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August 16-30, 2023

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



**UNIVERSAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**PEOPLE'S VOICE: Ladakh after 4 years of UT status**



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**Editor:** Stanzin Dasal

**Reporter:** Yangchen Dolma

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**His Holiness Dalai Lama visits Imam Bargah, Chuchot Yokma**

Coming together in this mosque shows our friendship and respect for each other, says His Holiness



His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Imam Bargah, Chuchot Yokma. Photo by Tenzin Choejor Courtesy: CTA website.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Ladakh Muslim Coordination Committee organised a lunch programme for His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Imam Bargah, Chuchot Yokma on August 12.

A warm welcome was accorded to the His Holiness by the people of all communities.

Addressing the gathering His Holiness said, "I consider we are all the same as human beings. All eight billion people alive today were sheltered by their mother's love and affection as soon as they were born. This is how things begin. Therefore, later, when we're grown up and in the middle of our lives, we should do what we can to take care of others. If we do that, when we come to die, we'll do so in an atmosphere of affection".

His Holiness said, "What's past is past, we can't change it, but what we can do is work to create a more peaceful world now and in the future. In addition to this, we have to take account of global heating. All over the world, it is getting hotter and hotter. Scientists have warned us about this and the evidence is clear before us. Moreover, the Buddhist scripture, the Abhidharmakosha speaks of the world

being destroyed by fire. What we see now may be the beginning of that process."

He observed that if we were all to cultivate a stronger sense of the oneness of humanity, we would be better able to work together out of love and compassion.

His Holiness said that every human being on this earth wants to be happy and not suffer pain. I pray that the people of the world may not harm each other but live in peace and harmony, His Holiness added.

His Holiness further added, "Our gathering here at this mosque is a symbol of brotherhood and sisterhood. I'm a Buddhist monk, but I respect all religious traditions because at their core is a common message about the value of love and compassion. It's not helpful to talk critically about 'my religion' or 'their religion'".

Ashraf Ali Barcha, President, Anjuman Imania expressed great admiration and affection

*Continues on page no. 2*

**Leh celebrates 7th dPal rNgam Duston**

Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre receives Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston Award 2023



Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre receiving the 7th Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston Award 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Celebrating the pride and glory of Ladakh, the 7th edition of the dPal rNgam Duston organised by LAHDC, Leh was celebrated with great enthusiasm on August 5 at NDS ground.

His Eminence Chosje Togdan Rinpoche was posthumously awarded the LAHDC Leh Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 while Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC) was conferred with the Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston Award 2023 commemorating the glorious diamond jubilee celebrations of the formation of LSRC.

LG appreciated the organisers and the performers for making the event successful and also to LSRC for completing the diamond jubilee this year. Commending the

and make Ladakh the best Union Territory.

LG shared some of the initiatives being taken by the UT Administration for the benefit of the people of Ladakh, viz. the increase in ex-gratia provided to the next of kin of the martyred Army personnel from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 30 lakhs; the efforts being made to establish one more battalion of LSRC; the plan to establish Ladakh's own State Recruitment Board for the benefit of aspiring candidates looking for jobs; the setting up of a Sainik School in Ladakh; the drafting of Industrial Policy for the benefit of Ladakhi entrepreneurs and start-ups; the exercise of rationalisation of boundaries of Karakoram and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries; the efforts being made to reduce the mortality rate of the kids of pashmina goats as 'pashmina is the identity of Ladakh'; the operation of Indian Air Force (IAF) flights in the winter months for the convenience of passengers, particularly patients, students and pilgrims from Ladakh who suffer due to the exorbitant airfare charged by the private airlines; the plan to send troupes from Ladakh to the Raj Bhawans/Raj Niwas of all the states and UTs of India to celebrate Ladakh's Foundation Day; the plan to send girls from Ladakh for Polo training under the President's Body Guard at New Delhi, etc.

people of Ladakh and jawans of LSRC for fighting unitedly against the enemy forces for the security and integrity of the nation, LG stated that the people of Ladakh are cultured and brave and their bravery is acknowledged by the entire nation.

Informing about the best wishes sent by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on the UT Declaration Day, LG stated that Narendra Modi is concerned about the prosperity and holistic development of Ladakh.

Calling himself 'lucky' to get the opportunity to work for the welfare of the people of Ladakh, LG stated that his motto is to take Ladakh forward on the path of development, make the UT 'Corruption and Delay-Free'

*Continues on page no. 2*

*Greetings to the People of Ladakh*  
On  
**77th**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
from  
*Administration of UT Ladakh*



## Fortnightly News

### Preparatory meeting for 10th edition of Ladakh Marathon held



During the preparatory meeting of the Ladakh Marathon 10th edition at Civil Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal chaired a preparatory meeting of the Ladakh Marathon 10th edition at Civil Secretariat, Leh on August 9.

Secretary Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar provided a detailed report on Ladakh Marathon.

The advisor directed all the concerned departments and stakeholders to work in a collaborative and coordinated manner to make the event a successful one. He also instructed the concerned departments to ensure

that the traffic advisories, health advisories, contingency plan of emergency evacuation, and due process are in place well in advance along with other directions/ meetings required to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

Dr Pawan also instructed the Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports to oversee the arrangements required especially at NDS stadium.

Ladakh Marathon, Organizer, Chewang Motup presented a detailed presentation on the Ladakh Marathon. Informing that the Ladakh Marathon is growing bigger with each

passing year with a higher number of participants, he stressed the need of augmenting the resources to cater to the needs, specifically in terms of increased medical support, traffic regulation, volunteers, public conveniences, lighting, and enhanced security at NDS stadium and during the whole event.

The annual Ladakh Marathon running its 10th edition this year would commence on the 2nd week of September.

Chewang Motup stressed the need of promoting the event and spreading awareness among the public in advance regarding the consequent changes in the traffic movement on the race day and advisories issued in that regard to cheer the runners to encourage and boost their spirit.

Commissioner Secretary, Administrative Secretaries, senior officers, and officers from concerned departments were present during the meeting. While the Secretary of Youth Services & Sports, and Deputy Director of School Education attended the meeting virtually.

### Three-week-long mega martial art summer camp concludes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and First Lady, Neelam Mishra took part in the valedictory function of mega Martial Arts summer camp and the celebration of World Kungfu Day at the University of Ladakh, Leh campus at Taru Thang on August 8.

The mega Martial Arts summer camp was organised by Art of Living in collaboration with the University of Ladakh and supported by LAHDC Leh and Fire and Fury Corps.

Appreciating the organisers and all the 160 participants along with instructors involved in the successful conduct of the three-week-long camp, LG termed the programme as 'far-sighted' and one of its kind as young school students were trained in martial arts to make them more cultured and disciplined. He appreciated the Har Ghar Yoddha programme initiated by Art of Living under the guidance of Lieutenant General Ashwini Kumar (Retd), who is the Chairman at Art of Living International Center, Bangalore, and Programme Director, WFAC (Bodhi) of the Art of Living Foundation, Sachetan Jalan, and asked them to start the Har Ghar Agniveer programme so that the maximum youth could benefit from it. He stated that every household from Ladakh should have an Agniveer inducted in the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC).

LG informed about his plan to add another battalion of Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre in Ladakh for the benefit of the Lada-



Students demonstrating Kung Fu moves during the martial arts summer camp.

khi youth.

Stating that the martial arts programme is connected to physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects, LG advised the young students to combine these aspects to perform social service for society.

LG and other guests distributed awards to winners in the senior and junior categories and felicitated the multimedia and Kung-fu instructors. LG gave tokens of affection to Stanzin Diskit and Mohammad Yasin, both eight years of age, for their participation in the Martial Arts Summer Camp. The school students also took vows not to indulge in drug/substance abuse, stop their friends and relatives from indulging in drug/substance abuse and take active participation in the fight against drug/substance abuse.

Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Choshpel appreciated the enthusiasm and dedication of the students who participated in the three-week-long Martial Arts Summer Camp. He informed about the batch of 30 students from Ladakh who were sent by LAHDC Leh to

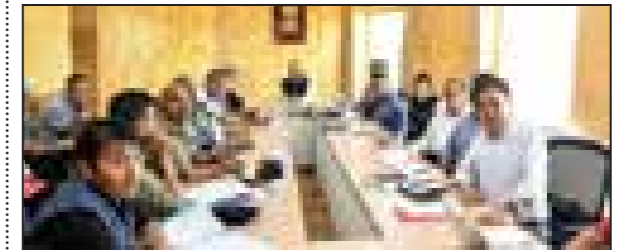
undergo three months long martial arts instructor training at the Art of Living International Centre in Bengaluru in collaboration with the Art of Living Foundation.

Lt Gen Ashwini Kumar (Retd) congratulated the trainees for their performances during the summer camp. He stated that martial arts are a mixture of three elements- focus, physical fitness and skill development. He emphasised physical fitness and advised the young students to be disciplined in their lives. He advised the parents of the students to teach morality to their children and the need to have a clear aim in life.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, Prof SK Mehta informed about the objective of the three-week-long Martial Arts Summer Camp, the participation of 160 students from different schools of Ladakh, the support provided by the UT Administration, LAHDC Leh and Indian Army, especially GOC 14 Corps and Rajput Regiment.

Students from different schools gave a demonstration of Kung Fu moves on the occasion.

### Advisor Kotwal recommends projects worth ₹2744.80 crore



UT Level Standing Committee meeting chaired by Advisor Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** UT Level Standing Committee chaired by Advisor Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, recommended projects worth ₹ 2744.80 Cr under the Central Road & Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III Phase II).

In the meeting, a total of 53 new/upgradation road projects and 54 bridge projects, spanning 900 km, were proposed under CRIF, with an estimated cost of ₹ 2140 crore for roads and ₹ 605.1 crore for bridges.

Additionally, the committee reviewed 11 road upgradation projects covering 82 km under PMGSY-III Phase II. The projects aim to enhance road connectivity, shorten distances between villages, and connect unconnected habitations to foster sustainable development in rural areas.

Commissioner/Secretary, PWD, Ajeet Kumar Sahu

presented the progress of the ongoing CRIF and PMGSY projects. Under CRIF, 18 projects were completed out of the 22 sanctioned for 2019-20, and works for 17 projects sanctioned during the 2022-23 financial year are in progress. Similarly, under PMGSY-I & II, the department successfully completed 1029.70 km of roads, with a remaining balance of 57.10 km is expected to be completed by September 2023.

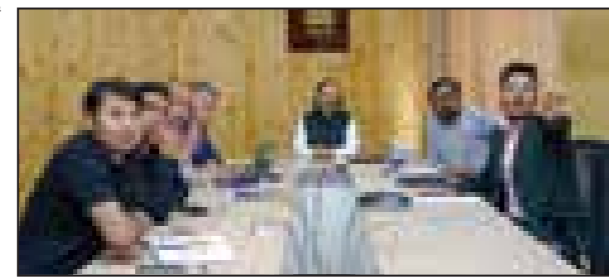
Advisor Kotwal emphasized the need for timely project completion to meet set timelines, ensuring enhanced connectivity and development for the people of Ladakh.

The proposed projects underscore the Ladakh Administration's commitment to strengthening road infrastructure and ensuring better connectivity for its citizens. The initiatives will contribute to the overall development and prosperity of the region.

### Advisor launches website of Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh Dr Pawan Kotwal launched the official website of the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO) <https://www.sidcoladakh.org.in/> on August 9 at Civil Secretariat, Leh.



During the launch of the official website of the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO) at Civil Secretariat.

The launch of this website marks a significant milestone in advancing SIDCO's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and effective communication for its diverse stakeholders, Dr Pawan stated.

He emphasized that for sustainable development of the industrial sector in Ladakh, the corporation must work with a prospective vision besides an effective strategy in tune with modern trends and mechanisms.

Commissioner Secretary/Managing Director of SIDCO, Ajeet Kumar Sahu (IAS) also graced the occasion, alongside other distinguished officials of

the corporation. The ceremony was held at UT Secretariat Conference Hall and was characterized by a spirit of progress and collaboration.

The newly unveiled website offers an array of features designed to provide visitors with an engaging and informative experience: The website's dynamic home page offers a snapshot of SIDCO's core values, goals, and significant achievements. It serves as a gateway to timely updates and crucial announcements. This section delves into the rich history of SIDCO, its visionary leadership, and its pivotal role in shaping

Ladakh's infrastructure landscape. It underscores the corporation's dedication to regional development. Visitors can explore a comprehensive portfolio showcasing both ongoing and completed projects undertaken by SIDCO. Each project is accompanied by detailed insights, progress reports, and visual documentation.

This service section outlines the diverse range of services offered by SIDCO, encompassing project conception, execution, and maintenance. The corporation's unwavering commitment to sustainable practices is also prominently featured.

### National Conference on Nalanda Buddhism in 21st Century: Challenges and Response held in Leh

L-G emphasises revival of Nalanda tradition



During the National Conference on Nalanda Buddhism in 21st Century: Challenges and Response at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) in Choglamsar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** National Conference on Nalanda Buddhism in 21st Century: Challenges and Response was held on August 11 at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) in Choglamsar.

The conference was organised by Indian Himalayan Council of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition (IHCNT) in collaboration with Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and All Ladakh Gonpa Association.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra attended the conference. Terming the conference on Nalanda Buddhism in the 21st century as a serious topic, LG emphasised the need to understand the importance and seriousness of the subject to ensure the proper progress and promotion of the Nalanda Buddhist tradition. He recalled his school days when he came across the book, 'The Light of Asia' written by Edwin Arnold and the profound impact the book had on his life. Calling the book a 'Treasure of Knowledge,' LG stated he came to know about the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path from the book.

years, he stressed the need to take necessary measures to ensure that the Sangha, its darshan and the community are promoted. He stated that unity, cooperation and a single mission should be the goal of the people of Ladakh for the larger interest of the nation. Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson highlighted the relevance of Nalanda tradition of learning in the present age and emphasised its promotion on the global stage. He also highlighted the need for its revival and adaptation for the benefit of people across the globe.

Tashi Gyalson highlighted various initiatives taken by LAHDC Leh with help from UT Administration to promote monastic education. He emphasised on promotion of Bhoti as culture and identity are dependent on it.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal emphasised promoting Nalanda tradition by using Bhoti as a means. He suggested and recommended promoting Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) as a centre of Bhoti learning as the institute already has an approved syllabus and faculty members. He proposed the opening of CIBS feeder schools at monasteries across the Himalayan states.

Vice-President, Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Chering Dorje Lakruk, in his address, highlighted Nalanda University as a key center of learning during the ancient period when students/scholars from across the world came for higher studies and learning.

His Eminence Khenchen Rinpoche Tsering Bhutia from Sikkim; His Eminence Tenzin Rinpoche from Arunachal Pradesh; officials from IHCNT, CIBS, LBA, ALGA; venerable monks and nuns along with participants from different Himalayan states were present during the event.

### L-G holds interaction session with officers of Higher Command Course

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended an interaction session with officers of the Higher Command Course at DC Conference Hall, Leh on August 12.

Welcoming the officers of the Higher Command Course in Ladakh, LG stated that their visit to Ladakh would help them in understanding the actual situation in the forward areas. LG shared the history of Ladakh with them and stated that Ladakh has taken huge strides on the development front after becoming a union territory on 31st October 2019.

He stated that the UT Administration faced several challenges in the form of providing potable drinking water to the citizens of Ladakh, providing skill development trainings to the youth to encourage them to become entrepreneurs so that they could come up with their own start-ups and filling up the vacant posts in government departments, etc. He also stated that the Administration is committed to developing every sector in Ladakh.

LG gave a detailed presentation on initiatives taken by the UT Administration along with the two Hill Councils and PRIs for the overall development of Ladakh, including women empowerment, skill development, preservation of pashmina and wood carving, production of apricot and sea buckthorn, promotion of ice hockey and other winter games, promotion of horse polo, carbon neutral initiatives, electric vehicles, Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI), JJM, Homestays and unique culture of Ladakh, etc.

Highlighting the importance of warfare, strategy and military alliance for Armed and Paramilitary forces, LG emphasised on strategy, organisation, boosting troops' morale and fighting capability along with keeping the nation's security, sovereignty and integrity intact as the responsibility of the officers as they are the future leaders of the nation. He advised that humanism should be a part of the

lives of the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force personnel.

His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, welcoming the officers of the Higher Command Course in Ladakh stated that Ladakh saw a lot of development in all aspects, including spiritualism. Terming the Ladakhis as soldiers, he highlighted their contributions and efforts in nation-building along with the Indian Army. He stressed the need to focus on education, environment and spiritualism for a safe and secure future of Ladakh.

Chairman/ CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson appreciated the contributions of the army in the region. He stated that the Indian Army and the people of Ladakh share an old relationship. He appreciated the contribution of Ladakh Scouts and informed that dPal rNgam Duston award was awarded to Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre on the occasion of their diamond jubilee celebrations.

CEC Gyalson informed about Ladakh's development in all sectors after becoming a Union Territory. He highlighted the Vibrant Villages Programme initiated by the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. He stated that many people from remote areas of Ladakh are returning to their villages due to the availability of basic amenities and facilities provided by the Government after the formation of Ladakh as a union territory.

Major Gen Ajay Chandpuria informed about the Higher Command Course and the purpose of the visit of the officials/students to forward areas such as Ladakh. He informed that such visits provide an opportunity for the officials/students of the Higher Command Course to understand the actual ground situation. He appreciated the contribution of the people of Ladakh towards the nation. Maj Gen Ajay Chandpuria assured that the Army will work with utmost dedication for the nation's security and integrity.

### His Holiness Dalai Lama visits Imam Bargah, Chuchot Yokma

Continues from page no. 2

for His Holiness as a man of peace who consistently declares that every human being is the same and made every effort to promote communal harmony.

Dr Abdul Quayum, President, Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam said, "Once again His Holiness the Dalai Lama is here with us in this mosque and it is the holy month of Muharram. His Holiness is renowned for his teachings about peace, harmony, brotherhood and righteousness. He loves

to come to Ladakh and we love to listen to him. We are thankful to you for keeping Ladakh in your heart, please don't forget us."

Dr Abdul Quayum mentioned that a translation of the Holy Quran into Tibetan is being prepared and he read out the forward written by His Holiness.

Later, His Holiness along with all other guests had lunch.

### Leh celebrates 7th dPal rNgam Duston

Continues from page no. 2

CEC Tashi Gyalson added that the four years of the new UT of Ladakh have strived hard to fulfill and overcome the backwardness that Ladakh was wedged in for the past 70 years. The new UT has provided an opportunity to ensure that growth and development are based on people's aspirations and that the basic amenities are reached to all despite the sequestered nature of the region, covering the border areas as well.

He added that in this new UT, the UT Administration and the Hill Councils are making concerted efforts and working hard for the holistic development of Ladakh and to carry forward the legacy of holistically building the new UT.

Acknowledging the environmentally sensitive and geographically strategic location of Ladakh, CEC Gyalson added that the new UT of Ladakh holds a non-compromising vision regarding its development and also added that the responsibility of building this new UT falls on every individual of Ladakh along with its administration.

Recounting the immeasurable contributions of His Eminence Tokdan Rinpoche in all spheres of life of the Ladakhi peo-

ple, CEC Gyalson urged LG Ladakh that the highest of highest recognition is bestowed upon him for his service. He also commended the unforgettable service rendered by the Ladakh Scouts in the name of the nation. He lauded the valour and selfless dedication of the serving soldiers, the retired league, the martyred, and the families of the soldiers including the Veer Naris for their contribution and expressed heartfelt gratitude.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, in his speech, recounted the sacrifices of the leaders like Kushok Bakula Rinpoche and the people of Ladakh in their demand for the status of Union Territory for Ladakh and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling the long pending and genuine demand of UT status in 2019 thereby granting a new lease of life to the people of Ladakh.

Various cultural performances, including a musical folk ensemble, performances by Karate kids and Dune Kids, and a theatrical play depicting the origin and history of Ladakh Scouts along with their bravery and selfless contributions were showcased for the large gathering assembled for the celebration of Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston 2023.



## Fortnightly News

### L-G inaugurates 60 water supply schemes under JJM in Leh & Kargil districts

Interacts with Councillors & PRI members and seeks cooperation for achieving 100% saturation of Jal Jeevan Mission scheme in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) inaugurated Jal Jeevan Mission schemes in villages with 100 % Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) during his interaction with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) members, including Chairpersons of Block Development Councils (BDCs), Sarpanches and Councillors on August 3.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) interacting with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) members, including Chairpersons of Block Development Councils (BDCs), Sarpanches and Councillors.

A total of 60 water supply schemes, including 29 in Leh district and 31 in Kargil district, were inaugurated which are fully completed.

It was informed that Ladakh has achieved 80% FHTC coverage in all rural households of Ladakh and three blocks in Ladakh- Lungnak, Thiksay and Singay Lalok along with 68 villages-33 in Kargil and 35 in Leh- have achieved 100% saturation of FHTCs.

LG stated that the discussion on Jal Jeevan Mission is critical as water is crucial for life- for cooking, drinking, taking baths and various other purposes and emphasised the need to ponder the situation of drinking water five years down the line. Terming the interaction with Councillors, Chairpersons of BDCs and Sarpanch of different villages as fruitful and beneficial, LG assured to take necessary actions on all doable points.

He highlighted the need to take necessary actions

to complete work on providing FHTCs to all rural households by the end of September to ensure the saturation of coverage of FHTCs in all rural households by the end of 2023.

LG assured to look into the issues raised by both the CEC/Chairman of LAHDCs and all PRI members along with providing all possible assistance in ensuring 100% saturation of coverage of FHTCs in rural households. Highlighting the need, to be honest with oneself and work with dedication and probity, he stated that all the stakeholders need to take responsibility and work collectively to ensure the success of the JJM scheme in Ladakh. He also highlighted the need to rise above politics and work for the overall benefit of the people from rural households.

PRI members were asked to get fully involved in the implementation process to ensure that the remaining blocks achieve 100% cov-

erage and work collectively for the success of the project while taking over the responsibility for planning, implementing, operating, maintaining and managing drinking water security.

LG instructed Commissioner Secretary, PWD, Ajeet Kumar Sahu to ensure blacktopping of roads damaged while carrying out JJM works in rural areas.

Certificates of appreciation were distributed to sarpanch of different villages which has achieved 100% saturation of FHTCs. The Operation and Maintenance Policy Booklet of Village Piped Water Supply Schemes in Ladakh was also released.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan highlighted the need to make the JJM scheme sustainable in the long run. He stated that the fee collected from supplying drinking water through FHTCs in rural

households would not be adequate to carry out the operation and maintenance works of the scheme and highlighted the need to provide separate funds for it.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson said that it is because of the JJM scheme that people of Ladakh living in remote areas have access to potable drinking water. He made some valuable suggestions, viz. improvising soak pits being constructed under MGNREGA, making public stand posts (PSPs) functional in the winter, providing additional budget to carry out O&M works, building capacities of PRI members to enable them to take ownership of the scheme and review the functioning of FHTCs at schools and Anganwadi centres in Ladakh.

M P Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal made several observations about the implementation of the JJM scheme in Ladakh including the panchayats where tap connections were functional during the winter and the need to sustain it, the need to empower the PRI members to take over the responsibility of various works under JJM scheme, the need to inform him about necessary steps to resolve JJM-related issues of various villages flagged by him and stringent action needs to be taken against defaulting contractors, etc.

Advisor to LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, who is the Chair-

man of Apex Committee JJM Leh, lauded the efforts of the department and stakeholders and assured the PRI that government would be provided with all support in O&M of JJM schemes.

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission Ladakh and Commissioner/Secretary PHE/IF&C, Ajeet Kumar Sahu apprised that Ladakh was lagging in all the states and UTs in the initial months of the mission's inception and today ranks amongst the highest performers. He further stated that 17 additional blocks have achieved more than 80% coverage and are expected to achieve saturation by 15th August 2023.

During the meeting, various bottlenecks in implementing Jal Jeevan Mission were also discussed, viz reliable power supply including installation of sub-station, etc. as well as a few community issues.

The public representatives raised certain apprehensions about the sustainability of the scheme during winter, the proper policy of handholding PRIs to enable them to effectively operate the scheme, the construction of soakage pits to ensure the functionality of the schemes, early restoration of damaged roads and lanes which were dug during the execution of the scheme, the addition of public stand posts and handpumps as a back-up plan during the winter months.

The Jal Jeevan Mission

Ladakh has also contributed to making Ladakh carbon neutral and more than 1.1 MW capacity of solar plants have been installed so far, which will not only be useful for the water supply scheme but also provide surplus electricity to the nearby household.

Jan bhagidhari was the critical component of the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission. PRIs were involved from the planning stage to the implementation. As per the water supply scheme guidelines, after completion of the scheme, it is to be handed over to the village committees for its operation and maintenance. Considering this aspect, the UT administration has also prepared an O&M policy providing the required funds, powers and manpower support to the PRIs for maintaining these schemes.

Additionally, the social audit of these schemes has been made mandatory where all the stakeholders including the Gram Sabha discussions of issues and solutions for the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme are recorded and uploaded online. Block-level and district-level committees monitor the implementation of the scheme while technical committees monitor the technical aspects of the scheme.

A robust grievance redressal mechanism and portal have been set up to address the grievances being received by the Jal Jeevan Mission team.

### Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism & Culture reviews ongoing construction work of Archives, Archaeology & Museums building in Leh



Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Ladakh, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan reviewing the ongoing construction work of the Archives, Archaeology & Museums building at Skampari, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Ladakh, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan conducted an on-site inspection and reviewed ongoing construction work of the Archives, Archaeology & Museums building at Skampari, Leh on August 8.

The Commissioner/Secretary ascertained the progress of work at the site and directed the Registering Officer (RO), Antiquities, and the Executing Agency [PW(R&B) Department, Leh] to complete the work by September end of this year. He instructed the officers to speed up the pace of work without compromising quality and ensure that all the planned & approved facilities are in place.

During the visit RO, Antiquities briefed about the valuable artifacts, which are being planned to shift

from the storehouse to the newly constructed site as soon as the building is complete & ready. After inspection of some of the artifacts, the Commissioner/Secretary instructed that a proper catalog of available records, such as archival records, valuable artifacts/records, etc. should be prepared so that the same could be curated well and displayed properly in the new building. He instructed the officers to constitute a committee for identifying heritage artifacts across the UT, speed up the transfer of archival records/artifacts from the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and digitize archival records in consultation with the National Archives of India.

He instructed the Executing Agency to incorporate a proper heating system and to explore creating sufficient parking space near the building.

### Advisor tracks progress and issues on 13 GW Ladakh Solar Project



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting in the presence of CEC/Chairman, LAHDC Leh Tashi Gyalson on issues regarding the 13 GW Renewable Energy Project at Pang, Leh, and also discussed demands submitted by LAHDC Leh to be achieved as part of the project.

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) gave a detailed presentation on the proposed 13 GW Renewable Energy project in

Leh (9 GW Solar, 4 GW wind with 12 GW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and spoke of the background, its features, the current status of the project, identified land parcels (indicative) at Pang-Debring-Kharnak, pre-tendering site studies, mandatory environmental impact assessment of the project, scientific disposal of the waste generated from the project, job opportunities for residents of Kharnak, samad-Rokchan, Sumdo, Sumdo (TR), Kozok, Tegaxong, Angkung, Chumur, Chu-

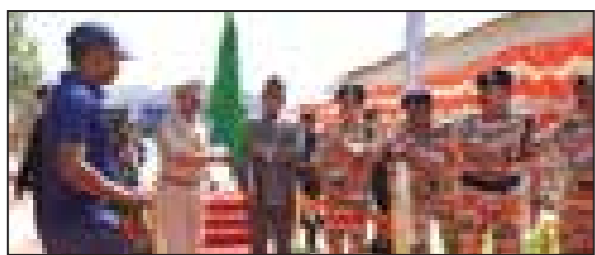
mur (TR).

Discussions were held on aspects such as giving priority to locals in employment opportunities, giving preference to local contractors, proper management of waste produced during the project, providing relevant technical training to the locals, etc.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh highlighted the delay in project implementation and requested a written commitment from the agency so that the project is completed in the stipulated time frame. Advisor Ladakh urged the agency to set doable targets and work towards its timely progress.

Administrative Secretary PDD Ravinder Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Leh Santosh Sukhdeva and concerned officers & representatives were present during the meeting.

### Flag-in ceremony of ITBP's Mountain Expedition-Parakram held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended the flag-in ceremony of the Mountain Expedition-Parakram organised by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) North West Frontier (NWF) at Kumbha Hall, ITBP 24th Battalion in Choglamsar on August 12.

Calling ITBP a capable and excellent force, LG lauded the jawans of ITBP for maintaining high moral standards, excellent administrative works and nationalistic spirit despite working in challenging terrains. He appreciated their efforts to name two unnamed peaks above 6,000 metres in the name of the Late T Smanla (AC), Late Tsewang Paljor (HC), Late Dorje Morup (LNK) and Late Tikaram Singh Negi

(AC/GD), who gave the supreme sacrifice of their lives for national security. He stated that both martyrs have been honoured by naming two peaks in their names while the mountaineers from ITBP, who successfully scaled the peaks, have earned his appreciation.

LG stated that the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has a deep affection for our jawans guarding the frontiers to ensure national security, sovereignty and integrity. He lauded ITBP jawans' responsibility and operational commitment and assured them of all possible assistance for their operational requirements and capability.

Inspector General (IG), ITBP NWF, Sanjay Kumar Gunjyal informed that both the unnamed peaks,

which were successfully scaled by the ITBP expedition team, were previously unscaled. He also informed about various challenges faced by the ITBP expedition team in successfully scaling both peaks. He further informed that ITBP, popularly known as Mountain Specialised Force, has completed numerous expeditions and holds several records in their name.

Sanjay Kumar Gunjyal informed about the efforts being made by ITBP to name both the peaks as Smanla Paljor Morup Peak and Tikaram Singh Negi Peak, which are situated at an elevation of 6,221m and 6,274m respectively in memory of their four brave jawans.

The leader of the expedition team, Nihans Suresh (DC/GD) informed the LG that the ITBP expedition team comprising 17 climbers and 12 administrative staff, led by him and Deputy leader, Rishab Singh (AC/GD), started on 20 June, 2023 from the ITBP 24th Battalion at Choglamsar followed by acclimatization at Phobrang and then the summit of both the peaks.

### L-G lays foundation stone of Ladakh Cultural Centre in Leh

Also distributes motorised tri-scooter & assistive devices to persons with disabilities under LAHDC Leh's Kunsnyoms scheme

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) laid the foundation stone of the Ladakh Cultural Centre, Leh at the cultural complex on 7th dPal rNgam Duston and the UT Declaration Day on August 5.

He also distributed motorised tri-scooter and assistive devices to persons with disabilities (PwDs) under LAHDC Leh's Kunsnyoms scheme.

Expressing happiness to see the progress made by Ladakh over the last four years since the formation of the region as a Union Territory, LG compared Ladakh's progress and development to that of a bodybuilder who trains every day at the gym to develop his body. Stating that it is the bodybuilder's mother who teaches him/her to develop his/her heart, he also stated that art and culture are the heart of our heritage and identity. He further stated that the develop-

ment of the heart and mind is crucial for the overall benefit of the people.

Terming the establishment of the Cultural Centres in Ladakh as a big step, LG stated that these Centres would become a centre of learning about art and culture for the people of Ladakh and also for future generations. He appreciated all the officials/elected members involved in the conceptualization of the Ladakh Cultural Academy and commended renowned theatre artist Mipham Otsal for donating 10 kanal of land for the construction of the Cultural Centre at Leh.

He advised the concerned officials to complete the construction of the Ladakh Cultural Centres in Leh and Kargil in three years. He emphasised the need to prepare programmes for both the Cultural Centres, deliberate on it and form committees to ensure that the best



L-G along with other dignitaries during the foundation stone laying of Ladakh Cultural Centre Leh.

programmes are implemented at these Centres. He stated that the selection of the manpower for these Cultural Centres should be far-sighted so that the workers could deliver their best. LG sought cooperation from the elected members, government officials and the citizens of Ladakh to take this project forward.

L-G distributed keys to tri-scooter and electric wheelchairs along with some assisted devices to persons with disabilities (PwDs).

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson, said that the Cultural Centres will prove beneficial in the preservation of the unique art and culture of Ladakh. Stating

that the people of Ladakh always dreamed of their integration with the entire nation, he informed about various benefits availed by the local people after the formation of Ladakh as a union territory. He requested the re-registration of the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages at Leh and Kargil as a part of the Hill Councils so that they could continue to work hard for the preservation of Ladakhi art, culture and languages.

Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, stated that the Ladakh Cultural Centre at Leh and Kargil would be a dream project for the people of Ladakh. Stating that people of diverse cultures live

in Ladakh, he highlighted the dependence of Ladakh's identity on its culture. He stated that culture and identity were the basis on which the people of Ladakh fought for UT status. He also stated that Bhoti needs to be promoted through the Ladakh Culture Academy.

Commissioner Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Mehboob Ali Khan, informed that the Cultural Centre will be constructed for Rs 96 crores. He also informed that the Cultural Centre would have facilities such as an auditorium, basement parking, art galleries, a recording studio, a digital archive, a library, recreational rooms, a conference room and a cafeteria. He further informed that winter-friendly technologies such as the utilization of the sun's passive solar energy have been incorporated into the construction of the Cultural Centre.

Mehboob informed that the Ladakh Cultural Centre would be helpful in the preservation of art, culture and languages and also for research and documentation purposes.

### Advisor chairs 3rd State Broadband Committee meeting

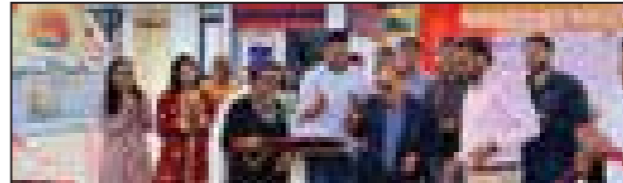
Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The 3rd State Broadband Committee (SBC) of the Union Territory of Ladakh was held under the chairmanship of Advisor Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal on August 11 at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

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

### Advisor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal inaugurates SIDCO's energy hub in Leh

Ladakh to soon start Hydrogen based vehicles on pilot basis



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh inaugurated the Energy Hub (Petrol Pump) established by Sindhu Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO) at SIDCO Transport Depot, New Bus Stand in Leh on August 10.

Dr. Kotwal said that the inauguration of the Energy Hub stands as a testament to SIDCO's commitment to sustainable progress and innovation. It signifies a significant stride towards Ladakh's holistic development, bolstering its stance as a model for environmentally conscious advancements.

Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Managing Director of SIDCO provided a comprehensive overview of the organization's initiatives and progress. He highlighted the rapid advancements that SIDCO has been making in enhancing the lives of the Ladakhi population, underlining its pivotal role in driving the growth and development of the region and providing employment.

Commending the tireless efforts of SIDCO, Dr. Kotwal expressed his appreciation for the collaborative approach adopted by various departments and stakeholders. He applauded the successful endeavours of SIDCO, which

have now become integral components of Ladakh's administration. Dr. Kotwal also lauded the upcoming eco-friendly initiative led by concerned officers: the trial run of Hydrogen-fuelled buses in Ladakh. These buses utilize hydrogen and air to generate electricity, emitting only water as a byproduct.

Dr. Kotwal accentuated SIDCO's dedication to making Ladakh a carbon-free region, particularly through the introduction of electric vehicles. He emphasized that hydrogen-powered buses, like electric buses, employ fuel cells to produce electricity without any carbon emissions.

The advisor emphasized the importance of efficiently managing these valuable assets within SIDCO's purview. As part of his visit, he conducted an on-site inspection of the electric bus stand.



## People's Voice:

Yangchen Dolma

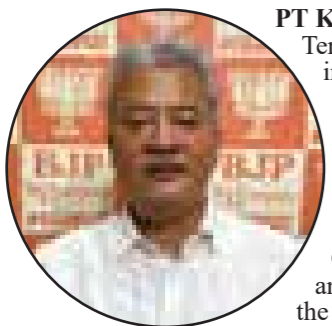
## Ladakh after 4 years of UT status



**Tundup Thinlas, President, Former President ALUYA:** When Ladakh became Union Territory, there were high expectations especially among the youth, for increased job opportunities. It's been 4 years after UT status and the job expectations among the youth are just the same and we are not seeing any significant progress. There is a delay in everything despite several requests to speed up the recruitment process. It's been 4 years, and even today, the administration and political leaders are saying that it's just a little late. The fact is, it's not just a little late but very late because there hasn't been a single joining the civil department in these 4 years.

Youths of Ladakh are frustrated and desperate for jobs because all these years the political leaders had raised high hopes among the youth by announcing various numbers of job opportunities. They promised 12,000 posts and even provided some exact data, mentioning the formation of a Women's Battalion. They keep on showing dreams, but none have been fulfilled so far. Looking beyond recruitment, we have received a fund of 6,000 crore.

However, over the past 4 years, a total fund of 24,000 crore has been allocated. Despite such substantial funds, it is disheartening to see limited progress in development activities on the ground. The UT status for Ladakh is indeed a significant milestone, providing us with a new identity. Previously, not many people were aware of Ladakh, but now it has gained recognition. We have also witnessed the emergence of a separate political landscape, which is a major development for us. When Ladakh was under J&K, our aspirations couldn't be fulfilled due to the dominance of Kashmir-centric politics, leading to biased treatment and discrimination. Now, with direct rule under central government, things have changed. In terms of funds, previously we only received around 50/60 crore for district capital expenditure, but now it has increased to 300 crore, which is a substantial improvement. With such funds, it is important to see the impact on the ground. For that, our leaders need to be innovative, and visionary, and focus on good policymaking, employment generation, and youth-oriented programs to take Ladakh forward. Having a safeguard is very important for Ladakh since we are a culturally and geographically unique trans-Himalayan UT with a small population of only 3 lakhs. Previously, Articles 370 and 35A provided safeguard, but their removal has raised concerns. We need measures in place to protect Ladakh and ensure its preservation.



**PT Kunzang, BJP Spokesperson:** It has been four years since we became a Union Territory, and there has been significant progress during this time compared to being part of J&K. The amount of funding we receive now is much higher and the development has increased tenfold in areas such as road infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, and overall infrastructure. We can see all of this happening on the ground. When it comes to major achievements, we have seen the construction of connectivity link roads and national highways, the upcoming new airport named Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, railway planning, and surveys for tunnels in various locations like Zojila. In terms of education, Sindhu Central University is progressing well, and there have been upgrades in medical and engineering colleges, as well as development efforts in vibrant villages near the border. On the economic front, our apricot fruit, wood carving, and pashmina all received GI tags. 5G has also been launched, and the Haj committee has sent all eligible applicants of Leh and Kargil to Haj. The budget of the hill council has increased significantly from 50/60 crore to 300 crore each for Leh and Kargil. These are all clear indications of progress.

The attainment of Union Territory status for Ladakh is indeed a dream come true, fulfilled by the Modi-led BJP government. It stands as one of the greatest achievements for the region. Initially, our biggest demand was to become a Union Territory, which was fulfilled by the Modi-led BJP government. However, we later demanded the status of a Union Territory with a legislature. Currently, we lack safeguards, but the BJP has always been committed in protecting Ladakh and will continue to work towards implementing safeguards.

In 2022, the BJP passed a resolution to demand job opportunities and land protection for the environment in

Ladakh, and they will continue to do so in the future. We should hold hope for Ladakh to receive constitutional safeguards soon. It is important to have safeguards because Ladakh has a small population, and there is a danger of it being wiped out. Therefore, the BJP will always advocate for Ladakh, which is beneficial for the younger generation and the protection of our culture and land.

BJP is ready to do whatever it takes to achieve this.



**Sajad Kargili, Political Activist:** After the removal of Articles 370 and 35A, our transition to a Union Territory has not brought the expected improvements. We are disappointed with the lack of job opportunities and development in Ladakh. The absence of safeguards, industrial and job employment policies, and inadequate health infrastructure are major concerns. We feel that our ecological and democratic security is at risk. It is important to address these issues and work towards a better future for Ladakh because there are more negative impacts than positive ones since Ladakh became a Union Territory. Direct interference from the central government is a prominent concern. I think we must urge our public representatives to establish policies that prioritize job opportunities. For instance, the establishment of a Ladakh Service Commission would be beneficial.



**Tundup Norboo Cheetah, President, District Youth Congress:** After Ladakh became Union Territory, the older generation here is quite happy, but the younger generation has concerns about the future of jobs, land, and business. Initially, everyone was delighted when their demands were met, but then senior BJP leaders left the party, creating a fear that the UT might bring problems to our land, culture, and jobs. There have been so many protests in these past four years. BJP leaders who resigned are now openly criticizing the party. Initially, all BJP elected representatives were demanding the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh, even in their manifesto. However, now they are saying that Ladakh doesn't require Sixth Schedule. This gives the impression that these individuals are being directed from above.

The biggest disadvantage is that public representatives do not have executive and legislative power, and even the judiciary system is absent. In any part of India where there is no power in the hands of the elected representative, it becomes very difficult and raises questions on democracy. If Ladakh does not have democracy, then living in such a Ladakh means we will never have representation in India's constituency. In the current UT setup, democracy does not seem to be valued. People say that the council has power, but as a councillor, they can only create small rules and cannot legislate.

Ladakh has 2 districts in its territory where 2,72,000 people reside. LG, commissioner secretaries, principal secretaries, and others are working for their welfare. It is a significant achievement to have such a big setup for a small population. Now Ladakh can represent itself in national tournaments and platforms, gaining more recognition. As per the Indian constitution, political leaders and experts have emphasized the need to focus on human empowerment along with infrastructure development.

Ladakh has been primarily focusing on infrastructure, but the importance of human development has been overlooked. Currently, students are protesting in Ladakh, and people from outside are coming for business, but they face challenges in land and job control. Due to these factors, Ladakh as a whole has not achieved full empowerment. To reinstate democracy in Ladakh, it is important to fulfill the promises made to empower the region after it became a Union Territory. One way to empower Ladakh is by granting legislative powers, which are mentioned in Article 371B and can be inserted into the Sixth Schedule. If Ladakh is granted the Sixth Schedule, the council will have executive, legislative, and judicial powers, making it a powerful tool within India's parliamentary system. Currently, Ladakh must obtain all three powers. Also, the Ladakhi student union should be strong and fearless.

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

## The art of living a day



I think most of the time during any day, we are auto-piloted. That means we do things without being really fully aware of what we do because we do out of sheer habit. Mostly, such things are those that are routine and do not need our full attention. I know of people who don't remember what they had eaten or done a few hours ago. That is all because they had done the acts involuntarily!

Nothing wrong, I suppose, but the point some of us might raise is that we are wasting our day, and that much of the time is gone without doing anything of substance. Agreed, and so the issue is how to make our day more productive and meaningful. Those who are successful tell us that it is so very simple: All that you have to do is to plan and divide your day so that each work is bracketed within a particular time-frame.

Such a plan has several advantages: The foremost is that you are not only utilising your time and energy actively and efficiently but also the chances of some important work being left out gets minimal. True, one may not be able to fulfil everything strictly as the outlines drawn first in the morning. That kind of situation can happen quite often with most of us because of several factors during the course of the day. No issue, that is normal. One can always regroup in the next day's plan to let it happen successfully by giving it top priority.

That reminds us of one important thing: To prioritise your work to be done so that no time-bound work is left out undone. The relatively less important work left out can be done any day. The whole idea of writing this is to make a point that the way you spend a day determines the quality of your life. You need to focus on 'today', as tomorrow can be dealt with as it comes! Most of the failures are a result of 'losing' today as a result of our love and obsession to live in the past and the future!

Courtesy: WongWorld

## The World of Juniors

## International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples



The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is to be marked annually on August 9, according to a decision made by the UN General Assembly in December 1994. The day was picked in honour of the 1982 Geneva-based Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights inaugural meeting, which served as the inspiration for the date.

The theme of World Tribal Day in 2023 is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples holds immense significance as it serves to spotlight the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and contributions of indigenous communities globally.

The day is necessary since indigenous peoples are frequently among the most underprivileged racial and ethnic groupings in society. The UN estimates that although indigenous people make up less than 5% of the global population, they are responsible for 15% of the world's poorest people. They represent 5,000 distinct civilizations and speak the vast majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages.

By recognizing their unique identities and promoting their rights, the day highlights the need for collaboration among governments, organizations, and societies to ensure the well-being, dignity, and inclusion of indigenous peoples while celebrating their invaluable role in the world's shared heritage.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

sha Nunnery Gompa.

## DID YOU KNOW



Celebrating the 75th Independence Day, let's revisit history and know about several interesting facts associated with India's Independence:

- The first struggle for independence was in 1857, very famously called the Sepoy Mutiny or the Indian Rebellion of 1857 was led by Mangal Pandey, Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi, Bahadur Shah Zafar, Tatya Tope, and Nana Sahib were the others who led the resistance against British soldiers in 1857.
- The Indian national flag with three horizontal stripes of red, yellow, and green was hoisted on August 7, 1906, at Parsee Bagan Square in Kolkata. The first variant of our current national flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya in 1921. The current flag with saffron, white and green stripes with the 24-spoke Ashok Chakra was officially adopted on July 22, 1947, and hoisted on August 15, 1947.
- The Quit India Movement, also known as the August Movement, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on August 8 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India.
- India did not have an official national anthem at the time of Independence. The song 'Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata', composed in 1911 by Rabindranath Tagore, was renamed 'Jan Gan Man'. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India as the National Anthem on January 24, 1950.
- The boundary line between India and Pakistan, also known as the Radcliffe Line was demarcated by British barrister Sir Cyril Radcliffe on August 3, 1947. It was officially published only on August 17, 1947, two days after India got its independence from the British.
- India's national song 'Vande Mataram' composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was part of his novel 'Anandamath' written in the 1880s. Vande Mataram was adopted as the national song on January 24, 1950.



# Universal Responsibility and the Environment

By His Holiness Dalai Lama

As a boy studying Buddhism, I was taught the importance of a caring attitude toward the environment. Our practice of nonviolence applies not just to human beings but to all sentient beings - any living thing that has a mind. Where there is a mind, there are feelings such as pain, pleasure, and joy. No sentient being wants pain: all wants happiness instead. I believe that all sentient beings share those feelings at some basic level.

In Buddhism practice we get so used to this idea of non-violence and the ending of all suffering that we become accustomed to not harming or destroying anything indiscriminately. Although we do not believe that trees or flowers have minds, we treat them also with respect. Thus we share a sense of universal responsibility for both mankind and nature.

Our belief in reincarnation is one example of our concern for the future. If you think that you will be reborn, you are likely to say to yourself, I have to preserve such and such because my future reincarnation will be able to continue with these things. Even though there is a chance you may be reborn as a creature, perhaps even on a different planet, the idea of reincarnation gives you reason to have direct concern about this planet and future generations.

In the West when you speak of "humanity," you usually mean only our existing generation of human beings. Past humanity is already gone. The future, like death, has yet to come. Western ideas usually deal with the practical side of things for only this present generation of human beings.

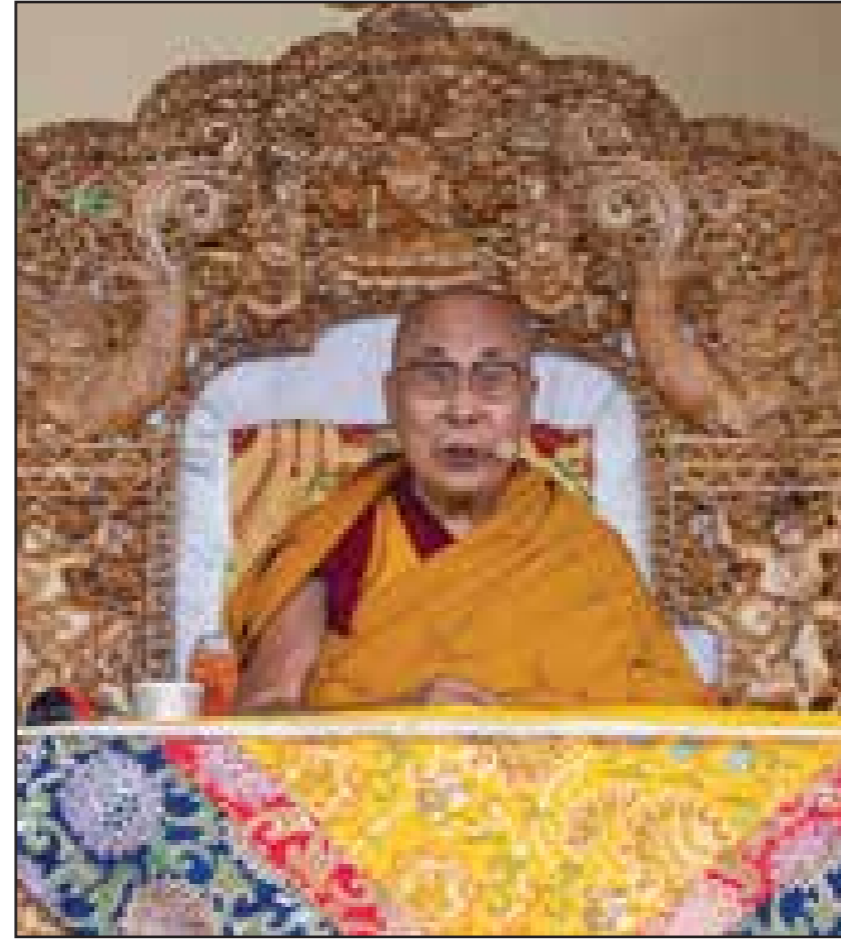
Tibetan feelings about the environment are based entirely on religion. They are derived from the whole Tibetan way of life, not just from Buddhism. For example, consider Buddhism in Japan or Thailand, in environments different from ours. Their culture and their attitude are not the same as ours. Our unique environment has strongly influenced us. We don't live on a small, heavily populated island. Historically, we have had little anxiety with our vast area, low population, and distant neighbors. We haven't felt as oppressed as people in many other human communities.

It is very possible to practice the essence of a faith or culture without practicing a religion. Our Tibetan culture, although culture, although highly influenced by Buddhism, did not gain all its philosophy from Buddhism. I once suggested to an organization dealing with Tibetan refugees that it would be interesting to do some research on how much our people have been affected by their approach to life itself in Tibet. What are the factors that make Tibetans generally happy and calm? People are always looking for answer in our unique religion, forgetting that our environment is just as unusual.

Concern for the environment is not necessarily holy, nor does it always require compassion. We Buddhists express compassion for all sentient beings, but this compassion is not necessarily extended to every rock or tree or house. Most of us are somewhat concerned about our own house, but not really compassionate about it. We keep it in order so that we can

live and be happy. We know that to have happy feelings in our house we must take care of it. So our feelings may be of concern rather than compassion.

Similarly, our planet is our house, and we must keep it in order and take care of it if we are genuinely concerned about happiness for ourselves, our children, our friends, and other sentient beings who share this great house with us. If we think of the planet as our house or as "our mother - Mother Earth - we automatically feel concern for our environment. Today we understand that the future of humanity very much depends on our planet, and that the future of the planet very much depends on humanity. But this has not always been so clear to us.



Until now, you see, Mother Earth has somehow tolerated sloppy house habits. But now human use, population, and technology have reached that certain stage 'where Mother Earth no longer accepts our presence with silence. In many ways she is now telling us, "My children are behaving badly," she is warning us that there are limits to our actions.

The Tibetan Buddhist attitude is one of contentment, and there may be some connection here with our attitude toward the environment. We don't indiscriminately consume. We put a limit on our consumption. We admire simply liv-

ing and individual responsibility. We have always considered ourselves as part of our environment, but not just any part. Our ancient scriptures speak of the container and the contained. The world is the container - our house and we are the contained- the contents of the container.

From these simple facts we deduce a special relationship, because without the container, the contents cannot be contained. Without the contents, the container contains nothing, it's meaningless.

In my Five-Point Peace Plan I have proposed that all of Tibet become a sanctuary, a zone of peace. Tibet was that once, but with no official designation. Peace means harmony: harmony between people, between people and animals, between sentient beings and the environment. Visitors from all over the world could come to Tibet to experience peace and harmony. Instead of building big hotels with many stories and many rooms, we would make small building, more like private homes, that would be in better harmony with nature.

It is not at all wrong for humans to use nature to make useful things, but we must not exploit nature to make useful things, but we must not exploit nature unnecessarily. It is good to live in a house, to have medicines, and to be able to drive somewhere in a car. In the right hands, a machine is not a luxury, but something very useful. A camera, for example, can be used to make pictures that promote understanding.

But everything has its limit. Too much consumption or effort to make money is no good. Neither is too much contentment. In principle contentment is a goal, but pure contentment becomes almost like suicide, doesn't it? I think the Tibetans had, in certain fields too much contentment. And we lost our country. These days we cannot afford too much contentment about the environment.

Peace and survival of life on earth as we know it are threatened by human activities that lack a commitment to humanitarian values. Destruction of nature and natural resources results from ignorance, greed, and lack of respect for the earth's living things. This lack of respect extends even to the earth's human descendants, the future generations who will inherit a vastly degraded planet if world peace doesn't become a reality and if destruction of the natural environment continues at the present rate.

Our ancestors viewed the earth as rich and bountiful, which it is. Many people in the past also saw nature as inexhaustibly sustainable, which we now know is the case only if we care for it. It is not difficult to forgive destruction in the past that resulted from ignorance. Today, however, we have access to more information. It is essential that we re-examine ethically what we have inherited, what we are responsible for, and what we will pass on to coming generations.

Continues on page no. 6

## Fortnight Highlights



DIET Leh successfully concluded the 10th-day summer training for teachers. The trainings were conducted in two phases. The first phase training on the Bhoti, Hindi, and Maths was conducted as per the NEP 2020 and the Second phase was conducted on science practical based cum workshop of different zones of Leh district.



His Eminence Chosje Togdan Rinpoche was posthumously awarded the LAHDC Leh Lifetime Achievement Award 2023. LG handing over the award to Lobzang Chorol, the wife of HE Chosje Togdan Rinpoche.



Tourism Department Kargil organised a cleanliness-cum-awareness drive under the MoT's mission "Travel for Life for Tourism" with the theme of current week "waste reduction" at LoC village Hundurman.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier BD Mishra (Retd), led a cleanliness drive at the sand dunes of Hunder in the Nubra sub-division.



Election Authority/DC Kargil convening a meeting with all Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers for 5th General elections of LAHDC Kargil.



As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Govt. Degree College Drass celebrated the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign at the college campus.



To mark International Youth Day 2023, the Debate/Seminar Committee and the Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College Khaltse, organised a poster making competition centered on this year's theme 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'.



The Block Task Force Chairman of Khaltse Block, Suhail Ahmad, SDM Khaltse took a significant step in promoting public health by launching the 5th IMI (Intensified Mission Indradanush) vaccination session at the Community Health Centre Khaltse.



## Fortnightly News

### Passing Out Parade of 141 Agniveers held at Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Passing Out Parade was held at Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, Leh on August 4 to mark the entry of 141 well-trained Agniveer recruits into the Ladakh Scouts Regiment as young soldiers.



The ceremony conducted in consonance with the highest traditions of the Indian Army was reviewed by Brig Dr B D Mishra (Retd), Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh as the Chief Guest and was attended by a spectrum of military & civil dignitaries and parents of Agniveers. The young Agniveers, hailing from all regions of Ladakh, enthusiastically participated in the parade and are now ready to serve for the supreme cause of the Nation.

The Reviewing Officer

congratulated the Young Soldiers for the impressive parade and meticulous turnout and urged them to devote their life in service to the nation as proud soldiers of the Indian Army. He also congratulated the proud parents to have motivated their wards to join the Regiment. He complimented the Ladakh Scouts personnel for their outstanding performance in all spheres and praised their exceptional valor and sacrifice while upholding the sovereignty of the Nation. He exhorted the Young Soldiers to contin-

ue to strive hard in pursuit of excellence in all spheres and take a solemn vow to defend the sovereignty of the Nation against all odds in the true spirit signified by the ethos of the Indian Army.

Seven young Agniveers were awarded medals for their outstanding performance during the training. Gaurav Padak was also presented to the proud parents who are either serving or have served in the Army and whose wards joined the Regiment as Agniveers.

### Youm-e-Ashura: Alamdar Health Service organises mega blood donation camp

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended the mega blood donation camp organised by Alamdar Health Service, Leh on the occasion of Youm-e-Ashura on July 29.

Alamdar Health Service, Leh is a health unit of Anjuman Imamia Leh Youth Wing.

Highlighting the significance of Youm-e-Ashura and the holding of the Blood Donation Camp, LG stated that both Youm-e-Ashura and the Blood Donation Camp are in consonance with each other. Remembering the shahadat (martyrdom) of

Hazrat Imam Hussain and his 72 companions along with his family members at Karbala in 680 AD, LG stated that Hazrat Imam Hussain's battle against Yazid was a fight against evil in which eventually the truth triumphed. Giving the example of the battle between Kauravas and Pandavas in Mahabharata and the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters for India's freedom from British colonial rule, LG stated that truth always prevails in the fight between good and evil.

Appreciating the noble work of Alamdar Health Service to provide blood to the needy, LG hoped for continued service from



the organisation to save the lives of patients who are in dire need of blood.

He also distributed Certificates of Appreciation to the blood donors who have donated more than 10 pints of blood to the needy.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tser-

social evils such as corruption from society.

President, Anjuman Imamia, Ashraf Ali Barcha informed that Alamdar Health Service has completed two decades of its selfless service to provide blood to the needy. He also informed that there would be no greater noble work than organising blood camps in the memory of Shahadat of Hazrat Imam Hussain.

Chairman, Alamdar Health Service, Leh, Dr Fida Hussain requested the Administration and MP Ladakh for infrastructure/land to establish an office to enable them to expand their service of providing blood to the patients.

### Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviews Health & Medical Education department

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor and Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department, UT Ladakh reviewed the pace of progress achieved on different works in the H&ME Department at Civil Secretariat, Leh on August 10.

Director of Health & Medical Education, Dr Motup Dorje apprised the Advisor regarding the achievements under the Health Department, UT Ladakh which includes the status of 108 ambulance services; utilization of hospital development funds; review of the oxygen infrastructure; functioning of the Health & Wellness Centre/ e-Sanjeevani Scheme/ e-hospital; updates on construction work of Health Department under Special Development Package (SDP); status of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Zaskar Community Health Centre; status of National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certificates of Health institution; status of Diplomat of National Board (DNB) courses in district hospitals of Leh



and Kargil; status of central heating system in the hospitals; infrastructure and M&E ready for the inauguration; pending DPRs of works approved in SDP 2023-24, etc.

During the review meeting, Advisor urged upon all the concerned departments to ensure the completion of works on time and he appreciated the concerned departments for active cooperation and coordination for the implementation of schemes under National Health Mission (NHM).

Dr Pawan Kotwal stresses-on on several topics like app formation, hyperbaric chamber, enquired about the status of the central heating of 22 Health Institutions, 86 four-set staff quarters, doctor's quarters, PMDP Scheme, etc of Skurbuchan, Temisgam, Saspol, and Khaltse, etc

and reviewed the cost proposed to be constructed in the CHC Padum Zaskar.

Dr. Kotwal stressed upon inspection and asserting the condition of medical equipment and supplies regularly.

He directed the Managing Director of the National Health Mission to install internet facilities at various Health & Wellness Centres along with solar power and a small DG set wherever required.

Dr Pawan Kotwal also directed the executive engineer of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to make a presentation on the final designing the Sub-District Hospital and directed Chief Medical Officer, Kargil to give a presentation on the construction of additional facilities at 300 bedded Hospital at Kargil.

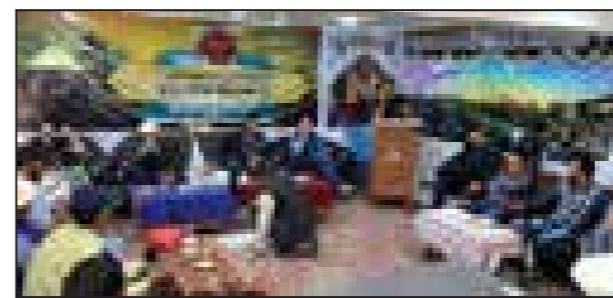
Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** A day-long Multilingual Hussaini Mushaira was organised by Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (LAACL), Kargil on August 8 at Language Centre Academy Complex, Kargil.

Over 30 senior poets and emerging talents from across the district, representing Urdu, Balti, Purgi and Shina Dardi languages participated.

The poets eloquently presented their poetic expressions, predominantly focused on praising and paying heartfelt tributes to the martyrs of Karbala. They also delved into the profound philosophy of martyrdom, reflecting its significance.

Chief guest of the occasion, Padma Shri Award-



During the day-long Multilingual Hussaini Mushaira organised by Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (LAACL), Kargil.

ee Akhone Asgar Ali Bashar said considering the richness of the poetry presented in the symposium, the event was successful. He extended his gratitude to LAACL Kargil for organizing the program and conveyed his optimism for the continuation of similar enriching initiatives in the times to come.

Zakir Hussain Khan, Head Assistant of LAACL Kargil provided insight into

the purpose behind the event. He also highlighted the forthcoming initiatives that LAACL, Kargil has planned for the future.

He emphasized that LAACL Kargil is dedicated to offering crucial logistics and support to nurture local art and literature in the district.

Urdu and Purgi poet Sajjad Ali Shujaat conducted the proceedings of the poetic symposium.

### Universal Responsibility and the Environment

Continues from page no. 6

Clearly this is a pivotal generation. Global communication is possible, yet confrontations take place more often than meaningful dialogues for peace. Our marvels of science and technology are matched, if not outweighed, by many current tragedies, including human starvation in some parts of the world and extinction of other life forms. Exploration of outer space takes place at the same time the earth's own oceans, seas, and freshwater areas grow increasingly polluted, and their life forms are still largely unknown or misunderstood. Many of the earth's habitats, animals, plants, insects and even microorganisms that we know as rare may not be known at all by future generations. We have the capability and the responsibility. We must act before it is too late.

Excerpt from My Tibet by H.H. the Fourteenth Dalai lama: Thames and Hudson Ltd., London, 1990 (p 79-80).

### Administrative Secretary of Disaster Management chairs Table Top Exercise program

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Administrative Secretary of Disaster Management, UT Ladakh Amit Sharma chaired the Tabletop Exercise Program on August 2 at D C Conference Hall, Leh.

The tabletop exercise program was co-chaired by Lt. General Syed Ata Mahdi Hasnain (Retd), a member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) via video conference from Delhi. Administrative Secretary said that UT Ladakh's key stakeholders should take a keen part in such an awareness program as such knowledge reduces chaos and confusion in times of crisis. This exercise is a platform for sharing best practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management, Amit Sharma stated.

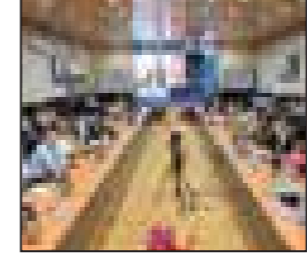
The co-chair of the program Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Mahdi Hasnain highlighted the importance of the exercises and mock drills. He also urged the stakeholders that these kinds of exercises and mock drills will be conducted on a regular basis to infuse much-needed knowledge and safety measures in times of natural calamities in Ladakh.

Additional Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs Alok

(IAS) stressed conducting the Mock exercise to see the coordination among the different departments and the ground staff to make the functioning of the relief and rescue operation faster, more efficient, and reliable in times of real-time disasters.

Senior Consultant (ME & IRS), NDMA, Major General Sudhir Bahl presented a detailed Table Top Exercises presentation on earthquakes, natural disasters, etc. He briefed the participants about the objectives and scope of Table Top and the mock exercise. Major Gen Bahl also stressed good planning, better coordination, and better response among various participating stakeholders and agencies. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted a Table Top Exercise program for brainstorming and thorough discussions with all stakeholders involved in disaster management in Ladakh. The NDMA conducted such Table Top and Mock Exercises prior to any natural calamities in its efforts to improve preparedness and response mechanisms for various disasters.

During the meeting, officials from Ladakh Disaster Management Authority (LDMA) presented an overview of the Disaster Plan and preparedness. Various departments including UT Level Disaster



Response Force, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Jal Shakti, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC), Health, communication, and connectivity besides various security agencies also presented detailed overviews of disaster plans.

The meeting was informed that mock exercises shall be conducted at the Emergency Operation Centre, Upper Tukcha, Leh on August 04 to assess the preparedness and response mechanism of all the stakeholders involved in the management.

The meeting highlighted the role and responsibilities of the concerned stakeholders. The officials were sensitized on how to plan for efficient and effective disaster preparedness besides how to focus on managing emergencies and how to handle the situation during exigencies.

Officers were urged to identify gaps and prepare objective tasks, challenges, resources, problem areas and remedial measures to be taken in case of any disaster.

### DC, Kargil, stresses strict implementation of model code of conduct



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Election Authority/Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse convened a meeting of flying squads constituted for the implementation of a model code of conduct for the 5th general elections of LAHDC Kargil on August 7.

Present at the meeting were SP Kargil, Anayat Ali Chaudhary; Election officer/ADC Kargil, Gulam Mohi-Ud-Din Wani; nodal officer- MCC/ACR Kargil, Muhammad Sharief; nodal officer- Election Expenditure Monitoring/Chief Controller of Finance,

Ifikhar Hussain; Deputy District Election Officer Kargil, SDMs, SHOs, Election Naib Tehsildar Kargil, along with designated flying squad teams for the LAHDC elections-2023.

Detailed discussion was held on the strict implementation of MCC, election expenditure monitoring, and maintenance of law and order to ensure a free and fair election process.

On August 5, the Election Department UT Ladakh issued a notification for the LAHDC Kargil election after which the model code of conduct came into effect.

Accordingly, office of the Election Authority/District Magistrate Kargil has issued detailed instructions regarding model code of conduct.

### Tourism Dept. organises awareness-cum-cleanliness drive



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DRASS:** An awareness-cum-cleanliness drive under the MOT's mission 'Travel for Life' and #MeriMaatiMeriDesh campaign was held in Himalayan Brown Bear Valley, Holiyal Village Drass on August 12.

The campaign was organised by Tourism Department Kargil in collaboration with Roots Ladakh, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RD&PRD), Wildlife Department, Education Department and local women Self Help Group.

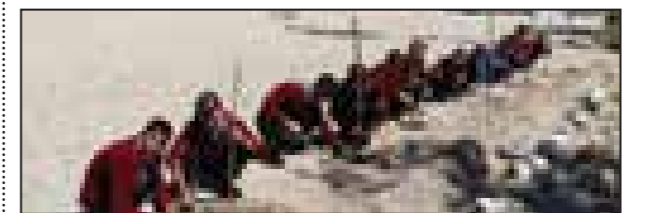
The awareness program regarding the importance of wildlife, forests and promotion of eco-friendly tourism started at Middle

School Holiyal by participating school students, teachers, villagers, tourism stakeholders and officials of different Govt. Departments.

After the awareness program, an extensive cleanliness drive was started in the village and huge quantity of garbage was collected and dispatched through RD&PRD garbage pickup van for proper disposal.

To encourage villagers to hoist National Flag at their houses/buildings from 13 to 15 August was also the part of Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign organized by the Department. Similar programs shall also be conducted at other locations till 15 August.

### International Youth Day: Army organizes plantation drive



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Celebrating the resilience & leadership of the local youth, a tree plantation drive was undertaken by the school children of Ladakh & Indian Army on August 12.

The plantation drive was carried out on 24th International Youth Day with an aim to create a better world for all. The theme for this year was 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards A Sustainable World'.

The drive was aimed to involve the local youth in bringing a positive transformation towards solv-

ing global problems. The young generation was also informed about the need for a sustainable world through use of green skills. The initiative sought to impart knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society.

Army authorities encouraged the local youth to contribute towards a sustainable world by employing green techniques for which the Indian Army, civil administration and society have joined hands to create a conducive atmosphere.

### DC, Kargil, reviews Jal Jeevan Mission progress

Reach Ladakh Correspondent



**KARGIL:** Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district on August 12.

Superintending Engineer, PHE, I&FC Kargil, Maqbool Hussain, Chief Planning Officer Kargil, Abdul Hadi, Exen PHE Kargil,

Exen PHE Zaskar, AEs, AEs, JEs, IEC Coordinator, ISA Team and other concerned officials/officers of the district attended the meeting.

During the meeting, DC Kargil took village wise review of progress of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) under the JJM in the district.

Detailed discussions were held on village wise status of bottlenecks, pace of works, reasons for slow progress in some blocks and remedial actions. DC Shrikant directed for completion of pending works at earliest with at most focus on quality.

### Martyrdom anniversary of Harzat-e-Imam Zain-ul-Abideen observed

Mansoor Hosan Beigh

**SANKOO:** The Martyrdom anniversary of Harzat-e-Imam Zain-ul-Abideen(A.S) was observed on 25th Muharram (1445) on August 13 Sankoo, Kargil.

Congregations and processions organised by Markaz-e-tabligat Imam sankoo and Anjuman-E-Sahib Zaman (ASZ) was carried out. Thousands of people participated in the procession.

The mourners in black-clads, beating their chest and reciting lamentations remembered the greatest martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (A.S)

Religious scholars highlighted various aspects



sacred life and unwavering struggle of Imam Ali Bin Hussain also known as Imam Zainul Abideen (AS).

Youm-e-Shadat Harzart-

e-Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (A.S) was also observed at Suru,Tai suru, Parkachik, Purtikchay, Thangboo, Kargee, Tangole, Barsoo, Sangrah, Trespone, GM-pore, Tambis, Saleskote.



# Fortnightly News

## Kargil's fresh apricot reaches national market



EC, Horticulture, Aga Syed Mehdi Fazily along with DC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse flagging off fresh apricot from Kargil to the national market.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** EC, Horticulture, Aga Syed Mehdi Fazily along with DC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse flagged off fresh apricot from Kargil to the national market on August 3.

Chief Horticulture Officer Kargil, Ali Raza, other officials, and members of Krishak Agritech were present at the flag-off ceremony.

Krishak Agritech, a farmer-centric organization working with farmers

tured into the international market.

He added that beyond facilitating the involvement of local entrepreneurs in the apricot value chain, this initiative would also guarantee that Kargil's farmer's experience minimized wastage and attain the rightful value for their crops.

Chief Horticulture Officer informed that so far, Krishak Agritech has successfully exported 6 metric tons of fresh apricots from Kargil and 31 metric tons from Leh.

Furthermore, he said the fruit has reached markets in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Delhi/NCR region. He also emphasized that as they continue to expand within domestic markets, the unwavering support from all stakeholders has served as a strong source of motivation for their endeavors.

Addressing the occasion, DC Shrikant expressed his delight regarding the successful export of fresh apricots from Ladakh. He emphasized that this event signifies a significant milestone for Kargil, highlighting how Krishak Agritech has not only introduced the fruit to the Indian market but also successfully ven-

## Workshop on Settlement of Rights in Protected Areas of Ladakh under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended the workshop on the Settlement of Rights in the Protected Areas of Ladakh under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, at the DC Conference Hall on August 1.

Highlighting the need for the early rationalization of boundaries of the Karakoram and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries along with the exercise of settlement of rights of the inhabitants of both these Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Hemis National Park, the LG termed the exercise as 'the requirement of a progressive, civilized and welfare-oriented world for posterity.' Giving detailed

information about the genesis of the Wildlife Protection Act and its need, he emphasized the need to strike a balance between the rights of the inhabitants and the protection of the wildlife in the protected areas and stated that the Wildlife Protection Act is a means to maintain the balance between the two.

Highlighting the need to ensure that the inhabitants residing in these protected areas are not affected 'as they also need to survive and indulge in livelihood means,' the LG emphasized the need to be rational while conducting the exercise, sensitize people residing in these areas about their rights and achieve the overall goal of



the exercise with prudence. Terming the exercise of settlement of rights as important, he highlighted the need to achieve the targeted result at the earliest for the overall benefit of the people of Ladakh.

Advisor to LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, informed that the exercise of settlement of

completed with the help of experts from the Wildlife Institute of India which is providing handholding to UT Administration in building the capacities of the collectors and patwaris to conduct the exercise in these wildlife-protected areas.

Sanjeev Gaur, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) official from Maharashtra, gave a detailed presentation on the scope of work and legal framework of settlement of rights, including the premises and objectives of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, the concept of servitudes, dominant and servient estates, nature of rights, cardinal principles for the exercise of rights and legal framework and constraints, etc.

## Seminar on 'Documentation of Zanskari Language and Revitalization' held at GMDC Zaskar

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** A seminar on "Documentation of Zanskari Language and Revitalization" was organised by Government Model Degree College (GMDC) Zaskar on August 6.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness within the Zanskari community, specifically targeting college undergraduate students, regarding their language.

In continuation of the project, Maaz Ahmad Shaikh, a Linguistics Research Scholar, University of Alberta, Canada, presented a detailed presentation on the topic.

He explained various scientific methods to record audio and video and emphasized that language is an identity of a society and through a particular language, various useful information including, history, traditions, customs and traditional knowledge of that area could be gained and shall add in the pool of knowledge. Shaikh said every language has its structure, grammar, value and ethics.

He explained the impor-



During the seminar on "Documentation of Zanskari Language and Revitalization".

tance of documentation of language by quoting an example of a tribe in North Africa, where a 75-year-old man who speaks a particular language was left alone and the language exists with the man.

He further added that Zanskari language is listed as endangered by some authors and researchers. Around 10,000-13,000 people speak Zanskari language and the migration of peoples for education, business etc. towards Leh, Kargil, Manali and other parts of India are bringing an appreciable shift in the language.

The speaker said shifting and mixing in a dialect is inevitable but at the same time preservation and revitalization of a vernacular language is very import-

ant. The speaker emphasized that the whole documentation and revitalization of Zanskari language is impossible without community involvement and enumerated the students to contribute to documenting the Zanskari language.

He apprised the audience of how the documented materials will be archived at the Computational Resources of South Asian Languages (CoRSAL) archive of the University of North Texas. It is a digital archive for source audio, video, and text on the minority languages of South Asia.

Dr Jamphel Sheyan, Assistant Professor introduced the speaker and conducted the program proceedings.

## 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign commences in Kargil district



Students participating during the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Paying tribute to the valor and sacrifice of the valiant soldiers who gave their lives for the nation, 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign commenced at different Panchayats of Kargil district on August 9.

The campaign was organised by the RD&PRD Kargil in collaboration with District Administration

sides, BDOs, other block & Tehsil level officers during the events.

Remarkable participation of people coupled with enthusiasm was witnessed at all the locations. The NRLM staff, NYK volunteers, VLWs, GRS, students and teachers also participated enthusiastically.

Kargil.

The 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign was conducted at various Gram Panchayats from different blocks across the district Kargil which include Barsoo block, Government Boys Middle School Akchamal (Sodh), Gram Panchayat Choskor (Kargil), TSG Block, Sankoo Block, Taisuru Block be-

Students from many schools participated as well.

'Merri Maati Mera Desh' campaign envisages covering a range of activities that have been planned for the upcoming days to commemorate the sacrifices of veers and to celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav, culminating 75 years of independence.

## State Selection Committee meeting on National Award for Teachers 2023 evaluation held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Principal Secretary of School Education, UT Ladakh Sanjeev Khirwar chaired the meeting of the State Selection Committee for the evaluation of teachers for the National Award for Teachers 2023 at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on August 1.

Evaluation and scrutiny of five nominations and shortlisted based on the performance of the eligibility criteria from the national portal held on the performances in their respective schools and communities using technology, innovative pedagogy, joyful learning, learning material, mentorship, governance, engagement of the community, initiatives to improve learning outcomes, innovative experiments undertaken, organization of extra and co-curricular activities, use of Teaching Learning Materials, social mobility, ensuring experiential, unique ways to ensure physical education to students, etc. and presentation by the applicants.



First-level scrutiny is done by District Selection Committee (DSC) Leh and Kargil headed by the respective District Chief Education Officer. After the detailed evaluation of the applications, DSC, Leh, and Kargil shortlisted 5 nominations and forwarded them to State Selection Committee through the online portal along with the vigilance clearance certificate of each of the 5 applicants.

An independent jury will be constituted by the Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy to select the teachers for their excellence in the field of teaching with innovation and dedication.

The purpose of National Awards to Teachers is to celebrate the unique contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country and to honor those teachers who through their commitment and industry have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students.

The State Selection Committee members who attended the evaluation and scrutiny were Dr. Sharad Sinha from the Union Government (Professor NCERT); Director of School Education, UT Ladakh Tsering Paldan; Chief Education Officer, Leh Sonam Dorjay Namgail; and Chief Education Officer, Kargil Mushtaq Ahmad.

## First State Cooperative Development Committee meeting held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The implementation of various schemes aimed to strengthen the Cooperative movement and its reach to the grassroots level was reviewed during the meeting of the first State Cooperative Development Committee (SCDC) chaired by Advisor Ladakh Dr. Pawan Kotwal on August 2.

Dr. Kotwal reviewed the interventions being adopted to make Primary Cooperative Societies vibrant entities of the economy.

He reviewed the status of the adoption of model bye-laws by Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) for making them multipurpose and multi-dimensional, the status of hardware purchase, and finalizing system integration for the computerisation of PACS.

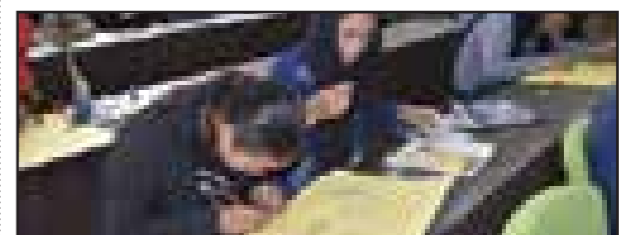
District-wise targets for establishing new multipurpose PACS or primary Dairy Fisheries Cooperative Societies in uncovered Panchayats/Villages; selection of PACS for the pilot projects for the world's largest Decentralised Grain Storage Plan in Co-operative Sector, were also deliberated upon during the meeting.

One PACS in each State/UT with the largest gap between grain production and grain storage is to be selected for the pilot phase. In this regard, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has started onboarding all PACS that are shortlisted for computerisation as Common Service Centres for providing more than 300 services to their members as well as rural citizens.

Advisor directed the committee to make coordinated efforts to achieve the targets of various initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation to further strengthen the cooperative ecosystem. The Advisor also laid thrust on intensifying the activities and ensuring the active involvement of the committee members to achieve the set targets in a time-bound manner.

The chair was also informed that to diversify the business activities of PACS to make them vibrant economic entities, various initiatives like the opening up of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, and LPG/Petrol/ Diesel distribution outlets are being undertaken by Union/State Government for which PACS registered in UT Ladakh shall be taken up in a phased manner.

## Government Model Degree College Zaskar celebrates International Youth Day 2023



Cultural program during the Summer Carnival.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** Government Model Degree College Zaskar celebrated International Youth Day with enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools, as well as the college students and staff members on August 12.

Dr Stanzin Angmo, BMO Zaskar was the chief guest on the occasion.

Dr Jamphel Department of English emphasized the pivotal role that the youth play in safeguarding the pristine environment of Zaskar. A painting competition on 'Climate Change' was conducted as a part of program, wherein 25 students participated.

Thinlay Namgyal, 9th class student of High School Duzin Photan bagged 1st position while Padma Yangdol and Khalida Akhtar students of college bagged 2nd & 3rd position.

A debate competition was also held to inculcate awareness among the youth on drugs and its addiction in which five students of different institutions participated.

Tsering Yangdol, student

of Govt. High School Karaha bagged 1st position, Roqsana Perveen and Stanzin Yangzom students of the college bagged 2nd and 3rd positions.

Dr Stanzin Angmo, BMO CHC Zaskar delivered a power point presentation on "Menstrual Health and Hygiene". In her speech she said that menstruation is a natural process and every woman must know about its management and hygiene.

She encouraged students to remove the societal stigma regarding process and stressed to disseminate her message of menstrual hygiene management to families and societies. She also spoke about the use of hygienic menstrual pad during menstruation. She further said that due to lack of awareness, females are using unhygienic pad and clothes which will lead to increase the patients of cervical cancer among females.

Sajjad Hussain, Assistant Professor and Mohd Ali Khan, Librarian acted the role of jury in painting and debate competition. In the end, appreciation certificates were distributed among the students.

## DC, Leh, attends open house meeting at DPS Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** An open house meeting was organised by the School Management Committee, Delhi Public School (DPS) Leh, to discuss the academic and administrative issues at the school on August 13.

Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, IAS, attended the meeting with the President, Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Thupstan Chhewang, and LBA Youth Wing, President, Rigzin Dorjey, in presence of parents and guardians of the students. From management side, Pro-vice chairperson Devinder Singh Arora, Director DPS, Leh, Maj Gen Mohinder Kumar Sagoch (Retd), Principal, Ms Priyam Shukla, and teachers attended the meeting.

The meeting deliberated on various issues, viz. the discrimination between local and non-local teaching staff, high rates of canteen items at the school, lack of parent-teacher meetings, fee structure and salary of the staff along with admission policy for students belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS).

DC Leh took stock of the current status of grievances raised by the parents as well as by the teachers. Stressing on the importance of good quality education, DC Leh emphasised on the School Management for immediately redressing the complaints and grievances of the students and parents. Under no circumstance children's education should be allowed by the management to suffer, the DC said.

The DC suggested the management to address the issue of motivational increments in salary as raised by teachers and to strictly follow zero tolerance policy for any disparity in this regard. Further, he directed the management to ensure that the school canteen provides good quality and nutritional food at reasonable rates.

LBA President, Thupstan Chhewang expressed his gratitude to LG Ladakh and all other stakeholders for organising such a fruitful discussion for addressing the grievances of parents and local teachers of the school. He also assured that the LBA will support the DPS Management to improve the quality of education in the school.

**GRAP**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SELECTION OF VENDORS FOR CAFETERIA AT RINCHEN AUDITORIUM FOR FIN YR - 2023-24 (ONLY EX-SERVICIENSI)**

1. Applications are invited from the vendors interested to get entered for operating the Cafeteria at Rinchen Auditorium, Leh.
2. The Vendors who provide the following services:
  - (i) Snacks & Beverages (only soft drink)
  - (ii) Confectionery, Grocery & Bakery products
  - (iii) Fresh fruit juices & Panada processed ready to eat items.
3. Detailed terms & conditions OR eligibility criteria is enclosed in the tender document which can be collected from Rinchen Auditorium. Last date for submission of tender document is 18 Aug 2023.
4. Application form should be submitted within 10 days of date of issue of advertisement in favour of Officer-in-Charge Rinchen Auditorium.

**NOTICE**

No 9926310M Rank Hav Stanzin Punchok Unit 5th Bn Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO R/o Stongday-Zaskar District Kargil UT Ladakh claimed that his daughter namely Stanzin Padma had been wrongly entered as Stanzin Pathma instead of Stanzin Padma and also her Date of Birth 18-06-2005 has been wrongly entered as 18-06-2004 instead of 18-06-2005 in the Army record of, Unit 5 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA05043697635454V to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 5 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

**NOTICE**

I, Mingyur Jigmet S/o Konchok Thinles R/o Shayok, Leh UT Ladakh Prop of M/s Mountain Reside Travel applying for the registration with the Assistant Director Tourism Office, Leh. Any objection in this regard may file their report in writing to Assistant Director Tourism Leh within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.



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