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Ladakh pins hope on centre for constitutional safeguard

Apex, KDA to organise mass agitation or movement in August or September



Magsaysay awardee Sonam Wangchuk ending his nine-day long fast on June 26.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Magsaysay awardee Sonam Wangchuk ended his nine-day long fast on June 26 which began on June 18 in support of the environment and the demand for constitutional safeguard for Ladakh under the 6th schedule.

A mass public gathering was organised by Apex Body at NDS ground in solidarity with Sonam Wangchuk and to emphasize the 4 –point agenda for Ladakh, which includes demand for full statehood and extension of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to the region, two Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil and job reservation, separate Public Service Commission for Ladakh.

Thousands of people from all walks of life joined the gathering.

Thupstan Chhewang, Chief Apex body expressed gratitude to Sonam Wangchuk for his stand and struggle. He said that the struggle is

important for every Ladakhi to save the identity, culture, and traditions of Ladakh.

“We demanded UT to have our say and rights but the situation is the opposite, the future of Ladakh is decided by few bureaucrats. Our public representations stand nowhere” he added.

On June 19, a meeting was held between delegations of the Apex body, the Kargil Democratic Alliance, and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The meeting with the Union minister of State for home affairs Nityanand Rai in Delhi was positive as the minister assured to take the dialogue process forward. However, both Apex and KDA stood firm on the stand that they are ready for the dialogue if govt. talks on 4 point agenda of Ladakh. The centre after hearing all the concerns assured to reach back soon.

The meeting with the centre

is being held after a year and a half. The last meeting with the union minister of State for home affairs Nityanand Rai was on August 28, 2021, which yields no positive result for the people of Ladakh.

Sonam Wangchuk slammed the ruling government for breaking the trust of the people of Ladakh by not fulfilling the promises made during the elections. He said, “Ladakh is seeking their rights from the government, we are asking what the constitution has kept for the tribal population”.

“During elections, we see that the safeguard under the 6th schedule is kept in manifestos, and promises are made to grant what the people of Ladakh want. Unfortunately, the situation is different now”, he added.

People of Ladakh pinned hope on the centre to take the dialogue process further soon.

Talking about the upcoming parliamentary election in 2024, Thupstan Chhewang said that if the centre keeps on delaying the demand of the people then in August or September 2023 Apex and KDA will organise mass agitation or movement in Ladakh.

3rd edition of Nomadic Festival to be held in Hanle on July 15 and 16



EC, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee reviewing the Nomadic festival preparations with concerned stakeholders.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh Cultural Academy, Leh is organising Ladakh Nomadic Festival, showcasing complete nomadic life and culture in its pristine form on July 15 and 16 at Hanley, Changthang.

The main objective behind holding such a mega event in a far-off area like Hanley, Changthang is to celebrate the challenging Nomadic life well within their territory, letting their younger educated nomadic youth realize the beauty and uniqueness of the nomadic culture they are living in. Though their lifestyle looks difficult, they enjoy this way of life to its fullest with ease and are very happy and proud

of their culture.

The event is full of challenges for the organizers as it is an event that is against the very nature of nomadic life. The nomads believe in living in isolation rather than living a life altogether as most of the human society does. It would also be a brave attempt to bring nomads from various nomadic settlements/villages across the Changthang region.

Executive Councillor, Rural Development, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee chaired a meeting with the concerned stakeholders on June 27 and reviewed the preparations for the upcoming 3rd edition of the

Nomadic Festival 2023, scheduled to be held from July 15-16 at Hanle village in Changthang.

Deliberating on the arrangements, the meeting decided that a cultural troupe from villages across the Changthang region would participate presenting a kaleidoscopic view of the nomadic lifestyle and traditions. The meeting also discussed other aspects, including logistical support required from concerned departments and agencies to successfully conduct the festival.

Ladakh Nomadic Festival also aims to celebrate the life and glory of Changpa Heros like Ra-zhees (shepherds), Yak-zhees, Bar-zhees, and Ta-zhees always happy accepting challenges their way and dedicating their life to the survival of others in a way. Such festivals would also have a lasting impression on the future generation inspiring them to adopt their own nomadic life thus contributing towards and preserving the nomadic culture of Ladakh. Such initiatives can also be well considered as a pure investment in preserving this rare nomadic culture in the Indian Himalayas.

CULTURAL ACADEMY LEH CELEBRATING

བྱང་ཐང་རེ་བོའི་དགའ་སྟོན།

LADAKH NOMADIC FESTIVAL

VENUE: ANLEY, CHANGTHANG
15-16 JULY 2023

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LEH

ལ་དྲགས་ཞེས་འབྲིང་སྟོན་གྱི་སྟེ།
CELEBRATING NOMADIC LIFE

Fortnightly News

Two-day annual Hemis festival held

Thousands across the globe join to witness the festival



Manifestation of Guru Padmasambhava.

Stanzin Dasal

HEMIS: Commemorating the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava, two days annual Hemis monastery festival 'Hemis Tsechu' was observed with religious fervor on June 28 and 29. The silk brocade of Gyalstras Rinpoche was unfurled and displayed for blessings.

On July 28, the 10th lunar day, 'Tsechu', a series of different mask dances was performed by the monks in the monastery courtyard.

On the first day, the 13 black hat dancers performed the first sacred dance. Evoking the wrathful energy of Hayagriya, the black hat dancers cut off all evil influences to allow the festival to unfurl most beneficially and successfully. Followed by the Sixteen brass mask dance, the eight manifestations of Guru Padmasambhava perform the dance dis-

playing the principles that the guru spontaneously demonstrated as per different circumstances.

Other mask dances, including, the Twelve Zhing Kyong, the protectors of the truth, Serkyem, four goma (gatekeepers) for the welfare of all sentient beings, the four lords of the graveyards, five Chemchog Heruka (fierce of Guru Padmasambhava) the five Tshog len (Dakinis), the ten great king were also performed.

His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche said, "Hemis festival marks the celebration of the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava and the mask dance performed by the monks of the monastery is to bless the people and to bring peace and prosperity".

Talking about the Zero Waste Hemis festival initiative, His Eminence

said, "When it comes to celebrating a festival lots of waste is equally generated which is also an issue. Thus, this year Hemis monastery has started this initiative to generate less waste by avoiding plastic bottles and encouraging people to carry their water bottles, and putting a ban on single-use plastic".

His Eminence hoped that in the future many other festivals will be carried out with the same initiative for a better future.

On the last day, the monks assemble and worship Gyalpo Pehar (Dharmapala), the protector of Hemis. Sacred mask dance of the 13 black hat dancers, eleven Acharyas, Maning (The protector Mahakala as Maning), Serkyem, Mahe Dongchan-the buffalo face, and with the dance of Hashang and Hatuk the festival came to an end

This year, Hemis monastery made an initiative to celebrate the festival with zero waste generation. Prior commencement of the festival, Chakzot, Hemis Monastery, Ven. Nawang Jigmet appealed to devotees and all tourists to get their bottle of water and support the monastery to make 'Zero waste Hemis Tsechu'.

ECI releases 'Main Bharat Hoon, Hum Bharat Ke Matdata Hain' song in regional language



Election Commissioner of India, Anup Chandra Pandey launching the video song.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The song "Nga Gyagar En' which is the translated version of ECI "Main Bharat Hoon; Hum Bharat ke Matdata Hain" was launched and released by the Election Commissioner of India, Anup Chandra Pandey on June 23 at Grand Dragon

Leh. Election Commissioner of India, Anup Chandra Pandey appreciated the department for the authenticity of the video. He also directed to upload the video on the official websites of the ECI.

The song also features local artists and regional icons. The video footage showcased local/regional culture, sports, historical places, etc.

Yetindra M. Maralkar, Chief Electoral Officer, UT of Ladakh; Swarn Singh, Deputy Secretary (Election); ADC Leh Sonam Chosjor were also present at the occasion.

22 seats of degree-level engineering and other fields reserved for Ladakh

Online registration for Seat Allocation Schedule for CSAB- NEUT, 2023 starts from June 26-July 3

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 22 seats under the ongoing scheme of Reservation of seats in Engineering/Technology/Architecture/Pharmacy courses for the academic sessions 2023-24 were allotted to Ladakh.

Sharing the information, Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education Department, Padma Angmo informed that the above-mentioned courses are conducted at Degree level technical institutions approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Universities for States and UTs which do not have Engineering Colleges or lack facilities for education in specific fields of Technical Education, and for certain categories including foreign students.

She said that last year UT Administration requested the Ministry of Education, Government of India for

the provision of reserved seats for students from Ladakh considering the lack of Engineering College in the newly formed UT.

The Commissioner/Secretary shared that as per the latest communication from the Ministry of Education, the Central Seat Allocation Board NEUT-2023, NIT Rourkela has issued the Seat Allocation Schedule for CSAB-NEUT, 2023 for allotment of various degree level Engineering, Architecture, and Pharmacy seats reserved in mainland institutions for the students of Ladakh for the academic year 2023-24.

All interested students/candidates are informed that the scheduled date for online provisional registration, uploading of documents, verification of documents, choice filling, and seat allotment will be starting from June 26 2023 onwards. Online

provisional Registration and uploading of documents start from June 26 to July 3, 2023. The seats are available to only those students who qualify JEE (Main) examination. The applicant/candidate necessarily should be a domicile of Ladakh.

Interested candidates from UT Ladakh for allotment against seats offered for degree-level Engineering, Architecture, and Pharmacy courses at mainland institutes may go through the website <https://csab.nic.in/csab-neut/> and directly apply online with Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB NEUT)-2023. Other general information, Institutional availability of seats, flow chart, etc. will be made available at www.csab.nic.in and they may carefully follow the instructions and complete the online registration/choice filling process which is scheduled from June 26, 2023, onwards.

Transport department organises e-car demonstration, test drive

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Transport department, Ladakh organised a display and test drive of E-cars for public awareness at Taxi Union, Bomb Guard Leh on June 24.

The display camp was an initiative of the department towards making the UT self-sustainable, SMART, integrated, and carbon neutral.

Commissioner Secretary, Transport Department, Saugat Biswas said that the administration has come up with the Ladakh Electric Vehicle Policy to encourage transporters and individuals to avail of subsidies on e-vehicles to create a carbon-neutral future for the UT. He further stressed wide publicity and circular of the EV policy among the people.

The electric vehicle policy "Ladakh's Electric Vehicle and Allied Infrastructure Policy 2022" will encourage the transporter and individuals to avail subsidy to create a carbon-neutral future for the UT. The policy entails a capital subsidy of 20 % on two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers. To encourage sustainable and eco-friendly public transport, public buses will be given a capital subsidy of 50% under this policy, during the first year of the policy period after which it will be halved.

Moreover, he added that those interested in starting their charging infrastructure business must take advantage of availing government subsidies on the same, including the



Demonstrations of E-cars for public awareness in Leh.

EV Policy. Capital subsidy on equipment/machinery (capital subsidy of 25% on the equipment/machinery or Rs. 5, 00,000 (whichever is less) per station for the first 15 Electric Vehicle charging stations will be provided. The policy underlines that the electric power required by commercial EV charging stations would be charged at domestic rates.

He urged the drivers and commercial vehicle owners to take advantage of the

e-Vehicle policy of Ladakh and usher in a carbon-neutral transport eco-system in Ladakh.

Expressing his gratitude, Commissioner Secretary Biswas lauded the UT Motor Garage's efforts in organising such a display and demonstration camp.

Deputy Director, District Motor Garage Leh, Dr. Zulfikar Ali informed that the event was organised to encourage the drivers to adopt electric vehicles in

the country and envisions encouraging and cultivating an EV ecosystem and that such awareness camps will help clear the misconceptions regarding the performance of E-cars in hilly areas such as Ladakh.

Further, he urged the drivers to opt for E-cars that will help reduce dependence on fossil fuel-powered vehicles and take advantage of the available subsidies. He requested the car dealers/agencies in Leh to introduce more such cars in the region.

Later, Dy Director Garages briefed about the details of the vehicle's specifications and displayed E-cars were taken for test drives by the drivers.

President, Taxi Union Leh, a team from Hyundai company, and members of Taxi Union were present at the occasion.

World Drug Day: Health department organises awareness, counselling programme

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Observing International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking/World Drug Day, Health and Family Welfare Department under District Mental Health Programme organised an awareness and individual counselling programme on June 26 at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh.

Psychiatrist, SNM Hospital Leh, Dr. Padma Angmo highlighted the importance of organising the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. She also spoke about the theme for this year which is 'People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination Strengthen Prevention'.

Explaining the theme, she said that to stop any bad habit, people need to stop stigmatization and discrimination to strengthen the prevention. She asked the students to get help from counsellors through Tele MANAS toll-free helpline number 14416.

CMO Leh Dr Norzin Angmo while interacting with the students also focused on calling the toll-free no of Tele MANAS for any counseling related to men-



CMO Leh Dr Norzin Angmo while interacting with the students on World Drug Day.

tal health.

Counsellor Tele MANAS, Dr Dawa also highlighted the importance of mental health and stressed availing the benefits of Tele MANAS services.

Principal BHSS, Tsewang Dolma thanked the Health Department for organising the awareness programme at their school. She said that Higher Secondary School students are more prone to drugs and related practices and such awareness is the need of the hour for the student. Meanwhile, individual counselling sessions were held for the students by the counsellors of Tele

MANAS.

The awareness and individual counselling programme was part of the National Health Mission's efforts to promote mental health and well-being among school children and their families. The programme aimed to create awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to provide psychological support and guidance to those who need it.

The participants appreciated the initiative taken by the Health Department and expressed their interest in learning more about mental he

3rd phase of FMD vaccination under National Animal Disease Control Program held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Leh launched the 3rd phase of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination under the National Animal Disease Control Program (NADCP) on June 23.

The primary objective of the NADCP is to control the spread of FMD in cattle by implementing widespread vaccination

and the farmer friendly e-Gopala App.

To ensure the successful execution of the vaccination campaign, a comprehensive logistics plan has been put in place. This includes the provision of essential equipment such as needles, syringes, tags, tag applicators, gloves, sanitizers, and other necessary supplies.

Under this program's ongoing efforts, the distribution of 175 Igloo boxes or vaccine carriers, 45 refrigerators, and 10 Ice-lined refrigerators has been carried out across Leh district. These facilities will play a crucial role in maintaining the cold chain for vaccines, ensuring their efficacy throughout the vaccination campaign.

Additionally, a Walk-in Cooler with a capacity of 960 cubic feet has been established at the Disease Investigation Office in Skara.

Two drug peddlers held with 341 gms of Charas



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Police Leh arrested two men involved in drug peddling while conducting routine patrolling in and around Leh market on June 27.

The police recovered 135 gms of finger-shaped Charas-like substance from a person identified as Abdul Majid S/O Abdul Rehman a resident of Chute-Rantak Leh who runs a meat shop at Nowshera Market Leh. Further investigation into the case revealed involvement of another person and a peddler namely Thinles Gyatso S/o Lt. Sonam Angchuk, R/o Digger Nubra who runs a bike rental shop at Zangsti was arrested. Police recovered approximately 206 gms of finger-shaped Charas-like substance from his rental room near Zangsti.

The case was registered

with FIR No 96/2023 U/S 8/20/29 NDPS Act at Police Station Leh. Preliminary investigations have revealed that these individuals sell drugs at exorbitant prices to local youths and tourists.

District Police Leh appeals to the general public to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers and to join hands with Ladakh Police in the fight against the menace of drug abuse in the district. Informers' anonymity will be protected, and they can reach out through www.drugs-freele.com or contact the Anti-Narcotic Unit of District Police Leh at mobile number 9541900291 or landline number 01982-252200. Alternatively, they can report the information to the nearest police station.

Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche given a warm welcome in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SAKTI: Cultural and Welfare Society, Dakthok monastery, Choekhor Pedmaling, and the villagers accorded a warm welcome to His Holiness Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche the 6th throne holder of the Nyingma Lineage during his first homecoming on June 20.

His Eminence Urgain Rinpoche; His Eminence Atak Rinpoche; His Eminence Lachung Rinpoche were present at the occasion.

CEC Tashi Gyalson expressed his appreciation for the revered reincarnation of the Late 3rd Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche. During his speech, he spoke about Late Rinpoche's significant contributions and expressed gratitude for his reincar-

nation and visit to Ladakh.

MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal also spoke about the reincarnation of the late 3rd Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche. He expressed that Rinpoche's reincarnation and his first visit to Ladakh is a blessing for the people of Ladakh. He hoped that Rinpoche will visit and bless the people of Ladakh in the future also.

Several dignitaries including H.E Lachung Rinpoche and Dr. Urgain Dadul discussed the late 3rd Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche's life history. They emphasized that the late Rinpoche was one of the most experienced masters of the Nyingma tradition and the supreme head of the Nyingma school.

Fortnightly News

3rd Governing Council of Ladakh Skill Development Mission held

Advisor okays skill courses for all colleges of Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The meeting of the 3rd Governing Council of Ladakh Skill Development Mission (LSDM) was chaired by Dr Pawan Kotwal, Advisor also the Chairperson of LSDM at the Civil Secretariat on June 22.



Officials during the meeting of the 3rd Governing Council of Ladakh Skill Development Mission.

The Governing Council approved the establishment of skill laboratories in various degree colleges of UT Ladakh for the introduction of Skill Courses in Colleges under the National Educational Policy; funds disbursement to District Skill Committees for implementation of skill projects and remuneration to the trainers for the skill courses in Colleges. The achievements of LSDM and the action plan for LSDM for the fiscal year 23-24, amongst others were also discussed.

Speaking on the importance of developing a robust skilling ecosystem in Ladakh, Commissioner/Secretary, Technical Education & Skill Development Department, Ladakh, Padma Angmo shared that a Skill Gap & Livelihood Study is being undertaken to cover all 31 blocks of Ladakh covering 12400 respondents and various stakeholders including Industries, Departments, Entrepreneurs, SHGs, Panchayats etc. She further informed the meeting that skill courses shall commence in the coming academic session in collaboration with various Sector Skill Councils.

OSD, Technical Education & Skill Development Department, Ladakh, Abied Hussain gave a detailed presentation on Annual Action Plan for approval. The plan finalized by Executive Committee LSDM outlines the activities, funds approved in FY 2022-23, and expenditure components.

He also briefed about the establishment of LSDM PMU and commencement of gap study; review of a pilot study on skill gap analysis and livelihood study; approval of PMU TA/DA; establishment of skill labs in Degree colleges for introducing skill courses (Colleges and job roles); collaboration with Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and NIELIT; certification through respective SSCs; procurement procedure for machinery and equipment; trainer remuneration; achievements of LSDM, amongst others.

Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Ladakh Ravinder Kumar suggested certifying courses on mountaineering, guiding, and other related skills, which can serve as a niche for Ladakh's tourism industry, while also highlighting the need for awareness programs to inform and educate people about these courses.

Dr Kotwal appreciated the initiatives taken up by the Ladakh Skill Development Mission and asked the Mission to further strengthen the skilling ecosystem in Ladakh. Recognizing the crucial role of skills in the economy and the overall development of the country, he urged officials to spare no effort in introducing top-notch skills and training programs for the youth of Ladakh. Further, he stated that it is imperative to provide targeted training for skills and education op-

portunities to the people and directed the officials to identify candidates for specialized courses and training programs to equip them with essential skills as per market demand. Furthermore, with a deep concern for the welfare of children, Dr. Kotwal urged District Commissioners (DCs) Leh and Kargil to take proactive measures to prevent any distress migration of Ladakhi children outside Ladakh for education and skill-building opportunities. He appreciated the initiative taken by LSDM to conduct a comprehensive skill gap and livelihood study and said that the study should involve an in-depth market study and demand survey.

The meeting was also attended by the representative of the Principal Secretary, of the School Education/Housing & Urban Development Department; the Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce / Rural Development Department; Director Tourism, Ladakh; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Leh; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil; Regional Director, Regional Directorate of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship J&K; Ladakh, MSDE, Gol (Representative of DGT, MSDE, Gol); State Engagement NSDC, (Representative of NSDC); Sr. Accounts Officer TE&SD/ LSDM and other concerned officials.

Counselling cum awareness workshop on PMSSS 2023-24 held at EJM College, Leh



After the conclusion of one day counselling cum awareness workshop on Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) 2023-24.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: One day counselling cum awareness workshop on Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) 2023-24 was held at Eliezer Joldan Memorial College, Leh on June 23.

The primary objective of the workshop was to provide comprehensive guidance and support to students and stakeholders in the Ladakh region. By fostering knowledge sharing and promoting awareness, the workshop addressed the needs of students who have already registered for PMSSS 2023-24, as well as those in the 11th and 12th standards who are aspiring to benefit from the scholarship in the future.

Commissioner/Secretary Padma Angmo emphasized the importance of the workshop in equipping students with knowledge and resources for informed decision-making. She urged the attending students to fully seize the available opportunities offered by the PMSSS. She emphasized the significance of timely and correct utilization of scholarships, stressing the need to avoid duplication. She added that by availing scholarships in the correct manner, students can maximize their educational benefits and pave the way for a successful career.

Principal of Eliezer Joldan Memorial College,

Dr Sameena Iqbal expressing heartfelt gratitude to the AICTE team, who have been serving the people of Ladakh for over a decade. Member Secretary of AICTE, Professor Rajiv Kumar delivered an insightful lecture on the importance of PMSSS, shedding light on the immense benefits it offers. This was followed by a detailed session by Director at AICTE, Kunal Jeet Singh who provided comprehensive information on the eligibility criteria and various opportunities available through PMSSS.

During the workshop, Guest Speaker Tsering Tashi, a Scientist from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), informed the attendees about the various benefits of PMSSS. He specifically highlighted the provision of 6 reserved seats at the prestigious Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) exclusively for students from Ladakh and J&K under the PMSSS programme. Tashi urged the students not to miss out on this golden opportunity and encouraged them to make the most of it for their future endeavours.

Observation-cum-special home established in Leh



Officials inaugurating the Observation-cum-Special Home for Leh district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Office of the District Child Protection Officer, Leh, Social and Tribal Welfare Department, UT Ladakh established an Observation-cum-Special Home for Leh district on June 20.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk was the chief guest during the inauguration ceremony. Commissioner Secretary, Social, and Tribal Welfare Department, La-

dakh, Padma Angmo, and Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Shrikant Suse were also present.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh added that such a juvenile observation home was the need of the hour. Further, stressing the effective and efficient functioning of the observation home, Dy Chairman shared that the recruitment and training of the officers and officials

should be prioritized and deliberated as well.

DIG Ladakh Police expressed his satisfaction with the establishment of the observation-cum-special home in Leh. Though the crime rate is low in Ladakh, the opening of the observation home is a step ahead which would greatly aid in any juvenile-related cases, added DIG Ladakh.

Member Secretary State Legal Service Authority, Spalzes Angmo; Chairman, Juvenile Justice Board, Leh, Wangyal Tsering; District Social Welfare Officer, Leh, Nilza Angmo; District Child Protection Unit, Leh officers/officials along with the members of the Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board, Leh were also present on the occasion.

Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal visits Phobrang village

Discusses action plan under Vibrant Village program



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

PHOBRANG: Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal visited Phobrang village of Durbuk Sub-Division and chaired a meeting on the action plan under Vibrant Village Program of Phobrang village on June 23.

Advisor Ladakh gave careful hearing to the concerns, issues, and grievances of the villagers of Phobrang and urged upon all the concerned departments to prepare the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) about various schemes and developmental works of Phobrang village to be achieved under the Vibrant Village Program.

The vibrant village program's targets are to provide comprehensive and holistic development of Changthang and improve the quality of life of people living in identified border villages and transform them into self-suf-

& Sheep equipments such as rubber cow mats, calf-puller, rubber gum boots, calf-feeding bottle, etc to the beneficiaries of Phobrang village.

Pertaining upgradation in medical facilities, Dr Kotwal directed Director Health Service to upgrade the Medical Sub Centres of Phobrang and Lukung to New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and sanction a New Medical Sub Centre at Upper Phobrang.

On the way to Phobrang village, Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal inspected the under-construction site of The newly built 30 bedded New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC), Tangtse, Medical Sub-Centre, Lower Phobrang and Pangong Craft Centre (Pashmina), Phobrang. He appreciated the efforts of medical staff of NTPHC, Tangtse and Medical Sub Centre, Lower Phobrang for their sincerity during emergencies and lauded the craftsmen of the Pangong Craft Centre for their work. After reviewing various similar projects, Dr Pawan Kotwal lauded the progress achieved in the sub-division and instructed to continue the same pace of projects.

Advisor Dr Kotwal advised villagers that the natural ecosystems will be safeguarded and enhanced using various conservation strategies.

During the visit, Dr Kotwal distributed Animal

'J&K Bank on Wheels' to operate in Ladakh's remote areas

L-G inaugurates 2 maiden mobile branches in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

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Further, he added that the Vibrant Village Program aims to develop sustainable eco-agribusinesses built on the concept of "One Village-One product" through community-based organizations, Cooperatives, SHGs,

Animal Husbandry Department organises Mobile Veterinary healthcare/outreach program

The camp will be carried out every 2nd and 4th week of the month

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Animal Husbandry Department, Leh organised a Mobile Veterinary health care outreach program and health/awareness camps in the Kalthse and Nyoma blocks of the Leh district on June 26.

The camps aimed to pro-

vide essential healthcare services to animals and create awareness among the public about livestock diseases, livestock management, and departmental schemes.

A two-day veterinary health camp was also conducted in the villages of Lamayuru and Leh Dho on June 23 and 24. During

the camps, 75 clinical cases were addressed, and provided with the necessary treatment and care. Similarly, a total of 27 pregnancy diagnoses/fertility check-ups were done along with 11 KCC loans were also processed.

Further, another two-day camp was conducted in Tsaga and Hanle villages

Indian Army organises leadership programme for Veer Naris & dependants of veterans



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 15 ladies, dependants of veterans of Ladakh including Veer Nari were trained under the Leadership development programme at the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi from June 20 to 22.

Facilitated by the Leh Sub Area under the aegis of Fire and Fury Corps, the training was organised in collaboration with Looms of Ladakh, a women's cooperative. The training aimed to develop leadership skills amongst the ladies for operating and

managing a successful cooperative enterprise. The initiative will empower them towards self-employment and becoming successful entrepreneurs in the future.

On June 26, General Officer Commanding Leh Sub Area felicitated the women who completed their training.

The participants expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support rendered by the Indian Army in their empowerment and development.

EC reviews preparedness for upcoming parliamentary polls



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Election Commissioner of India, Anup Chandra Pandey reviewed the preparedness of the UT Administration Ladakh for the upcoming parliamentary elections on June 24.

District Magistrates of both Leh and Kargil briefed on the number of constituencies, blocks in both districts, and the ongoing infrastructural work taking place for upcoming elections in the region. Data on the inaccessibility of polling parties due to poor connectivity in certain areas, accessibility of digital communication, demographic detail of voters, SVEEP awareness programs, and Block level officers (BLOs) of both districts were also discussed during the meeting.

ECI directed the administration to follow up on the preparedness of elections in the areas of infrastructure, connectivity, and communication sector in a time-bound manner. Furthermore, in the area of infrastructure, he directed to ensure that the polling stations are equipped with requirements- washrooms, drinking water, and ramps for PWDs, power connections, etc. Directions were also given to identify the shadow areas and ensure connectivity in these regions, officials were advised to inspect the sites personally.

Regarding voter turnout in the region, ECI directed

the administrations to collect proper demographic data of voters. He advised that surveys can be done in areas with less voter turnout, on which basis mobilizing and activation of BLOs can also be done. He stressed focusing on youth voters and collaborating with the education department for collecting data on new voters, and also increasing SVEEP activities in both schools and colleges. Further, he advised both districts to start a provision for facilitating centenarian voters. To improve the quality of elections and rationalize the polling stations, he directed improving the conditions of assigned BLOs is essential.

Various issues in the areas of ERONET, hands-on training needed for officials, problems arising due to migration, and strengthening of the CEO office were also discussed in the meeting. ECI assured to look into these matters and the decision was taken to send a few officials from the Election and IT department to Delhi for training.

The meeting was also attended by Yetindra M. Maralkar, Chief Electoral Officer, UT of Ladakh; Swarn Singh, Deputy Secretary (Election); Deputy Commissioner Leh; Deputy Commissioner Kargil; ADC Leh; Election Naib Tehsildar Leh; Election Naib Tehsildar Kargil and officials from the election and IT departments of both the districts.

Supplements and first aid kits were also distributed during the camps.

The Mobile Veterinary Healthcare/ outreach program is an ongoing initiative and will be conducted during the second and fourth week of every month.

Expert Talk

Yangchen Dolma



Lobzang Vissudha: The term ‘Sustainable tourism’ and ‘Sustainability’ is something that nowadays people are using more often as they become more environmentally and socially conscious. And with the growing tourism industry the concern over the fragile environment, depleting resources, etc. is also becoming debatable topics.

In 1974, when Ladakh was first opened for tourism, around 400 to 500 tourists used to visit a year, and with time we saw the numbers rising every year. Today in 2023, around 6 to 7 Lakh tourists visit Ladakh every year. The number might fascinate many people but the question is, does Ladakh have enough resources to deal with it? And that’s where the word Sustainable becomes relevant because there is a saying, “Tourism can be a double-edged sword. It can bring economic benefits but can also harm the environment and local communities.”

Tourism is an industry that allows people to visit different places and explore unique attractions. In Ladakh, the tourist comes to see the lifestyle, mountains, monasteries, and culture. However, it’s important to ensure that these treasures attractions shouldn’t be impacted by growing tourism. We have come across various incidents in Pangong, Nubra where tourists are driving on dunes, and lakes, chasing away wildlife, etc. Irresponsible tourism can result in damaging the destination and resources. If we end up damaging the destination and resources of Ladakh irresponsibly then people who rely on tourism directly for income may become jobless. Earlier tourists used to visit Ladakh for trekking, mountaineering, camping and to see Ladakh’s culture and tradition which used to benefit many helpers, homestay owners, guides, and small villagers. But now the situation has changed, tourism is growing rapidly and is only benefitting some sectors of people. The tourist mostly travels to a few famous areas like Pangong Lake, Nubra, and Magnetic Hill which put pressure on the place and keeps many other places unexplored and not benefited.

E.g. during the COVID pandemic, we have seen a life of people all over the world stood still. In Ladakh, people who are relied solely on tourism for livelihood experience significant financial difficulties as compared to others. In 2017, the Public Health Engineering department had to send water to some hotels in Leh through tank water because their water source got dried up due to excessive use of borewells. I feel it’s a warning for us. Water scarcity is becoming a rising issue and many of the places in Ladakh are already facing it.

I feel we all should learn from that experience, tourism cannot last long if we don’t make it sustainable.

Ladakh is a separate Union territory now and we must have a good policy for a better tomorrow,

Sustainable Tourism

but sadly the situation is still just the same as in J&K. All these years we have been hearing the concern that tourism policies are being framed but is still not very clear. There is a need for strict regulation or policy so that every tourist activity carries out smoothly. Last year due to a huge influx of tourism in Ladakh, there were shortages of taxis and hotels. This shows that there is a lack of policies and regulations.

The region is facing mass tourism, also known as selfie tourism, bonfire tourism, and bike tourism where tourists only come to a party and don’t take responsibility for the damage they are causing. It’s important to avoid causing harm to the environment and wildlife and to respect the surroundings. Tourists should be mindful of their actions and be responsible for their impact on the environment.

SOLUTION:

• *There should be a policy and guidelines in Ladakh that includes a cap on the number of tourists allowed in Ladakh. Serious discussion and deliberation with all the stakeholders, including public representatives, govt agencies, tourism departments, wildlife departments, and all other concerned parties to frame guidelines are necessary.*

• *Promotion of Homestays. Homestays are also famous in Ladakh, but nowadays, people tend to view homestays as a replacement for hotels, which is not the intended concept. Homestays are meant to provide tourists with an opportunity to experience village life and stay with local families, this can benefit both the tourists and locals alike.*





Padma Rigzen: Sustainability can have different connotations depending on how it’s used. In general, it means the ability to maintain or support something over time. It can also imply that we need to make changes to ensure that we can continue to support the planet and its resources for future generations.

Secondly, we should also think about what Tourism is. I think tourism is just a trade although lots of people in Ladakh depend on tourism and in the past, people used to trade goods across long distances using animals like Yak, Horses, and Dzo. This was an important way for people to get the resources they needed and to stay connected with other cultures. One of the biggest impacts of tourism is the commodification of our culture. In my village Hemis-skukpachan, all the dances we do during our losar festival are dedicated to the ‘LHAS AND LHUS’, those are sacred spiritual dances for our spirits of the lands, and nowadays we danced in front of tourists with those dances.

Only 6 to 7% of people are directly dependent on tourism, not everyone. Although people

Continued from page no. 4

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The United Nations General Assembly decided on December 7, 1987, to observe June 26 as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. This was done to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of a world free of drug abuse.

The day and events related to it promote the need for more effective drug recovery centers that are also more easily accessible.

This year’s theme is “People First: stop stigma and Discrimination, strengthen Prevention”.

This year’s World Drug Day is a call to:

- Raise awareness about the negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people who use drugs and their families.
- Raise awareness about the AIDS and hepatitis epidemics among people who use drugs and expand and strengthen HIV and hepatitis prevention programmes.
- Promote evidence-based, voluntary services for all people who use drugs.


• Educate about drug use disorders, available treatments and the importance of early intervention and support.

• Advocate for alternatives to imprisonment for drug-related crimes, such as community-based treatment and services.

• Combat stigma and discrimination by promoting language and attitudes that is respectful and non-judgmental.

• Empower young people and communities to prevent drug use and addiction.

Courtesy: United Nation website and Livemint

DID YOU KNOW 

- Octopuses have blue blood and nine brains!
- A coyote can hear a mouse moving almost a foot under the snow!!
- Along with having laws against spitting and urinating anywhere but in a toilet (which you’re then legally obligated to flush if it’s a public washroom), Singapore has also banned chewing gum in an effort to keep the city clean and orderly. The ban was established in 1992. In 2004, exceptions were made for therapeutic, dental, or nicotine gums.
- More than 300 million years ago, the Meganeura established itself as the largest known flying insect to ever exist on Earth. The dragonfly-like creature had a wingspan that stretched around 2.5 feet. The bugs were also big enough to hunt prey like frogs and newts, which it could eat with its teeth-like mandibles.
- Shakespeare wrote some of the most beloved and revered pieces of literature the world has ever known, but in order to craft his plays and poems, he sometimes resorted to making up his own words. In fact, The Bard is said to have come up with more than 1,700 words including moonbeam, laughable, eyeball, bump, puking, champion, bedroom, excitement, and zany.
- When Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein passed away on April 18, 1955, he left behind specific instructions when it came to the disposal of his body, according to one National Geographic investigation. Einstein didn’t want his corpse to be worshiped or his brain to be studied, so he instructed those who were responsible for his remains to “cremate them, and scatter the ashes secretly in order to discourage idolaters.” However, Thomas Harvey, the pathologist on call when Einstein died at New Jersey’s Princeton Hospital, didn’t quite follow those instructions. Instead, he stole Einstein’s brain. From there, things got even weirder. When Einstein’s family found out, his son apparently didn’t object to the theft and Harvey was able to keep the brain in two jars in his basement before moving it to “a cider box stashed under a beer cooler.”

Courtesy: Bestlifeonline.com

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Doing nothing is doing great!



Yes, doing nothing can be doing great, at times. That is because ‘doing nothing’ does not really mean that you are doing nothing at all! It means that you have to plan and work hard to do nothing because doing nothing is a serious business, maybe more serious than doing some work that you do on a daily basis.

I chose to use this column on the topic because a friend had recently asked me what could be the “real meaning” of ‘doing nothing’. That was in response to one of my ‘Morning Musings’ that carried the ‘doing nothing’ words. I explained to him that ‘doing nothing’ does not mean that one does not do anything, of any sort. It means doing something ‘out-of-the-normal’ kind, and not a thing that you do every day and labour hard.

‘Doing nothing’ is basically devoted to good and great use that not only takes you off your boring, daily routine work but also keeps you happy and inspired. It is during such times that you can gain moments of inspiration and come out with amazing results.

Actually, I was inspired, recently, by fictional character Christopher Robin’s words: “Doing nothing often leads to the very best something.” Thinking over it a bit on a long, tiring day, I started wondering why toil so much when greater things can happen by doing nothing? So, I told myself: Bachhu, go off your work, relax, ponder over greater things of life, and recharge to ‘get-set-go’!

Yes, I get the best of ideas when I roam around aimlessly!

So, the takeaway is that great things of life do not come by hard work alone. Take a break, talk to friends, look for good mentors and walk in the circle of those who have already made it big! Go around places too. Getting footloose is one of the best things to happen in life. That gives you what they call a new look, a fresh insight into life. And that could assure you of a real good life.

Courtesy: WongWorld

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Zhara Batool, Sculptor

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. You are the first woman sculptor from Kargil. Could you tell us more about your story, the time when you realized that you would be an artist?

I am from the Pashkyum village of Kargil district and during my childhood days I showed a keen interest in drawing and painting. As I grew up I focused more on my academics than on arts and kept painting and drawing as my hobby. Like many other people, I don't have a story to narrate about my role model or inspiration to be an artist. For me, everything came up naturally. Since I got no idea about Fine Arts subject, I gave up painting and drawing for the time being because I was pursuing BA. In my second year during my graduation days in Jammu, I came to know about the subject of Fine Arts and that there is a separate college in Jammu to study it. If I knew about the course I would have started just after my 12th but I didn't leave my studies in between, I finished my BA and later got myself enrolled in the Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) Jammu University and pursued graduation in Visual Arts. Thus, I continued to study further since I have an interest in this particular subject. I did a Master in Visual Arts from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. In 2022, I also cleared NET.

Q. What is your specialization? Why did you choose this particular subject?

When I first joined to study Visual art, I didn't know that there will be so much to study.

I found that there are different types of arts apart from painting, and sculpting, in particular, interested me. Sculpture involves working with clay, molding, and carving to make an art out of it. I chose it because clay, muds, and water are something that I used to play with during my childhood. There is a memory attached to it, thus, I chose sculpture because I already have a bond with the medium and when I work, it refreshes up my childhood days and I wanted to live with it. Thus I did both my Bachelor's and Master in sculpture

Q. Brief us about the work that you have exhibited in many exhibitions. Share with us about your work.

My first work is very basic and it was all about figurative because I want to cope with and deal with different materials used for sculpting such as stone, wood, POP, and clay. I gained most of the exposure and learning during my college days especially while pursuing a master's. I participated in various camps such as waste art, sand sculpture, etc. I participated in the Graduation degree show at Jammu University, several groups shows such as GENESIS group show at Fine Arts Faculty, University of Baroda in 2021, GENESIS 2.0 group show at Fine Arts Faculty, University of Baroda in 2022, group exhibition themed, 'Peripheral vision: Journeys of migration and belonging' at Arthshilla, Shantiniketan in April 2023. I also did one solo exhibition at the LAMO centre, Leh on June 10, 2023.

The exhibitions in Baroda and the LAMO are very important in my art career and also are a turning point in my life because I learned so many things and guidance from many artists.



Q. You being the first woman sculptor from Kargil how do you feel? How much potential and scope do you see in sculpture for women?

I have no intention of doing something different and extraordinary; all I wanted to do is do what I love and am most interested in. Later, I came to know that I am the first woman sculptor in Kargil which is a good thing to know but along with it comes responsibility and pressure to keep that name high and work with utmost dedication because I have opened up a new horizon for the girls in Kargil. I have introduced a new career path to many young girls who want to pursue arts as their career. I am happy to share that girls in Kargil started choosing their careers as sculptors which is a very positive thing. There are my two juniors who are currently learning to sculpt.

The scope and potential of art in Kargil are not so much active as in Leh. We still have to work hard to get this field popularized among the public. I am also trying my bit to introduce this field by making students aware of the courses, where to apply, what to do etc. Things are getting better and I hope it will get more strong and active in the coming days.

Q. Tell us about your engagement with art in Ladakh? What obstacles or challenges do you face in making and exhibiting your work?

My artwork is in synchronization with the tradition and culture of Ladakh. Ladakh's land, history, and culture have always inspired me in my work. The challenge which I face and I guess many other artists from Ladakh also faces is the lack of good space to exhibit our work. An artist needs to showcase their work so that people can understand and communicate with their artwork. Financial constraints can be another issue for many artists thus, I feel the administration or the society needs to have confidence and give them opportunities to exhibit their work.

Q. How important is it to keep the art, culture, and tradition of Ladakh alive?

Ladakh has a very unique and diverse culture and it becomes immensely important to preserve it because in this rapidly growing global world with digitalization people are busy and very keen to adopt new things in life. At this pace, we are losing our rich culture and original things. It's good to have change but it should be balanced. Giving up our roots and culture for the sake of modernization is never a good idea. The ancient buildings and things are our heritage and we need to keep them intact and preserve them along with other developments.

Q. What is your plan?

At present, I am working on a commissioned work provided by the Kargil administration under Town Beautification Project. I am also planning to hold a solo exhibition in Kargil so that I can introduce the art field, my work, and about myself.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“If you don't have much understanding and awareness about a particular field doesn't mean it is wrong or got nothing to offer. Let's appreciate and welcome new ideas rather than being judgemental and criticizing without understanding. Change the way you look at things and lastly, support the artists of Ladakh.”

Fortnight Highlights



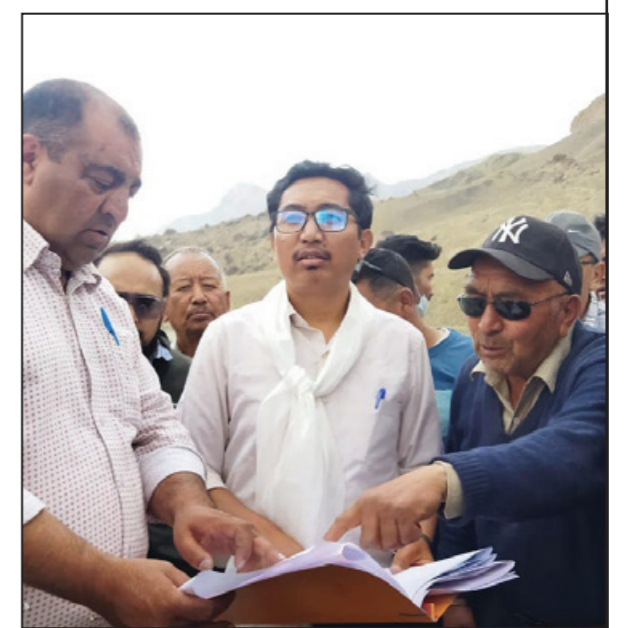
Animal Husbandry Leh organised a 3-day animal birth control and anti-rabies camp in Nyoma Sub-division. A total of 128 dogs were sterilized and vaccinated against rabies.



A team of doctors' lead by Block Medical Officer, Leh, Dr Rinchen Chosdol organised one-day multi-speciality mobile medical unit camp at Matho village. A total of 188 beneficiaries availed the services provided during the mobile medical unit.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalsen reviewed the status of District Capex Budget 2023-24 and the works under the Special Development Package (SDP) being executed by the various departments.



In preparation for the teaching by His Holiness Dalai Lama in August, MP Ladakh visited construction site in Zerthang, Khaltse and evaluate the progress of ongoing work.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) meeting the 1st Ladakh Battalion NCC at Military Station, Kharu.



The seven-day Bhoti Grammar training/workshop was organised by DIET Leh in collaboration with Pethub Khamtsen.



Patients and attendants in the Medical and Geriatric ward of SNM Hospital Leh performing yoga during the 9th International Day of Yoga at SNM Hospital, Leh on July 21.



The 9th International Yoga Day-2023 with the theme "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," was celebrated across the Kargil district with enthusiasm at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium, Bemathang, Kargil.

Fortnightly News

Founder Director, Ladakh Science Foundation, meets Hill Council members in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Founder Director, Ladakh Science Foundation, Tsering Tashi met Executive Councilor, Social Welfare, Agha Syed Mehdi Fazilly, and EC, Zanskar Affairs, Er Punchok Tashi on June 22 and discussed the need to establish Ladakh Science City at various places in Ladakh with the feasibility of eco-system and scientific importance.



The Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Ladakh Sanjeev Khirwar.

Councilors, Principals, and Science Teachers from various schools of Kargil were present on the occasion.

EC Tashi congratulated Founder Director, LSF for his contribution and the proposal to scientifically develop Ladakh. He thanked the Director, LSF for sharing his valuable experience with them.

Regarding the proposal to establish Ladakh Science City at various locations of the UT presented by Tsering Tashi in the meeting, EC Tashi said it would be discussed with Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan and other members of the Hill Council. He appreci-

ated the objectives of the LSF and its dreams to set up Ladakh Science City across various locations in the UT.

EC said the development and future of Ladakh have to be compulsorily linked with science and scientific developments that suit Ladakh's ecology. He said commercialization of the primary sector with the help of science is the golden path for Ladakh. He also said that involving students in scientific activities is a good idea and it can develop scientific temper among them.

Founder Director, Tsering Tashi in his presentation displayed various achieve-

ments and new dreams of the LSF for the development of young minds in Ladakh. He stressed the need to make efforts in improving and promoting science-based knowledge among students in Ladakh at various levels.

The Founder Director of LSF said the main objective of the establishment of Ladakh Science City is to technically improve young students so that they can practically understand deep scientific concepts.

He requested LAHDC Kargil for its support in bringing new scientific concepts through the establishment of Ladakh Science City in the UT.

Preparatory meeting on special summary revision of photo electoral rolls held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Election Officer (DEO), Leh, Shrikant Suse convened a preparatory meeting on June 19 and discussed the proposed Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls and SVEEP program at the VC Room, Deputy Commissioner Office.

The training sessions for AERO and Supervisors/BLOs were one of the focal points of discussion during the meeting.

District Election Officer directed to conduct the meeting of BLOs at the earliest and informed that the district-level Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program (SVEEP) program would be launched in the coming days. He directed all the AEROs to

missioner's office.

Besides, he directed to increase the linking of electoral data with Aadhaar in Leh and asked to make a strategy to increase the linkage.

In addition to the training sessions, the DEO highlighted the importance of rationalizing polling stations. He directed the BLOs to review the existing polling station locations, assess their accessibility, and make any necessary adjustments to ensure convenient and equitable access to voting for all eligible citizens.

The DEO emphasized the need to maintain an accurate and up-to-date record of election personnel.

Another critical issue discussed during the meeting was the rectification of discrepancies in the Electoral Rolls. The DEO instructed the nodal officers and AEROs to diligently review the rolls and identify any errors or discrepancies. He directed the officials to remove duplicate entries, update voter details, and ensure that the rolls are error-free.

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

Public Notice

It is for the information of general public of the locality of Choglamsar, Leh that Mr. Amrit Badam S/o Late Shri. Ravinder Badam R/o Ghaziabad, UP, Proprietor of M/s Glacier Trading Co. bearing License No. 02/LAEL-1, has applied for shifting of Licensed premises from present location Skalzangling, Leh to new location Choglamsar, Leh.

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

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

Inspector
Excise Range Leh-Kargil

No: E/164-Km/1/2023-24/3
Dated: 26/5/2023

Army celebrates International Yoga Day at Pangong



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHANGTHANG: Celebrating International Yoga Day, Fire and Fury Corps organised a yoga event on the banks of Pangong Tso on June 21. Around 550 participants joined the event.

The attendance for the event included around 550 participants.

To spread the message of the importance of Yoga to young minds, the army also conducted lectures on Yoga and distributed booklets and pamphlets

to the students of High Schools and Government Primary Schools in the border village of Phobrang.

Indian Army has incorporated Yoga into the daily routine of its soldiers in high-altitude areas which experience extreme climatic conditions. A positive, well-relaxed, and de-stressed body and mind is the most significant benefit of Yoga which in turn assists the soldiers to operate successfully in such a challenging environment.

UT level Science, Mathematics, Environment exhibition concludes at Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The UT level Science, Mathematics and Environment exhibition-2023, organized by DIET Kargil concluded on June 22. Model exhibitions themed, "Technology and Toys" were showcased by 36 teams of Leh and Kargil.

Out of the 36 teams from Leh and Kargil, 21 teams will contest in the national level competition.

Executive Councilor, Works, LAHDC, Kargil, Mubarak Shah Naqvi along with other dignitaries interacted with the students. He appreciated students for their skills and knowledge.

Executive Councilor, RD, Tourism and Zanskar Affairs, Er Phunsok Tashi congratulated the participants and expressed hope that they will contribute to nation-building later in their lives. He also congratulated the concerned department for successfully concluding the UT-level event and expressed happiness over the functioning of Government Schools.

He also applauded the first position holder from Kargil in NEET examination at UT level.

Founder Ladakh Science Foundation and Scientist ISRO, Tsering Tashi and Scientist KVK, Nasreen Fatima Kacho gave presentations on sustainable use of space technology and agriculture for a sustainable future.

Later, the dignitaries distributed trophies and certificates among the winners and participants.

Expert talk Sustainable Tourism

Continued from page no. 4

are saying 50% of the GDP consists of tourism GDP means money coming in and money going out and there are only a few handful of elite Ladakhi who get the benefits of tourism. So the word sustainability can be considered problematic due to its multifaceted definition and as for tourism, it can be regarded as a form of trade. So given this background when we think about the sustainability of tourism I think tourism should not be sustainable, it should be Ladakh that needs to be sustainable. The current path that we have chosen is not at all sustainable in tourism. Water consumption in tourism is very high, the average water consumption of a Ladakhi is around 40ltr per day but the average water consumption of Tourists is more than 100ltr per day. The water comes from glaciers and only a handful of glaciers are left now; to get the needed water and to sustain the tourism industry we've depended on groundwater extraction.

On the one hand, we are consuming extracted groundwater and on another hand, some hotels haven't installed sewage treatment plants. The people associated with hotels are demanding the administration to give them an extension of years to install a sewage treatment plant, meanwhile, the waste material from hotels is mixed with the drinking water i.e. groundwater.

And if we talk about the sustainability of tourism in Ladakh we specifically imagined tourists from West Bengal, Punjab, and young tourists roaming around on bikes and partying in the allies of Leh but they aren't the only ones seasonally and occasionally come to visit Ladakh, there's a huge number of migrant labors in Ladakh of which we don't have any specific data. How many labors come in Ladakh? Where do they live and what kind of sanitary practices do they practice? Instead of telling tourists about do's and dont's I think there should be strict guidelines for migrant labors.

The environment is very important to live a healthy life. We all can live without Thar and Fortuner cars but cannot live without clean water and clean air. Our priority should be our environment and as a young Ladakhi, I feel that climate change and global warming is a reality.

SOLUTION

- All the stakeholders in the tourism industry should focus on promoting small-scale homestay tourism.
- Tourism should not be disruptive to Ladakhi society and rural life.
- These days people are good at hypocrisy, in the name of cleaning the environment picking wrappers here and there will not solve the problem. If people are concerned about Ladakh, it's everyone's responsibility to take care of our mother earth.

Hill Council, Leh, launches 'Nyalbachan-la-Rogs' scheme

Aims to provide housing and toilets facilities for the poor

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Hill Council, Leh led by CEC, Tashi Gyalson officially launched the 'Nyalbachan-la-Rogs' scheme (Housing for the Poor) on June 19 at Council Secretariat.

The scheme aims to provide financial assistance for the construction of houses and toilets for the underprivileged sections of society.

Dy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councilors, Councilors, DC Leh, Shrikant Suse; ACD/ADDC Leh, Sonam Nurboo; officiating Tibetan CRO, Sonam Choedon, and various other officials and beneficiaries from different parts of the district were present.

CEC Tashi Gyalson congratulated all the beneficiaries and commended the efforts of the Rural Development Department, Leh, led by EC Tashi Namgyal



CEC Tashi Gyalson along with other dignitaries handing over financial assistance to beneficiaries under the 'Nyalbachan-la-Rogs' scheme.

Yakzee and ACD Leh for effectively implementing the scheme on the ground. He emphasized that "Nyalbachan-la-Rogs" is an important scheme initiated by the Hill Council, Leh after comprehensive deliberations involving all the 30 Councilors and with the assistance of MP Ladakh and DC/CEO LAHDC Leh. He added that the scheme is an achievement aimed at uplifting the un-

derprivileged sections of society by providing financial assistance for the construction of houses and toilets.

CEC Gyalson further highlighted that the beneficiaries of the scheme include Tibetans residing in Tibetan Settlements across Leh and Ladakh, reflecting the vision of LAHDC Leh to develop and assist the Tibetan community equal-

ly and in parallel with the residents of Leh Ladakh.

EC Tashi Yakzee and DC Leh Shrikant Suse expressed their support and appreciation for the launch of the Nyalbachan-la-Rogs scheme. They emphasized the importance of providing housing and sanitation facilities to the underprivileged sections of society and reiterated the commitment of LAHDC Leh to implementing people-friendly schemes for the welfare of the community. They also highlighted the significance of transparency and accountability in the implementation process, ensuring that the allocated funds are utilized efficiently and judiciously.

CEC along with other dignitaries, provided the beneficiaries with financial assistance and tokens of encouragement marking the official launch of the Nyalbachan-la-Rogs scheme.

NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'Ex- Servicemen Lhag-sam Tsogspa Stok' Leh 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	Chhering Phunchok	S/o Ishey Dorjay	Stok	President
2	Nawang Dorjey	S/o Tsering Tundup	Stok	Vice-President
3	Tashi Tsering	S/o Tashi Tundup	Stok	Secretary
4	Lobzang Tsering	S/o Ishey Namgail	Stok	Joint Secretary
5	Skarma Paljor	S/o Urgain Tondup	Stok	Cashier
6	Skarma Thinles	S/o Rigzin Motup	Stok	Storekeeper
7	Chhewang Spalwar	S/o Ishey Dorjey	Stok	Member
8	Sonam Phunchok	S/o Sonam Angchok	Stok	Member

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
'Ex- Servicemen Lhag-sam Tsogspa Stok' Leh UT Ladakh

Fortnightly News

DC, Kargil, reviews action plan for drug-free district



DC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve reviewing an action plan and other measures to make Kargil district drug-free.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: DC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve reviewed an action plan and other measures to make the Kargil district drug-free under a flagship campaign Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (N MBA) on June 22.

DC Santosh informed that the programs will be organised on June 26, 2023, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and instructed the concerned departments to ensure the successful conduct of the program.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Wani; Program Officer ICDS, Nargis Bano; ACD, Kargil, Ghulam Muhammad; CPO, Kargil, Abdul Hadi; Deputy Secretary, Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (LAACL), Kargil, Nazir Hussain; CMO, CEO, representatives of Police, Social Welfare, Colleges, and Youth Services and Sports Department and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Deliberations and discussions were held on the rising trend of drug abuse. The challenges like consumption hotspots, crackdowns, and other activities/measures were discussed in detail and strategies to tackle them were highlighted.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed prevention and other aspects of drug de-addiction so that people especially youth remain away from the consumption of narcotic substances.

He directed the CEO, Kargil to organize rallies and awareness programs in schools and at the Zonal level on 26 June. He also instructed for installation of CCTV cameras outside schools to keep a close vigil on such activities.

DC Santosh directed the Deputy Secretary, LAACL, Kargil to prepare theme-based plays on June 26 against drug abuse to aware people of the ill effects of substance abuse.

Information Department Kargil was instructed for the social media campaign against drug abuse. DC Santosh also directed the concerned departments for random searches at the hotspots to discourage drug abuse.

He emphasized better coordination among all the line departments, stakeholders, and law enforcement agencies to keep a check on drug trafficking and related issues and ensure prompt sharing of inputs within all enforcement units so that timely action is taken.

The concerned officers were asked to ensure proper vigil in and around schools and colleges to keep a check on the supply and use of drugs across the district.

Capacity building workshop for journalists in Leh held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Day long capacity-building workshop for journalists at Leh was organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Leh on June 17.

Indian Informative Service (IIS), Dr. Shalini Narayanan; Advocate, Rinchen Norboo; Editor, Stawa, Sunetro Ghoshal, and Cybercrime Unit, Ladakh Police, Leh were the resource persons. The workshop focused on Fact-Checking Health Misinformation- Tools and Materials, Legal aspects of Journalism, Emerging Trends in Cyber Crime Challenges and Counter Measures, and the Art of Reporting.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, Padma Angmo briefed the participants about the importance of such workshops. She added that as Journalism is expanding in the region; such relevant workshops will help enhance the professional and personal growth of many young journalists. She added that any suggestive topics for the next workshops from the media fraternity as per their needs would be well taken by the department.

Adding the advantages of in-person workshops, Commissioner Secretary urged the participants to take maximum benefit of the workshop.

Earlier, addressing the welcome speech, Joint Director, Department of Information and Public Relations, UT Ladakh, Kacho Imteaz Ahmed highlighted the role and endeavors of the department. He also appreciated the sincere efforts of DIPR Leh in organizing such workshops that would help in upgrading and enhancing the skills of various media fraternities.

Dr. Shalini Narayanan gave an in-depth presentation on 'Fact-checking Health Misinformation Tools and Materials' in which types of misinformation and ways to tackle such misinformation were discussed. Similarly, various fact-checking tools to verify images, videos, websites, and social media were briefed during this engaging interaction. She stressed that the biggest take away from the discussion should be the use of common sense and proper verification of any information/news.



A question-and-answer session was held at the end. District Police Leh raised awareness on emerging trends in cybercrimes titled 'Satarkta Hi Bachav'. Challenges and counters measure to curb the rising incidents of such cases were also explained by the cybercrime unit personnel.

Additionally, they urged everyone to be careful and alert while using digital apps and other online platforms and stressed that reporting the crime is substantial to prevent oneself from being harassed mentally.

Adv. Rinchen Norboo from District Bar Council Leh briefed on the Legal aspects of Journalism, focusing on the rights of journalists, those which are absolute and restricted, freedom of speech, right to dissent, right to seek information, right to conduct interviews, and also punishments of defamation.

Members of the media fraternity from both government and private sector along with the officers and officials of the Department of Information & Public Relations, Leh participated in the one-day workshop.

freedom of speech, right to dissent, right to seek information, right to conduct interviews, and also punishments of defamation.

Lastly, Editor, Stawa magazine, Sunetro Ghoshal held an interactive session with participants on the Art of Reporting and its Challenges. The session also included discussions on laws for protecting the sources of journalists, maintaining ethical standards, etc.

The resource persons were facilitated by Joint Director, Kacho Imteaz Ahmed and Assistant Director, DIPR Leh, Dr. Tundup Namgail.

NOTICE

I, Phunchok Dorje S/o Sonam Tashi R/o Spituk, Leh UT Ladakh Prop of hotel M/s Old Road Mansion situated at P Namgyal Road, Leh UT Ladakh wants to apply for the registration with the Assistant Director Tourism Office, Leh. Any objection in this regard may file their report in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Sonam Chondol D/o Urgain Tsering & Tsewang Kunzes R/o Diskit Nubra, UT Ladakh lost her class 10th Diploma Certificate duly issued by The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education through Govt. Higher Secondary School, Diskit, Nubra under Roll no. 952255 with Registration No.98FJR-950689. Now I have to apply for issuance of duplicate Diploma Certificate. Objection if any may be sent to the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education Jammu/ Leh within 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM

Short term quotation affixed with Rs.6/- Revenue stamps are invited from the reputed and registered printing houses for printing the name plates on wooden side of the Dimension as in the annexure A in Hindi & English language.

S.No	Particulars	Qty	Dimensions
1	Bilingual Name Plates Thickness of 19 mm. Type of wood:- Budido/Kaira Proposed Printing Technology:- Laser	40	2'-0" 0'-8"

The quotation should reach this office of the undersigned within seven days from the date of issue of this notice i.e. 30/06/2023 up to 2:00 PM and same shall be opened on the same day or any other subsequent date in presence of the bidders or his authorized representative who may like to be present and members of purchasing committee of Secretariat.

- The rate shall be quoted without any cutting and overwriting and may include all taxes including installation and commissioning charges.
- The successful bidder shall have to supply the articles as per the supply order placed within a period of seven days.
- In no case, sub-standard and defective articles shall be entertained/ accepted by this office.
- Full payment shall be made on successful supply of the delivery within the above stipulated time.

Signature: [Signature]
Stamps: [Stamps]
Secretary, UT Ladakh

No: SRAO/GAD/2023-24/65-173 Dated:- 22/06/2023

Copy to:-
1. Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department for information
2. Addl. Secretary, Finance Department for information.
3. Joint Director Information UT Ladakh with the request to published the NIT in all the leading newspaper/ newsletter of UT Ladakh.
4. Deputy Secretary Industries & Commerce Department for information.
5. Chief Accounts Officer, General Administration Department for information
6. Pay & Accounts Officer, Leh for information.

NOTICE

An application has been received from one Mohd. Hanifa S/o Mohd Ali R/o Baroug Saleskot, Kargil, UT Ladakh to transfer the vehicle No. LA 02 5551 owned by Konchok Gyaltsan S/o Ritzen Galison R/o Skurbuchan, Leh UT Ladakh. Now, it is therefore notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) within a period of 10 days from date of publication of this notice.

No: ARTO/ UT/Leh/2023-24/212-13Aastt. Regional Transport Officer
Date: 23-06-23 Leh Ladakh

NOTICE

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Animal Husbandry Dept. distributes 3200 broiler chickens

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 3,200 Broiler chickens were distributed on June 27 under subsidy component LAHDC-Leh to establish Backyard Poultry units

The program was conducted by the Animal Husbandry department, Leh, and was launched by Executive Councillor, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee.

160 beneficiaries from the Leh district benefited with 20 birds per unit with a 50% subsidy.

NCPCR holds redressal bench on child rights violations, welfare

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first-ever grievance redressal bench on matters of child rights violations and welfare was held at DC Conference Hall Leh on June 16. The redressal bench was organised by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with District Administration Leh, UT Ladakh.

In the first session, Chairperson NCPCR, Priyank Kanoongo chaired an inter-departmental review meeting on child rights. After reviewing the works of the concerned departments, including Social Welfare, Education, and Labour departments related to the grievances of child protection and rights in the region, Chairperson directed the departments and concerned organizations to ensure that the child's rights are given utmost priority in all aspects.

He directed Border Roads Organisation to look into cases of labourers children's rights and instructed to set up pre-fabricated camps to provide Anganwadi facilities for children of labourers working for them.

The Chairperson NCPCR reiterated the departments to ensure the availability of elementary schools for the children within the defined area under the RTE Act. He exhorted to ensure that children of migrant labourers and Children in Street Situations (CISS) are not denied admission in schools on the non-availability of documents such as Aadhar and Transfer certificates, etc.

He directed the labour department to form a District Task Force to look into the matters of child labours. He also informed the department to collect proper data on absentee students from schools for more than 30 days and directed to examine such cases for probable possibility of child labour.

Directions were also given for proper mapping of KGBV schools of both Leh and Kargil and to ensure that such govt hostels are run at full capacity.

Officers from concerned departments including Social Welfare, Education, Labour, and CWC briefed on the various cases and work done by the department for the grievances related to child protection and rights in the region. They are apprised about various cases of Children in need of care and protection (CNCP), compensations/ benefits provided in POCSO cases, children in street situations (CISS), child labour and child adoption, etc.

The grievance redressal bench headed by Chairperson, NCPCR, Priyank Kanoongo addressed cases/incidents related to violation of child rights and welfare in the districts. The bench redressed grievances related to cases of the POCSO Act, financial sponsorship, and documentation-related issues. To provide financial assistance to the children belonging to poor and distressed families, the parents were instructed to register with NRLM and NULM to earn livelihood opportunities. Cases of Children with Special Needs and PwDs were also addressed during the bench.

On the issues/challenges faced by the departments in the execution of schemes intended for the welfare of children and beneficiaries, Chairperson NCPCR assured to further take up the matter with concerned ministries and redress them at the earliest.

He further informed concerned departments to create awareness among the public about various government schemes related to financial assistance/ scholarships, POCSO Act, etc.

To redress the grievances and provide services instantaneously, stalls for Aadhaar enrollment/updation, Golden card/ PMJAY registration, health check-ups under RBSK along with stalls by banks, Social Welfare Department, DLSA, Health, NRLM, SHGs, etc were also installed during the camp.

Govt. Degree College, Drass, installs sanitary pad vending machine

Also organises programme on menstrual hygiene

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: To promote safe and hygienic-sanitary practices among girl students, Govt. Degree College, Drass installed a sanitary pad vending machine and organized an awareness program for girl students regarding menstrual hygiene on June 22.

During the awareness program for girl students regarding menstrual hygiene, Convener, Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH), Kaniz Fatima presented a brief lecture on the menstrual cycle and related issues. She apprised girl students about facilities available in girl students' common room and assured that the college administration is committed to serving students, especially girls.

Assistant Professor, Dr Azam Tahoor and Assistant Professor, Mohd Ali Mala also spoke on menstrual hygiene and encouraged students to maintain health and hygiene.

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- * Friendly & welcoming environment.
- * Happy children & committed teachers.

