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Ladakh Mountain Guides Association gears up for Ladakh's 4th Ice Climbing Festival

The Festival aims to bring a diverse community together to celebrate ice climbing sport

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: As the temperature drops drastically during the winter months of Ladakh, members of the Ladakh Mountain Guide Association are out of their comfort zones and busy preparing an ice wall at Gangles for the upcoming 4th Ladakh Ice climbing festival in February 2023.

Ladakh Ice Climbing Festival aims to bring a diverse community together to celebrate the life sport of Ice Climbing in the Himalayas. Braving the bone-chilling cold winds, LMGA starts their work at 5:00 Am. They channel the water from the stream and the tumbling waterfall freezes and cover a steep slope in a sheet of ice. The dull valley of Gangles is turned into climbing dreams where an ice axe, crampons, and young talents take the climbing to another level.

Talking about the work and whole processes, LMGA, President, Skalzang Rigzin said, "We started work in December and all the members are working tirelessly. The members are divided into a group of 6 members each and work on a rotational basis. It's a stretch of 6 km from the mainstream to the place where Ice Mountain is being formed. We are working on the maintenance of these water streams, and repair work is done wherever it's necessary. Laying plastic in the same to prevent water seepage is very important which is what we are working on as well".

"It's been an arduous journey with the cold weather. Our work starts at 5 am every morning and till 11 am and in the



in a sheet of ice.

evening it starts at 5 pm and till 10 pm. The tent has been set up and meals are being prepared on our own. Around 80 members are actively working which include women too", he added.

The 4th edition of the Ice climbing festival is going to take place in Gangles Leh from 1st- 5th February 2023. The event will include Ice Climbing and host competitions. Climbing gear, instructions will be provided to all the participants. The event is open to all the mountain enthusiasts from beginners to experience as well as outdoor adventure lovers. The ice climbing park is open and free of cost to everyone during the festivals. The festival is organised to promote Ladakh as a hub of adventure sports and boost winter tourism.

Members of LMGA are also concerned about climate change. With this festival, the members of LMGA also want to spread the message of the importance of glaciers, the fragile ecosystem of Ladakh, and sustainable living.

Tsewang Namgyal, Member LMGA said, "The glacier prepared for the ice climbing festival lasts up to April, thus water from this artificial glacier is useful for farming activities in springtime."

LMGA states that the Ice Climbing sport is slowly gaining popularity in the world and will gain its foothold in Olympics eventually. They aim to make people aware of this sport and let their kids take participate in it.

Winter in Ladakh is harsh but the region offers ample scope and opportunities for winter sports like ice skating, snow ski, Ice hockey, snow and ice sculptures, frozen river trek, ice climbing, and many more. Youths of Ladakh are equally striving hard to promote these sports and many participated at international levels.

"Ladakhi's are already adapted to cold

temperatures living in such high altitude areas, so they already have the strength and stamina to excel in this sport. We have started the Ice Climbing festival with the hope that people will learn about this, participate in international games and win medals for India. Also, we aim to promote winter sports in Ladakh", Rigzin added.

There is no dearth of talent among the youths of Ladakh; the only thing needed is financial support, infrastructure, equipment, and all kinds of support at all levels.

LMGA said that in the beginning they hardly got any support, but that didn't stop them from working. They worked hard with the right intention and enthusiasm and with the help of many volunteers today they are all set to organise the 4th edition of the festival.

They expressed their gratitude to the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Leh for financial support and to the villagers of Gangles and Gompa for providing space for the festival. Also, Upper Leh Councilor Stanzin Tsepak; Thiksay Councilor, Stanzin Chospel, and Basgo Councillor, Tsering Norboo for donating ₹1 Lakh each

Ladakh Mountain Guides Association was formed in the year 2017 and got registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in 2021. The association is formed to train, educate, regulate and represent the interest of the mountain guiding profession.



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CHANNEL

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Reach Ladakh Bulletin

Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorjey Editor: Stanzin Dasal

Reporter: Deachen Spaldon

Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup Designer: Dhondup Tashi

Published at: Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport

Road, near Councillor Quarter Contact: 9858394403

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

REACH-LADAKD

LBA Education Committee launches Riglam School website

The website will serve as a platform of information, says President LBA



During the launch of Official website of the Riglam School at LBA office, Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Official website of the Riglam School & hostel was launched by Chering Dorjay Lakrook, Vice President LBA on December 21 at LBA Office Leh.

Riglam School was established in the year 2010 with a mission to cater to the educational need of the impoverished and underprivileged children belonging to the economically challenged families of the far-flung and deprived villages of the Ladakh region. It is managed and administered by the LBA (Ladakh Buddhist Association) with the assistance of the Education Committee.

To run both the LBA-supported schools, Riglam School, Leh, and Jamyang school, Khaltse more effectively and efficiently, LBA President, Thupstan Chhewang and the Education Committee came up with an initiative to create a website of the schools for wider reach. The website will give detailed information about the school, its function, use of funds, and call for donations with all transparency. The vision attracted more people with a similar sense of belief and contribution.

Tundup Dorjey, CEO, Overland Escape sponsored the creation of the website.

Chering Dorjay Lakrook lauded the contribution made by Tundup Dorjay for creating the website and appreciated the Education Committee members headed by Ishay Tundup for their work and

LBA Education Committee was constituted on 1st October 2021, by the President LBA, Thupstan Chhewang. The Committee members were hand-picked by him and his team and consist of eminent and well-reputed Educationists & enthusiastic people from other varied backgrounds of the social strata of Ladakh, who have etched their mark in their respective fields in the society. The Education Committee is headed by Ishey Tundup, Ex- Principal Lamdon School. The members include Sarla Chhewang, President, Mahila Mandal; Sonam Dorjay, Former ZEO, Dept. of Education; Stanzin Kunzang, Former Principal, Druk Padma Karpo School; Tsetan Yangdol, Principal, Riglam School; Chhewang Motup, CEO-RIMO Company; Gelek Phunchok, Entrepreneur & Social Activist; Mepham Gyaltson, Entrepreneur & Gandhi Fellow; Skarma Namtak, Founding member Jamyang school Khaltse; Kunzes Dolma, General Secretary, LBA women wing; Venerable Thupstan Wangchuk, Founder New Millennium School Leh; Chemet Dorjey, Entrepreneur & Social Worker; Phuntsog Wangail, Businessman; Tundup Dorjey, Businessman and Sonam Tsering, Businessman & Philanthropist

LBA Vice–President requested the public to visit the website (www.riglamschool.org) and support the children at the school and hostel.

Vidya Samiksha Kendra to be rolled out in Ladakh

Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar holds meeting with Educational Consultants India Ltd



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Principal Secretary to the Administration Sanjeev Khirwar held a preliminary meeting for the rollout of Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in Ladakh with the implementing agency Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) on December 21.

Vidya Samiksha Kendra is a Centralized Monitoring and Analytical System being launched in all States/UTs. The VSK envisages the centralization of all school and student-related data for planning and implementation of educational projects to monitor the status of all educational projects being implemented under Samagra Shiksha. Using technological interventions such as data analysis and artificial intelligence, the initiative aims at collating real-time data to assist in making data-driven decisions.

Officials of EdCIL, through a presentation, highlighted features of the Central system, such as real-time attendance monitoring for teachers and students, enrollment/drop out/ retention ratio, achievements, and final assessment of students, while also acting as a bridge between the students and the stakeholders for grievances pertaining to the ground implementation of various projects.

Further, the team informed that this system would provide seamless reporting for the existing Management Information System (MIS) with no duplicity of existing infrastructure and stated that the system would be set up as per Ladakh-centric specifications.

The project is scheduled to be implemented in three phases. Principal Secretary Khirwar directed the Director School Education Ladakh to examine the additional requirements of the School Education Department after implementing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software.

Director NIC, Chief Education Officers Leh & Kargil, Chief General Manager DES and other DES officials, IT Consultant, Ladakh, IT Coordinator SED Ladakh and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

India to hold G-20 meeting in Ladakh Advisor Umang Narula chairs preparatory meeting with officials

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula chaired a preparatory meeting for the G20 meeting to be held in Ladakh in April 2023. The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an intergovernmental forum of the world's 20 major developed and developing economies, making it the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

On December 1, India formally took over as G20 President. At the Bali summit last month, Indonesia transferred the G20 presidency to India in the presence of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. India will host over 200 meetings in over 50 cities across 32 different work streams.

At the outset of the meeting, Advisor Narula spoke on the priorities and significance of the G20 Summit for India and exhorted that the G2O meeting in Ladakh is a great opportunity for Ladakh to showcase its unique cultural and natural heritage which in turn shall be beneficial for the futurebranding of UT Ladakh. The Ad visor also emphasized the key el ement of India's G20 Presidency which is to take the G20 closer to the public and make it truly a 'People's G20' through various 'Jan Bhagidari' initiatives which refer to the participation of people in governance at the local level.

He added that the G20 forum aims to highlight inclusive growth and development, with women empowerment and representation being at the core of the G20 deliberations. To achieve that, Advisor Narula suggested careful planning of a Ladakh-centric narrative by promoting the unique and varied culture, cuisine, art, dance forms and by involving the youth, start-ups/entrepreneurs, etc.

The Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas (Nodal Officer for G20) gave an elaborate presentation on the action plan for the hosting of the G20 delegation from 25th to 28th April 2023 (Tentative) which included security, beautification of roads, infrastructure upgradation, accommodation, excursions, manpower planning, installation of signages, display of ODOP products, and branding at airports, among oters to ensure seamless planning and logistics for the event.

Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Ladakh, Sanjeev Khirwar stated that a wide range of programmes on Indian Presidency's G20 themes viz. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth One Family One Future', etc, shall commence in schools and colleges at the earliest.

On the 'Vocal for Local' aspect, Principal Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal suggested using local innovative products for souvenir items. He also stressed the importance of carbon neutrality and environmental friendliness in the choice of items used during the event and the use of e-vehicles for travel wherever possible.

In his concluding remarks, Advisor Narula exhorted that the age-old Indian tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' should resonate in hosting the G20 gathering in Ladakh. Also, the Advisor instructed the concerned officials to form a Committee of Secretaries to oversee the preparations regularly and also put in place arrangements to comprehensively document the event through effective and focussed media coverage.

The meeting was attended by all Administrative Secretaries; ADGP Ladakh; DIG Ladakh; DC, Kargil; ADC, Leh; Director, Tourism, Ladakh; and other concerned officials.

L-G reviews COVID preparedness in Ladakh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur assessing Covid preparedness in Ladakh with the concerned officers.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur held a meeting with a concerned officers on December 27 and assessed Covid preparedness in view of the surge of Covid-19 variant cases across the globe.

Advisor, Umang Narula; Additional Secretary, Health, Dr Iftakhar Ahmed Chaudhary; Director, Health Services, Dr Motup Dorje and DIG Ladakh Police, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood, were present in the meeting.

LG Mathur directed to activate all the isolation facilities and oxygen beds along with ICU for Covid-19 patients in Ladakh. He also directed to conduct Covid-19 testing, wherever required. He stated that the recently installed genome sequencer machine that has been certified for Covid-19 testing may be utilised and also instructed to conduct genome sequencing in positive cases to ascertain the Covid-19 variant. LG Mathur further directed that Covid-19 testing may be conducted at different Covid-19 labs, including DIHAR.

LG Mathur instructed that all the oxygen plants at various locations may be activated and oxygen cylinders may be sent to wherever required. He directed to provide wide publicity to Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and conduct an awareness drive for administering the precautionary dose to beneficiaries to ensure the saturation of Covid-19 vaccination in Ladakh.

He instructed that all essential

medical items may be procured and directed that all the village surveillance committees/teams may be activated. He directed that Border Roads Organisation (BRO) may be instructed to take care of their labourers and also to ensure that their Covid-19 tests are conducted.

Director, Health Services, Dr Motup Dorje gave a detailed presentation on precautionary measures taken such as Covid-19 identified beds, including the availability of isolation beds, oxygen-supported isolation beds, ICU beds and ventilators; ambulances available, the number of tests being conducted to detect Covid-19 cases; availability of medicines; IT interventions, the capacity of oxygen plants at various health centres in Ladakh, etc.

Saboo Red, Ladakh Police emerge winners in 1st LG Cup Archery Tournament

LG highlights initiatives taken to develop sports infrastructure



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 1st LG Cup Archery Tournament organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports and Archery Association of Ladakh was held on December 21 at NDS Stadium.

A total of 14 men's, 15 women's and specially-abled teams from Leh and Kargil took part in the tournament. Saboo Red and Ladakh Police emerged as winners of the men's and women's team events, respectively. Toyeba Fatima from Kargil and Padma Dorjey from Leh won the women's and men's individual gold medals, respectively. Sonam Chosphel won gold in the specially-abled category. 75-yearold veteran archer Sanaullah was also felicitated during the event.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur handed over certificates and trophies to the winning men's and women's teams. He advised that the LG Cup Archery Tournament may be organised as per international-level standards from next year onwards to enable archers from Ladakh to bring national and international glory to the region. He expressed hope to see the participation of more youth from Ladakh in both national and international tournaments in the future.

LG Mathur stated that three LG Cups, including LG Polo Cup, LG Cup Ice Hockey Tournament and LG Cup Archery Tournament, have been organised in Ladakh to date. He stated that young players from Ladakh are bringing laurels to the region through their participation in various national and international tournaments. He also stated that there is tremendous potential for sports among the Ladakhi youth.

Mathur highlighted various initiatives taken by the UT Administration along with the Hill Councils to improve sports infrastructure, particularly traditional sports, and the distribution of modern and professional equipment and sports gear among the sportspersons from Ladakh. He informed about ongoing work on the development of various sports infrastructure, including the ice hockey rink and Astroturf football stadiums in Leh and Kargil to enable players from Ladakh to perform well in national and international tournaments.

LG Mathur emphasised the importance of providing experienced coaches, psychologists and doctors to build the core of the players from Ladakh.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, stated that Ladakh has seen tremendous growth in the sports sector after the formation of Ladakh as a Union Territory. He also stated that players from Ladakh are representing at both national and international levels and bringing laurels to the region. He informed that archers from Ladakh have immense potential to perform well in national and international tournaments. He expressed happiness over the participation of a large number of women's teams in the LG Cup Archery Tournament.

MoU signed between UT Administration Ladakh & J&K Bank

L-G hands over keys of e-rickshaws to University of Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UT Administration and Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd in Leh on December 19.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur handed over the keys of the two e-rickshaws donated by J&K Bank to the University of Ladakh and also the commitment letter under which J&K Bank would provide support to 50 tuberculosis (TB) patients from Kargil as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

Under the MoU, J&K Bank would give the most favored client status to UT Administration and its active permanent employees who have their salary accounts in J&K Bank; UT Administration would nominate J&K Bank as a preferred banker for all its banking-related services; J&K Bank will organize various financial literacy camps at its centers to support and provide counselling to UT employees, and J&K Bank would provide customized saving bank accounts services, including saving platinum, diamond, and gold, to permanent employees of UT Ladakh.

LG Mathur appreciated J&K Bank for taking the initiative to extend the services to UT employees in Ladakh. He called J&K Bank a dominant player in the banking sector in Ladakh which is playing an important role in the economic development of the region.

LG Mathur suggested that both the Hill Councils, UT Administration and the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) may assist J&K Bank in launching a scheme and help in the identification of beneficiaries on a large scale who want to avail loans from the bank.

He also appreciated J&K Bank for its CSR activities and stated that the mobile banking facilities provided by them would enable the Bank to bridge the gap between them and the people in remote areas of Ladakh. He requested both the Hill Councils to identify areas and prepare a schedule accordingly to enable the public/customers to access the banking services provided by J&K Bank.

LG Mathur requested J&K Bank to review the progress of its RSE-TI Training Centre and expand the training programme to develop more entrepreneurs from Ladakh so that they can establish their units/enterprises. Earlier, EC, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphel, requested J&K Bank to increase the stake of UT Ladakh in the Bank to 15%, open more banking units in small villages in Ladakh and make the procedure of availing loans simpler.

Advisor Umang Narula stated that the economic development of a region is dependent on the financial system led by banks and other financial institutions. He also suggested that the banking services provided by J&K Bank in Ladakh may be strengthened.

Zonal Head Ladakh, J&K Bank, Dorje Angchuk, gave a detailed presentation on the salient features of the MoU, the services offered by J&K Bank along with the business focus areas and initiatives of the Bank.

Mohd. Ali Majaz appointed as Chairperson of UT Ladakh Haj Committee



During the meeting of the UT Ladakh Haj committee

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Mohd. Ali Majaz from Choskore, Kargil appointed as the Chairperson of the UT Ladakh Haj committee on December 27.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal on behalf of the Haj committee congratulated the newly elected Chairperson of the UT Ladakh Haj committee, Ali Majaz, and wished him leadership success. Mohd. Ali Majaz expressed his gratitude to the members for trusting him and electing him as a Chairperson. He hoped to serve together as a team in the best possible way.

Convening the meeting, MP Ladakh stressed the need of setting up a Haj committee office in Ladakh on an immediate basis. It was informed that the main office (HQ) will be set up in the Kargil district.

Detailed discussions also took place on having a quota for Haj pilgrims from UT Ladakh; notification of specified online application process for Haj pilgrims; grievance redressal system for the public; providing excellent quality of service to the pilgrims; establishment of an office for Haj Committee and setting up a separate Haj House in Leh district.

Advisor Ladakh discusses modalities for improving public transport operation

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In wake of the impending developments on the transfer of transport operations from the State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) to Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO), a meeting was chaired by Advisor Ladakh Umang Narula on December 18 to discuss the modalities for improving public transport operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Commissioner Secretary Ajeet Kumar Sahu stated that the existing routes being operated by SRTC of erstwhile JK were within Ladakh and inter-state routes are the Leh-Manali and Leh-Srinagar service routes. He further apprised that additional 20 buses and 10 trucks and 02 transport depots are being transferred to Ladakh by the SRTC as part of the apportionment approved by MHA.

While discussing the proposition of the functioning of the public transport operations in Ladakh, it was given to understand that the Transport Department and Housing and Urban Development

Department of Ladakh shall continue to act as regulatory bodies, while SIDCO shall be the implementing agency for functions



During the meeting on improving public transport operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

such as planning, development, operations, and implementation of transport infrastructure and other allied activities with the end motive to provide affordable and dignified public transport by ensuring financial viability.

It was informed during the meeting that a technical and financial viability assessment of the internal routes was undertaken by the Transport Department through Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) Limited for plying the existing fleet of electric buses.

Advisor Narula was apprised of the surveyed non-urban routes for operating e-buses, taking into consideration factors such as the gradient of the routes and battery consumption. Further, potential urban routes have been identified based on existing gaps, the importance of the route, average occupancy, length of the route, and required conditions for plying the e-buses along with the identification of locations for setting up charging stations.

Post deliberations, Advisor Narula directed SIDCO to plan and operate e-buses on tourist circuits as per the pilot done by the Transport department while making a holistic experience for tourists by combining other services. He further stressed making operations active on longer routes internally as well as exploring the feasibility of inter-state routes beyond the neighbouring states of Himachal and Jammu & Kashmir.

L-G reviews progress of Hanley Dark Sky Reserve at Hanley

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur reviewed the progress of the setting up of the Dark Sky Reserve at Hanley on December 27.

Secretary, Tourism and Labour, Mehboob Ali Khan; Chief Wildlife Warden, Sajad Mufti, and Engineer-in-charge, Indian Astronomical Observatory at Hanle, Dorje Angchuk were present at the meeting.

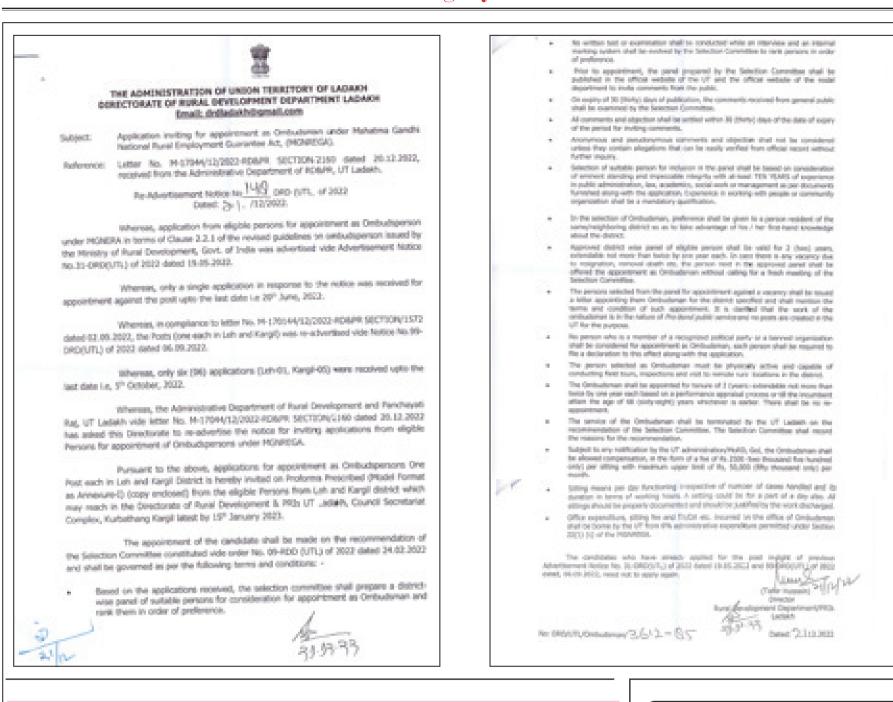
LG Mathur advised that the preparation of the setting up of the Hanley Dark Sky Reserve, including the purchase of curtains, lights, etc. may be expedited. He instructed the issue of formal standard operating procedure (SOP) with Do's and Don'ts in the specified area, upgradation of homestays, and operational telescopes.

He emphasized the need to offer varied services to tourists/visitors other than star gazing. He stressed the need to provide training to the villagers in this regard and advised that a visitors' centre or a planetarium may be set up for tourists/visitors.

LG Mathur highlighted the need to improve the telecommunication facility in Hanley along with providing a 4G network in the area.

Chief Wildlife Warden, Sajad Mufti gave a detailed presentation on various proposed activities at Hanley for the Dark Sky Reserve, including a tourism management plan; implementation of the light management plan; purchase of telescopes of different diameters; upgradation of homestays in the area; providing nature guide and hospitality training to the villagers; setting up stargazing observatories across the village clusters; improving mobile connectivity; preparation of the website, branding of the Sanctuary; notification of rules, Do's and Don'ts and bylaws; formation of eco-development committee, etc. He also informed about the constitution of various committees, task forces, and inter-departmental cooperation for the management and implementation of the Dark Sky Sanctuary.

Fornightly News





1.A teaspoonful of neutron star. Neutron stars are the remnants of giant stars that died in a fiery explosion known as a supernova. Neutron stars and their density are usually measured in solar masses. They have a mass of about twice that of the sun (bigger than 10 suns) and are the smallest and dense stars known to exist in the universe. If we dig up one teaspoon of mass from a neutron star, the mass will weigh around 6 billion tons which proves how dense the star can be! 2.There are certain metals like potassium, sodium, lithium, rubidium, and cesium that are reactive, and they tarnish instantly when exposed to air and explode when dropped in water!

3.Hawaii is moving closer to Alaska by 7.5cm every year. Yes! This is caused by tectonic plates which are in constant motion, driven by currents that rise and fall under them. Hawaii remains in the center of the Pacific plate and every year due to this constant motion, Hawaii is slowly and steadily heading to the North American platform, back to Alaska.



4.A cockroach can live for up to one week without its head. Cockroaches are infamous for their tenacity and are often pointed to as the most possible nuclear war refugees. Due to their open circulatory system, and the fact that they breathe through little holes in each of their body segments, they are not dependent on the mouth or head to breathe.

5.Sunflowers are known as hyperaccumulators. Like many other hyperaccumulating plants, sunflowers remove metal compounds from deep in the soil and transport them into the stem, leaves and, flower head. They can take up high concentration of toxic materials and are adept at extracting radioactive metals from a particular place in a period of 3-4years. Hyperaccumulating plants are used to clear up waste during a process called phytoremediation.

Source (indiatoday.in)





World Braille Day

• World Braille Day is celebrated every year on January 4th because it's Louis Braille's birthday. He's the inventor of Braille! LouIs was born in 1809 in France and became blind after a childhood accident. But, he quickly mastered his new way of living. When Louis was only 15 years old, he created a reading and writing system based on Charles Barbier's night writing system. We know Louis' system today as braille. Adjusted over time, Braille is now easier to read and used all over the world!

• Unfortunately, Louis Braille didn't get to see just how helpful his invention became. He died in 1852; two years before his alma mater, France's Royal Institute for the Blind Youth, adopted a Braille curriculum. By 1916, schools around the United States taught braille to their students with blindness.

• The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, has advanced the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The Convention considers Braille essential for education, freedom of expression and opinion, access to information and social inclusion. In November 2018 (Resolution A/RES/73/161), the General Assembly decided to proclaim 4 January as World Braille Day, recognizing that the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms relies on an inclusive written promotion.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Making your dreams come true



It is quite a common saying that one should never give up one's hopes because what looks like a dream today can very well be tomorrow's reality. But it is easier said than done; and yet, for the brave and the determined, it has been a proven fact all through the ages since mankind started using consciousness about the nature of things in this vast and complex cosmos of ours.

Dreams are at the very roots of anything big that one wishes to happen in the near or distant future. For that, the only requirements are a few qualities of head and heart like the willingness to achieve and the resources of hard work and sincerity. The fact of the saying that nothing is impossible if the right tools are put together to get a mission fulfilled can't be overemphasised.

I have no hesitation in saying that some of my dreams came true even in the darkest period of COVID-19 when they were least expected as we humans were helpless victims lost in the scare of Corona sting. The fear of saving dear life somehow was all that we were left to think of. Nothing else could be seen important enough as long as one could continue to see the next morning!

It is pertinent to point out that one of the first guys behind the saying that dreams come true if you wish hard enough was James M Barrie, a Scottish novelist. And the point is that, as Ghanaian activist Laila Gifty Akita had said, "You can go as far as you dream, think and imagine." This is greatly encouraging and I keep myself reminding of this quite often, particularly when things don't seem to be going well.

The fact of the matter is that once you realise that 'dreams do come true', things fall in line and the not-so-smooth journey of life becomes easier and comes under your control. The attitude of 'do or die' does help one realise one's dreams.

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

Fornightly News

In Conversation with

Dr. Tsering Dorje, Manager, Rewa Society Ladakh

Interviewed by Deachen Spaldon

Q. Give us a brief introduction about the organization- Rewa society.

Rewa Society is an NGO founded in 2003 by a German doctor- Karola Wood. During her visit to Lingshed, she met a family having a child with cerebral palsy. Determined to help the child, she visited again the following year with volunteers from Germany when she realized many more children were left untreated and needed help that's when the idea of Rewa society came into being. The dedicated volunteering work of doctors from Germany took place each year. In 2008, the registration of the organization was done officially.

Our organization sent people to Delhi for professional training, fully sponsored in the initial period. Frequent visits were made to far-flung areas in Changthang, Nubra, etc – to identify the cases and create awareness. This ultimately led to the formation of Rewa society as an institution in Leh. As the number of cases in Kargil was much larger than in Leh, in 2010, the organization expanded its foothold in Kargil in collaboration with a private school- Munshi Habibullah, they provided us the space to start the institution here.

Q. How does the organization function?

The services provided by the NGO work in two categories- community-based and institution-based. On the community level rehab services are provided to everyone of all age categories. Equipment such as hearing aid, crutches, wheelchairs, etc of high quality is provided. Proper guidance is also given to people. Surgical intervention is also part of the work whereby we collaborate with government district hospitals that provide OTs for surgeries. In addition to that, medical facilities such as types of equipment and surgeons are provided free of cost by NGO called ISHWAR based in Delhi.

On an institutional level, more focus is given to the children. As physical rehabilitation was not enough, timely intervention in the field of education was necessary as well. We prioritize moral education first. A complete transformation in the children's behavior and their thinking was seen once we introduced uniforms for them. Knowing that they have to get ready in the morning, and change into uniforms made them feel the same as other children. Keeping inclusivity in mind, during holidays a family project is given where both child and parents have to actively participate and finish the project by the end of the holidays. The main aim of this project is to prevent negligence of the children and enhance focus on them.

In 2019, we collaborated with the Indian army to open a rehabilitation center in the Batalik sector – a region that is most neglected. After the ground-level survey and assessment were done, the Indian army provided a rehab center at Dartsik while technical and equipment facilities have been provided by us.



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

▶ We need to come up as a society as a whole and bring change if not by actively participating but by being aware of the importance of inclusivity of disabled people. An inclusive and properly accessible environment in any school is also requisite. To limit the challenges, active collaborations between various organizations and government is the need of the hour. Among all, the most important is early intervention- so that they can have hopes for a brighter

future. 99

Q. Accessibility in Leh city for disabled people is an issue. How do you see it and what needs

Indeed accessibility is the biggest problem and a disabled-friendly environment is almost none in the city. Be it any offices, schools, toilets, or footpaths accessibility is nil, which is leading to further exclusion of disabled people from society. Even if ramps are found in certain places, they are not of a specific ratio which is hard for anyone to use. One of our plans – a pilot project is to modify ten houses for these children by building disabled-friendly ramps, toilets, etc (while maintaining the international ratio) next year. Our aim is for children to be less dependent on their families and hope that people will get inspired and decide to bring this change themselves.

Together with the administration-education department, many activities/ program has been done. For instance, a Mega sports event for disabled students was organized recently. Other than that there are teachers from the education department who have been appointed to specialize in this sector. With more such support, this community can get a lot of help, and children can excel in various fields too.

Q. How much awareness do you see among the people regarding the plight of this community?

Attention deficit is a problem seen among a lot of children. Parents don't seem to accept this and due to fear of social stigmas, they tend to become ignorant. In reality, these children need special care as well, which is why we stress early intervention in this organization. Initially, when the assessments were taking place, not many families came forward and opened up. In Kargil, the scenario was worse, which has taken a drastic positive shift now. People voluntarily bring forth their children to get help now. Our community-level awareness program solely focuses on the inclusiveness of the children. In this NGO- 35 children are being brought regularly by the transport facility provided for them. The state-level awareness program is also there to focus on the future of children post-matriculation. In this regard, a plan is to set up an institution for various skill development training and other income generation work based on the interest of a child.

We have seen that in many programs or any event, the focus is on the children only. No one addresses the stress and anxiety that the parents must be going through. For this, a counseling unit is to be set up with professional psychologists. Together with the handloom depart-

... Continued from page 6

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH Power Development Department Power to 1000 (2000) Inst. see address(and and

Subject: Combined Tentative Seniority List of Engineering Cadre, Non-Geoetted Employees Le. Junior Engineers (Degree/Diploma Holders) of Power Development Department, UT Ladakh.

CIRCULAR

Whereas, after the final apportionment of manpowen/human resource between UT of Ladakh and UT of JUK, the separate sementy of the employees of Power Development Department, apportioned to UT of Ladakh has not been maintained for all Junior Engineers (Degree/Diploma Holders) of Power Development Department, UT Ladakh.

Whereas, the date of birth as well as category recorded/indicated against the officer/official in seniority list shall be subject to further verification/scrutiny of documents viz. Matriculation Certificate in original, 1st page of service book and order of appointment, other relevant record as prescribed under norms.

Whenexe, in case the information regarding (qualification/date of appointment) as given in the relevant column in the tentative seniority list, is found incorrect, the testimonials in original shall be furnished for necessary rectification.

Whereas, the available teritative seniority List of Junior Engineers, as per the Enstwhile State of Jammu & Kashimir, published in the official website of JKPODias furnish by office of the Chief Engineer. POD and first appointment of the Officials has been considered as baselground for preparing the tentative seniority list of JEs (Divisional/UT) of PDD (other than district cadre), UT Ladakh.

Therefore, in light of the above, the combined tentative seniority list of Engineering Cadre, Non Gazetted Employees i.e. Junior Engineers (Degree/Diploma Holders) of Power Development Department, UT Ladakh, stood, as on 21.12.2022 is hereby notified as Annexure "A", "B" to this Catular for inviting stjections, if any, from the member of the service

Accordingly, all the members of the services are directed to file their objections, if any, within a period of 21 days from the date of the issuance of this circular with documentary proof in support of their claim. If there is no objection in the tentative seniority, after 21 days, no objection shall be ontertained, and final seniority list shall be issued.

> Sori (Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS) Secretary, YS&S, UT Ladath

No: SecyiAdm.UTU PODUE-SL_267/ 23/01-96

Dated: 31 /12/0522 De Bando Todoba OSD'to Principal Secretary, Pose Destances Utilization

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CEC Kargil reviews arrangements for AN-32 Kargil Courier Service, IL-76 operation

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

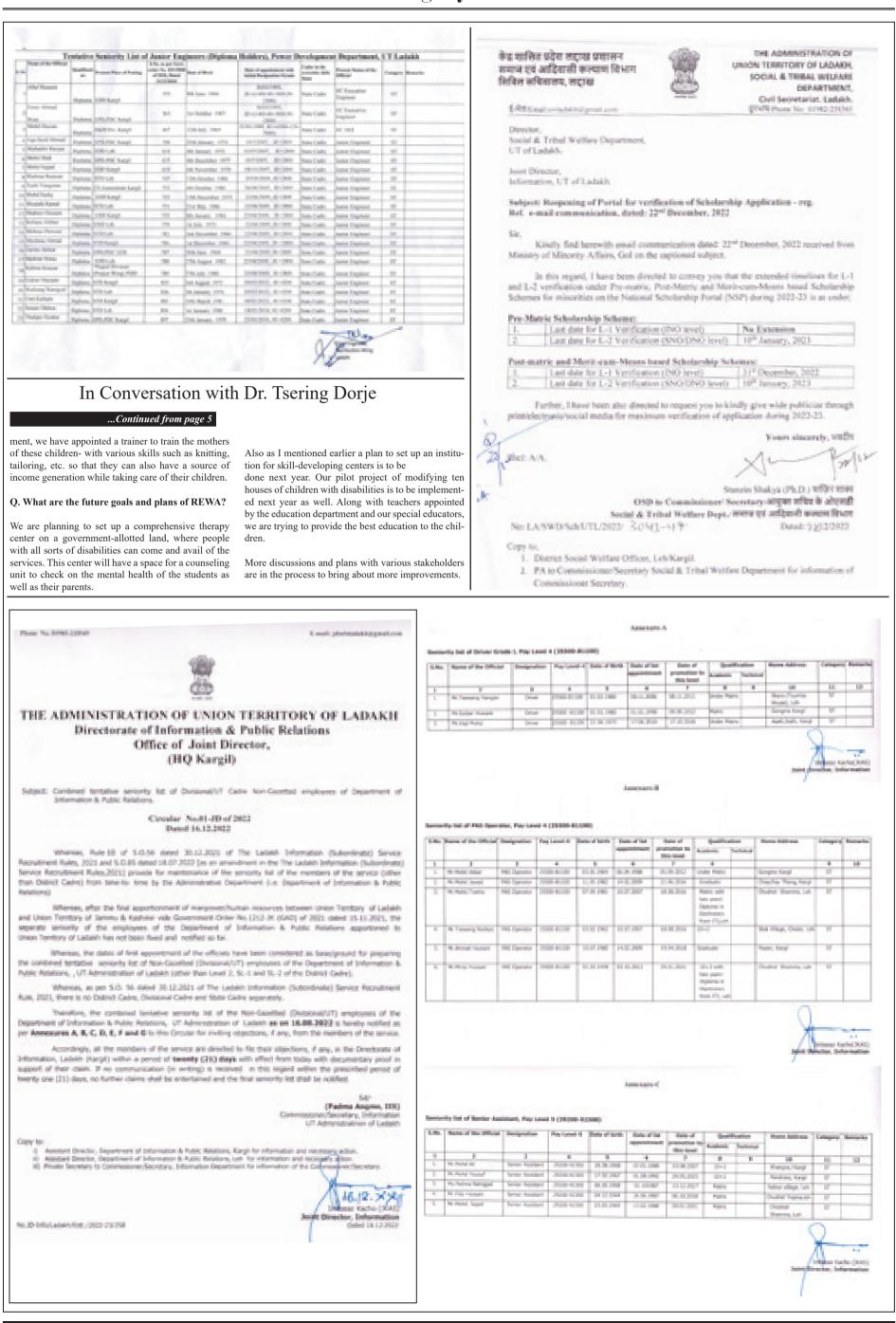
KARGIL: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan discussed arrangements of AN-32 Kargil Courier Service and IL-76 for evacuation of passengers and patients across Kargil, Srinagar, and Jammu during a meeting at Council Secretariat on December 27.

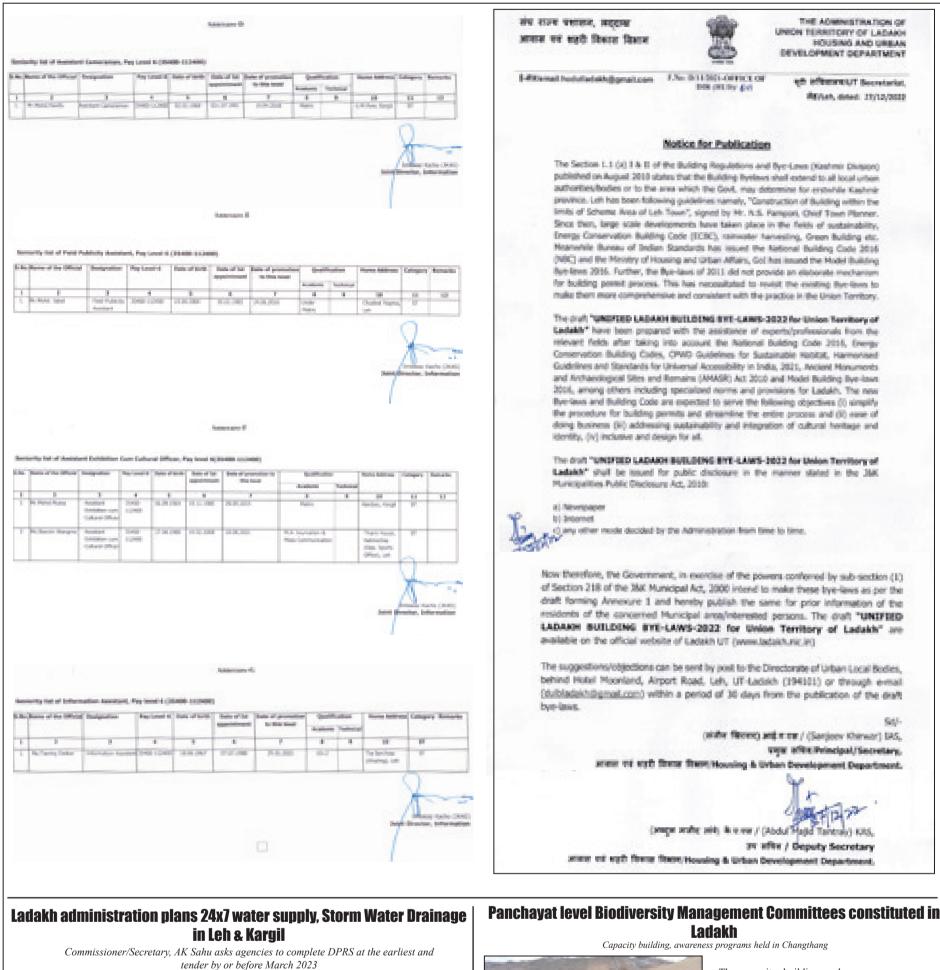
Discussions and deliberations were held with officials on the successful and smooth execution of the AN-32 Kargil Courier Service.

It was informed that Liaison and Assistant Liaison Officers for Srinagar, Jammu, and Kargil, have already been identified and necessary training regarding the execution of the services has been imparted to them. The CEC directed to make sure heating facilities, water supply, and hassle-free electricity at the airport. He also asked about precautionary measures regarding Covid-19 management at the airport in view of Omicron BF.7 variant cases in the country.

Commissioner Secretary Civil Aviation, UT Ladakh was requested to start the operation from the first week of January and not to wait for the closure of Zojila pass as there is demand from passengers, particularly on the Kargil-Jammu route.

Later, Concerned officers inspected the airport and took an assessment of the required arrangements and facilities for the successful operation of AN-32 Kargil Courier Service.







Commissioner/Secretary AK Sahu

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Commissioner/Secretary AK Sahu reviewed the status of DPRs for 24x7 Water Supply in Leh and Kargil towns, being implemented by the UT Administration to make the urban areas of Ladakh water secure and provide universal coverage of water supply.

TATA Consulting Engineering Limited and Shah Technical Consultants will be preparing the DPRs for Leh and Kargil towns respectively.

The urban areas are not covered under the flagship scheme of the Jal Jeevan Mission which is already being implemented in rural areas of Ladakh. Thus, UT Administration decided to take up 24X7 water supply scheme to cover the urban areas.

The project will be sourcing water from natural resources such as springs and glacial streams and sub-surface water from near the river streams etc by laying down distribution lines through the township in trenches.

Commissioner Sahu urged the concerned departments to work in coordination for the best utilization of the resources and plan the trenches in a manner that will be collectively used by the departments of PDD, MC, telecom companies, etc.

Commissioner Sahu stressed that the estimated consumption of the commercial establishments and

the requirement of the floating population must be considered while projecting the future requirement.

Further, for a better understanding of groundwater consumed through bore wells, Commissioner Sahu directed the PHE Department for detailed mapping of bore wells dug in Leh and Kargil cities, including government, private and commercial establishments.

Commissioner Sahu stated that temperature resistance must be a selection criterion and urged the agencies to take the help of technical agencies for appraisal of pipe material before finalizing.

Commissioner Sahu also reviewed the status of the DPR of Storm Water Drainage in both towns. He asked the agencies to complete the DPRS at the earliest and submit it for tendering by or before March 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent LEH: Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been constituted across the Union Territory of Ladakh under the Biological Diversity

GEF SECURE Himalaya Project.

and documentation of its rich biological diversity. The panchayat-level BMCs have been constituted by joint efforts of the Ladakh Biodiversity Council, Rural Development Department, and GoI-UNDP-

Act, 2002 to promote conservation, sustainable use,

The SECURE Himalaya Project facilitated and piloted the implementation of the Act in the Union Territory of Ladakh, supporting the constitution of Ladakh Biodiversity Council, the constitution of BMCs, the preparation of PBRs, and beyond. Under this project, capacity-building and awareness programs were conducted in the four blocks of Changthang namely Rong-Chumathang, Rupsho-Puga, Nyoma, and Durbuk comprising 20 Biodiversity Management Committees at the Panchavat level.

The capacity building and awareness programs were held between 23 October to 10 December 2022 across six different events at various venues close to respective villages.

These workshops started with a filling of a preliminary questionnaire to understand their existing knowledge and awareness about the constituted Committees. During the programme, the members were sensitized about the Biological Diversity Act, of 2002 wherein interactions were held on the roles and responsibilities of BMCs, preparation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers, declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites, and Access and Benefit Sharing process.

Critically, the Secretaries and Chairpersons of these Biodiversity Management Committees, along with other members were also provided financial training vis-à-vis banking and financial operations such as the opening of a bank account, maintenance of registers, and submission of Utilization Certificates.

The total number of participants was 86 out of 140 members of BMCs across Changthang, out of which 32 were females and 54 were males.

Reference materials such as the Biological Diversity Act, Biodiversity Rules, Guidelines for the operationalization of BMCs, and Guidelines for the declaration and management of BHS were circulated to the Secretaries of the BMCs.

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