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reach Ladakh
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May 01-15, 2023

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

In Conversation with

Sonam Stobgais, Theatre practitioner

Fortnightly Special

Caste-based inequality

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Leh celebrates 34th birthday anniversary of 11th Panchen Lama



CEC Tashi Gyaltsen offering mandal during the 34th birthday anniversary celebration of H.H. the 11th Panchen Lama Gendun Choekyi Nyima.

Yangchen Dolma

LEH: Leh celebrated the 34th birthday anniversary of H.H. the 11th Panchen Lama Gendun Choekyi Nyima at Lamdon School in Leh. The program was organized by Tashi Lunpo Monastery in collaboration with Lamdon School, Leh.

Deputy Chairman /EC Education, Tsering Angchuk; LAHDC, Chairman Advocate Tashi Gyaltsen; MP, Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; religious heads and various other dignitaries were present.

CEC Tashi Gyaltsen offered Mandal followed by lighting of the holy lamp and cake cutting ceremony.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama, was recognized on May 14, 1995, at the age of six as the 11th Panchen Lama, the reincarnation of his predecessor, the 10th Panchen Lama, who died in 1989. The recognition by His Holiness Dalai Lama was rejected by the Chinese government. Three days later, the six-year-old and his family were kidnapped by Chinese authorities and taken into custody. Meanwhile, the Chinese appointed a proxy child in his place.

Tashi Gyalson in his speech said that the abduction of Panchen Lama by the Chinese is a huge loss to the entire humanitarian organization in the world. He said that the United Nations Convention to find out about Panchen Lama is a ray of hope for Buddhist followers to see him soon.

He also expressed concern about the violations of human rights in Tibet and their struggle. He further urged the global community to stand in solidarity for the release of Panchen lama.

A quiz competition themed, 'Importance of Bhoti language' was also organised during the program. Students from different schools including, Delhi Public School, Mahabodi School, Ladakh Public School, C.I.B.S, Govt. Hr. Secondary school Saspol, TCV, Lamdon Leh, and Siddhartha School participated in the competition.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, and Deputy Chairman, CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tsering Angchuk also spoke on the occasion.

Youth-20 Pre-Summit held in Leh

Over 100 delegates from 30 countries participate



Officials of Ladakh along with delegates of Y-20 at Sindhu Sanskriti hall, Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Youth 20 Pre-Summit under the aegis of G20 Summit India was inaugurated on April 27 at Sindhu Sanskriti Hall, Leh. Over 100 delegates from more than 30 countries participated.

India assumed the G20 Presidency on 1st December 2022 for 1 year i.e. up to 30th November 2023. India's theme for its presidency is enshrined in its civilizational value system of 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam' - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

Under the framework of the G20 Presidency, Youth 20 Summit-2023 is organised by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

Welcoming the delegates, Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) stated that because of the vision and magnanimity of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, a global event such as the Y-20 Pre-Summit has been possible in a region such as Leh. He also stated that 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'The world is one family' is the propelling force for the cooperation and integration of the whole of mankind.

He said that the Pre-Summit is an opportunity to meet delegates from different nations and learn about their place, culture, social values, and traditions. He wished for a glorious future for the delegates from the G20 nations.

To make the delegates more aware of Ladakh and its potential, L-G presented a PowerPoint presentation. He spoke about the unique geography and landscapes of Ladakh, world-famous products and Geographical Indication (GI) tagging of Pashmina wool, wood carving, and apricot, adventure activities like ice climbing, frozen river trek, frozen lake marathon, etc, talents in sports like ice hockey and horse polo.

he also informed about various initiatives being carried out in Ladakh for sustainability and development. He spoke about Mission Organic, Jal Jeevan Mission, boosting the rural economy through promoting home stays; introducing schemes and training to women self-help groups, etc.

Presenting the opening remarks about the

...Continues on page 2

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REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorjey
 Editor: Stanzin Dasal
 Reporter: Deachen Spaldon Yangchen Dolma
 Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup
 Designer: Dhondup Tashi
 Published at: Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councilor Quarter Contact: 9858394403
 Printed at: Ala Printing Press 3636 Katra Dina Baig Lal Quan Delhi -110006

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Fortnightly News

Delegation of LBA, LGA meets L-G

Requests to conduct inquiry into recent DPS incident



Delegation of Ladakh Buddhist Association and All Ladakh Gonpa Association during a meeting with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation comprising members from Ladakh Buddhist Association and All Ladakh Gonpa Association led by Vice-President, LBA, Chhering Dorjey Lakrook met Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at Raj Niwas on April 23.

Neerja Biswas allegedly made some comments about His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Ladakhi language and the Sangha community, the teaching of Bhoti subject in schools along with the harassment faced by the staff and students of the school by her.

He requested LG's intervention to conduct an inquiry into the matter and also the need to investigate if the DPS branch at Leh is an authentic and authorized branch of

Chhering Dorjey Lakrook informed LG about the recent incident at Delhi Public School in which the Director of the School,

Delhi Public School along with its functioning and financial management. He also emphasized the need to secure the future of the students studying at DPS.

L-G termed the incident as unfortunate and stated that all citizens of India are equal as per the Indian Constitution. He assured that all the departmental secretaries will meet citizens of Ladakh to look into their matter. He stated that students studying at DPS should be encouraged to stay connected with their roots, take pride in their culture and heritage, and not be discouraged by such incidents.

Terming the upcoming Youth 20 Pre-Summit to be held in Leh from April 26 to 28 under the aegis of G20 India Summit as a 'programme of the whole people of Ladakh,' LG sought cooperation and participation from the people of Ladakh to make the event successful. He also assured to conduct an inquiry into the matter.

Leh celebrates 132nd birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar

Yangchan Dolma

LEH: Tribute paid to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Father of the Indian Constitution on his 132nd birth anniversary on April 14.

Ladakh Buddhist Association Youth wing organised the event at pologround Leh on April 14. PD Nitya, SSP, Leh was present as a chief guest.



Talking about the life of BR Ambedkar, PD Nitya urged students to read BR Ambedkar's life and his philosophies and how relevant he is even today.

in the equality of all human beings, but we humans have created barriers in the name of caste.

"Babasaheb Ambedkar is known as the messiah of human freedom. He was a social reformer who worked hard throughout his life to end social discrimination against weaker sections of the society", he added.

"The word 'Educate' is not just about academics but understanding the socio-economic condition. Education gives power and strength because you are exposed to the writings/ literature. Education enhances thinking and vision, you will understand the problem, the ways to be aware, and find a solution. The word 'Organise' is to rightfully take the rights unanimously, in an organised way. And the last mantra 'Agitate' is to struggle", without struggle, you will not achieve anything", he added.

LBA President, Thupstan Chhewang urged to take a lesson from Dr. Ambedkar's life and asked the upcoming generation to help in eradication of caste systems in Ladakh which is against the teachings of Buddhism as well as the Indian Constitution.

Ashraf Ali Barcha, President,

Anjuman Imamia; Dr. Abdul Qayum Isalm; Deachen Changa, President, Christian Association; Student of Siddhartha and Druk Padma Karpo schools also talked about BR Ambedkar and importance of Bhoti language.

A cultural programme from the student was also presented.

LBA Youth wing also organized essay writing competition among the students of the different school from Leh district. The competition was divided into four categories, from 5th to 12th class on different topics. The result of the essay competition will be announced on Buddha Jayanti.

L-G interacts with Councillors of LAHDC Leh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) interacting with the Councillors of LAHDC Leh, at Raj Niwas.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) met and interacted with the Councillors of LAHDC Leh, at Raj Niwas on April 13.

LG highlighted the importance of probity and promptness while working for the development of Ladakh for the overall benefit of the people. He informed about the meeting with ward members of Municipal Committee Leh and his plans to conduct clean-

liness drives in all wards of Leh town and requested the Councillors to do the same in their constituencies. He highlighted the need to sensitize the neighbors and children about maintaining cleanliness in our surroundings for a healthy life and holding discussions on keeping the surroundings clean.

He informed his plan to make Ladakh a 'Corruption and Delay Free' region through Jan Bhagidhari, i.e., people's partic-

ipation. He stated that the results will be visible within six months if we work on it sincerely and with full dedication.

LG informed about the areas which need immediate interventions, viz. preventing drug abuse, tackling the issue of dog menace in society, protecting and promoting pashmina as an asset of Ladakh, preservation of water through water management plans, planting of more trees to improve Ladakh's green cover, etc. He also informed about the future plans to develop the Capitol Complex at Ranbirpur with full facilities for the people. He sought cooperation and support from LAHDC Leh for all the futuristic plans for the benefit of the people of Ladakh.

Councillors from different constituencies raised several issues, including the need to review and strengthen the LAHDC Act; the need to define the works of Administration, Hill Councils, and PRIs bodies; the need to define Warrant/Order of Precedence for Councillors; the need for a personal assistant for Councillors, etc.

LAHDC, Leh, approves draft outlay of Rs 300 Cr District Capex Budget for current fiscal

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: LAHDC Leh conducted its General Council Meeting and discussed the Draft Capex Budget for the financial year 2023-24 under the chairmanship of the Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson, at the conference hall of DC's Office, Leh on April 19 and 20.

CEC Tashi Gyalson informed that this year's ceiling under District Capex Budget for the financial year 2023-24 is INR 300 Crores. He further shared the developmental achievements of the 6th LAHDC Leh to date which include sectors like Power, Renewable energy/Carbon neutrality initiative, Health, Agriculture, Roads & Buildings, Telecommunication, Tourism, Education, Sports, etc.

CEC Tashi Gyalson felicitated the District HoDs led by DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Shrikant Suse as an appreciation for showing exemplary efforts in the completion of planned projects and achieving a historic financial expenditure of around 98.53 in the District Plan of the financial year 2022-23. He also congratulated the house for achieving a historic expenditure ever under District Capex Budget with an expenditure of INR 229.91 crores out of INR 233.32 crores.

At the beginning of the first-day session, Chairman Tashi Gyalson condemned the conspiracy to defame H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama and demanded an apology from the media houses & celebrities who tried misinterpreting the audience with a malign video of His Holiness. The house also condemned the recent incident of a heinous crime of rape and attempt to murder a minor girl in Leh. A two-minute silence was observed to mourn the demise of Sub-Major Tsewang Morup (Vir Chakra)



and the recent loss of life of a kid injured in the explosion of a 24-year-old bomb from the Kargil War in Kurbathang. He also extended congratulations on the grant of GI Tag for Ladakhi Pashmina Wool, Raktsey Karpo Apricot, and Ladakhi Wood Carving.

Chairman Tashi Gyalson informed the house that priority has been given to Health and School Education Departments with a hike in annual allocation with an increase of 95 % for Health and 84% for School Education this year.

During the two-day-long discussions, departmental-wise plans were discussed whereas, on the second day, a detailed review of projects being executed by Central Executing Agencies was conducted under the chairmanship of CEC Tashi Gyalson. Agencies like Border Roads Organisation (BRO), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Central Public Works Department (CPWD), WAPCOS Limited, and PDCOR Limited. The executing agencies were asked to exercise on all the issues raised by the area Councillors during the meeting.

The chairman strongly con-

demned the work progress of projects allotted to WAPCOS Limited. The house unanimously decided to take up the matter with the Lt. Governor of Ladakh for necessary investigation and action from the UT Administration in this regard.

House also condemned the poor performances of REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) Limited in exemptions of power sector projects under the PMDP urban and rural scheme.

An extensive review of the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme in Leh District was conducted during the meeting. DC Leh gave a detailed overview of the status of JJM in the entire district. All the Councillors sought answers to their queries during the constituency-wise review of JJM works.

The meeting concluded with the house unanimously approving the draft outlay of budget under the District Plan for the financial year 2023-24.

He appreciated all the Councillors and the concerned heads of the Departments for actively participating in the 2-day extensive deliberations on various planned public projects.

Youth-20 Pre-Summit inaugurated in Leh

...Continues from page 1

Youth 20 Summit, Chairman, Y20 Secretariat, Anmol Sovit said, "Population of Indian youth is more than the total of G-20 countries, showcasing that country with such a large number of youth minds is now taking the leadership of leading the G-20 countries. As the largest and youngest democracy in the world, India's presidency of the G-20 would be historic. All other countries whether developing or developed will look at India with reason of hope and aspiration".

"Presence of such future young leaders showcases us the promising bright future", he added. Meetings on bringing together leading experts, decision-makers, and youth leaders from G20 countries to discuss and formulate actionable plans for the growth and development of the people were held. The meeting focuses on the five Y20 themes of Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance; Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life; Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War and Health, Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth.

The summit provided a platform for open discussions, presentations, and interactive sessions focusing on addressing the challenges faced by young people and formulating a roadmap for their development.

Addressing the gathering on the inaugural day, Joint Secretary, G20, Nagaraj Naidu Kakanur said, "The youth of G20 nations are agents of change towards building a better future through their active contribution towards policy making.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said, "India is a land of ancient traditions and modern advancement where people of different cultures,

traditions, religions, and ethnicity live in harmony and celebrate each other differences, As we come together as young leaders of G-20 lets remember our responsibility to build a sustainable world. Let's work together in creating a future where all people can thrive regardless of their background and circumstances".

"Let's draw inspiration from Ladakh and commit ourselves to create a more peaceful world for all", he added.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Gyalson; Convenor, Y20 India Secretariat, Ajay Kashyap; Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India, Meeta Rajivlochan; Director, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI, Pankaj Kumar Singh also spoke on the occasion. Later, L-G felicitated the heads of G20 delegates along with guests from other countries and international organizations on the occasion.

The winners of the Sustainable Campus Challenge 2023 organised by the Department of Higher Education, Ladakh were awarded a memento, depicting a Juniper Tree, created using about 6 kgs of iron & copper waste by Artist Tsering Gurmet Kungyam.

The pre-Summit was organised in Leh-Ladakh from April 26- 28 and within these three days, various activities were carried out. The delegates also visited Hemis and Thiksey monasteries and witnessed the sacred mask dance and creation of sand mandala for world peace. On April 25, Ladakh Haat, an initiative of the Department of Industries and Commerce, UT Ladakh, a specially-curated exhibition-cum-fair was also inaugurated.

48 artisans showcased the rich culture and traditions of Ladakh in the field of handicrafts, handlooms, and processed food products. Two rebo (tents used by the nomads) have been set up for the event where live demonstrations of the traditional crafts of the region were performed for the guests.

Fortnightly News

Additional Director General, NCC, discusses plans with L-G

L-G assures all possible help for NCC cadets from Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: ADG, National Cadet Corps (NCC) directorate for the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Major General RK Sachdeva met Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at Raj Niwas on April 24. Major General Sachdeva informed about the expansion of the NCC directorate for UT Ladakh and the proposal to set up a new NCC battalion at Kargil. He requested to earmark land at Kargil for setting up the new NCC battalion.

Major General Sachdeva also informed about the attachment of NCC cadets from Ladakh to a nearby naval base to provide exposure to them. LG assured to talk to the Chief of the Naval Staff in this regard and emphasised the need to provide the desired exposure to NCC cadets from Ladakh.

He spoke about the need to en-

gage staff for the NCC Battalion at Ladakh as currently there is only four permanent staff. He requested for LG's intervention in engaging staff, including clerical staff. LG suggested engaging NCC cadets as staff and providing stipends to them.

He informed LG about the lack of any transit facility for NCC cadets at Srinagar and Kargil on the Jammu-Leh route. He requested for LG's intervention in providing a transit facility for the cadets.

LG suggested the possibility of providing accommodation to NCC cadets at Kargil House in Bemina, Srinagar while transiting from Jammu to Leh and vice-versa.

Major General Sachdeva informed about the NCC camps to be organised at border villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme. He also informed

that due to the lack of facilities at Chushul and Korzok, the camp would be organised at Nyoma. He stressed the need to renovate the Govt Higher Secondary School at Nyoma to accommodate the cadets.

LG instructed Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Shrikant Suse to do the necessary renovation work before the camp.

Major General Sachdeva informed about the shortage of Associate National Cadet Corps Officers (ANOs) in Ladakh and requested the administration to provide ANOs in case of NCC camps. He also requested to keep the ANOs posted at a particular place for the maximum duration possible.

Major General Sachdeva also requested the need to ensure bonus points to NCC cadets by the Ladakh Police and other organisations during recruitment drives. He informed that around nine NCC cadets from Ladakh were recruited to Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre through the Agniveer scheme.

LG commended NCC for grooming youth from Ladakh to serve the country. He assured of all possible assistance for the development of NCC cadets from Ladakh.

Group Commander, NCC, Brigadier KS Kalsi; Commanding Officer, 1 Ladakh Battalion NCC Leh, Col VS Johar; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Shrikant Suse were present in the meeting.

Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, discusses issues of National Cadet Corps



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Ladakh Ravinder Kumar discussed issues of National Cadet Corps (NCC) viz. expansion of NCC camps, preparation for the upcoming Vibrant Village Programme; status of hostels, amongst others on April 21.

Commanding Officer, 1 Ladakh Battalion NCC Leh, Col VS Johar briefed the meeting on the status of the expansion of NCC camps in Leh and Kargil. There are 16 schools and colleges covered so far in Kargil and 24 in Leh. Deliberations were held on filling up additional vacancies for Junior Division Wing as per the proposal by Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC). Col Johar added that one more battalion shall be established in Kargil.

Kumar directed the concerned officials to identify schools, colleges, etc for the expansion of the NCC battalion. In this regard, the requirement of infrastructure should be given in writing, he added. Speaking on the significance of NCC in boosting security, Secretary Kumar stated that all support shall be imparted to NCC in its endeavours to double its numbers. He added that this shall also benefit the children by instilling discipline, courage and the ideal of selfless services, etc among the youth to make them responsible citizens.

With regard to the preparations for the upcoming Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), Secretary Kumar instructed the officials to prepare for the camps well on time and instructed

the officials to repair the hostels, boundary walls and other issues before the camp commences. VVP village development scheme was first announced in the 2022 Budget. The Vibrant Village Programme's targets are to provide comprehensive development of villages on the border with China and improvement in the quality of life of people living in identified border villages. The development in these villages will help prevent migration, and thus also boost security. The Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2018 had pointed towards backwardness, illiteracy, and lack of basic facilities and infrastructure in our border areas. The VVP aims to address all these issues.

The meeting was attended Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, Ladakh, Mozes Kunzang; Director, School Education, Department, Ladakh, Tsering Paldan; Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department, UT Ladakh; Deputy, Director PD&MD, UT Ladakh; Lt. Col 1 Ladakh Bn NCC, Leh.; Executive Engineer, PWD, Leh; Account Officer, Youth Services & Sports Department, UT Ladakh; General Manager NHPC Ltd. Ladakh; District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Leh; District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Kargil and other concerned officials.

Livestock dead due to fodder and grazing land shortage in Bogdang

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Department of Sheep and Animal Husbandry Leh field officer investigated the incident of livestock deaths in Bogdang Nala on April 26 and confirmed that the animals died due to a lack of fodder and grazing lands.

To mitigate the risk of such incidents occurring in the future, the officer recommended exploring and taking up the prospect of developing fodder and promoting sustainable livestock-rearing practices in the area. It will not only prevent further deaths but will also improve the livelihoods of the local farmers and livestock



Department of Sheep and Animal Husbandry distributing wheat bran, alfa-alfa, and cattle feed in Bogdang

welfare.

The Department of Sheep and Animal Husbandry assured that they will work with the local authorities to implement the necessary measures to address the issue and prevent any future incidents of starvation deaths among

livestock.

Further, the Department of Sheep and Animal Husbandry distributed one truck of wheat bran, one truck of alfa-alfa, and 20 quintals of cattle feed in the presence of BDC Turtuk, village Sarpanch, Goba, and villagers.

NISR, Leh, participates in National Arogya Fair at Jaipur

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

JAIPUR: The National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, Leh participated in the National Arogya Fair from April 20 to 23 at Jaipur.

The fair was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan and the Ph.D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



The main objective of the Arogya fair is to promote traditional medicine and showcase various products based on scientific research. The event highlights the strengths of the AYUSH system as well as the inevitable links with the industry.

vention Center in Sitapura. NISR, Leh displayed an exhibition and information on the Sowa-Rigpa System of Medicines and Himalayan Medicinal Plants.

Many people consulted the Sowa Rigpa doctor and took Sowa Rigpa treatment for various health ailments.

Lectures by experts on health

topics, an Ayush industry exhibition, free pulse analysis, panchkarma medical sciences, information on various medicinal plants, and live demonstrations of Yoga are the center of attraction for the students. A huge number of people from various parts of Rajasthan attended the event and have shown keen interest in the Sowa Rigpa System of Medicines.

Minister of State for Ayush, Dr. Subhash Garg inaugurated the fair at Jaipur Exhibition and Con-

Ladakh Pollution Control Committee celebrates Earth Day



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UT Ladakh, Jigmet Takpa felicitating the students who participated in painting and essay writing competition.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh Pollution Control Committee celebrated Earth Day, themed 'Invest in Our Planet' in collaboration with Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh on April 21.

This year's theme for Earth Day highlights the importance of dedicating our time, resources, and energy to solving climate change and other environmental issues. Investing in our planet is necessary to protect it and the best way to pave a path toward a

prosperous future.

A painting and essay writing competition was also held. Actively participating in the competition, the students presented various means through which an individual can create an inclusive and impactful movement that is impossible to ignore.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UT Ladakh, Jigmet Takpa also the Member Secretary of the Ladakh Pollution

Control Committee, emphasized caring for mother nature to build a better future. While interacting with students, he urged them to participate in the movement for protecting the environment as they are the future.

Regional Director, LPCC, Aditya Madanpotra focused on the transformation needed for a healthy earth. Adding that transformation requires actions at all levels, he shared that all stakeholders, including governments, private sectors, and individuals should be held accountable for their role in our environmental crisis.

LPCC is responsible for monitoring and regulating environmental pollution in the Ladakh region.

The Committee ensures compliance with environmental laws and regulations to protect the health and well-being of the people and the environment.

Bureau of Indian Standards sensitization programme for District level Officers in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office organised a sensitization programme for the District Level Officers of Leh at Conference Hall, DC Office on April 25.

The objective of the program was to develop a better understanding and insights of standard formulation, and use of Indian Standards and to promote procurement of ISI-marked products by Government Offices.

Addressing the participants, Chief Planning Officer, Tsewang Gyalsan said that standardization is of utmost importance for development. He praised the BIS care App and other

initiatives taken by BIS for the development of the activities of standardization, marking, and quality certification of goods.

Director & Head, BIS-JKBO, Tilak Raj gave an overview of the working of BIS. He said that BIS is the quality ecosystem of the country and promotes quality, safety, and reliability of products and services through various BIS Conformity Assessment Schemes. He said that BIS certification is a means for providing a third-party guarantee of the quality, safety, and reliability of products to consumers.

Assistant Director, Hitesh Yadav gave a detailed presentation on department-specific standards, Standards Formulation, Product

Certification, Hallmarking, and Compulsory Registration Scheme. He demonstrated the Know Your Standards portal of BIS through which standards can be easily located and downloaded free of cost. He also demonstrated manakonline portal and BIS Care App through examples to check the authenticity of ISI-marked products and Hallmarked jewellery and complaints can also be registered.

Later, he also highlighted various initiatives of the BIS in bringing quality products to the customers. He said that the aim and objective of the programme are to aware the Heads of Departments in the District about the Quality checks of the standard products and laws to control the substandard products in the market. He also gave awareness to the gathering about ISI Mark and Hallmark.

Further, CPO Leh said during the program that such awareness programs must be conducted at the Department level also. He also urged the officers to spread the awareness among masses during public outreach programs.

People's Voice

By Deachen Spaldon



Phuntsog Nurboo, Nominated Councilor, LAHDC, Leh: If we talk about the existence of casteism in Ladakh, there's no evidence of it before the king's era. If we look at history, the first people to have settled in Ladakh are what we call today - Mon, Monyul, and Dard. Later during kings' rule in Ladakh, people were divided based on their work- and on that basis; these castes came into being in the society. Caste and sub-castes in Ladakh are man-made and started during the rule of kings.

Discrimination based on caste has been there since then- and is existing even today. To deny the nondiscrimination would be wrong as it's still there but with time especially if we observe around Leh city it's comparatively a lot better now. People from faraway places get settled here and are too busy to think about these social stigmas or let them function in society. Nevertheless, in villages, some sort of discrimination seems to be there.

This discrimination can be seen in various forms. Villages with a lesser household-less population seem to have a higher occurrence of discrimination and vice versa. According to people "Lakshes" people who migrated from Lahaul Spiti first got settled near Mane Sermo in Leh. Past practices such as performing certain duties in the village were compulsory, and people did take up the tasks. Forefathers did their duties in society however if the new generation will take up the tasks- it's debatable and not necessary since the importance of education has become a priority today. Secondly, we all have seen discrimination based on seating arrangements. Likewise, we see on the arrival of ministers or big dignitaries they are made to stand in front but at any function/occasion, we see them being made to sit at the end. Earlier some customs and practices were worse but with time it has vanished or decreased drastically.

Although I'm not a historian - but as far as I know there are few subcastes. Garba was originally called 'Zopa'- one who is skilled in metalwork. Various utensils that we can find in the Ladakhi kitchen, as well as the artistic prayer wheel, are works of them. Their contribution to Ladakhi society in the sense of preserving the culture is immense. 'Lakshes' as I said earlier were people who migrated from Lahaul Spiti, their performing as musicians seems to be a tradition since time immemorial. This practice was considered very low and had been confined to a duty that was to be performed only by them in earlier times. Today the mindset has changed, rather they are being appreciated today, Council on today's date provides various subsidies to them. Today everyone seems to be appreciating their art and skill and learning how to play musical instruments as well. Mon - if we see most seem to be skilled carpenters during the king's rule and was the first settlers in Ladakh.

Today we are blessed by our religious heads, and spiritual leaders, and through their teaching we understand that there's no such thing as castes in Buddhism. Yet it is unfortunate that people's practice is opposite to their teachings. This is prevalent in Hinduism so much so that Dr. B.R Ambedkar, father of the Indian constitution had to convert to Buddhism- after observing the nonexistence of this system in Buddhism. Notwithstanding that, the existence of such practices of discrimination in our culture as Buddhists is disgraceful. I see parents mostly hide their origin from children which is

Caste-based inequality

wrong because there's nothing to be shameful about. The discrimination that they face is man-made and not something they are born with. Casteism which people even leaders talk about was not there in Ladakh, it is some sort of discrimination based on the duties given in the society that came into existence much later. If casteism was there, why didn't we get scheduled caste instead of scheduled tribes? We see celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti in Ladakh mostly focusing on these few people which should not be the case. It is solely a celebration of Dr. BR Ambedkar as a person, his achievements, and his immense contribution to Indian society.

Solutions:

• **We must know that casteism as a thing was not embedded in Ladakhi society, discrimination on the practices and customs came into existence much later. To have that awareness and not be timid about one's origin is of utmost importance.**

• **To overcome such social stigmas, educating ourselves as well as our children on it is the main weapon.**

• **Although such practices are almost vanishing from society, yet to those who are still following and if some sort of discrimination is taking place - just going to the monasteries and listening to the teaching is not enough. We have to abide by the teachings also.**



Khenpo Konchok Rigzin, Administrative Officer, CIBS: The society of Ladakh - from Zojila to Demchok we see that people settled were mostly Buddhists, later in around 14 AD Muslims got settled, and with the coming of Christian missionaries, Christianity was spread in the region. Due to the rugged terrain of the region, people seldom traveled earlier, and we see from our forefathers that the farthest they have traveled is Kullu/Manali region. There was no practice of any form of caste in the beginning, certain practices emerged much later with the migration of people from these regions. Such practice in our society is solely man-made and not something that was embedded. According to experts, the caste system in Hinduism is also something that is man-made.

In certain Buddhist commentaries, there are certain references to the caste system of Hindus. People who came from the Kullu Manali region started settling in Ladakh, and since they were outsiders - natives started differentiating the settlers from themselves and discrimination followed with it.

Similarly, the high class in the society - Gyapo (king), Lonpo (ministers), and their families is also not something preached by Buddha or mentioned anywhere in Buddhist texts. The settlers that we mentioned earlier- today are categorized as Garba/lakshes- It is strange why this particular group of people was considered as another sub-caste because they are very skilled craftsmen. Beda/mon are descendants of people who settled in Ladakh from Kullu/Manali and due to differences in people later they were reduced to another caste and some sort of discrimination started taking place. It is important to learn that their major contributions to Ladakhi society are traditional music and instruments.

...Continues on page 6

The Group of Twenty (G20)



The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Govern-

ors to discuss global economic and financial issues. The G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the "premier forum for international economic cooperation".

The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency. It comprises 20 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indo-

nesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union. The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population

The G20 Presidency is responsible for bringing together the G20 agenda in consultation with other members and in response to developments in the global

economy.

The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to inter-alia include trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.



DID YOU KNOW

• There are around 2 billion species on Earth—with 6.8 million likely to be species of insects. And up to 10 types of bacteria lives inside of each of these insects!

• The man spends a small fortune for a ring, kneels, and pops the question. Well, in 1926, jewelers paired with advertisers to sell the concept of the man-gagement ring. The male engagement rings had names like the Pilot, the Stag and the Master.

• The "devil horns" hand sign seen thrown up at rock concerts can be offensive in other countries. In European and South American countries, this hand sign implies that a man's

wife has been unfaithful. The meaning dates back to the etymological meaning of "cuck-old" which is "horned" in Italian, Spanish, and Greek.

• There are lots of quirky things that some think are underneath Disney parks, but these literally are! The tunnels were built in response to characters having to run through other lands to get to their posts, which spoiled the magic. Thanks to the tunnels, you won't see a Tomorrowland spaceman in the Old West-inspired Frontierland.

• Water is our body's mechanical oil—with-out it, it can't function. You lose about 8 per-



cent of your body water while on a flight. This is because the humidity in the climate-controlled environment can be as low as 10 to 15 percent.

• The current skin you're in will be gone in a month—our skin sheds 30,000 to 40,000 skin cells each day. In fact, over 100 of those cells probably flaked off while you were reading this sentence. However, it rejuvenates just as quickly as it deteriorates. Regular exfoliation twice a week helps get rid of lingering skin cells to make room for a fresh layer.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

The 'WongWorld' freedom!



Quite a number of my good friends have asked me about the "Wong-World" mystery. For those who are unaware about this, let me tell them that it is the 'brand name' that some of my columns on philosophical, political and economic issues carry by way of 'courtesy'! To make it simple and understandable, Wong stands for Wang, a part of my full name, Wangchuk. In other words, WongWorld is a shortened form of "The World of Wangchuk", with the letter 'a' in Wang changed into 'o'

for a better sound and greater acceptability!

Most friends call me Wang, and I am comfortable and happy with it. It was way back in the 1980s when I was in my 'junior years' as a journalist, at Hindustan Times, New Delhi. We had a perfect gentleman, K L Kapoor, who was then a Chief Sub-Editor. It was he who started calling me 'Wang' instead of Wangchuk. It was his love and confidence in me that he thought of 'changing' my name. No wonder, everybody started calling me 'Wang' soon after.

One might like to repeat: What is there in a name...? The Bard of Avon did have a definite reason and purpose when he said so. But, for us, the fact is that a 'partial name change' has changed the very picture and course of life! This 'change' proved quite lucky in the sense that it got me several awards. My online writings under the Wong-World 'brand name' started soon after I was free from the shackles of Hindustan Times. Once off to freedom and in a 'liberated' world, I gave myself an open, wide space with no strings of an employer. That did, if I may say so, wonders for my writings too, without any fear or mental blocks.

So, let me exercise my freedom to say that 'WongWorld' has become my lucky 'live-in-partner' in the long, tortuous journey of life! And I have nothing but to thank my good luck!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Sonam Stobgais, Theatre Practitioner

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Brief us about yourself. What sparked your interest in theater?

I am a performing artist, theatre facilitator, culture aficionado, and theatre director. I am born and brought up in Leh. I did my schooling at Lamdon School, later went to Vishesh Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ghaziabad, and pursued graduation from Delhi University. During college days there used to be College Theatre Club which gives students more opportunities to learn and grow in the performing arts. That's how my interest and love for theatre developed. I got introduced to the National School of Drama and tried to get enrolled but was rejected initially. I tried for the second time with some preparations and got through it finally. In NSD, I realized that theatre is a vast subject and there is so much to learn and experience. The learning is highly intensive and is based on a thorough, comprehensive, carefully planned syllabus that covers every aspect of theatre and in which theory is related to practice. In the year 2002, I passed out from the National School of Drama.

Later I worked in some films like 'The last monk', 'Hero', 'Talvaar', 'Anek', 'Yahan' etc. A new web series, 'Lootere' is coming up on Disney Hotstar. I also organised several theatre workshops in Leh and Kargil.

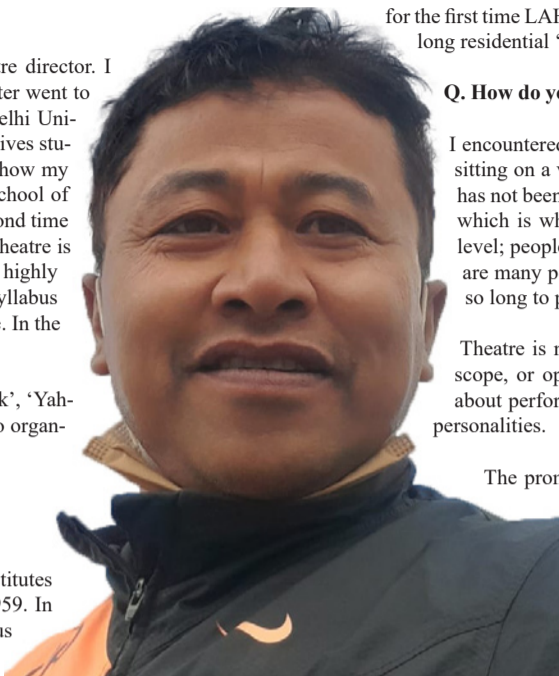
Q. Brief us about the National School of Drama.

The National School of Drama is one of the prestigious theatre training institutes set up by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of its constituent units in 1959. In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The institute provides 3-year full-time Diploma courses in Dramatic Art.

Q. Share with us the various initiatives you have taken in the field of theatre in Ladakh.

In Ladakh, I organised several theatre workshops. The first theatre workshop was in the year 2004 in Secmol and later it was conducted at Mahabodhi also. A total of 25 students participated in each workshop. The workshop was fully financed and sponsored by NSD. Similarly, in the years 2008 and 2011 also organised a theatre workshop in Leh, and in 2014 or 2015 the workshop was conducted in Kargil also. Last year,



for the first time LAHDC Leh in collaboration with the National School of Drama (NSD), a month-long residential 'Theatre Workshop' for the theatre enthusiasts of Leh Ladakh was organised.

Q. How do you see the status of theatre in Ladakh? How important is it to promote it?

I encountered some very different views about theatre. There was a time when the people sitting on a very high post are unaware of theatre, its objective, and its potential. Theatre has not been embraced as much as other arts. It seems that theatre is neglected at all levels which is why people are not aware of its importance. Awareness is needed at the root level; people should recognize how valuable the arts are to creating a civil society. There are many people such as NSD alumni, Mipham Otsal who are putting all their effort for so long to promote the theatre and cultural identity of Ladakh.

Theatre is not taken seriously in Ladakh; for many, it is just for fun with no potential, scope, or opportunities. I must say that theatre is a complete subject it's not just only about performing on stage. It trains the body, speech, and mind and helps in developing personalities.

The promotion of theatre in Ladakh is very important because we see that many of the children in Ladakh are introvert, lack confidence, and are very timid. The child can be completely transformed in theatre by bringing changes in body, speech, and mind. Also, I feel that the inclusion of theatre in the education system is important because it will also help in curbing the growing drug menace in Ladakh.

Q. What are the challenges you see in the field of theatre?

I must say the lack of well-equipped infrastructure in Leh is the major challenge to keep the art thriving. The financial crunches are also very challenging because there is a limited source of income. In theatre, you need to give ample time and in Leh what happens is that many of the artists are engaged in alternative work and are unable to give enough time for theatre. Also, lack of importance and value to the theatre is a big challenge.

Q. What will be your suggestions to the UT administration and Hill Council for the promotion and development of Theatre in Ladakh?

MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“We all must appreciate and encourage all the artists and their talents. Many times I see that artists are underestimated, we must not forget that they play a big role in preserving and promoting the rich culture and traditions of Ladakh.”

...Continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



LG Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) & First Lady, Neelam Mishra inaugurating the Ladakh Haat stalls.



World Heritage Day: During the Heritage tour at Border Village Hunderman Brok organised by Department of Archives, Archeology and Museum, Ladakh in collaboration with Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation.



The four-day Social Ethical and Emotional (SEE) learning program for the Bhoti & Arabic Teachers of Leh District begins at DIET Leh. Around 51 teachers attended the SEE learning program.



During the protest rally organised by LBA and LGA in support of His Holiness Dalai Lama.



Winners of the 'Sustainable Campus Challenge' receiving the memento, depicting a Juniper Tree, created using about 6 kgs of iron & copper waste by Artist Tsering Gurmet Kungyam.



Delegates of Y-20 Pre Summit were accorded a warm cultural welcome on their arrival to Leh on April 25 at KBR airport.

Fortnightly News

Mega plantation drive held at Stakna village



L-G planting a willow tree sapling during the mega plantation drive at Stakna village.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) participated in the Mega Plantation Drive jointly organised by UT Administration, LAHDC Leh and Forest Division, Leh at Kunga Skyedtsal Ling, Stakna on April 25.

LG planted a willow tree sapling. He commended the wide participation of villagers during the mass plantation drive at Stakna with the right intention to improve green cover in Ladakh. Terming the plantation drive programme as a step towards the holistic development of society, economy and nature, he stated

that future generations will reap the benefits of the plantation of trees in today's time.

He appreciated the participative culture of the people of Ladakh along with their desire to serve Mother Nature and termed them as ideal citizens. He stated that the youth, who took part in the plantation drive, would learn to protect Mother Nature and would strive to conserve it.

Executive Councillor, Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphele, informed about the plantation of 5,000 saplings spread over 100 kanals of land using solar-based drip irrigation technique. He also informed that the plantation drive is a tribute to His Eminence Stakna Rinpoche.

Army pays tributes to bravehearts on 39th Siachen Day



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SIACHEN: Siachen warriors celebrated the 39th Siachen Day with traditional solemnity and reverence on April 13.

Commander, Siachen Brigade laid a wreath on behalf of GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and paid rich tribute to the War Heroes at the Siachen War Memorial, Base camp and commemorated their courage and fortitude in securing the highest and coldest battlefield

of the world.

Veterans, Veer Naris, and Civil Defence employees who made supreme sacrifices on the Siachen Glacier were also felicitated.

The Siachen Glacier is considered the most challenging battlefield due to extreme weather conditions and terrain. The sub-zero temperatures and avalanche risk are the greatest challenges for

survival at the glacier. In the last 39 years since the beginning of Operation Meghdoot launched in 1984, more than 11,000 troops have made supreme sacrifices in the line of duty. The operation was launched to secure the Indian borders along the Salto Ridge which gave a strategic edge to India. The Indian Army is guarding the key passes and ridges along the Glacier.

The Indian Army has been holding the crucial battleground in a high state of operational preparedness with a resolute deployment of highly motivated troops and equipment on the Siachen Glacier. Siachen Glacier extends for approximately 76 km in the Karakoram ranges sharing boundaries with Pakistan and China. Siachen Warriors remain ever committed to guarding the 'Frozen Frontiers' and ready to resolve against all odds. Nation shall always remain indebted to these bravehearts.

5th Apex Committee meeting of Jal Jeevan Mission in Ladakh held

Advisor Ladakh stresses to achieve the Har Ghar Nal status in Ladakh by or before 31st July 2023



Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula chairing the 5th Apex Committee Meeting of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula chaired the 5th Apex Committee Meeting of Jal Jeevan Mission at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on April 21.

The Commissioner/Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Ajeet Kumar Sahu elucidated the agenda items in a detailed presentation viz. Annual Action Plan, social audit, physical verification; hiring of Jal Shakti Fellow; establishment of Drinking Water Quality Commissionerate (DWQC) under JJM in the UT amongst others.

He explained that after the start of the working season, work has commenced at all locations in Ladakh barring a few remote areas and the PHE department is committed to achieving the target assigned by the UT Admin-

istration

Umang Narula asked both the DCs, PHE engineers, and all other stakeholders to give a final push to the efforts made so far to achieve the Har Ghar Nal status in Ladakh by or before 31st July 2023 without fail.

It was informed that Ladakh has been successful in connecting 73% of rural households in Leh and 70% rural households in Kargil with taps by November 2022 itself and work was stalled due to extreme winter. GoI as well as Ladakh Administration has set a target to achieve 100% coverage in the whole of the UT by or before 31st July 2023. Advisor asked the officers to ensure the full participation of the villagers and PRI members in the efforts so that all the Schools,

Anganwadi, Ashramshalas, GP Buildings, Health/wellness centers are also provided with functional Tap water connections within the given timeline.

The Committee was also apprised that three labs of Ladakh would get the NABL accreditation by 15th May and other labs would also be accredited by Dec 2023.

Apex Committee also approved the scheme of hiring JJM fellows, one each in both districts and finalized its eligibility, selection criteria, remuneration, etc. Advisor Narula stated that the fellowship should be tied up with a university so that it's advantageous for the candidate in their studies or research.

With regard to Grey Water Management, Advisor Narula reiterated that intervention at both household and community levels has to be ensured for effective management of grey water. He added that seeking Grey Water management through people's participation and involving the Panchayats is of utmost importance. Advisor Narula exhorted that all pending work in the implementation of JJM must be completed expeditiously by July and urged the officials to work with serious commitment.

Indian army conducts veterans rally in Khrau

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHARU: Veterans rally was organised at Trishul Parade Ground, Kharu under the aegis of Tri-shul Division on April 20. Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) in presence of General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps.



Lieutenant Governor interacting with the veterans of Indian army during the veteran rally in Kharu.

The rally aimed to have a forum for interaction with veterans and provided them a platform to resolve any issues with various service providers after they have given their best years in the service of the Nation. Several stalls were established to assist in resolving their grievances and advice them towards the execution of various business ventures.

Many senior serving military/

civilian officers and dignitaries also attended the rally.

L-G assured his support for the welfare of veterans and complimented them for their contribution to nation-building. Veterans, Veer Matas and Veer Naris were also felicitated during the rally.

Around 850 veterans and their families attended the rally. The event afforded an opportunity for veterans to get acquainted with various welfare schemes launched by Indian Army. The rally also provided an opportunity to avail medical facilities and reinvigorate their ties with their serving brethren.

G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT LADAKH REGIONAL CENTRE, LEH 194101, (LADAKH UT)



Walk-in-Interview will be conducted on 09.05.2023 (11.00 A.M onwards) for purely contract based position of Field Assistant cum Driver (01 No.) in Ladakh Regional Centre (Leh) of the institute.

For details (age, emoluments, qualification, etc), please see institute website (www.gbpihed.gov.in).

Administrative Officer

In conversation with Sonam Stobgais, Theatre Practitioner

...Continues from page 5

conduct various programs.

Appreciation of art like theatre, music, and dance should be inculcated in schools both Govt. and Private for character building, developing aesthetics and creativity. This will also make the school fun for students.

Q. What will be your advice to those passionate about pursuing theatre?

Ministry of Culture offers fellowship programs every year which an interested student can apply for to research different topics such as mask dance performed in various monasteries etc. There are so much of scopes and opportunities to study, research, and learn about. Also, I must say that there is a need of passion to do rest will just follow.

I am available on social media and anyone who needs any help or suggestion regarding theatre subjects can be in touch with me.

Forming a separate art institution in UT Ladakh along the lines of 'Sahitya Akademi', 'Lalit Kala Akademi', and National School of Drama will be very helpful to boot the art and culture of Ladakh. There are so many good talented artists in Ladakh excelling in different fields such as painting, sculpting, music&dance, etc, an art and culture centre will serve as a common platform for all the artists to sit, discuss, exchange ideas and work for the overall development.

Secondly, the establishment of a well-equipped auditorium or space to showcase the theatre or to conduct workshops, seminars, cultural symposiums, etc. is much needed. There is one space near the Shanti stupa in Leh called Sindhu Sanskriti which is quite far and has accessibility issues. Proper space in a prime location is much needed in Leh to

Expert Talk: Caste-based inequality

...Continues from page 4

Lord Buddha has preached not to blindly follow his teachings but to research them, and if certain things are not benefiting humankind, then it's better to quit following that path. Through his teachings, we understand that all sentient beings on this planet are equal and one. One of his sutras mentioned the absence of caste in any form. It's our present deeds and actions (good or bad) that differentiate us from others. A child born in a family of Mon can be a great human being and serve the society whereas a child born in a family can also be the opposite of that. So to have that ill will in mind and judge a person based on their caste is I suppose the worst thing we can do as humans.

Earlier the practices of differentiating them in society were extreme for eg usage of different cups for tea, chang, etc. One of the reasons for this narrow-mindedness can be blamed on the lack of education during those times. Today we see a lot of change because more people are getting educated and are also busier. No one will have time to practice certain customs in the army, educational institutions, or any other workplace and it will be constitutionally wrong to practice it as well. Everyone eats and sits together. The certain discrimination we observe in our society now is for eg- prohibiting inter-caste marriages, we also see this during occasions to a degree.

However, one thing I noticed is various separate as-

sociations/ societies being formed by them, which is making their differentiation more visible in society. The intention behind forming might be noble yet it makes the distinction clearer in the society. So instead of doing that, if they can be one with society and focus more on getting a good education seems very important, because once a person is highly educated - people respect that person no matter what their origin.

In the Indian constitution, there is a provision for ST and SC commissions which need to be amended every 10 years. This need of getting amended was solely kept to benefit those who need assistance. Today due to whatever reason every region wants this status even if they don't need it, and if this continues the unfair old customs and practices will continue to be there (even if it is in lesser form). So to be united as one and not to this differentiation in any form seems to be a reasonable thing for me because then skipping to a few generations later there won't be any form of class in society.

Solutions

•The practice of differentiating oneself be it - 'high' or 'lower' classes seems to be the biggest obstacle in getting rid of the narrow-mindedness among people. To be united as an equal human being in society is one of the solutions.

•Follow the teachings of our great leaders like BR Ambedkar

•Education- it is indeed the most powerful weapon to any evil of society.

Meeting of Integrated Watershed Management Programme held in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve chaired a meeting of district level committee and discussed Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Pradhan Mantri Kriishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) 2.0 on April 26.



Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve chairing a meeting with officials.

Various action plans based on research and sustainability were discussed with the concerned officers. Discussion was held on three major components under the banner of PMKSY 2.0 which include Natural Resource Management (NRM), Livelihood Activities and Production System, and Micro Enterprise.

farming systems based livelihood activities/interventions and encourage farmers to adopt and up-scale successful experiences of proven technology, integrated farming systems, and improved farming practices for livelihood augmentation.

The Deputy Commissioner who is also the chairman of district level committee of IWMP/PMKSY 2.0 approved the five

DPRs of five projects in five Blocks of Kargil presented by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RD&PRD) in the meeting.

It was also discussed that all the development plans replicating the optimum usage of natural resources and results in the sustainability of the environment shall be executed under the heads of the committee.

Indian Army spearheads Green Indus initiative



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Indian Army as part of the Green India initiative under the aegis of Fire and Fury Corps carried out a plantation drive on April 21.

General Officer Commanding inaugurated the drive in the Leh Subarea. 5,000 tree saplings were planted on the bank of the Indus River near Phey, Phyang, Spitik villages, and Leh.

The plantation drive is being carried out in two phases. In phase one, 40,000 tree saplings are being planted from Lamayuru to Kharu and in the second phase, 40,000 saplings will be planted from Nyoma to Koyul.

The drive was spearheaded by Headquarters Leh Sub Area in collaboration with Community Members, Go Green Go Organic NGO, and the forest department of UT of Ladakh. The drive aims to promote greenery in Ladakh and enhance the beauty and balance of the environment.

CEC, Kargil, visits Barsoo Block, inspects ongoing construction works on Ichu road

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan visited Barsoo Block on April 28 and inspected ongoing construction works on Ichu Road and also took an assessment of other developmental activities in the area.



CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan along with officials during his visit to Barsoo Block.

During the visit, CEC visited the construction site of Ichu Road and walked by foot for 1.5 km to assess the status of work on the road. It was informed that out of 8600 meters, road construction works on the 5200 meters stretch are completed and the Ichu road is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

building, toilets, and vacancy of teachers, Khan said all necessary measures will be taken to resolve the issues and the construction work of the school will be placed in the annual plan on priority.

han Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) scheme, therefore, its early completion and blacktopping are expected to be done at the earliest.

Khan directed for early completion of the road by October this year saying that the road connectivity is important for the villages of Ichu as the area is not connected with the rest of the district with any motorable road.

Earlier, Khan addressed a public delegation at Shargande village. While taking stock of the road connectivity, he said measures will be taken to complete the road works at the earliest. He directed the concerned departments to speed up all the developmental works.

Related to the construction of the footbridge, Khan said possible way out will be sorted out and regarding the construction of Old Imam Bargah and Library, necessary action will be taken.

The CEC also visited Government Middle School, Shargande where he interacted with the students and faculty members and took assessments of basic facilities.

The CEC said the visit to the construction site of Ichu Road was aimed to assess the situation and based on the findings policy will be framed for its early completion before the end of this year. He informed that as Ichu road has come under Prad-

CEC assured to take the matter to streamline Jal Jeevan Mission works in the area with the concerned department. He further directed to do realignment of flood-prone stretches.

Regarding the request for the reconstruction of the school

Councilor Barsoo Sheikh Ansari, Executive Engineer Suru Valley Division besides other concerned officers accompanied the CEC during the tour.

NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'Ladakh Curling Association' UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No.	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation
1	Ali Asgar	S/o Haji Ghulam Mohd	Baroo, Kargil	President
2	Rigzen Dolker	D/o Sonam Nurboo	Skampari, Leh	Vice-President
3	Shahida Parveen	D/o Late Gh. Jaffer	Shey Yokma, Leh	General Secretary
4	Akbar Ali	S/o Mohd Mussa	Poyen, Kargil	Joint Secretary
5	Mansoor Ali	S/o Mohd Hassan	Baroo, Kargil	Treasurer
6	Asif Mahraj	S/o Abdul Majid	Saboo Yokma, Leh	Chief Organiser
7	Manzoor Hussain	S/o Mohd Ali	Youljuk Taisur, Kargil	Organiser

Objection if any, in this regard may kindly be submitted to General Manager Industries, Leh UT Ladakh within a period of 21 days from the publication of the Notice.

President
'Ladakh Curling Association' UT Ladakh

I/10167/2023

आजादी का अमूल्य महेत्सव

संघर्ष ही जीत है

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH, SOCIAL & TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, Civil Secretariat, Ladakh.

केंद्र शासित प्रदेश लद्दाख प्रशासन समाज एवं आदिवासी कल्याण विभाग सिविल सचिवालय, लद्दाख

ई-मेल/Email: swladakh@gmail.com दूरभाष/Phone No: 01982-258365

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEENDAYAL DIVYANGJAN REHABILITATION SCHEME (Revised Guidelines w.e.f 1st April, 2022) & INVITATION OF ELIGIBLE AGENCIES TO APPLY AS PIA's.

The Department of Empowerment of Person with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI, has revised the guidelines of Deendayal Divyangjan Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) w.e.f 1st April, 2022.

Accordingly, the following Model Projects will be funded under the scheme:

- I. Cross Disability Pre-Schools and Early Intervention with provision for Home-Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project.
- II. Special School for the children with Hearing Disability with option for Home-based Rehabilitation and Community-based Rehabilitation Project.
- III. Special School for the children with Visual Disability (including Deaf blindness) with option for Home-Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project and Low vision Centre Project.
- IV. Special School for the children with other disabilities (ID/ CP / ASD / MD/ Muscular Dystrophy, Deaf blindness etc) with option for Home-Based Rehabilitation and Community-Based Rehabilitation Project.
- V. Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons with option for Home-Based Rehabilitation & Community-Based Rehabilitation.
- VI. Half Way Home for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation of Treated and Controlled individual with Mental Illness with option for Home-Based Rehabilitation & Community-Based Rehabilitation Project.
- VII. Preparatory / Remediation Centre for children with Specific Learning Disabilities to continue Inclusive Education Project (Newly Introduced Model Project)
- VIII. Cross-Disability Therapy and Counselling Centre Project.

In this connection, this is to inform through this notice and to invite eligible agencies to apply as Programme Implementing Agency's (PIAs)/NGOs following the conditions prescribed in the Revised Guidelines of DDRS enclosed.

Encl: A/A

Stanzin Shakya (Ph.D.) स्तंजिन शाक्य
OSD to Commissioner/ Secretary/आयुक्त सचिव के ओएसडी

NOTICE

I, Service No. 15427712M Rank Hav/NA Pawar Balasaheb Bhimrao, village Ramna Tanda, Loha Tq. Loha Dist. Nanded State MH Pin 431708, declare that my daughter's name in my service document/ records 'Sneha Pawar' and 'Preeti Pawar' instead of my daughters actual and correct name which is 'Sheha Balasaheb Pawar' and 'Preeti Balasaheb Pawar'. An affidavit duly verified by Notary with serial no.112/2023 dated 15 March 2023 is produced for making necessary correction.

NOTICE

I, Thinles Dorjay S/o Tsering Dorjay R/o Wanla, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK1020170021025 and I am applying for duplicate driving license. Objection if any may be conveyed to Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh, Ladakh within 10 days from the date of publication.

Awareness of Solid waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin Phase-II held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RD&PRD), Kargil under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin Phase-II organized Information Education and Communication (IEC) and behavior change communication program followed by a cleanliness drive at Hardas village on April 27.

tize and clean the village so that Open Defecation Free (ODF) sustainability and ODF Plus model status would be achieved.

The BDO Kargil elaborated on the need to adopt a system of periodical cleanings, maintenance, and initiation of preventive measures for containing diseases. She stressed positive thinking, good health, and personal hygiene and how these factors contribute to improving the financial condition by reducing expenditure on the treatment of diseases.

DPO Kargil sensitized the villagers about the role of primary segregation in solid and waste management. She instructed the villagers not to mix dry and liquid waste so that the secondary segregation becomes easy.

The BDO detailed the importance of cleanliness, personal hygiene and maintenance of hygienic conditions in their respective areas. She also talked about the difference between solid and liquid waste and the segregation process thereof.

District Panchayat Officer Kargil (DPO), Padma Angmo; BDO Kargil, Samina Khatoon, along with other officers, officials, and Sarpanchs, Panchs, and villagers participated in the drive.

She talked about the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin Phase-II objective and urged the villagers to actively participate in the awareness drive so that the targets would be achieved by the end of this year.

Panchayat Secretary, Agha Syed Toha highlighted important points regarding solid and liquid waste management. He talked about the importance of a cleanliness drive in the village.

The program was aimed to sensi-

The whole area was cleaned during the drive with the help of locals/villagers.

NOTICE

Service No. 13140389 Rank ASI/GD Tsering Stobdan S/o Konchok Stanzin Unit 70 BN SSB has claimed that his wife namely Padma Oldan has been wrongly entered as Padma Yoldan instead of Stanzin Thosam and also her Date of Birth 15-03-1981 has been wrongly entered as 01-01-1981 instead of 15-03-1981 and also his daughter's Date of Birth 14-01-2013 has been wrongly entered as 12-12-2012 in the service document of, Unit 70 BN SSB and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA03697527632649U to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 70 BN SSB within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

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Show room 1. Front shop, Tukchu Complex, Opposite SNM Hospital new gate
 Show room 2. Main store and office, Indus Complex Choglamsar village, Whole sale market

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