and Narcotics control practices.

Further, with regard to training programmes for Ladakh Police, it was informed that 120 officials were given online and offline training on the investigation of narcotic cases.

Additionally, Zonal Director, NCB Jammu, Rajesh Kumar gave a detailed presentation on NCORD portal and NIDAAN (National Integrated Database about All Narco-offenders).

Concluding the meeting, Advisor Narula reiterated the need for sustained awareness campaigns against drug abuse and outreach programmes and instructed all stakeholders to conduct more drives in schools, colleges, etc. He impressed upon the officials to tap into all available resources to effectively attain the goal of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dept, Ladakh; Principal Secretary, Urban School/ Education, Dept, Ladakh; DCs Leh/Kargil; DIG, Ladakh; Additional Secretary, Home Dept; Assistant Controller Drugs, Ladakh and other concerned officials.

ODOP Seabuckthorn to be promoted with full vigor in Ladakh

Apex Committee on Seabuckthorn holds meeting in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Commissioner/ Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas chaired a meeting of the Apex Committee for the development and promotion of Sea-buckthorn in UT Ladakh on December 2

At the outset, the concerned officials from the departments of Horticulture, Forest and Industries apprised the Comm/Secy, Biswas about the status of the various Seabuckthorn initiatives; bankable Seabuckthorn projects; geo-mapping and drone mapping for the area under Seabukthorn: quality control labs; timeline for a model orchard of Seabuckthorn plantation to be developed at Chuchot, tissue culture, quality control lab; royalty collection; gully cutting: location identification, among others. The meeting also held deliberations on challenges raised by entrepreneurs

Biswas urged the concerned officials to ensure that the machinery and different tests that can be performed must benefit the growers and entrepreneurs. He exhorted that sustained capacity building is of utmost importance



The Comm/ Secy suggested that at least two more cooperatives should be formed by the Depart-

gramme on food processing &

value addition of ODOP prod-

and instructed to arrange more collaborations with national-level institutions such as NIFTEM, CSIR-IHBT & CFTRI Mysore for skill development. It was informed in the meeting that 26 entrepreneurs/progressive farmers engaged in the Food Process-

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Agriculture, Horticulture and Floriculture Department, Secretary of, Cooperative Department; Director, DIHAR; Chief Conservator of Forest; Director, Industries & Commerce Ladakh; Additional Registrar Cooperatives; Director Horticulture Ladakh; Convenor UT Level Bankers Committee SPMU PMFME Team and staffs of I & C dept Ladakh.



People's Voice

Interviewed by Tsewang Norbu and Deachen Spaldon

Today it's been more than three years since the inception of Ladakh as a Union Territory. On 31st October 2019, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was dissolved and replaced by two new union territories, through a reorganization act passed by the Parliament of India. The movement for this demand initially gained momentum in the early 1960s. Passing through a great ordeal of struggles and sacrifice of people, the long-awaited dream of Ladakh finally took its shape on 31st October 2019.

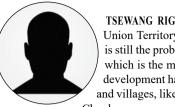
Ladakh and its people have come a long way since then, but it wasn't long before the crux of this dream realized many. Many apprehensions regarding the granting of UT without safeguards emerged among people.

The government of India launched various socio-economic and welfare schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Jal Jeevan Mission, etc. There is no denying the fact that the implementation of these schemes and projects has been a great success in many places, however behind these wonderful schemes and ideas the concerns and expectations of people are being left unfulfilled. For instance, people are worried about how outside influence on tourism will burden the fragile ecology of the environment, likewise, the same influence on businesses will lead to the vanishing of local produce in the market eventually leading up to the loss of livelihoods. Then there is the demand of schedule 6 – for safeguards of rights through the power of autonomy by creating Autonomous District Councils while also protecting the ethnic culture and language.

The main concern, however, is- the crisis of unemployment in the region. Unavailability of job vacancies and not getting any fresh opportunities is eventually taking a toll on mental health among youngsters.

While taking the streets of Leh and having a conversation with the locals – our team observed mixed reactions from them regarding the three years of UT Ladakh.

What do people have to say after 3 years of UT status?



TSEWANG RIGZIN, Shop Keeper at Moti Market:
Union Territory is great for Ladakh but there is still the problem of no jobs for my children, which is the main issue for me. Although the development has been immense in both towns and villages, like good roads, street lights in the Choglamsar area, and drinking water. The phone

network is still an issue as sometimes it is not available on BSNL and Airtel which is a hindrance for Net banking and daily e-commerce transactions (Google pay) with customers.

One more problem is that I have been paying GST bills but the inflation is rising every year and the products I sell are getting costlier every year like a product that used to cost ₹500 is now ₹550 and doesn't tend to get any cheaper and customer doesn't want to pay as they were cheaper last year. The rise in fuel prices increased wage rates in factories, and transport charges also increase the cost of the product. Some customers understand but some don't.

Many shopkeepers are outsides and they leave as soon as tourists are gone, the shops in the main market remain closed until next summer. Ladakhi should open more shops and there are no Ladakh wholesalers in Leh, I feel Ladakh youth should involve in this market sector as there is huge potential to earn money.



STANZIN JORDAN, Entrepreneur from Sankar: As an upcoming entrepreneur, there are lots of government schemes, and we can enrich them on the grassroots level. There is a gap, many programs start but their lack of continuation which results in less benefit for us.

There are some changes overall but there is a lack of planning as around my house their goods but now they dug up for water pipeline and didn't bother to put it together after. Still, we don't get water but the old water tap is still running. Before in summer, we used

to get water but now that is also stopped, even I saw in villages they are getting water but I don't see that in Leh as we used a good water supply before. Destroying old running infrastructure I didn't like it. But far-flung villages getting house water taps is a good initiative by the government.

Also, there has been a rise in the prices of daily groceries like vegetable oils, LPG, etc. Earlier Ladakh used to be self-sufficient, we consume what we produce so I feel that we as youth who are interested in farming should work on it and youth should adopt a sustainable way of doing business.

Having job opportunities is very important as some may not have an interest in farming or entrepreneurship as there is a staff shortage in the government department. So the recruitment process should be fast as I don't agree with the contractual appointment concept which is given to the outside company as there is no job security, in this matter UT Ladakh should take notice.



MADAM DOLMA, School teacher/Chuchot: I feel there was more organization to raise voices for women before UT was formed. As a teacher, I see female students who don't know about the menstrual cycle. At the school level, we provide awareness but the children who don't go to school or not had a

good education should be provided awareness about health and hygiene. Job opportunities especially for women are not present like before for teachers and so on.

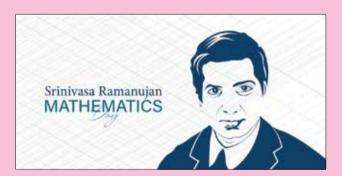
In terms of development, I don't see much change. The roads are still in the old condition in my village there must be a change in other areas. In some parts, they dug up land for pipelines under Jal Jeevan Yojana and did not cover it up. The much-hyped development should be seen as practical on the ground also.



National Mathematics day

December 22, the birth anniversary of India's famed mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, is celebrated as National Mathematics Day. Ramanujan was considered a gifted mathematician, as he resolved some of the 'unsolvable' equations and presented significant mathematical analysis. He is regarded as one of the world's greatest mathematicians on a national and global level.

Born in 1887 in Tamil Nadu, Ramanujan spent most of his life in poverty. He developed a keen interest in mathematics from a young age, and by 15, he obtained a copy Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics by George Shoobridge Carr's Synopsis. In



1918, he was invited as a member of the London Mathematical Society in Britain and became the youngest Fellow of the Royal Society. Ramanujan's works were recognized by British mathematicians like G.H. Hardy, who was spellbound by his knowledge of advanced mathematics.

In 2012, the former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh marked this day as National Mathematics Day to pay tribute to the legendary Srinivasa Ramanujan.

DID YOU KNOW 🕇



- Madhopatti village IAS officers
- Ramanujan's mathematical genius was such that he discovered his own theorems and independently compiled 3900 results.
- Cranberries are commonly referred to as "bounce berries" because they bounce when they're ripe. In fact, bouncing cranberries is a common ripeness test for farmers and consumers alike.
- The most prolific egg-laying chicken was in Missouri in 1979. The chicken laid 371 eggs in one year, according to Guinness World Records.
- A small village in the Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh, Madhopatti has created history by producing the most number of IAS officers. With about 75 households, it has given 47 officers to Indian administration. Not just that, many from the same village have made their careers by joining prestigious organisations like ISRO, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and World Bank. Ask the villagers about their study schedules, maybe? (Source-Indiatimes.com).

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Religion key to harmonious living



Of late, I have been very choosy about going out for functions. The 'very must', from my point of view, are accepted. No wonder, the latest function of a book-release by a great friend had to be welcomed!

Dr (Father) M D Thomas is a well-known and respected figure in the intellectual circles of Delhi. His latest book, RELIGION FOR HAR-

MONIOUS LIVING, has come out when it is needed the most. With the world gone crazy, all set to destroy each other, Father Thomas has made a fervent appeal to the world leaders of all kinds to see reasons against the foolishness of the destruction senselessly and unmindfully. His thematic stress that God is one and we are brothers and sisters under one big umbrella has the resonance of the very finest elements of all religions. It is the way the principles of a peaceful and progressive life is interpreted, knowingly or unknowingly, by our leaders that have harmed mankind the hardest.

Father Thomas has a universal appeal because of his attitude of love, kindness and sympathy towards all who are basically same and the sons and daughters of God who had created us all with a mission and a purpose of spreading peace and harmony. Unfortunately, we invoke God but go against his very basic principles of good and peaceful living, which, to any sane person, is nothing but madness and the surety of a very irresponsible life.

It is in this respect that the book analyses the positive and the negative aspects of religions in a realistic manner. No wonder, those present at the book-launch function were all praise for Father Thomas who has a PhD degree in Hindi. A scholar par excellence, Father Thomas has devoted his entire life for a harmonious living and peaceful sharing of the resources of the Earth.

At a time when we are so much blood-thirsty, it is religion alone that can bring about harmonious living, but our leaders have to stop being 'divisive elements'.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

fessional speaker

In Conversation with

Yutaka Hirako, Programme Director / Project Architect Tibet Heritage Fund / Leh Old Town Initiative

Interviewed by Tsewang Norbu

Q. Share with us about yourself.

My name is Yutaka Hirako, Japanese nationality, born in 1974. I did my vocational course in Chinese from Japan and then moved to China. There I bought a bicycle to travel to Tibet and was fascinated by nature, the landscape of Tibet, and people living in tough conditions. The journey made me more curious about Tibet culture. So I decided to have another bicycle journey from Xinjiang-west Tibet- Mt. Kailash to Lhasa. During that winter I met the organization Tibet Heritage fund (NGO), they were doing the preservation and conservation of heritage buildings in Tibet local. I met the directors of THF, Pimpim De Azevedo from Portugal and Andre Alexandre from Germany. Initially, I started working with them as a volunteer in 1998 since I was working in different parts of the Himalayan region like Mongolia. THF, Director Andre visited Ladakh in 2003 with a recommendation to see Ladakh's old town heritage architecture similar to

Tibet. Based on his experience we started working in Ladakh with small projects in the old town of Leh. We wanted to work with local people to restore residential houses which lead to the formation of the Leh Old Town initiative (LOTI). In 2011, I got my Japanese architecture license.

Q. What inspires you to work in the conservation sector?

It all started in Tibet, the spark you can say, as I come from Japan which is much more modern with materials and comforts. But in Tibet I saw a big gap, people were living in hard conditions and with no freedom under the Chinese. The devotion to praying as a Buddhist made me a shock; on my way to Lhasa, I saw many people doing Gochag, a journey of 1000's km. They were very content and smiling. It would be impossible to see someone doing this in Japan. I realized that material-wise there was no comparison to Japan but they pray for the next life to get better. When I reached Lhasa town, I would describe it as "living heritage" the old buildings continued in use, and the co-founder Pimpin De Azevedo took me to the old house which was under development, the house had memories of the family-like marking off the height of children and losar and cultural decorations. I feel if the house is the body then people are the soul. The soul and body must be together. So it was important to preserve not just houses but also support the people living there and improve the living conditions to conserve the living heritage.

Q. What are the challenges faced in Ladakh during restoration?

The initial challenge was people were not interested in restoring their heritage houses as they decided to move out and build new houses closer to farmland and also due to problems with the water supply. The change in lifestyle due to tourism as they built guest houses and the old town of Leh lost its use. People from different parts of Ladakh like Nubra and Zanskar started to live in old townhouses either on rent or bought them. We did a survey and proposed to restore the houses on half cost born by the owner and half provided by THF. We provided technical knowledge while working with local craftsmen. Slowly people started to see the possibility of living, by bringing in facilities of electricity, and water supply, and having a good quality of living in historic houses.

The senior citizen finds difficulty living in the cemented building due to poor insulation to cold in winter. The need for lots of heating arrangements in concrete houses which quickly absorb the heat but also quickly release

the heat which is vice-versa to old Ladakhi architecture buildings, having more habitable living conditions. Old houses of Ladakh are built with natural materials like wood, and mud to maintain heat. So by restoration, we feel we are providing sustainable living spaces.

Q. What were the feedbacks and responses from locals after restoration work?

The response from locals has changed from being hesitant to restore and now the competition of many houses. Also, people now request to restore outside Leh town with bearing full costs like current projects in Saboo Zims Khang and Matho Khar.

Q. Did you get any support from the government of Leh, La-

Initially, we had an MOU with Hill Council and work together but it did not result in the policy-level stage. It is important to have regulations on how to conserve the buildings. For this, it is important to have government support as we can only propose but regulations and laws are in the hands of the government. After UT was formed Kaga Rigzin Samphel, the then Commissioner/ Secretary also suggested and agreed on the effort of making old Leh town a heritage site.

.Continues on Page 6

Message to the readers

Ladakh is very much dependent on tourism and the old town has potential in the tourism sector but it must be handled with care. Old town Leh cannot be only for tourists without the native locals in it.

Fortnight Highlights



Commissioner/Secretary, Industries Ladakh, Saugat Biswas reviewed the functioning of the Handloom and Handicraft Departments at Conference Hall Baroo, Kargil. He interacted with trainers and trainees of the Handloom and Handicraft Departments and took a detailed review of work progress and output.



EC, Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Department, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee visited Barma Kargyam and Chushul villages of Durbuk sub-division. He interacted with the nomadic livestock rearers and inaugurated 70 insulated prefabricated houses constructed under Changthang Development Package this year.



One-day awareness programme on menstrual health and hygiene for adolescent girls was held at Government Higher Secondary School Lankerchey, Kargil.



Six-day Bhoti winter training for the teachers of Government schools of Nubra zone, Durbuk zone, Nyoma zone, Kharu zone, Leh zone and Khaltse zone concluded at DIET Leh. The training was especially organized for the teachers teaching of classes 6th to 8th of Leh District. Total of 123 teachers from Leh district participated in this training.



District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kargil observed World Human Rights Day in Kargil. The program was chaired by Secretary DLSA, Kargil Phuntsog Angmo.

NOTICE

Whereas **Tsering Stobgais** S/o Skalzang Rinchen R/o Skurbuchan, Leh district UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has wrongly been recorded as **Chhering Tabgas** instead of **Tsering Stobgais** in his **HDFC Life Policy No: 20292686** issued from HDFC Bank main market, Leh UT Ladakh. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in the above mentioned office, within seven days from the date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

I, Tundup Thinlas S/o Puntsog Gurmet R/o Fanjila, Leh UT Ladakh Prop of M/s Mad Waves Adventure applying for the registration with the Assistant Director Tourism Office, Leh. Any objection in this regard may file their report in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Dechen Chorol D/o Tsering Tonyot R/o Alchi, Leh UT Ladakh Prop of M/s Sukay Adventure applying for the registration with the Assistant Director Tourism Office, Leh. Any objection in this regard may file their report in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kaviya K, D/o Hav (OPR) M Karun Sivanu, Service no. 15139779Y R/o Village- Vadakku Puthur, Post-Vadakku, Puthur, District- Tirunelveli, State- Tamil Nadu &Pin-627756 have changed my name from Kavya K to Kaviya K vide Affidavit dated 1 December 2022 before District Court Leh.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suriya Prasath K S/o Hav (OPR) M Karun Sivanu, R/o Village-Vadakku Puthur, Post-Vadakku, Puthur, District-Tirunelveli, State-Tamil Nadu &Pin-627756 have changed my name from Surya Prasad to Suriya Prasath K vide Affidavit dated 1 December 2022 before District Court Leh.

NOTICE

An application has been received from one **Tashi Angmo D/o Paldan Chotak R/o B93 Colony B3 Leh, UT Ladakh** to transfer the vehicle **No. JK 10A-8736** owned by **Mohd Zan S/o Mohd Akbar R/o Thiksey UT Ladakh**. Now, it is therefore notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) within a period of 10 days from date of publication of this notice.

No: ARTO/ UT/Leh/ 3118-19 Date: 09-12-22 Asstt. Regional Transport Officer Leh Ladakh

In Conversation with Yutaka Hirako

...Continued from Page 5

This year Stanzin Chosphel, EC, Art and Culture, LAHDC, Leh, and I worked together on heritage regulations in the countryside for Mane and Stupas and created a special fund on the Panchayat level for restoration.

Q. How do you see the future of conservation and tourism's effect on it?

The important thing is to have a living heritage where locals are residing and tourists or visitors are welcome but they respect the space. As historic places are interesting and have different cultural atmospheres to experience and learn to grow culturally to other customs.

It is important for people to still live otherwise like many places after becoming heritage sites the local people start disappearing. Many tourists bring monetary opportunity but eventually become Disney land and are occupied for business. Eventually, the city loses its charm and it would be artificial and slowly it would die and we have asked ourselves historic town owed by whom? That's why I emphasize having a living heritage. We work closely with local people. We built our office in the middle of the old town in a heritage house by living close we know more about the conditions of other heritage houses.

I know Ladakh is very much dependent on tourism and the old town has potential in the tourism sector but it must be handled with care. Old town Leh cannot be only for tourists without the native locals in it.

The natural challenges are still there to regain habitation as the town is laid on rock structures so laying water pipes lines and sewage or drainage is very tough, especially for tourists, that is why we recommend dry toilets.

$\label{eq:Q.What is your message to the locals of Ladakh?} \\$

These days people coin the heritage word now and then but I feel the word heritage means which is something inherited from ancestors, like stupas or palaces. So it is important to conserve not just the buildings but the stories, and folk tales, which must be passed down to future generations. But it is not just in Ladakh but everywhere I see people tend to remove old and change to new. On one hand, it must be true. Not just tangible heritage but intangible heritage the language customs, eating habits, rituals, and celebrations like Losar.

The custom of churpon and the irrigation water distribution system in the village is also very important. As Ladakh is very hard to live so these customs of supporting each other created a social bond that is hard to find out in the world.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CO. LTD. (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Regional Office Chandigarh

S.C.O. 332-334, Sector-34-A, Chandigarh-160022

Reach Ladakh Bulletin

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NOTICE

It is for the information to all policy Holders, Intermediaries, Associates, Ombudsman and General Public and other Government Offices that our following office at column no. 2 will not be functional w.e.f. 16.02.2023

Sr. No	Office to be Non- Functional	Office Code	New Servicing/Re- Designated Office	Office Code
1.	Business Centre National Insurance Co. Ltd, Thaskan Ground, Kargil Leh Distt Kargil, Jammu & Kashmir- 194103	426072	Branch Office National Insurance Co Ltd, Old Road, Leh-194101, Mobile- 9622990806	420805

(N.K.MARWARI) Chief Regional Manager

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE, LADAKH
(Registrar of Societies)

Telephone No. 01982-252147, Email: directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public of UT Ladakh and particularly of Leh District that **Drigung Kagyud Cultural and Welfare Society, Lehdo Gonpa** has applied for registration of their society under Societies Registration Act 1860. Therefore, Objections are invited from organizations, individuals or any other agency with regard to the Name of the Society, Name of the Members and Location/ Address of the society as per details indicated below:

Name of the Society	Name of the Executive Members	Designation	Address of the Society
Godicer	Ven Konchok Rinchen	President	Lehdo Gonpa Sarai Skalzangling, Leh Ladakh
Drigung	Tashi Gyaltson	Vice President	
Kagyud Cultural and Welfare Society, Lehdo Gonpa	Tsewang Stanzin	General Secretary	
	Stanzin Nurboo	Joint Secretary	
	Tsering Mutup	Treasurer	
	Tashi Angchok	Advisor	
	Tashi Namgail	Member	

Objections if any, must reach to the Directorate of Industries and Commerce or General Manager, District Industries Centre, Leh in person or through registered post or through e-mail (<u>directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com</u> or <u>dicleh2013@gmail.com</u>) within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notification in the daily newspaper. Objections received after the expiry of the date shall not be considered.

General Manager
District Industries Centre
Leh



THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE, LADAKH (Registrar of Societies)

Telephone No. 01982-252147, Email: directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public of UT Ladakh and particularly of Leh District that **Kurtan Mulbekh Welfare Society** has applied for registration of their society under Societies Registration Act 1860. Therefore, Objections are invited from organizations, individuals or any other agency with regard to the Name of the Society, Name of the Members and Location/ Address of the society as per details indicated below:

Name of the Society	Name of the Executive Members	Designation	Address of the Society
	Stanzin Tharchin	President	Near Hotel Caravan, Skara, Leh Ladakh
Kurtan	Tsering Nurboo	Vice President	
Mulbekh	Thupstan Murup Secretary	Secretary	
Welfare	Rigzen Norphel	Joint Secretary	
Society	Skalzang Dadull	Cashier	
	Stanzin Namgail	Member	
	Jigmet Singhay Namgail	Member	

Objections if any, must reach to the Directorate of Industries and Commerce or General Manager, District Industries Centre, Leh in person or through registered post or through e-mail (directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com or dicleh2013@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notification in the daily newspaper. Objections received after the expiry of the date shall not be considered.

General Manager
District Industries Centre



THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE, LADAKH (Registrar of Societies)

Telephone No. 01982-252147, Email: directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public of UT Ladakh and particularly of Leh District that Ex Ibex Lotsava Welfare Society Mangyue has applied for registration of their society under Societies Registration Act 1860. Therefore, Objections are invited from organizations, individuals or any other agency with regard to the Name of the Society, Name of the Members and Location/ Address of the society as per details indicated below:

Name of the Society	Name of the Executive Members	Designation	Address of the Society
	Tashi Rinchen	President	Lhagang Khor, Mangyu, Leh Ladakh
Ex Ibex	Phunchok Namgial	Vice President	
Lotsava	Stanzin Noryang	General Secretary	
Welfare	Tsewang Nurboo	Joint Secretary	
Society	Mifam Wangboo	Cashier / Treasurer	
Mangyue	Sonam Jorgais	Organizer	
	Sonam Nurboo	Member	
	Tsering Angchuk	Member	

Objections if any, must reach to the Directorate of Industries and Commerce or General Manager, District Industries Centre, Leh in person or through registered post or through e-mail (<u>directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com</u> or <u>dicleh2013@qmail.com</u>) within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notification in the daily newspaper. Objections received after the expiry of the date shall not be considered.

General Manager
District Industries Centre



THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE, LADAKH (Registrar of Societies)

Telephone No. 01982-252147, Email: directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public of UT Ladakh and particularly of Kargil District that **Langmi Purang Gonpa Welfare Society** has applied for registration of their society under Societies Registration Act 1860. Objections are invited from organizations, individuals or any other agency with regard to the Name of the Society, Name of the Members and Location/ Address of the society as per details indicated below:

Name of the Society	Name of the Executive Members	Designation	Address of the Society
	Tsering Angdus	President	
Langmi Purang	Jamyang Chinba	Vice President	Langmi Gonpa,
Gonpa Welfare Society	Thukjay Toldan	Secretary	Langmi Village Zanskar, Kargi District, Ladaki
	Lobzang Konchok	Joint Secretary	
	Stanzin Ingsal	Cashier	
	Lobzang Tashi	Media Person	
	Sonam Stobgais	Culture	

Objections if any, must reach to the Directorate of Industries and Commerce or General Manager, District Industries Centre, Kargil in person or through registered post or through e-mail (directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com or kargilindustries@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notification in the daily newspaper. Objections received after the expiry of the date shall not be considered.

Industries and Commerce (Registrar of Societies) UT Ladakh 1/7343/2022



THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE, LADAKH (Registrar of Societies)

Telephone No. 01982-252147, Email: directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public of UT Ladakh and particularly of Leh District that **Polo and Cultural Movement of Turtuk** has applied for registration of their society under Societies Registration Act 1860. Objections are invited from organizations, individuals or any other agency with regard to the Name of the Society, Name of the Members and Location/ Address of the society as per details indicated below:

Name of the Society	Name of the Executive Members	Designation	Address of the Society
Polo and	Ghulam Mohammad	President	Turtuk Nubra, Leh Ladakh
Cultural	Mohd Hassan	Vice President	
Movement of	Mohd Bashir	General Secretary	
Turtuk	Abdul Aziz	Joint Secretary	
	Mohd Suliman	Cashier	
	Mohd Hussain	Accountant	
Translant, and C. Very exposure control of the cont	Abdullah khan	Executive Member	

Objections if any, must reach to the Directorate of Industries and Commerce or General Manager, District Industries Centre, Leh in person or through registered post or through e-mail (directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com or dicleh2013@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notification in the daily newspaper. Objections received after the expiry of the date shall not be considered.

OSD to Director Industries and Commerce (Registrar of Societies) UT Ladakh







