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September 01-15, 2023

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

Expert Talk: Status of Agriculture practices in Ladakh

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REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Designer: Dhondup Tashi

Published at: Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter
Contact: 9858394403

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

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Marking the 34th death anniversary of Nawang Dorjay and Stobdan, rich tribute was paid to the three UT martyrs at Memorial Park Skyatsaks on August 27.

Nawang Rinchen from Sankar; Tsewang Dorjey from Saboo and Tsering Stobdan from Durbuk had to sacrifice their lives in firing on 27th August 1989 when people of Ladakh were agitating for Union Territory (UT) status. Since then 27 August has been observed as Martyr's Day every year. The day marks an important day for the people of Ladakh to remember them and their sacrifices today as the long-pending demands of UT status were fulfilled by the Government on August 5, 2019.

The entire business establishment remained closed for half a day. A prayer ceremony by monks of Lingshed Monastery was performed followed by offering Khataks at their portrait and observing two minutes

Leh observes 34th death anniversary of Nawang, Dorjay, Stobdan
Rich tributes paid to the three brave hearts who sacrificed their lives demanding UT status for Ladakh of silence in their memory.

Late Ven. Lobzang Tsondus from Likir monastery and Tashi Angchuk from Saspol who laid down their lives on January 24, 1981, during the agitation for Scheduled Tribe status for Ladakh were also commemorated.

LBA, Vice-President Chering Dorje; LGA President, Venerable Tsering Wangdus; Anjuman Moin-Ul-Islam Vice President, Ramzan Khan; Anjuman Imamiya President, Ashraf Ali; Former CEC Rigzin Spalbar and Executive Councillors for Rural Development Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; EC Ghulam Mehdi, Councillors, political party heads, family and well-wishers of NDS and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, EC, LAH-DC, Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee recalled the sacrifices of Nawang Dorjay Stobdan and the importance of



observing the day. He expressed the importance of observing the day on a grand scale with mass participation so that the youths of today learn the history of Ladakh, and the sacrifices made by the people for the cause of Ladakh and to inspire many youths to lead Ladakh in a better way.

He assured to take up the matter with Hill Council to observe the day at a grand scale in the coming days.

Chering Dorje, Vice-President, LBA said, "I am saddened to see such less participation of people this year to

observe the day." He recalled the agitation days and struggle of every Ladakhis specially the leaders who led the agitation. He talked about the unity of the people and the spirit to fight for the cause of Ladakh.

Chering Dorje said though Ladakh is now a Union Territory people are worried about the safeguard that is lost after becoming a Union territory. Talking about the struggle still going on for the safeguard demand he said people of today are not as open and fearless as before to ask for their rights.

"During the 89 days, even the govt employee stood tall for the demand and agitated but the situation is so different now. There is a fear among people to speak out despite living in a democratic country."

Former CEC, Rigzin Spalbar, religious heads, LGA and the LBA Youth wing also spoke on the occasion.

Preparatory meeting for Ladakh Marathon 2023 held

for their full support in all the past events and also requested the same support and guidance in the forthcoming event. He apprised the DC of the various arrangements and facilities required for the successful organization of the world's highest and most challenging marathon.

He also informed that except for three states/UTs, this year will have participants from all other states/UTs and 27 countries.

He also stressed the need to promote the event and spread 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, especially by the villagers on the roadside to encourage and boost their spirit.

The meeting also deliberated on the day-wise schedule of the Marathon and the need for a joint command center with a nodal officer from the administration.

SP Leh; SP traffic police Leh; ADDC Leh; Chief Medical Officer; Deputy Secretary, Culture Academy; DYSSO Leh; representatives from ITBP and other concerned officers/officials were present during the meeting.



During the preparatory meeting of the Ladakh Marathon 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner & Chief Executive Officer, LAHDC, Leh Santosh Sukhadeve reviewed preparation for the Ladakh Marathon 2023 at DC Mini conference hall on August 26.

DC Leh assured the organizers of full support by administration with necessary improvements and further instructed the concerned departments to provide all kinds of requirements during the Marathon. He urged them to keep close coordination and communication for effective and befitting conduct of marathon.

Further, he advised all the

concerned departments and stakeholders to work in a collaborative and coordinated manner to make the event a successful one. He also informed that a whatsapp group will be formed with all the stakeholders and necessary information regarding the marathon will be passed on. Additionally, he directed the departments to ensure that the traffic advisories, contingency plans for emergency evacuation, and due process are in place well in advance for smooth conduct of the event.

Organiser, Ladakh Marathon, Chhewang Motup RIMO appreciated the administration

Advisor initiates expediting Recruitment Rules submission to UPSC

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting of all Administrative Secretaries on August 28 and reviewed the implementation of various ongoing works and initiated to expedite recruitment rules.

Advisor urged the secretaries to submit the draft Gazetted Recruitment Rules of each department in a stipulated time so that UT Ladakh could submit the recruitment rules to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for concurrence.

Dr. Pawan also urged the officers to ensure proper communication, coordination, and monitoring of ongoing works and projects. He advised the Secretaries to regularly monitor the expenditure and stay updated on the progress, and booking expenditure, address any obstacles or issues that might arise, and ensure the smooth execution of various development projects.

Administrative Secretaries



Advisor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal chairing a meeting will all Administrative Secretaries.

Dr. Kotwal emphasized the significance of the expeditious finalization of the Gazetted Services Recruitment Rules for Ladakh and stressed regular reviews, and proactive problem-solving to ensure the successful execution of projects. The meeting served as a platform for open dialogue, strategic planning, and coordinated efforts to overcome challenges, enhance efficiency, and drive meaningful sustainable development in Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Commissioner Secretaries, Administrative Secretaries, Directors, Deputy Secretaries, Chief Engineers, Officers on Special Duty (OSD), and Officials. Representatives from the Deputy Commissioner of Leh, and Kargil, and officers from Kargil joined the meeting virtually.

2nd edition of The Himalayan Film Festival to be held from September 29

The 2nd edition of the Himalayan Film Festival includes pre-festival components like the Screenwriter's Lab where 21 emerging filmmakers from Ladakh were helped to hone their screenwriting skills through intensive mentoring sessions with Director and film writer Satyanshu Singh. In the period leading up to the festival, they will develop ideas and the top five will receive the chance to pitch their work to executives from the major OTT platforms.

A Photography workshop is also being organized for amateur Ladakhi Photographers ahead of the THFF. The one-day workshop shall be conducted by Achal Mishra who is a filmmaker and a Photographer. The best photographs taken during this one-day workshop will be exhibited during the Himalayan Film Festival. The last day to register for the Photography Workshop is 30th August 2023.

The meeting was attended by Tsering Sangdup, Councillor Panamik (Neminee of LAHDC Leh); Director, Hospitality & Protocol, UT Ladakh, Dr Zahida Bano; Joint Director, Information & Public Relations, UT Ladakh, Kacho Imteeaz Khan; Shabbir Hussain, ACR, Leh; Under Secretary, Information Rigzin Yangdol; President FTFL Rigzin Gurmat and Anupama Chopra along with her team of Film Companion, the Event Management Agency (EMA). Website: www.thehimalayanfilmfestival.com



During the preparatory meeting of the Ladakh Marathon 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Commissioner/Secretary, Information Padma Angmo chaired the first meeting of "The Himalayan Film Festival 2023" Steering Committee at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on August 23.

She discussed the arrangements and other modalities for organizing the second edition of the film festival, scheduled to be held from September 29 - October 3.

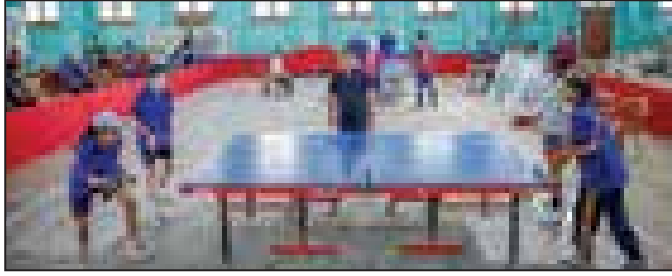
Commissioner Secretary said that after the successful conduct of the first Himalayan film festival in 2021, the Department of Information & Public Relations, UT of Ladakh, in collaboration with LAHDC, Leh shall organise the 2nd edition of THFF to promote films by local filmmakers of the Himalayan States and UTs besides building the capacities of filmmakers from Ladakh and showcase stories from Ladakh on larger platforms and to a wider audience.

Film Companion, the Agency which has been selected through the bidding process for curating the Film Festival and management of the event gave a detailed presentation about the preparations and execution plan for the successful conduct of The Himalayan Film Festival 2023.

Leh celebrates National Sports Day
Various games were played to commemorate the hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh organised National Sports Day at Open Astroturf Stadium, Spituk, Leh on August 29.



National Sports Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand and the day is also dedicated to the nation's sports heroes and champions, honoring their contribution and dedication to bringing laurels to the country.

The event saw the participation of 15 schools, fostering a spirit of competition and sportsmanship in various

games such as futsal, Table Tennis, Traditional Archery, Tug of War, Pencak silat, 4x100-meter mixed relay race, and 200m race for Under-17 both boys and girls. Secretary of Youth Services and Sports Ravinder Kumar witnessed various games being played highlighting his interest and involvement in promoting sports and youth activities in the region.

Additionally, his inspection of the ongoing construction of the Astroturf Stadium shows his dedication to ensuring that the infrastructure development projects are progressing as planned. By instructing the concerned department to

...Continues on page 2

Fortnightly News

L-G visits Galwan valley, lays wreath at war memorial



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) visited Galwan valley on day 2 of his tour to the Durbuk sub-division on August 24.

LG laid a wreath at the Galwan War Memorial and paid rich tributes to the jawans of the Indian Army who sacrificed their lives on June 15 while fighting against the enemy forces. He also interacted with the jawans of the Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

and dedication despite living in challenging conditions.

L-G stated that the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi is focused on the welfare of the jawans of the Indian Army and other armed and paramilitary forces. He also stated that even the enemy forces are aware of the bravery, courage and patriotism of the Indian Army and ITBP and assured to provide all possible support to them. He further stated that the country is in the safe hands of the Indian Army, ITBP and other armed and paramilitary forces. LG added that the future generations will remember their sacrifices for the nation's security and for giving their tomorrow for the today of the citizens of the nation.

He felicitated the troops deployed in the Galwan Valley

L-G also visited the Tangtse Garrison and interacted with the jawans of the Indian Army. He felicitated jawans of the Indian Army for their exemplary services.

Interacting with the troops, LG stated that he is ready to take up the gun again to fight the enemy forces if the need arises and added that he is sure that the jawans of the Indian Army and ITBP will protect every inch of the country and will take the war into the enemy area whenever the need arises. He commended the jawans of the Indian Army and ITBP for performing their service for the nation's security, integrity and sovereignty with utmost nationalism

2nd edition of Ladakh Education Fair 2023 held at EJM College

MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal inaugurates the fair

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 2nd edition of Ladakh Education Fair 2023 began at Eliezar Joldan Memorial College Leh on August 25.

Ladakh Education Fair is organised by the Higher Education Department and the Colleges in collaboration with the Ladakh Skill Development Mission and supported by the Department of Information & Public Relations.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh inaugurated the fair and exhorted the students to make full use of the platform of the Ladakh Education Fair to interact with Experts and Resource persons to help them shape their future. The Member of Parliament highlighted the progress made in the last four years in the field of education and appreciated the efforts made by the Administration in providing quality education to the remotest corners of the UT. He said that the Ladakh Education Fair will benefit the students and such initiatives of the Administration should be sustained and further expanded.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Higher Education Department, Ladakh Skill Development Mission (LSDM), and the Wadhvani Foundation for "Employability Skills Training", which is set to be implemented across Government Degree Colleges, Polytechnics, and ITIs in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Commissioner Secretary of Technical Education & Skill Development Department Ladakh/Mission Director Ladakh Skill Development Mission, Padma Angmo, and



Commissioner Secretary Padma Angmo during the 2nd edition of Ladakh Education Fair.

Executive Vice President, Wadhvani Skills Network, Sunil Dahiya signed the MoU.

Commissioner Secretary Padma Angmo said that in an increasingly competitive job market, employability skills are of paramount importance and are essential competencies that employers seek and therefore the MoU with Wadhvani Foundation will be beneficial in honing the employability skills among the youth of Ladakh. She also expressed her happiness to see that the Fair is hosting cutting-edge technology topics like Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, and drone technology which holds the key to the future, and thanked the Centre of Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) for offering to organize a 5 days boot camp on drone technology for the youth of Ladakh.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Principal EJM College, Leh Dr. Sameena Iqbal briefed the audience about the concept behind the Ladakh Education Fair and said that the fair will focus on five components related to education and employment- subject choice, career guidance, scholarships, skill devel-

opment, and apprenticeship.

The technical session included a panel discussion on Education and Employability with Magsaysay Award winner and innovator Sonam Wangchuk, former Chief Conservator of Forest Jigmet Takpa, Sunil Dahiya, EVP of the Wadhvani Foundation, and the Commissioner/Secretary Padma Angmo.

The Fair jointly hosted by EJM Leh and GDC Khaltse witnessed cultural performances by students of the two colleges. Various stalls are set up at the venue by Departments, NGOs, and Banks. Biometric verification of students for the Scholarship under the Ministry of Minority Affairs was also conducted at the Fair venue by the District Social Welfare Office. Besides, there were stalls for apprenticeship where many students registered for the apprenticeship scheme of the Government of India.

The two-day Ladakh Education Fair is being simultaneously organized in the Degree Colleges at Kargil, Nubra, Zaskar, Drass, and Sankoo extension campus from 24-25th August and at EJM College Leh on 25-26th August.

ADGP Ladakh Police visits border areas in Eastern Ladakh

Installs Ashoka Stambh near DBO Advance Landing ground memorial

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: ADGP, Head of Ladakh Police, Dr. S.D Singh Jamwal-IPS visited forward areas of Galwan, Murgu, Burtse, Chhongthas and Daulat Beig Olde (DBO) in Eastern Ladakh on August 26 and 27.

Stanzin Nurboo-JKPS, Sonam Dechen-JKPS, SSP, AIG (Provision), Inspector T. Dorjey & Inspector Mutup Tashi of Police Headquarters Ladakh were also present.

Dr. S.D Singh Jamwal interacted with ITBP and army personnel deployed at these locations. He lauded the security personnel for their high spirits and commitment to duties in these extremely tough conditions. Dr. S.D Singh Jamwal paid tribute

to the martyrs and laid wreaths on memorials at Murgu, BDO and remembered the supreme sacrifice made by security personnel while defending the motherland.

The Ladakh Police team headed by ADGP Ladakh installed and placed Ashoka Stambh on behalf of Ladakh Police of U.T Ladakh at Daulat Beig Olde (DBO) near DBO Advance Landing ground memorial and paid tribute to the martyrs along with ITBP personnel deployed at the DBO sector.

While interacting with the jawans at these posts, Dr. S.D Singh Jamwal enquired about their family and other welfare measures and assured to take



up any personnel problems about policing and other administrative issues back home with respective States/ U.Ts government authorities. He also ensured them to take up various welfare issues and matters with concerned authorities at a proper platform for better welfare and facilities at the border posts so that they can perform duties more effectively at the border areas.

30th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela held at DIHAR centre

1400 entrepreneurs/farmers will be benefited in the primary sector with support from DRDO- DIHAR: L-G

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and First Lady Neelam Mishra inaugurated the 30th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela organised by the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) Leh at its centre near Murtsey Colony on August 19.

Commending DIHAR for their initiatives and project works for providing green vegetables and fruits to the Indian Army around the year and providing livelihood opportunities to farmers through their technological interventions, LG expressed his happiness to see various indigenisation initiatives taken by DIHAR to make Ladakh self-reliant. He also expressed happiness over the production of vegetables and fruits in forward areas of Ladakh by the Indian Army using technologies introduced by DIHAR such as the Ladakh Greenhouse.

LG highlighted different programmes being run by DIHAR aimed at Jan



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) inaugurating the 30th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela.

Bhagidhari (people's participation) for the benefit of around 1400 farmers and entrepreneurs from Ladakh by improving their livelihood opportunities. This, he said, will not only help in the overall development of Ladakh but also the development of the country. He appreciated their cold arid agro-animal technologies and the trial being taken by them to check the feasibility of using Bactrian (double-humped) camels and yaks for patrolling and load-carrying purposes.

LG launched the project

report prepared by DIHAR on Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture and Allied Sectors in Ladakh. He distributed certificates and awards to the progressive farmers and defence personnel for taking various farming initiatives in Ladakh.

Chairman, DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat highlighted various challenges faced by the people in a high-altitude area like Ladakh and stated that even the availability of fresh vegetables, which is a normal thing in areas such as Delhi, is a major issue

for the jawans of Indian Army, especially in the winter months in Ladakh. He informed that appropriate agro-technologies, such as the Ladakh Green House, are being used by DIHAR to grow fresh vegetables and fruits in Ladakh. He also informed about the instruction issued to the DIHAR scientists to develop technologies for cold areas such as Ladakh which other companies have not been able to explore.

Dr. Samir informed about the responsibility given by UT Administration to DIHAR to develop the primary sector in Ladakh. He informed that DRDO is committed to providing technological support to Ladakh to help it become an organic region.

GOC, Sub Area, Fire and Fury Corps, Major General SS Bakshi informed about various initiatives taken by DIHAR to grow and supply vegetables to the Indian Army in the winter months. He apprised LG of the 40 greenhouses being constructed

in forward areas with the help of DIHAR to grow vegetables for the jawans of the Indian Army. He further informed about microgreen farming being done in forward areas to ensure that the nutritional needs of the jawans are met.

Major General Bakshi informed that 50% of the Army's vegetable needs are met through DIHAR and local farmers. He also informed about the demand given by the Indian Army to DIHAR to provide double-humped camels to patrol and carry loads in forward areas of Ladakh. He further informed about the construction of passive solar shelters for jawans of the Indian Army in forward areas of Ladakh.

Earlier, Director, DIHAR, Dr OP Chaurasia, welcomed the guests and informed about various initiatives and technological interventions introduced by DIHAR for the benefit of farmers, the citizens of Ladakh and the jawans of the Indian Army.

L-G holds public interaction in Durbuk sub-division

Interacts with Army jawans at Zingral, Tsoitak



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) interacting with public delegations on the first day of his tour to the Durbuk sub-division.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and First Lady Neelam Mishra met several public delegations on the first day of his tour to the Durbuk sub-division on August 23.

Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Councillor, Chushul, Konchok Stanzin; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Durbuk, Shaheel Ahmed; PRI members, elected representatives and villagers were present in the meetings.

L-G was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival at Spangmik village on the banks of Pangong Lake and also at the Community Hall in Yourgo, Phobrang. The public representatives led by EC Yakzee, Councillor Chushul, Chairpersons of Block Development Council (BDC) and nambardars raised several issues, viz. the early installation and saturation of the 4G BSNL towers in uncovered areas of Durbuk, especially the border areas, for better telecommunication connectivity; the early rationalisation of boundaries of the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary; the need for skilled PHE linemen for the maintenance of pipelines being laid under the Jal Jeevan Mission and linemen in the Power Development Department to maintain electric poles; the need for a trained DG set operator as the area

experiences regular power outages; the request to return the Notor land belonging to villagers of Spangmik; the need for clearance from Wildlife Department for the installation of Airtel towers in Maan Pangong area; the need to repair ice hockey rink along with construction of dressing room and toilet facilities for players and guests at Phobrang; the need to construct a playground in Phobrang; allotment of land for Youth Association Phobrang to conduct various activities; the need for chain link fence for pasture land at Phobrang; reservation of jobs for youth from border areas of Ladakh by allotting Actual Line of Control (ALC) certificates; legalisation of land which has already been allotted at Pangong Lake along with land being used for agriculture and plantation purposes; the need for proper banking facility at Paan Pangong; homestay facility for all the households in Maan Pangong; the need for an ambulance at Primary Health Centre, Tangtse; the need for a proper waste disposal system to dispose of the waste; the construction of solarised room for every household under the Vibrant Villages Programme; assistance for construction of dining hall, kitchen, store room and power supply connection for the ongoing construction of the Drikung Kagyu Gon Serbhun Chan at Spangmik, the

upgradation of Medical Aid Centre at Phobrang to New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC); the need for additional 150 units of Polycarbonate Greenhouses for residents of Phobrang; etc.

LG stated that clearance has already been given for the installation of BSNL 4G towers in wildlife protected areas. He also stated that necessary instructions have been given to the concerned BSNL officials to complete the saturation of installation of BSNL 4G towers in uncovered areas of Ladakh by end of this year. He further informed about the progress on the rationalisation of boundaries of Changthang and Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuaries for the benefit of the natives of those places so that they can continue with their agriculture, livestock and other livelihood means.

LG informed about the delay in the declaration of the SSC Ladakh Selection Posts 2022 exams and the decision taken by the UT Administration to establish Ladakh's own Services Selection Board (SSB) to avoid such complications in future and also to ensure timely recruitment of Ladakhi youth. He also informed about measures being taken by the UT Administration with both Hill Councils and PRIs representatives to develop Pashmina and Yak wool in Ladakh, promote tourism activities and open more homestays, etc.

LG informed about his motto to make Ladakh Corruption and Delay-Free and develop the region into the best Union Territory in the country.

He also visited Pangong Lake and interacted with tourists. Taking note of feedback from tourists, LG instructed concerned officials to take necessary steps to improve public convenience facilities along with garbage collection and clearance facility at Pangong Lake for the ease and convenience of tourists.

L-G also visited the Army units at Zingral and Tsoitak and interacted with the jawans of the Indian Army.

L-G discusses possible administrative support and aid to SHGs



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) holds a meeting and discussed possible administrative support to the women Self Help Groups across Ladakh on August 21.

The meeting discussed various aspects of empowering the SHGs, which play a vital role in providing economic self-sufficiency at the grassroots level. Issues related to capacity building, skill development and handholding to avail GoI schemes for the SHGs were discussed.

L-G directed the Secretary, RDD, Ladakh to identify and prepare a detailed report on the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) which are actively working in the region. He also stated that more women in the villages need to be encouraged to form such SHGs and stressed the need for all concerned departments to provide the required assistance and handholding support.

L-G directed Principal Secretary, Industries, Ladakh for expediting works on the completion of the Brand Ladakh Emporium at New Delhi and keep its inauguration on 2nd October 2023. The Brand Ladakh Emporium will dis-

play Ladakhi handloom, handicraft and processed food items produced by the SHGs, entrepreneurs and other small-scale industries of Ladakh in the National Capital.

Stating that Pashmina is the most crucial raw material for most of the SHGs working in the handloom sector, L-G directed Secretary, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Ladakh to work out effective means to provide necessary shelter and other items to the shepherds of pashmina goats to aim for zero mortality rate amongst the Pashmina goat kids.

He also directed Secretary, PDD, Ladakh to look into providing solar power lamps (diyas) for Diwali in collaboration with Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA).

Advisor to LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS; Commissioner Secretary, Padma Angmo, IIS; Secretary, RDD, Amit Sharma, IAS; Secretary to LG, Ravinder Kumar, IAS; Director, RDD, Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi; Director Tourism, Ladakh, Kunzes Angmo besides other concerned officers were present in the meet.

Over 732 children participates in Trishul Mini Marathon



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHARU: Over 732 children from 12 schools of Leh, Shey, Kharu, Sakti and nearby villages participated in season 2 of Trishul Mini Marathon on August 28.

The marathon themed, 'Catch Them Young' aligning with the Government of India's initiative of 'Khelo India' was organised under the aegis of Trishul Division. The marathon aimed at identifying talent at a young age and nurturing the same through professional training to promote the culture of sports in Ladakh.

General Officer Commanding, Trishul Division flagged off the marathon. Chewang Motup, Padma Shri awardee, dignitaries from the Armed Forces and civil administration of Union Territory, Ladakh participated.

Runners from the veteran community and the Indian Army also took part in the marathon. Later, the school children were briefed about life in the Armed Forces with the help of an Equipment Display to motivate them to join the Armed Forces and serve the nation.

One drug peddler held with 136 grams of Charas

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Police Leh arrested one drug peddler and seized 136 grams of charas-like substance on August 20.

The accused Mukarram S/o Masom Ali R/o Dhaki Dehradun was caught by the police patrolling party from Police Post Housing Colony, Leh at Skara road near Zorawar Fort. The case FIR No 142/2023,

under section 8/20 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Leh.

District Police Leh is consistently making efforts to apprehend the peddlers involved in drug cartels and appeals to the general public to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers and to join hands with Ladakh

Police in the fight against the menace of drug abuse in the district. Informers' anonymity will be protected, and they can reach out through www.drugsfreeleh.com or contact the Anti-Narcotic Unit of District Police Leh at mobile number 9541900291 or hotline number 01982-252200. Alternatively, they can report the information to the nearest police station.

Fortnightly News

ADGP Ladakh visits Indo-Pak frontier areas of Nubra sub-division

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

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: ADGP, Head of Ladakh Police, Dr. SD Singh Jamwal was on a two-day official visit to Indo-PAK frontier areas of Nubra sub-division on August 19-20 and assessed the security situation in the border areas and reviewed various ongoing and proposed works of Ladakh Police.

SP Leh, Nitya; SSP, AIG (Prov), PHQ Ladakh, Sonam Dechen, and Dy. S.P Provision, Ghulam Ali was also present.

On the first day of the visit, ADGP Ladakh visited Bogdang and Turtuk villages where he inaugurated Youth Club Bogdang which is conceptualised and established by District Police Leh of Ladakh Police at Bogdang. At Turtuk, ADGP Ladakh inaugurated recently completed quarters for the accommodation of police personnel.

Ladakh Police has initiated to construct suitable



ADGP, Head of Ladakh Police, Dr. SD Singh Jamwal during his visit to Indo-PAK frontier areas of Nubra sub-division.

and winter-friendly building infrastructure by incorporating passive solar technologies to facilitate better housing satisfaction for the police personnel on duty especially in remote harsh areas.

During the inauguration ceremony, ADGP Ladakh stated that Ladakh Police has been working hard to raise various infrastructure and build the skills of Ladakh Police since its inception in 2019 so that police personnel can serve the public effectively.

Further, he also inspected the functioning of police establishments and various citizen-centric services at Police Post Turtuk and Police Checkpost Bogdang for the facilitation/welfare of the public

and tourists. He also interacted with the police personnel posted at Turtuk & Bogdang and reviewed their welfare.

Additionally, he instructed police personnel to work sincerely and dedicatedly for the welfare of people, to maintain peace & order and national integrity/security in the border region.

During the visit, ADGP Ladakh attended and chaired police public meeting at Bogdang and Turtuk. He interacted with the public and representatives of the areas and heard their grievances and assured to redress the grievances pertaining to Police and other issues which shall be taken up with the concerned de-

Advisor chairs 2nd meeting of Union Territory level Coordination Committee



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of UT of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, presided over the 2nd meeting of the Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) on August 23.

The meeting was convened by Kamal P Patnaik, Regional Director of RBI for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Patnaik extended a warm welcome to Advisor Kotwal and highlighted potential fraud risks posed by unauthorized digital entities. He emphasized the importance of a robust grievance redressal mechanism to protect the public from such fraudulent activities.

Advisor Kotwal praised

RBI's efforts in fostering financial awareness and stressed the need for collaboration between the UT Administration and financial sector regulators to raise public awareness and counteract these frauds effectively.

The meeting addressed key agendas including the implementation of the Banning of Unregulated Deposits Schemes (BUDS Act) to combat financial fraud related to unregulated deposits, enhancing awareness among stakeholders, and the formation of a sub-committee within UTLCC. RBI and SEBI presented case studies showcasing prevalent financial frauds in the country. A video demonstration of the Sachet Portal was also shared during the session.

Awareness programme for adoption & certification of organic farming held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Department of Agriculture Leh in collaboration with Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA) organised an awareness programme cum training for village representatives on the Adoption and Certification of organic farming under Mission Organic Development Initiative of Ladakh at DC Conference Hall on August 21.

Founder, Ladakh Environment and Health Organisation (LEHO), Dr. Mohammed Deen who was the guest speaker emphasised that Ladakh as a region has a vast potential of becoming the major organic UT in the country.

He stressed that reviving agricultural practices is of



Founder, Ladakh Environment and Health Organisation (LEHO), Dr. Mohammed Deen speaking during the awareness programme cum training for village representatives on the Adoption and Certification of organic farming.

utmost importance and to bring the decision taken into action.

Scientist, DIHAR, Dr. Tsering Stobdan also briefed about the program with a detailed presentation. He urged farmers to adopt organic farming

practices as a sustainable means of livelihood and income generation.

The program was also attended by CAO Leh; DAO Leh; Officers/officials of Agriculture Department and village representatives from various blocks.

Youth Services & Sports Department, UT Ladakh facilitates Indian Ultra Runner Sufiya Sufi

Ladakh to soon start Hydrogen based vehicles on pilot basis



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary of Sports, UT Ladakh Ravinder Kumar and Joint Director of Sports Moses Kunzang felicitated Indian Ultra runner Sufiya Sufi at at Civil Secretariat on August 17.

Sufiya Sufi completed the expedition from Manali to Leh in 113 hours and 55 minutes by making the world record,

Joint Director Moses Kunzang congratulated Sufiya Sufi and appreciated the efforts while discussing challenges and experiences. Sufiya shared that running on tough terrain and

high altitude can be better for any kind of Marathon/ expedition.

The ultra-runner mesmerized the program by sharing her experience and her inspiring story spelled a spectrum of encouragement to all present there. She highlighted running on trails can be better for overall fitness than the pavement. The resistance of running uphill improves leg strength and uneven ground improves ankle strength, flexibility, and balance, she stated. She also shared her daily routines and diet to stay fit

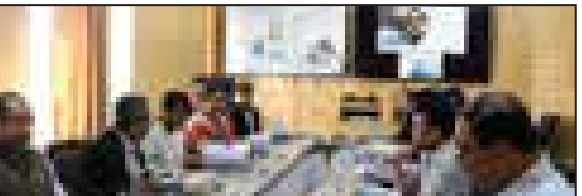
for any kind of expedition.

Sufiya emphasized that Marathon offers girls a diverse set of important life skills such as athletics, women empowerment and life skills, and health and nutrition education. Sufiya urged the Ladakh Administration to provide more space for the involvement of women in marathons and expeditions for women's empowerment.

Secretary of Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh Ravinder Kumar also congratulated Sufiya Sufi for her outstanding achievement.

Dr Stanzin Thakchos (OSD to the Secretary of Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh); Tsewang Motup (organizer of the Ladakh Marathon); officials of the concerned department; team members of Sufiya; and athletes from Ladakh Jigmet Dolma and Tsering Stobdang were present in the program.

Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh inaugurates JJB, Observation-cum-Special Home in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In a significant move towards strengthening the judicial system pertaining to children in conflict with the law, Chief Justice High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh along with Judge High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurated Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and Observation-cum-Special Home in Kargil on August 27.

Principal District and Sessions Judge, Iqbal Ahmed Masoudi, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Phuntsog Angmo and Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board, Kargil, Shafig

Mushtaq Lone and DEPO Kargil were present.

This establishment marks a significant step towards ensuring the rights and welfare of children in the region. The JJB will act as a primary body to deal with juveniles in conflict with the law, ensuring that they are treated with care and sensitivity, and safeguarding their rights. The Observation cum Special Home will serve as a safe space for juveniles as they await court orders, ensuring their well-being and protection.

Chief Justice emphasized the importance of safeguarding the rights and interests of children, who

are the future of the nation.

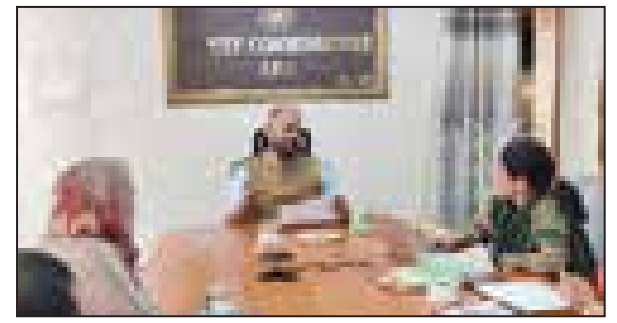
"It is crucial to create an environment where children can reform and reintegrate into society rather than face punitive measures," the Chief Justice remarked.

Justice Tashi Rabstan further elaborated on the importance of creating systems that are child-friendly and respect the dignity and rights of every child.

"Every child deserves a chance at redemption and growth. With this establishment, we hope to ensure that the children of Kargil and surrounding areas receive the justice and support they deserve," Justice Rabstan said.

The JJB and Observation cum Special Home will play a pivotal role in ensuring that children in conflict with the law are provided with all necessary resources and guidance to pave the way for their better future.

DC, Leh, discusses proposed budget allocation for NHM initiatives



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner, Leh/ District Chairman of the Health Society, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve discussed the proposed budget allocation for National Health Mission (NHM) initiatives for the fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26 at DC mini conference Hall on August 22.

Chief Medical Officer, Leh, Dr Nurzin Angmo presented the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) of the NHM to the District Chairman of the Health Society, Leh.

Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve emphasized the urgent need for an incinerator and directed the Medical Superintendent to propose a high-quality incinerator for SNM Hospital. He assured that the budget for this project would be provided from government funds.

CMO highlighted the in-

creasing tourist influx and the need for an eco-friendly ambulance at Tangtse. Responding to this, DC instructed the CMO to put forward a proposal for an eco ambulance, with the assurance that necessary funds would be released from government resources.

Furthermore, CMO, Leh brought up the necessity for the hepatitis B vaccine and the need to secure suitable land for an urban Primary Health Center (UPHC). Deputy Commissioner committed to exploring options for state-owned land for the UPHC. In the interim, the DC advised the CMO to continue looking for potential rental spaces.

The meeting was attended by Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital, Leh; District Health Officer of Leh; District Program Officer, NHM; District Account Officer, NHM and Accounts Officer, SNM, Leh.

Meeting to strengthen banking security in Ladakh held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Advisor to Ladakh chaired the 3rd meeting of the Union Territory Level Security Committee (UTLSC), that aims to elevate security measures within the banking sector of Union Territory Ladakh.

Dr. Pawan Kotwal underscored the critical importance of safeguarding treasures, bank branches, and ATMs across Ladakh. In his address, he commended the exemplary efforts of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in this domain and reaffirmed the resolute backing of government authorities. He highlighted the pivotal role of digital transactions as a secure avenue to deter thefts and advance a cashless economic framework.

The gathering of concerned officials marked the primary objective of the meeting – facilitating comprehensive discussions among stakeholders on security-related matters concerning currency management.

Dr. Pawan Kotwal stressed the imperative of ensuring secure

and seamless currency transportation, even to the remotest corners of Ladakh.

Kamal P. Patnaik, Regional Director of the Reserve Bank of India for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, articulated the collaborative imperative in eradicating counterfeit currency. He called upon all agencies to foster a closely coordinated approach to eliminate this menace.

Eminent representatives, including high-ranking officials from the Reserve Bank, Police, Airport Authority, Air India, BSNL, and local heads of commercial banks. Government officials and banking leaders, assembled at the meeting, vowed to embrace concerted actions aimed at ensuring the safety and security of banking transactions throughout Ladakh. The meeting concluded with a renewed determination to preserve the integrity of the region's financial landscape through unwavering collaboration and heightened vigilance.

Tribal Girls' Hostel inaugurated in Phyang

Foundation stone for the construction of Multipurpose Hall also laid

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson in the presence of H.E Rangdol Nyima Rinpoche, H.E Rigyal Rinpoche and Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee inaugurated the Tribal Girls' Hostel at Phyang village on August 28.

CEC also laid the foundation stone for the multipurpose hall at the Drikung Dharma Foundation Phyang.

Councillor Phyang Tundup Nurbu, Nominated Councillor Ven Konchok Tsepel, Nominated Councillor Phuntsog Nurbu, President Drikung Dharma Foundation, Ven Khanpo Konchok Rangdol, and various esteemed guests were present during the ceremony.

CEC Tashi Gyalson lauded the efforts of Drikung Dharma Foundation and Ratnashri Society for

their socio-cultural activities and through various initiatives assisting the marginalised section of society. He congratulated the gathering on the establishment of the Tribal Girls' Hostel and appreciated them for accommodating girls students from different parts of Ladakh regardless of their backgrounds.

He assured all possible assistance from the Hill Council for future social welfare initiatives.

Venerable Rinpoches, EC Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Councillor Tundup Nurbu, President, Drikung Dharma Foundation and President, Ratnashri Society also addressed and shared their insights with the gathering.

CEC Tashi Gyalson launched various books, and publications during the event.

DC, Leh, tours Nyoma subdivision



Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve with school children at Chumoor school.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: In a comprehensive endeavor to gain firsthand insights into the challenges and needs of the remote villages, Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve concluded his intensive 3-day tour of Nyoma subdivision on August 26. The tour covered Chumoor, Kozok, and Govt Residential High School Puga.

He was accompanied by Councillor Kozok, Karma Namdak; SE Hydraulic Leh, Sonam Wangchuk; SDM Nyoma, Jigmet Angchuk, and several other subdivision-level officers from Nyoma.

During the visit to Chumoor, DC interacted with both the staff and students at Primary School Chumoor seeking insights into the intricate workings of the school, understanding the challenges it faces, and ascertaining its immediate needs.

The villagers expressed their primary concerns and aspirations. Main demand among these was the urgent need for depend-

able tele-connectivity and internet access, improved road infrastructure. Addressing power shortages through a stable grid connection, overcoming staffing deficits in educational institutions and other departments, easing wildlife department restriction for unhindered developmental works were also highlighted.

Further, villagers from border areas demanded the issuance of Line of Actual Control (LAC) certificates for their children, aiming to secure their rightful opportunities.

The Govt Residential High School Puga echoed similar demands including upgrading existing classrooms to CBSE standards, filling vacant teaching and non-teaching positions, enabling mobile internet to facilitate online learning, ensuring adequate drinking water provisions, providing sports equipment, repairing solar water heating systems, and even constructing a modern indoor stadium.

Additionally, the demands included the allocation of a school bus, introduction of dance and music instructors to enrich the curriculum, reorganization of the electricity connection, and the establishment of a footpath around the school campus for safety. Furthermore, the villagers appealed for medical personnel to be stationed at Puga Hospital, ensuring timely healthcare access. In response, DC Santosh Sukhadeve reassured swift attention to these concerns, acknowledging their significance in achieving holistic growth. He pledged unwavering commitment to the advancement of the schools, promising to promptly address legitimate grievances and escalate matters warranting higher-level intervention.

Expressing contentment at the end of the tour, DC Sukhadeve termed the tour as productive as it effectively enabled the DC to discern on-ground issues, and assess pressing needs of the border villages.

He emphasized that the Union Territory Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), and the District Administration stand united in their dedication to assisting border villages through the Government of India's Village Viable Program (VVP), ensuring comprehensive and inclusive development.

Leh celebrates National Sports Day

...Continues from page 1

complete the work within the stipulated time, the Secretary

emphasized the importance of timely execution and efficient project management.

In the U-17 Girls category of Table Tennis, the final match took place between Moravian Mission School Leh and Govt High School, Housing Colony, Moravian Mission School emerged as the winner, while Govt. High School, Housing Colony emerged as the runner-up. In the U-17 Boys category, the final match was played between Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh, and Islamia Public School, Leh in which Boys High Secondary School Leh emerged as the winner and Islamia Public School was the runner-up.

Govt. High School, Housing Colony won the gold medal, Delhi Public School, Leh won the silver medal, and Islamia Public School, Leh won the bronze medal in the U-17 4x100-meter mixed relay race.

In the U-17 Girls 200-meter race, Moravian Public School won the gold medal, Islamia Public School, Leh won the silver medal, and Govt. High School, Khanakling, Leh won the bronze medal. While, in the U-17 Boys 200-meter race, Islamia Public School, Leh won the gold medal, Moravian Public School, Leh won the silver medal, while Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh won the bronze medal.

In the futsal, the Grey Team emerged as

the winner while the Green Team was the runner-up. In Traditional Archery, Team A emerged as the winner, and Team B was the runner-up of the game. In Tug of War played between students and the Spouse team, the spouse team emerged as the winner while the students' team was the runner-up in the game.

Director, Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, Moses Kunzang graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He congratulated all the participants for their remarkable efforts and dedication, highlighting the commitment of the UT Administration and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh to enhance sports infrastructure within UT Ladakh.

Moses Kunzang passionately encouraged students to actively participate in both national and international level sports competitions, fostering a culture of excellence and sportsmanship. Promoting sports and providing proper sports facilities not only fosters a culture of physical activity and healthy competition but also contributes to the overall development and well-being of the youth in the region, he stated.

Youth Services and Sports Officer, Leh, Tsering Tashi commenced the event with a warm welcome speech, commending all participants for their dedication and hard work. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where deserving participants were honored for their exceptional performances in various games.

Expert Talk:

Yangchen Dolma

Status of Agriculture practices in Ladakh



Dr. Tsering Stobdan, Agriculture scientist, DIHAR: Today Ladakh is known as a tourist destination, but the region is primarily an agrarian community with roughly 70 percent of the population directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. For many centuries the people of Ladakh have led a self-reliant existence mainly based upon subsistence agriculture, pastoralism, and caravan trade. Limited land availability and a growing population have resulted in smaller land holdings and additionally crops like wheat and barley do not generate much income. Along with the increasing job opportunities, there is a significant migration from rural areas. However, it is felt that in the future, agriculture must undergo some changes. The hardworking people are already putting in a lot of effort, but everyone must cultivate crops that can generate better income, preferably cash crops. The goal is to achieve a minimum income of 50,000 at least 1 kanal of land for sustainable growth. I focus on targeting wheat, barley, fruits, and vegetables in Ladakh for product differentiation and branding. I believe that every product should have its own unique identity, reflecting the distinctiveness of Ladakh compared to other states and even the whole world. If we achieve this, regardless of the crop, we can generate a good income. Currently, I am working towards obtaining an organic certification through the Modi Mission Development Initiative of Ladakh for both Leh and Kargil. Once Ladakh's products have an organic certification, they will stand out from others and can be sold at a higher price.

I am currently conducting research at DIHAR, where the focus is on organic farming and all the work done by the PhD students is centered around organic practices. Another area of focus is GI tagging which will indicate that the products are grown exclusively in Ladakh and have unique qualities due to the region's specific conditions. Apricot has already received GI Tagging and I am targeting other products as well. If we can achieve branding like this, there are great opportunities for the agriculture sector in Ladakh.

In Ladakh, only 4 percent of the area is currently used for cultivation, but there is a lot of scope for expansion. We have ample water resources and plenty of vacant land. In earlier times, technology was not advanced enough to harness water effectively. But now, there have been significant changes, and we have access to better resources and techniques. This allows us to improve farming practices and increase productivity. Looking ahead, if we look at the area between Leh and Kargil, there are around 23,000 hectares of land available for cultivation, which is 3.5 times the current area. We have all the necessary facilities for successful farming, as all we need is water and land, both of which are abundant in Ladakh. If we utilize these resources effectively in the future, the prospects are very promising.

Ladakh's unique environment and off-season crop availability give it a distinct advantage. In August, Ladakh is the only place in the world where apricot fruit is available, and in September, Ladakh is the only place where peaches are found. Additionally, Ladakh's fruits are exceptionally sweet and colorful, which is a great advantage. If we can take these fruits to the commercial stage, it will lead to significant development. While vegetable production is limited due to geographical constraints, off-season organic vegetables are only available in Ladakh. The main challenge for farmers is the lack of market access, but if we can establish market linkages, especially for the youth, it will create a bright future.

Ladakh's unique produce can be valued not just as commodities but for their exceptional quality. If Ladakh can come together as a unified entity and establish a strong brand for organic produce, it will ensure the sustainability and profitability of our agriculture.

We must recognize the potential and value of our agricultural resources and work towards creating a thriving and profitable industry. The contribution of Ladakh to agriculture production at the national level is insignificant. Nonetheless, despite all odds, Ladakh is receiving a lot of attention; High Light intensity, High UV radiation, cool temperature and arid environment make the region ideal for growing high-quality niche crops. Hope Ladakh will soon be the organically certified Union Territory.

Solution:

• *Fieldwork is important in our region, and everyone must contribute to the land-based economy. However, alongside that, it's also essential for people in Ladakh to conduct their research and stay informed. Collaboration and cooperation among farmers and the community are key to a sustainable future.*

• *It's important to spread awareness about Ladakh's products so that everyone can learn about Ladakh. Ladakh has great potential for agriculture, but we need to use our resources effectively.*

• *The government is providing subsidies for greenhouses, and it's essential to make good use of them. Everyone should utilize the subsidies and maximize the growth of crops in Ladakh.*



Thinles Dawa, Chief Agriculture Officer, Leh: Earlier, agriculture in Ladakh used to rely on organic farming without chemicals, pesticides, and fertilizers, and the system was very good. But over time, with the introduction of tourism and subsidies for rice and wheat, agriculture started getting neglected and the use of chemicals and pesticides increased. In the 90s, when I started working, the use of chemicals was at its peak. The government also instructed farmers to use chemicals and pesticides in Ladakh, saying it would increase income. But later it was realized that the use of chemicals and pesticides was causing harm to health and the environment. Now, Ladakh is moving towards organic farming again, and by 2025, the goal is to have the entire region certified as organic. The agriculture department is working towards this and around 5000 hectares of land have already gone through the certification process. It's a positive step for Ladakh's agriculture. Also, Greenhouse farming in Ladakh has evolved significantly over the years. In the early 90s, greenhouses were relatively basic, but

now there are various types of advanced greenhouses. Recently, DIHAR (Defence Institute of High Altitude Research) established a greenhouse and provided subsidies to more than 1000 people, enabling them to grow fresh vegetables even during peak winter.

In areas with water scarcity, microorganism systems and the Sprinter system have been implemented to provide water through pipes, allowing farming on approximately 12,000 hectares of barren land. In Kulum village, there was a water shortage and residents had to migrate, but they were later rehabilitated and farming was started again using the Sprinkler irrigation system. This approach can be replicated in other villages in Ladakh as well. Farmers are also provided with machinery, and during the winter season, vegetable sellers are given facilities and subsidies to stock and preserve vegetables. This not only improves the quality of the meals but also supports the farmers. These initiatives have been beneficial for the farming community in Ladakh.

Nowadays, flower cultivation has started in Ladakh, and there are great opportunities for young entrepreneurs interested in the flower business. The flowers grown in Ladakh are not easily available in other parts of India in open conditions, so Ladakh benefits greatly from this. If someone is considering starting agriculture or horticulture in Ladakh, it will bring good income in the future. Additionally, consuming organic produce is beneficial for our health, and Ladakh is a positive place where chemicals and such should be avoided. Everyone needs to support and promote agriculture in Ladakh.

It is of utmost importance to establish a robust market linkage for the farmers in Ladakh, especially during the challenging winter season. Currently, the farmers face difficulties in accessing a favorable market to sell their produce. By establishing a strong market linkage, we can ensure that the farmers have a reliable and profitable avenue to sell their crops, enabling them to thrive economically. Moreover, technology transfer plays a vital role in enhancing agricultural practices and productivity. By introducing modern farming techniques and technologies, we can empower farmers to improve their yields and optimize resource utilization. This, in turn, can lead to sustainable agricultural practices and increased profitability for the farmers. In addition to technology transfer, providing exposure opportunities to the youth and scientists is crucial for progress. By sending them to workshops, seminars, and field visits, we can broaden their knowledge and understanding of innovative farming methods. This exposure can inspire them to implement new technologies and techniques in their farming practices, leading to overall growth and development in the agricultural sector. Immediate implementation of these strategies is essential to ensure timely benefits for the farmers. By facilitating market linkages, technology transfer, and exposure opportunities, we can create a supportive ecosystem that fosters agricultural development in Ladakh. This will not only enhance the livelihoods of the farmers but also contribute to the overall economic growth and sustainability of the region. It is important to recognize the significance of upgrading technology in agriculture. By staying updated with the latest advancements,

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International Literacy Day

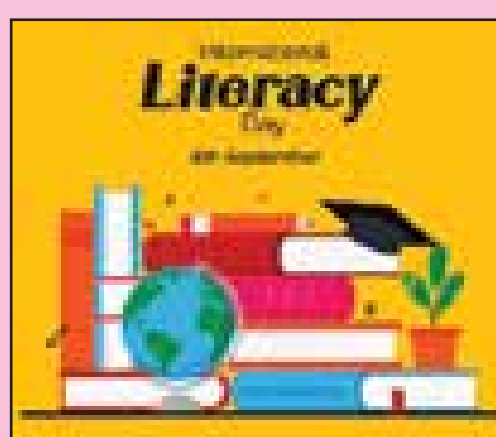
Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society. Despite steady progress made across the world, literacy challenges persist with at least 763 million young people and adults lacking basic literacy skills in 2020. The recent COVID-19 crisis and other crisis, such as climate change and conflicts, have been exacerbating the challenges.

Rapidly changing global context took a new meaning over the past years, hampering the literacy progress and widening inequalities across world regions, countries, and populations. In

low- and middle-income countries, the share of 10-year-old children who could not read and understand a simple text with comprehension has increased from 57 per cent in 2019 to an estimated 70 per cent in 2022.

In this context, this year's International Literacy Day will be celebrated worldwide under the theme, 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies'.

ILD2023 will be an opportunity to join efforts to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) on education and lifelong learning and to reflect on the role of literacy in building more inclusive, peaceful, just, and sustainable



societies.

Courtesy: <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/literacy>

DID YOU KNOW



• Chandrayaan means 'Moon vehicle' in both Sanskrit and Hindi, and Chandrayaan-1 was the first lunar spacecraft launched from India.

• PM Modi announced the celebration of ISRO Day on August 23. The day will commemorate the soft landing of Chandrayaan 3 on the south pole of the Moon.

• The Chandrayaan-3 lander stands about 2 meters tall and has a mass of just over 1,700 kg (3,747.86 lb), roughly on par with an SUV. It is designed to deploy a smaller, 26-kg lunar rover.

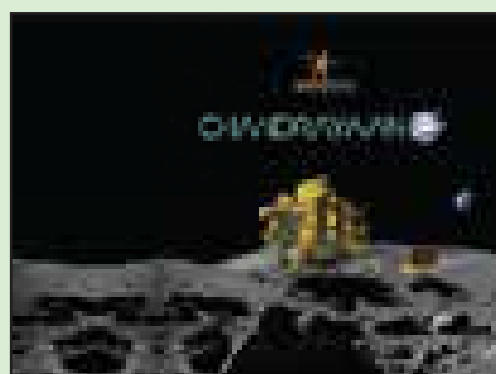
• The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched

on July 14 from India's main space port in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

• India's previous attempt to land on the lunar south pole failed in 2019. Chandrayaan-2 successfully deployed an orbiter but its lander and rover were destroyed in a crash.

• Russia's first moon mission in 47 years failed over the weekend when its Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the moon.

• Chandrayaan-1, India's first mission to moon, was an unmanned spacecraft weighing 1380-Kg along with 11 scientific payloads built in India, UK, USA, Germany, Bulgaria



and Sweden. The mission comprised an orbiter and an impactor. Launched successfully by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on October 22, 2008, the spacecraft was designed to study the Moon orbiting around it at a height of 100 km from the lunar surface.

• Chandrayaan-1's greatest discovery was the widespread presence of water molecules in the lunar soil.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

The stars and you!



A dear friend who is a reputed astrologer reminded me recently of the effect of the 'heavens' at the time of one's birth. What does that mean? That means that everything or, at least, most of the things, are destined in your life. For instance, to make it a lil bit simpler, we can say that many little and great things happen in life without any effort on our part, and also that many things that we want them to happen do not happen!

My friend knew my Zodiac sign without my telling him. That is because of his observation of my behavioural characteristics all through the years we have been friends. He himself is a Libra, one who does not come to a conclusion on any issue, big or small, without thinking for days or without taking others' help. One can call the Libras indecisive and impractical! That is because they are obsessed with balance and symmetry in every sphere of life. They appreciate love, beauty and money more than anything else.

But, my type, Scorpios, are decisive and always in a hurry to get things done. They can't wait till tomorrow! And, it is understood that Scorpios are firm believers in 'transformative power' in order to bring in changes in themselves as well as others. They are said to be caring, loving, helping, loyal and intense in their daily life. They believe in spreading the good values of life and are quite sensitive to factors that matter in life. They share their Zodiac sign with people like Nehru, Indira Gandhi, among others. And, lastly, Scorpios are said to be 'born leaders'!

The idea of writing this column came up when I was discussing with my friend about our fate while traversing the vicissitudes of life, particularly during the 'sun-set' period of our lives. One may or may not believe in the Zodiac system, but a majority of us do believe more because of the society we live in and the traditions that we follow!

Courtesy: WongWorld

Fortnightly News

Ladakh Skill Development Mission and Higher Education Department collaborate with Wadhvani Foundation to boost employability skills



During the two-day "Faculty Orientation Program" (FOP) on Employability Skills at Government Polytechnic Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh Skill Development Mission and the Higher Education Department of Ladakh collaborated with the renowned Wadhvani Foundation to launch an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing the employability skills of students in the region. This collaborative project, titled "Employability Skills Training," is set to be implemented across Government Degree Colleges, Polytechnics and ITI in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Under this visionary project, students will have the opportunity to enroll in the "Employability Skills - Intermediate course", supplemented by an entrepreneurship module. This comprehensive program, spanning approximately 70-75 hours, will be delivered over the course of 4-5 hours each week. The curriculum has been meticulously designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the modern job market and potentially explore entrepreneurial ventures.

The Wadhvani Founda-

tion, a globally recognized organization specializing in skill development and entrepreneurship, will spearhead the implementation of the project. A two-day "Faculty Orientation Program" (FOP) on Employability Skills was held on August 21 at the Government Polytechnic Leh, inaugurated by the Commissioner/Secretary Technical Education and Skill Development/Higher Education Ladakh, Padma Angmo IIS.

The FOP is specifically designed to train faculty members who will subsequently deliver the Employability Skills program in their respective institutions. 15 faculty members deputed by Degree Colleges across UT Ladakh and Polytechnics attend the two days duration FOP at Polytechnic Leh. The nominated faculty members will undergo intensive training during the FOP, gaining valuable insights and tools to effectively impart employability skills to their students.

Commissioner/Secretary Padma Angmo emphasised the importance of developing employability

skills among the students to make them market ready. She said that this will be a unique and sustained intervention to benefit the educated youth of Ladakh and the Department shall continuously monitor the efficacy and success of the intervention so that the programme can be adapted to the local requirements. She thanked the Wadhvani Foundation for bringing this programme to Ladakh in collaboration with the Ladakh Skill Development Mission.

Assistant Professors and lecturers from Degree Colleges across UT Ladakh and Polytechnic attended the workshop.

The collaboration between Ladakh Skill Development Mission, Higher Education Department Ladakh, and the Wadhvani Foundation highlights a shared commitment towards fostering a skilled workforce equipped for the demands of the 21st-century job market. By emphasizing both employability skills and entrepreneurship, this initiative seeks to empower students to become not just job seekers, but also creators of opportunities.

Teacher Felicitation Programme held in Leh

Teachers, master lecturers, headmasters & principals felicitated for performing well in JKBOSE 2022-23 annual exams



During the two-day "Faculty Orientation Program" (FOP) on Employability Skills at Government Polytechnic Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), attended the Teacher Felicitation Programme on August 21 organised by the Department of School Education, master lecturers, headmasters and principals who performed well in Class 10 and 12 JKBOSE annual examinations for the year 2022-23.

Termining the event as one of the most important he has attended since assuming the charge of Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh six months ago, L-G stated that the teachers were felicitated because teaching is one of the best and most noble pro-

fessions in the world. He also stated that education is one of the best attributes one can possess and that one can achieve everything in life if one possesses good education. He highlighted the important roles of parents and teachers in a student's life.

L-G stated that parents, relatives and teachers should encourage students to come up with their own start-ups and become entrepreneurs so that they could be job providers instead of job seekers instead of advising them to study to seek government jobs as it is not possible to provide government jobs to everyone. He also stated that teachers have cru-

cial roles in changing the mindset and highlighted the focus on developing core capacities and life skills in the National Education Policy 2020 to develop students' entrepreneurial skills to enable them to come up with their own start-ups/ventures.

Stating that the Ladakhi youth will be frustrated if they remain unemployed, L-G highlighted the efforts being made for the declaration of the result of the SSC Selection Posts/Ladakh 2022 and the establishment of Ladakh's own Service Selection Board (SSB).

L-G advised the teachers to be honest with themselves and stated this attribute helps in earning the respect of the students and their peers. He also informed about efforts being made by the UT Administration to develop the education sector for the overall benefit of students from Ladakh. He suggested felicitating teachers and academic faculty in two categories- academic management and

meritorious teachers. Certificate of Appreciation and Award were given to meritorious teachers, master lecturers, headmasters and principals of different government schools for their valuable contributions in helping the students perform well in Class 10 and 12 JKBOSE Annual Examinations 2022-23.

Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson congratulated the award winners and highlighted their pivotal role in building society by showing the youth the way towards a brighter future. He expressed hope to see teachers and other academic faculty in mentoring and guiding the youth to walk on the righteous path. He stated that education will help the Administration and both Hill Councils to achieve the goal of becoming a model union territory in the country.

He informed about the implementation of Social Ethical and Emotional (SEE) learning in schools in Ladakh and commended

the initiative to set up Community Radio in Ladakh for the benefit of students. He highlighted various initiatives taken by LAHDC Leh in the development of the education sector, viz. establishment of around 27 Digi-Labs, the distribution of YounTabs and laptops to students, etc. He stated that LAHDC Leh would continue to provide support to meritorious and deserving students from Ladakh.

Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar informed about interventions/initiatives being taken by the Department to provide quality education to students and to make education accessible to all through technological interventions. He also informed about efforts to make Ladakh 100% adult literacy under Padma Likhna Abhiyan (PLA Scheme).

Director of the Department of School Education, Tsering Paldan gave a detailed presentation on the achievements and vision of the Department.

CEC inaugurates 'Lake Festival' at Hydroelectric Dam in Alchi



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson in presence of Secretary Power Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar inaugurated the 'Lake Festival' at the NHPC Nimoo-Basgo Hydroelectric Power Station in Alchi village on August 28.

The festival aimed to celebrate and promote Hydro-Tourism in the region.

CEC Tashi Gyalson emphasised that the establishment of the Hydroelectric Power Station at Alchi has played a crucial role in transforming the lives of the people of Ladakh. He further acknowledged NHPC's contribution through CSR initiatives especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic in setting up vital Oxygen Plants and various other initiatives.

Head of Project NHPC Dam Alchi, Jitendra Kumar along with senior officers from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, Central Water Commis-

sion, villagers led by village representatives from Alchi, and the villagers and school students were present during the ceremony.

Secretary Power Ladakh, Tashi Gyalson lauded the efforts of NHPC in assisting the Administration while executing challenging tasks across various sectors. Congratulating the opening of Hydro-Tourism initiative, he highlighted the diverse potential of the dam site for hosting future activities such as winter sports under the Khelo-India initiative, etc.

He also stated that NHPC has been providing good skill development and

educational assistance to the locals and hoped for continuous assistance that benefits the people of Ladakh.

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educational assistance to the locals and hoped for continuous assistance that benefits the people of Ladakh.

Head of Project NHPC Power Station Alchi, Jitendra Kumar, and Chief Engineer CWC, Rajesh Kashyap also addressed the gathering.

Earlier, CEC Tashi Gyalson was presented with a guard of honor and further joined a plantation campaign with other dignitaries at the NHPC Power station site. Meritorious school students along with village representatives and guests were felicitated by the dignitaries during the program. A vibrant cultural program added more colour to the celebration.

Fortnight Highlights



During the last day of Ladakh Education Fair 2023 themed 'Education for Sustainable Future' at Govt Degree College Diskit, Nubra.



Rigzin Lhamo achieved 1 gold, 1 silver and two international certificates of Appreciation for Arts in International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) 2023. The competition was among the students of 32 countries. It is for the first time someone from the Ladakh region has been selected to represent India.



LG interacting with the artisans and inspecting the stalls opened in Aadi Bazaar. The 10-day-long Aadi Bazaar was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Tribes India in Leh at Eco-Park, Leh.



Four days Science/Mathematics training/workshop for 6th to 10th grade and three days Foundational Literacy and Numeracy was organised by DIET Leh in collaboration with Education for all Nandigram West Bengal.



Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson chairing a meeting to discuss the ongoing final preparations regarding the conduct of the inaugural 'Climate Cup 2023' Football tournament to be held from September 1st- 7th at the Astroturf Open Stadium, Spituk, Leh.



Secretary, Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department, Ravinder Kumar conducted a comprehensive three-day tour of the Changthang region and reviewed the progress of major infrastructure projects being executed under different schemes.



SDM Shakar Chiktan, A.G. Zargar also the Chairman, Movement for Educational Improvement in Government Schools (MIEGS) interacting with the kids during a surprise inspection at different schools.



Department of Agriculture, Leh in collaboration with Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA) organised Krishi Mela-cum- Exhibition at Sumoor, Nubra

Fortnightly News

CBC's three day long outreach program concludes in Nyoma

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: A three day long outreach program cum photo exhibition organised at Nyoma in Changthang region by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India concluded on August 25.



The programme organised on the theme of 9 Years: Seva, Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan was aimed to apprise the people about the developmental scenario in the country and the progress made in key sectors during the last nine years. The photo exhibition set-up at the Community Hall in Nyoma showcased information about Mission LiFE and G20 Presidency apart from other flagship programmes of the government.

Over the last three days various activities were organised for the community mobilisation and engagement of the local masses in order to educate them about different public welfare schemes of the government.

Experts from departments

of ICDS, Agriculture and Health engaged the visitors and informed them about various schemes being implemented by the respective departments. Daily quizzes for students and fun activities for local women were organised during the three-day program.

Medical Officer, Dr. Farnaz Kausar interacted with the audience, mostly women and informed them about programs launched in the Health and family welfare sector. Dr. Farnaz also talked about common health issues and their remedies.

Earlier on the first day, SDM Nyoma, Jigmet Angchuk and CDPO Nyoma, Zarina Bano addressed the people. On the second day, Hashim Ali, Field Assis-

tant from department of Agriculture delivered a lecture on organic farming and cold weather vegetable farming. He also gave a detailed presentation about agricultural schemes which are exclusively Ladakh specific.

Field Publicity Officer, Shahid Mohammad Lone thanked the Leh district administration, Sub Divisional Administration of Nyoma and the people of Nyoma for making the outreach program successful. He said that CBC is committed and duty bound to ensure that citizens are aware of their rights and responsibilities. He said the success of every program and welfare scheme depends on public awareness, and outreach programs are a way to make an informed citizen.

DC, Kargil, chairs District Level Review Committee/ District Consultative Committee meeting

Stresses on collaborative efforts by banks and line departments

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Election Authority/Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse chaired the meeting of District Level Review Committee/ District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) for the quarter ended March 2023 at Conference Hall, Baroo on August 19.

The meeting was attended by Lead District Manager, Muzaffer Hussain, Chief Agriculture Officer, Kacho Mohd and representatives/officials of different banks and line departments of Kargil district.

Deputy Commissioner assessed the sector wise performance of the Banks in implementation of different Government initiatives and reviewed the achievements of Banks in lending to Priority/Non Priority sectors under Annual Credit Plan.



He instructed all banks to clear the pendencies of various government-sponsored schemes by reconciliation with the line department and thereby increase the transparency for sanctioning and disbursement of various loans.

He also reviewed achievements of the annual credit plan of the district, the status and performance of State Bank of India, Rural Self Employment Training

Institute (RSETI) Kargil. The meeting reviewed the performances of banks in implementing government schemes and loans up to the quarter ended March 2023 within Kargil.

The meeting discussed various issues related to credit linkage under various government schemes while better achievement and solutions for existing problems were also discussed.

3rd Ladakh Pollution Control Committee meeting held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman of Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, Dr Pawan Kotwal, chaired the meeting of the 3rd Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC) at the Conference Hall, Civil Secretariat on August 17.

The Regional Director of Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, Aditya Madanpota presented an action taken report on decisions of the 2nd LPCC meeting and presented a detailed presentation on the agendas of the 3rd meeting. The agenda of the meeting was on the guidelines for hotels/restaurants/ marriage, halls/ banquet halls/party venues, incentive scheme for the installation of a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) by the hotel industry, creation of technical posts for Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, and model recruitment rule for



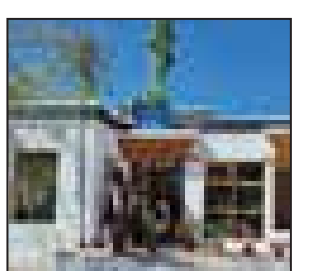
the chairman and member secretary.

While discussing the disposal of water wastes, and reuse of water, Dr. Kotwal stated that LPCC must strictly investigate its proper and safe disposal. The advisor stated that the minimal amount of pollution contributes tremendously to Ladakh's sensitive ecology. He directed all the officials to compile guidelines, mechanisms, and mitigation measures

to control any kind of pollution.

The meeting also held deliberations on the agendas, and the creation of a sufficient number of technical posts related to scientific and engineering fields to carry out the scientific mandates of the LPCC efficiently. The draft guidelines, mitigation measures, and mechanisms of the pollution will be uploaded on the LPCC website for the public domain.

Newly constructed Anganwadi Centre inaugurated at Stakna Village



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

STAKNA: A newly constructed Anganwadi Centre under Special Development Package (SDP) was inaugurated at Stakna

village on August 22.

The inauguration was done by Executive Councillor, Stanzin Chosphel in presence of Director, Social Welfare Department, Tashi Dolma; and CDPO Kharu, Sonam Nilza.

Speaking on the occasion, EC Stanzin Chosphel appreciated the architecture of the building and expressed that the building is the first infrastructure to be constructed under SDP.

He further urged the people to send their children to the centre and avail the benefits.

He also assured to provide Polygreen house to the people for Poshan Vatika. Director, Tashi Dolma expressed her happiness over the construction of the building and encouraged the villages to send their children to the Anganwadi Centre to avail the benefits and for overall development.

Commissioner/Secretary, Padma Angmo inaugurates 2nd Edition of Ladakh Education Fair at GDC Drass

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Commissioner/Secretary, Padma Angmo inaugurated the 2nd Edition of Ladakh Education Fair-2023 themed, 'Aspire to Inspire' on August 24 at GDC Drass.

The two-day education fair is being organized in different Degree Colleges of Ladakh on 24th and 25th of August. The idea of organizing the Ladakh Education Fair was originally conceived in 2022. It is an umbrella programme to educate and create awareness among people in general and students in particular about Choice of Subjects, Career Guidance, Apprenticeship and Scholarships besides exposing students to skilling opportunities.

The event not only aims to provide platform for both college and school students to interact with experts from different fields but also endeavors to teach students through fun-based activities by using modern education techniques.

The Commissioner/Secretary was the chief guest whereas Imteez Kacho, Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department/Joint Director Information, Ladakh was the guest of honour during the inaugural ceremony.

Sonam Lotus, Scientist-D (Meteorologist) Station Head, Srinagar was present as special guest. The HoDs of different departments, students and staff members of the different Government institutions and parents of students of Drass Sub-Division attended the event.

Dr Amjad Ali Abbasi, principal of the college expressed his gratitude to the Commissioner Secretary and UT Administration for their constant support in the progress of GDC Drass.

Padma Angmo appreciated the efforts of the Principal, staff members and students for organizing such an effective and successful event at a place like Drass.

She was also pleased to see resource persons from different fields and backgrounds. She also praised the girl students of GDC Drass for being open and confident and assured the student council of the college that their demands like introduction of different skill courses at the college will be taken into consideration at the earliest.

Emphasizing on the importance of community involvement in the progress of education, she lauded



the people of Drass for their active involvement in taking GDC Drass to new heights within a short span of time.

She also said Ladakh Education Fair will provide a platform for students to interact with experts from the fields of education, armed forces, health services successful professionals in the field of Film, Journalism, Artificial Intelligence, Tourism and in other fields. She also said that entrepreneurs from Ladakh will be invited to have an interactive session with the students.

Stressing over the skill development of the students in various fields, the Commissioner/Secretary said skills have become crucial for students to compete with the market needs. She said many skill courses

mate Studies".

He spoke about careers in Atmosphere Science and Meteorology and its importance in day life. Further, he stressed on how one must be passionate about their career and goals.

Sonam Lotus also explained the distinction between a job and a career and stated that one should always opt for a career rather than a job, as job is something one does due to socio-economic compulsions and a career is something driven by passion and interest.

The second speaker of the session was Imteez Kacho. He talked at length about career prospects in civil services, importance of skill development courses from the perspective of livelihood and the need for students to inculcate reading habits.

Each technical session was followed by in-depth discussions between the participants and the resource persons.

The programme concluded with various student activities like display of talents, quiz competition, spellathon etc. jointly hosted by Red FM Drass and GDC Drass.

2nd Edition of Ladakh Education Fair held at GDC Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: GDC Kargil hosted the Second Edition of Ladakh Education Fair 2023 themed, 'Empowering minds enriching futures' on August 24.

Dr Amina Qari, Principal GDC Kargil gave the overview of the programme, highlighted the importance of Ladakh Education Fair.

Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof. S.K Mehta inaugurated the event as the chief guest while Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse was the guest of honour and the Director of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), S D Sudarsan, attended the event as a special guest.

The others who attended the event include the Principal GDC Kargil, Dr Amina Qari, Deputy Secretary, LAACL, Kargil, Nazir Hussain, DSWO Kargil, Professors, besides faculty members, students and other officers were present during the event.

Piloted by the NCC Cadets

of the college, the guests visited the stall exhibition installed by various departments and educational institutions as well. Skill Competition Products, Apprenticeship help desk, Scholarship Schemes stall, Local Food Products, Local Handicrafts and handloom products and various other local items were the main attraction of visitors during the event.

The first day of the fair started with a welcome address by the Principal GDC Kargil, Dr Amina Qari.

VC appreciated GDC Kargil for conducting the event with the theme EMPOWERING MINDS ENRICHING FUTURES. He said GDC Kargil is one of the best colleges in UT Ladakh.

The VC advised the teachers to develop the scientific temper among the students. He also said that the exhibition of variety of products and programs will help in the overall development among the students.

DC Kargil appreciated the principal team of faculty for organising such an instructive and students oriented programme and also appreciated students participation their enthusiasm. He said the exhibition will provide exposure to students.

He advised the students to take advantage of the exhibition and develop the skills among themselves. He also applauded the VC for his contribution in the development of higher education.

Director C-DAC, SD Sudarsan also spoke on the occasion and shared his experiences with the participants. He said the technology is necessary to gear up the overall development.

Students from Higher Secondary level participated in the fair with great zeal and enthusiasm for exploring knowledge about the skill development.

In the afternoon session, technical sessions, trainings and workshops were conducted in which students from various Higher Secondary Schools participated.

These sessions were held on Agniveer Scheme, Career Counselling, schemes and services in Handloom sector, Entrepreneurship and Start-up supported by DIC, panel discussion, etc.

DLSA Kargil organises awareness program on POCSO Act

Mansoor Hosain Beigh

KARGIL: District Legal Services Authority Kargil organised an awareness program on "POCSO Act" at Mutahary Public School Baroo on August 21.

The program was attended by Murtaza Khalili principal, teaching and non-teaching staff of Mutahary Public School members, staff members of DLSA Kargil, PLVS of the front office and 200 students

Briefing about POCSO Act, Adv. Nissar Hussain said that POCSO means protection of children from sexual offences adding the Act protects children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and provide for the establishment of special court for trial of such offence and



matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

It also reduces the ambiguity and vagueness around the definition of a child, and it identifies a child as an individual less than 18

years of age.

Murtaza Khalili, Principal Mutahary Public School Baroo, thanked DLSA Kargil for organising such a fruitful programme in their institution.

Multi super-specialty Gynaecology & Knee Replacement camp concludes in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: AL-REZA HC & RF, the Health wing of Jamait Ul Ulema Isna Ashriya Kargil successfully conducted three days Multi super-specialty Gynaecology & Knee Replacement camp at Kargil on August 23.

The camp was inaugurated on August 20 at District Hospital Kurbathang by a Renowned Knee Replacement Surgeon from Dubai, Dr Badar Azam Khan and a Renowned Gynaecologist from Dubai, Dr Usha Kiran in the presence of Chief Medical Officer Kargil, Dr Munawwar Hussain Wazir and Medical Superintendent of DKH Dr Liqaat Ali Khan. The camp was organised by AL-REZA HC & RF in Collaboration with the Department of Health Kargil.

Internationally Renowned Gynaecologist from Prime Hospital Dubai, Doctor Usha Kiran, Gold Medalist, Expert Scarless Surgeon (V NOTES) and Dr Badar Azam Khan, famously known as Dr. Kneec, one of the finest Joint Replacement Surgeon of Dubai along with their team attended the camp. Dr Manmohan, an anaesthetist and Dr. Anjana, gynecologist, from Medwin Multispecialty Hospital Varanasi also attended the Health camp and Surgical workshop.

Around 360 patients were examined by the team, in OPD, on the first day of the camp. 10 major complicated Gynaecological cases were selected for surgery.

Surgeries were performed on the 2nd and 3rd days of the camp including Vaginal Hysterectomy, Abdominal Hysterectomy, Diagnostic laparoscopy and Tubal patency tests, Cystocele and Rectocele repair.

A record number of 17

Knee Replacement surgeries (TKR) were performed in the camp by Dr Badar Azam Khan and his team.

Surgical skills were exchanged in this Surgical workshop. High-skill anaesthesia/epidural anaesthesia and high-risk anaesthesia were also given to these patients by anaesthesia team in the camp headed by Dr. Abass Ali and Dr. Mohd Asif.

People from all corners of Kargil appreciated the efforts of AL-REZA HC & RF for bringing Internationally renowned doctors to their doorstep for the poor patients in performing complex and complicated surgeries at Kargil.

President AJUIAK, Sheikh Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi thanked the visiting Doctors for sparing their precious hectic schedule in Dubai and traveling such a long distance only to help and treat the poor patients of this far-flung region.

He also thanked the District administration, CMO, Medical Superintendent and RMO District Hospital Kargil, for their tireless support. He appreciated the tireless efforts of Doctors in uplifting the District Hospital Kargil as a center of excellence.

He also appreciated the anaesthetists and surgeons for doing surgeries till 11 pm late at night in these 3 days of the camp, besides all O.T staff and volunteers of AL-REZA.

President ALREZA HC & RF, Dr Mohd Abass thanked the volunteers of AL-REZA for their tireless support in managing the camp, helping the patients and for their 24-hour services for the patients in the camp.

Fortnightly News

Army Wives Welfare Association meet held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: On 57th Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) Day, an AWWA meet was organised by Leh Sub Area under the aegis of Fire and Fury Corps at Rinchen Auditorium on August 23.

The event was graced by many Veer Naris and Army Widows belonging to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The meeting was inaugurated by the Officiating Zonal President, AWWA, Fire and Fury Corps. On

the occasion, special recorded messages from Archana Pande, President, AWWA and Sunita Dwivedi, Regional President, AWWA, Northern Command were screened. Meenakshi Rathore, Officiating Zonal President, AWWA, Fire and Fury Corps felicitated the Veer Naris, Army Widows and the winners of AWWA 'Award for Excellence' for their contributions towards improvement in the quality of life of soldiers and their families.

The meet was a huge success, attended by 174 Veer Naris & War Widows, wherein, various grievances of attendees were registered and resolved by various military and civil administration agencies. Awareness and Information Stalls were also established during the meeting providing first-hand information on various welfare schemes and facilities available through the Indian Army, Central Government and Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The event also highlighted the stellar role played by AWWA towards the welfare of the families of the Army personnel. The activities undertaken by the organisation to ameliorate the conditions of Veer Naris and widows have received rich accolades. The organisation has also played a vital role in the empowerment of the families of the Army fraternity.

Shaurya Gatha mountaineering and trekking team finishes 16 days-long expedition

Completes 160 km long high-altitude trek, summits Kang Yatse peak

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Shaurya Gatha Mountaineering Expedition and trekking team of 19 individuals representing Parashu Warriors of Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army completed a challenging 160 km long High-Altitude trek from Hemis Monastery to Tso-mo Riri besides summiting Kang Yatse peak at an altitude of 6200 meters on August 25.

The expedition was conducted from August 10 to 25 and was a true test of the physical endurance, mental stamina and survival skills of these sol-



diers on the treacherous terrain and heights ranging from 14000 to 21000 ft and subzero temperatures. The team while engaging with community members in the remotest areas highlighted the bravery of soldiers of Ladakh, who have made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation.

The team also organised a painting competition at Shang Middle School and ensured medical assistance to the remotest villages of Ladakh of Shang, Sumdo, Chokdo, Runtse and Kyamar as part of the building efforts of the Indian Army and thereby reaffirming the trust of the community members.

110 students participate in Khelo India women's Pencak Silat League 2023



Participants of Khelo India women's Pencak Silat League 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A total of 110 students from different schools/colleges and clubs from Leh district participated in Khelo India women's Pencak Silat League 2023. The closing ceremony was held at Indoor

Stadium Leh on August 28.

The league was organised by Ladakh Pencak Silat Association in collaboration with District Youth Service and Sports Leh.

Sports Secretary Ladakh, Ravindra Kumar was the Chief Guest and SP Leh P.D Nitya was the Guest of Honour.

General Secretary, Ladakh Pencak Silat Ladakh, Shanaz Parveen mentioned that the sport is new to Ladakh and in 4 years around 35 players were sent for the National level, All India University games, and All India police games, and got many laurels to Ladakh

She further mentioned that the vision is to promote new sports in Ladakh and also to promote sports culture.

Guests from SAI center Kargil were also present during the ceremony.

Secretary Transport flags off Electric Freight Vehicles in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary of Transport, UT Ladakh Amit Sharma (IAS) inaugurated the session, "Technical Assistance for Identification of Opportunities and Challenges in freight electrification" and flagged off electric freight vehicles on August 21.

Sanjay Dube, President & CEO of the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC) spoke about Evfyng last mile freight in UT Ladakh, while Narayan Kumar Sreekumar, Associate Director of the Electric Mobility Program, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation presented the project briefing.

Secretary Transport, UT

Ladakh Amit Sharma facilitated and appreciated the efforts of the technical assistance team for the decarbonization of the freight segment which directly contribute to the mission Carbon Neutral Ladakh Plan. The initiative of moving road freight to a faster pace of Zero emission truck adoption is feasible. Greenhouse gas emissions enter the atmosphere and contribute to warming, from diesel soot to CO2 to methane must be reduced now, he added.

Amit Sharma highlighted that technical agencies assessed what reductions could be possible in the transportation sector from technology efficient-

cy improvements, vehicle electrification, deep decarbonization, and the use of low-carbon fuels.

There is a growing consensus that the zero-emission truck industry is on course to deliver competitive business cases for the decarbonization of these fleets - through battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) that could eventually be powered by renewable energy, Secretary emphasized.

The initiative is an important milestone in the history of Ladakh. The decisions and policies of the UT administration were made to support to form of Carbon Neutral Ladakh, Amit stated.

The event was attended by the Deputy Director of Motor Garages, UT Ladakh Dr. Zulfiqar Ali (KAS); ARTO Officer, Leh & Kargil; heads of different transport associations; the technical team of IIEC; and the team from the Knowledge Partner-Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation.

Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism and Culture chairs review meeting

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

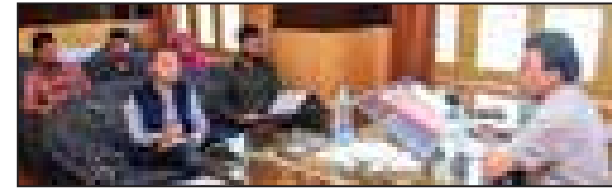
KARGIL: Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism and Culture, UT Ladakh Kachho Mehboob Ali Khan chaired a review meeting on August 21 and took stock of the status of ongoing works under SDP and State Sector, performance of departments and planning and execution of new works at KDA Office.

District Librarian informed the Commissioner/Secretary that work on the structure of the new library building is almost complete, and the finishing and other interior works will be completed till June next year. The Commissioner/Secretary directed the concerned officer to speed the pace of work without compromising with quality & quantity as per approved

DPR, and complete the remaining works within the stipulated timeline. He also directed to keep the library updated with new books/periodicals/other relevant reading material etc.

The Commissioner/Secretary directed Deputy Secretary, Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kargil to conduct/organize the cultural programs as per the approved annual calendar. He also instructed the DS, LAAC&L to follow-up with the directions given for sending delegation of students/Councilors to various States/UTs on the UT Ladakh Foundation Day.

While assessing the work-



ing of the Employment Department, Commissioner/Secretary Khan directed the DD Employment to work on creating a data base of unemployed youth, employment provided by various agencies (public & private) so that better planning can be made for dissemination of information regarding employment generation, opportunities, and coordination amongst various agencies.

Regarding the construction of new labour sarais at various locations of the district, the Commissioner/Secretary was informed

by the concerned officer that almost the structures of all the sarais have been completed, except interior works and electricity line.

Commissioner/Secretary Khan directed all the officers to process the bills of work done for payment till September 15 after due verification of the physical progress of the works.

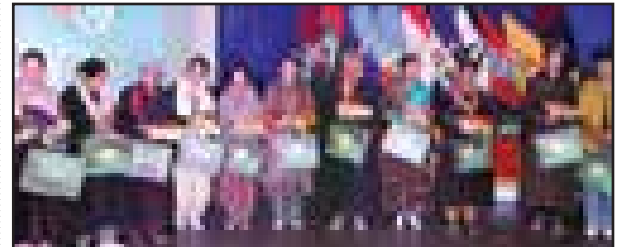
He also inspected the ongoing works at TFC, Amphitheatre, Sound & Light show, and river side path in & around Tourist Facilitation Center (TFC). He passed on instructions to

complete these projects before the onset of winter and ensure that the vision of world class infrastructure is achieved.

Later on, Commissioner/Secretary Khan visited the Hunderman view point and heritage village. He directed Executive Engineer, KDA to initiate cleanliness drive near the view point, and to install dustbins at various locations and also directed to prepare an estimate for upgradation of the view point as discussed at the site.

On the way back to Leh he inspected the status of work and operation & maintenance of wayside amenities at Wado-Wakha, Khangral, Bodhkarboo, Lamayuru and welcome gate at Wanla-dho.

Ashok Leyland celebrates 30 years association with Indian Army



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To commemorate Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay Diwas and 75 years of raising Ashok Leyland along with 30 years association with the Indian Army, a 'Manzil ka Safar' rally was organised by Ashok Leyland.

The rally was flagged off

from Kanyakumari on Kargil Vijay Diwas and culminated at Leh on August 25.

Felicitation ceremony for 26 Veer Naris, 4 Veer Mata's and 70 War Heroes was also organised under the aegis of Fire and Fury Corps at Rinchen Auditorium.

The rally comprising three 'Stallion 4x4 Workhorse' vehicles was flagged in at Leh by the General Officer Commanding, Leh Sub Area. These vehicles were equipped with pictorial depictions of the Kargil War and traversed through the length and breadth of the country finally culminating at Leh, to honour the indomitable spirit and courage of our 'Bravehearts' during Operation Vijay. The event also highlighted the symbiotic relationship shared between the Indian Army and Ashok Leyland over the last three decades.

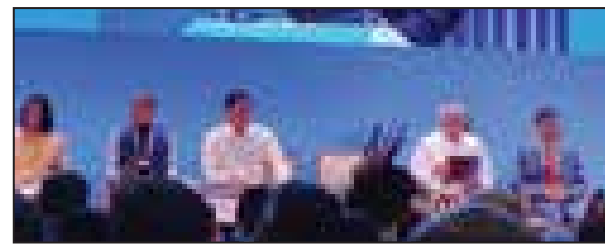
Director NISR Leh participates in WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa Leh, Dr Padma Gurmet participated in first-ever WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in Ahmadabad, Gujarat on August 19.

The first World Health Organization Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was inaugurated on August 17 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat alongside the G20 health ministerial meet.

Director General of WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and the Union Ministry of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, Union



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya lighted the ceremonial lamp.

Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel, Union Minister of State for Ayush, Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, and senior delegates of WHO were also present on the occasion.

More than 75 Nations participate in the first-ever global Summit on Traditional Medicine.

Dr Padma Gurmet has requested the WHO Traditional Medicine Centre to incorporate Sowa-Rigpa under the ambit of WHO Traditional Medicine Centre. WHO Traditional Medicine Centre official assured to incorporate Sowa-Rigpa.

DC, Leh, reviews status of mobile telecommunication, VSATs

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve reviewed the status of Mobile Telecommunication and V-SATs in the district with a special focus on border areas at DC mini Conference Hall on August 28.

In the meeting, representatives from BSNL, Airtel, and Reliance JIO apprised the DC about the status of telecom services in the villages including the status of VSATs at Gram Panchayats, utilization data of VSAT sites, total number of sites covered and towers erected on state-allotted lands; functional and non-functional towers, 4G and 5G network saturation, as well as challenges faced by them, amongst others.

DC Leh inquired about the reasons behind the



Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve reviewing the status of Mobile Telecommunication and V-SATs in the district.

non-functioning of V-SATs in certain panchayats and directed the officials to ensure that the minor damages/issues are to be fixed on a priority basis. He reiterated that all the agencies must work in a coordinated manner so that the tower would be functional and people would not face any challenges.

He highlighted that saturation in areas under the Vibrant Village Program is significant and directed the officials to cover these

villages in a time-bound manner as well as to ensure that the telecom services are reliable, efficient, and accessible to all.

Additionally, he directed them to present a detailed written report of the work done on state-owned lands, existing infrastructure, and other plans.

The meeting was also attended by ADDC Leh; ACR Leh; and officers/officials from BSNL, JIO, and Airtel.

Status of Agriculture practices in Ladakh

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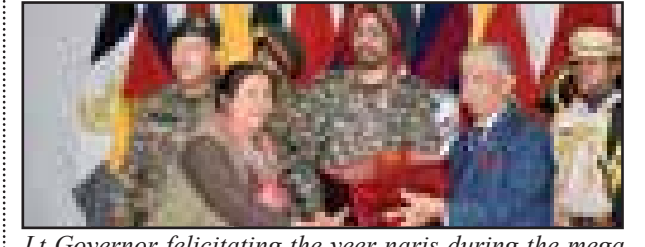
farmers can optimize their production, reduce wastage, and adapt to changing climatic conditions. Training programs and workshops can equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively utilize technology in their farming practices, establishing a strong market linkage, promoting technology transfer, and providing exposure opportunities to the youth and scientists are all crucial steps towards the progress and development of the agricultural sector in Ladakh.

Solution:

• Branding is crucial for Ladakh. Like 'Raktse Karpo' apricot received a GI tag, if other quality products also get recognition, it will greatly benefit the region.

• Agriculture forms the basis of livelihood in Ladakh, and it's important to focus on both education and agriculture. This will not only make Ladakh and the whole world happy but also ensure that everyone has access to good quality agricultural products. Supporting and promoting agriculture is essential for progress and success.

Veterans rally and Pension Adalat held in Leh



Lt Governor felicitating the veer naris during the mega veterans rally and pension Adalat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A mega veterans rally and pension adalat was organised by Leh Sub Area on behalf of Fire and Fury Corps on August 22. Around 1600 veterans, war heroes and veer naris from Ladakh attended.

The rally was inaugurated by Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Lt Governor, UT of Ladakh.

The rally aimed at assisting the Veterans, Veer Naris and Army Widows for which a large number of personnel from various offices dealing with Veterans issues were present to resolve the issues.

The rally was a huge success witnessing an unprecedented turnout. The Veteran community of Ladakh appreciated the efforts of Fire and Fury Corps and Leh Sub Area in organising the event.

Ladakh Education Fair 2023 held at GDC Nubra

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: Ladakh Education Fair 2023 themed 'Education for Sustainable Future' was held at Govt Degree College Diskit, Nubra on August 25.

Brigadier, 102 Infantry, Himanshu Hatkar was the chief guest and Colonel Jawed Ahmed was present as Guest of Honour during the occasion.

Brigadier, 102 Infantry, Himanshu Hatkar congratulated everyone for organising such an event for the students. He emphasised on focusing on academics as well as co-curricular activities and encouraged the students to take full advantage of the education fair. Resource Persons of the day were President, Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh (WCB-CL), Lobzang Visuddha who briefed on career in Photography whereas Jig-

met Rabstan (KAS) delivered a speech about career in Administrative services. Major N Shriram talked about career opportunities in Defence and Tashi Angchok Amche spoke about the relevance of herbal medicine and local medicine.

Ghulam Mohd an educator, spoke on career in teaching as well as the role of a teacher in society.

Additionally, stalls of science models, distance education scholarship, sports equipment, and books were displayed by Higher Secondary School (HSS) Diskit; HSS Partapur; HSS Hunder; Agriculture Department; Horticulture Department; J&K Bank and Women's Association Diskit.

Colourful cultural programme was also presented by the students of GDC Nubra.

Government Degree College, KHALTSE observes National Sports Day

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: Government Degree College, Khaltse commemorated the birth anniversary of the hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand and observed National Sports Day 2023 under the theme "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society" on August 29.

Students of GDC, Khaltse participated in the event with great enthusiasm. The event was coordinated by Director of Physical Education, Sonam Chosphail, and Sports assisted by sports committee.

At the outset of the event, he highlighted the importance of observing National Sports Day to inculcate discipline and develop teamwork spirit.

The event envisaged competition under different

categories such as 100 and 200m race, shot put, and discus throw.

Sonam Angmo, 5th semester; Dechen Dolkar, 5th semester and Padma Angmo, 3rd-semester students, secured 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position respectively in 100m and 200m races. Similarly, Padma Angmo, 3rd semester; Rigzin Angmo, 5th semester and Dechen Dolkar, 5th semester students secured 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position respectively.

Principal GDC Khaltse, Stanzin Yangdol, congratulated the winners, participants, and the organising committee for conducting the event on National Sports Day.

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Bandhan Bank has started first time in UT Ladakh. It became the first microfinance company in India to get a universal banking licence under the MD/CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh based at Calcutta. Now Bandhar Bank has crossed 6,140 banking outlets. It has covered 3.07cr customers and is still counting. Its share value is approximately about ₹230. Its products such as FD rates / EDS/ POS are very attractive. It's an honour to serve the people of Ladakh and we welcome the people of Ladakh to join the Bandhan family.

More Info

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