# September 16-30, 2023

In Conversation with Rigzin Lachic Wangmo, Entrepreneur

## People's Voice:

Debate intensifies: Should Ladakh have a railway line to boost connectivity?

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# reach—Ladakh

#### **Correction and clarification**

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#### Stanzin Dasal & Yangchen Dolma

LEH: The issue of interfaith marriages continues to be a sensitive and contentious topic in Ladakh, with recent events reigniting communal tensions in the region. On September 6, the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) organised a protest rally in Leh in response to the conversion and marriage of a Buddhist girl, who wedded Muslim man, in 2011 reportedly. While the marriage itself is a decade-old, the tensions surrounding it are more recent.

The protest saw businesses shutting down as demonstrators voiced their concerns over the alleged forced conversions and called for the implementation of an anti-conversion law in Ladakh.

LBA reiterated a three point agreement signed between the Muslims and Buddhist communities of Leh on November 30, 1992. The agreement's first point states, "The two communities shall deter and discourage inter community marriage, which was found to be the single major factor causing breakdown in Buddhist-Muslim relationship. In consequence, it shall be incumbent on both the communities to restore individuals/ boy or a girl/ to his/ her faith in the event of the inter community marriage entered into. In so doing the willingness or otherwise We have been tirelessly advocating of the girl or a boy or legality of such for an anti-conversion law, but both

for refusal to respect this agreement by either of the community.'

> According to the LBA, the Muslim community has failed to uphold this agreement, citing instances of conversion, particularly among women, driven by monetary allurement, misrepresentation, and fraudulent

> Addressing the rally, President, LBA, Thupstan Chhewang stressed the need for an anti conversion law in Ladakh and expressed disappointment in the lack of support from the girl's family.

> Anti conversion law are set of judicial rules that prevent or prohibit the conversion from one religion to another. These laws are meant to prevent forced religious conversion of individuals and to prevent religious groups from recruiting members from other religions. The law was enacted by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Jharkhand.

> President, LBA, Women Wing, Yangchen Dolma declared their determination to address the issue, stating, "We won't tolerate this anymore. These people always betray us and act behind our back.



Buddhist communities of Leh during the protest rally over interfaith mar-

**Anti-Conversion Law** 

for UT Ladakh

Governors of Ladakh have ignored us. However, we're still fighting and won't give up."

Interfaith marriage issue rocks Ladakh, sparks outcry

LBA demands anti-conversion law

She urged parents to educate their children about the matter. She emphasized that without action, the problem would persist.

President LBA, Youth wing, Rigzen Dorjey said, "We shouldn't ignore the conversion matters and should investigate them thoroughly. It's discouraging to see that even the girl's family is least bothered and is not in support of getting their girl back. LBA alone cannot effect change without support."

Narrating the whole incident, Rig-zen Dorjey said that they reached action shall not be cited as an excuse the previous and current Lieutenant out President, Anjuman Moin-ul

Islam, Dr. Abdul Qayum to inquire about the marriage and the possibility of getting the girl back.

any response from their side. We won't sit quietly; we will definitely take action and not ignore this matter", he added.

"Unfortunately, we haven't received

In response to the allegations, Anjuman Moin ul Islam headed by President Dr. Abdul Qayum convened a press conference at their office on September 7.

Dr. Qayum said, "In recent protests, people were alleging Muslims and Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam for their involvement in forced conversions, but I want to clarify that this is not true. We consistently discouraged inter faith marriages and have not conspired to change individuals faith. It is not just Buddhists who are getting converted; there are also many Muslims who have converted to Buddhism. We believe that religion is a personal matter and won't force anyone to follow a religion which they don't prefer."

He expressed regret over the use of terms like 'Love Jihad' during protests and emphasised that such accusations should be avoided to maintain peace in Ladakh.

However a video of the girl herself went viral on social media groups claiming that her marriage is voluntary and not coerced. Citing the example of other past interfaith marriages that happened in Ladakh, she accused certain political parties and individuals of politicizing the issue for their vested interest.

Furthermore, Nazir Ahmed, the father of the boy and Vice-President BJP Ladakh unit, was expelled from his position and had his primary membership revoked for his alleged involvement in the elopement of the Buddhist girl with his son.

As tensions persist, Ladakh remains at a crossroads, grappling with the complex issue of interfaith marriages and conversions, as well as the need for dialogue and understanding between its diverse communities.

#### 10th edition of Ladakh Marathon attracts thousands of runners from 27 countries

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The 10th edition of of the highest and most challenging marathons in the world, saw the participation of around 6,000 runners from 27 different countries. Held from September 7th to 10th in Leh, the event featured six different categories, offering something for runners of all skill levels.

The categories included the Silk Route Ultra (122 km), Khardong la Challenge (72 km), Full Marathon (42 km), Half Marathon (21 km), 11.2 km Run, and Run for Fun (5

At the closing and award ceremony of the marathon, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) praised the organizers for their efforts in promoting such events in the region. He highlighted the importance of such events for the local youth, encouraging them to actively participate and contribute to building a healthy society for the development of Ladakh and the nation as a whole. He also urged government officials from various departments to organize similar events in the future and assured support from the UT administration for larger-scale marathons in the coming years.

A total of 312 runners participated in the marathon, with 51 in the Silk Route Ultra Challenge and 261 in the Khardong La Challenge.

The Silk Route Ultra marathon commenced on September 7th from Kyagar village Nubra at 7 pm and concluded at Leh main market on September 8th. In the men's category, the top three winners were Shabir Hussain (15:27:53 hrs), Tsewang Kundan (15:53:46 hrs), and Stanzin Phuntsog (15:57:46 hrs). Tsering Yangzom claimed the first position Yangzom and Shikha Pahwa claimed



Participants during the 10th edition of the Ladakh Marathon.

2nd position in the women's category. The position holders in veteran male category are Maik Becker, Ankush Lokhande and Sunil Kumar.

The Khardong La Challenge started on September 8th at 3 am from Khardong village and ended at Leh main market. The top three winners in the men's category were Rigzin Gyurmeth (06:31:41 hrs), Jigmet Stobdan (6:57:09 hrs), and Tsewang Namgyal (6:57:28 hrs). In the women's category, Namgyal Lhamo secured the first position, Kunzang Lamo and Tenzin Dolma bagged second and third position. In the veteran male category, Kailash Jain, Shivendra Bisht, and Ramanjeet Singh Oberoi were the top runners and in female category, Shamala Manmohan was the scorer.

In the Full Marathon men's category, Nawang Tsering was the winner with a time of 02:42:02, followed by Jigmet Namgail with timing 2:52:58 and Manzoor Hussain with timing 3:20:35. In the women's category, Jigmet Dolma with timing 03:27:53 took the top spot, followed by Disket Dolma with 03:39:35 and Deepika Prakash with timing 04:36:21. In the veteran male category, Shivanand Dangwal and Kazuhiko Nishikawa were the position holders.

The Half Marathon saw

Hans Raj (1: 21:28), Anurag Konkar(1:21:43), and Tsewang Nangdan (1:22:13) claiming the top three positions in the men's category, while Stan-zin Chondol(1:29:43), Stanzin Dolkar(1:31:47), and Tashi Ladol(1:35:54) secured the top three spots in the women's category. In the veteran male category, Thomas Philip, Ashok Poojary, and Ashwat Reddy were the position holders, and in the female category, Kiran Chulani, Savita Pethe, and Vidhya Bendale performed

The 11.2 km race featured Skarma Idang Lanzes (00:51:41), Padma Lhamo (00:59:39),and Kunzang Chorol (01:00:49) in the top three positions for women and Punchok Namgail (01:00:49), Sonam Chosphail (00:46:54), and Skarma Gyatso (00:46:54) for men. In the veteran categories, Karma Bhutia, Wangyal Phunchok, Mukesh Bhanwala, Jyoti Nene, Kulbir Chahal, and Veena Naik excelled.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Gyalson, commended the organizers and congratulated both winners and participants. He highlighted the administrative support, including prize money, provided by the UT Administration and Hill Council, Leh, and expressed their commitment to continue supporting the Ladakh Marathon in the future.

#### tember 29-October 3, 2023 Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Himalayan Film unveil its 2nd edition, once again bringing the magic of Indian cinema beyond the mainstream, to the landscapes of the Himalayas. The festival is scheduled to

take place from September

29 to October 3, 2023.

Organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh, in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, THFF is poised to showcase a diverse array of cinema, ranging from mainstream gems to compelling documentaries, and captivating short films.

The festival presents an exciting lineup of events that not only captivate audiences but also engage and empower filmmakers. The festival's offerings include the Screenwriters Lab, Short Film Competition, Workshop, Photography and Masterclasses, curated by esteemed professionals from the Indian film industry, apart from the array of films that the festival will showcase over the five day duration.

Padma Angmo, Commis-

sioner/Secretary, Information, Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh talking about the second edition of The Himalayan Film Festival said, "We received a great response during the first edition of The Himalayan Film Festival in 2021. The primary aim of organizing the festival is to provide a platform to local Ladakhi filmmakers to showcase their films, to encourage local talent, build their capacity, connect them to experts and the market. It is a small community, but one that is very active

and very creative. We hope that they will benefit from the opportunity to network with established filmmakers from other parts of the country. We hope that filmmakers from across the country, and the world, see Ladakh as a film-

2nd edition of Himalayan Film Festival announced: Sep-

#### Activities at The Himalayan Film Festival 2023:

making endeavors."

making destination, and uti-

lise local talent in their film-

Photography Workshop with Achal Mishra:

For amateur photographers from Ladakh keen to hone their skills, The Himalayan Film Festival is hosting an exclusive photography workshop led by renowned photographer and filmmaker, Achal Mishra. Hailing from the city of Darbhanga in Bihar, Achal's debut feature film Gamak Ghar premiered at the Mumbai Film Festival, and was awarded the Manish Acharya Award for New Voices in Indian Cinema. This one-day, hands-on workshop is designed to elevate one's photography skills amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Ladakh. As part of the interactive session, Achal will also display some of his own work to illustrate different aspects of the craft, including the editing and sequencing process. Short Film Competition:

THFF invited filmmakers across the 12 Himalayan States/UTs of India who find

inspiration in the rugged beauty and majestic allure of the mountains to participate in their Short Film Competition. The competition this year is themed 'The Mountains Are Calling,' and offers a stage for budding filmmakers to showcase their craft and learn from some of the best in the industry. A distinguished jury will select the top 15 films for screening. The three best films will receive a generous cash prize at the closing ceremony of the film festival. Film Screenings:

True to its commitment, THFF showcases an exceptional selection of films from across India, with a special emphasis on content from Ladakh in particular and the Himalayan states in general. The festival boasts an exciting film lineup that includes acclaimed titles like 'Haqeeqat' which was filmed in Ladakh, 'Jubilee,' 'Tora's Husband,' 'Spawo (Warrior)', 'Ama (Mother)', 'Jungwa: The Broken Balance', 'Lunana: A Yak In the Classroom, 'Por Thozhil,' 'Sunpat,' the evergreen 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai' among others, promising a cinematic journey that spans emotions, narratives, and cultures.

The Screenwriters Lab:

The Screenwriters Lab, an initiative tailored to empower and amplify the voices of budding Ladakhi filmmakers, is set to provide an immersive experience that nurtures

...Continues on page 2

**Fortnightly News** 

#### **G20 Summit: Ladakh participates in Indian Craft** Bazaar

Participants make sale records of ₹ 2.20 lakh during the exhibition



Participants of Ladakh selling pashmina products to the G20 foreign delegates during the Indian craft bazaar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Ladakh participated in the 'Indian Craft Bazaar organized on the sidelines of the G20 Leader's Summit' held at the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), Pragati Maidan of New Delhi from September 9-10.

The bazaar featured 30 stalls selling items from various States and Union Territories of India such as Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Seven North Eastern states, and Ladakh with many other states too.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the exhibition, where he observed and appreciated the craft forms on display.

The exhibition was a collaborative effort between the G20 Secretariat, the Ministry of Textiles, and various State and Union Territory Governments. Those attending the Crafts

Bazaar included representation from around 30 States and Union Territories, as well as central agencies like the Khadi Village and Industries Commission, TRIFED,

and Saras Ajeevika.

The exhibition allowed G20 Summit attendees to purchase handicraft items that were being showcased during the 2-day event. The bazaar focused on products identified under the Government's One District, One Product Scheme (ODOP), which aims to promote specific items from each district and GI-tagged items. Live demonstrations of various heritage crafts by artisans were also planned during the Summit.

Three highly skilled and experienced participant artisans and entrepreneurs from Ladakh were nominated by the Industries and Commerce department of UT Ladakh represent Ladakh's unique identity at the allocated stall of 'Explore around the world. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Five-day Space Union Territories'. Science Exhibition organised in collaboration with LAHDC Leh, University The participants showcased and sold their products of Ladakh, and Space Apwhich focused on the recentplication Centre (SAC-ISly GI Tagged and the ODOP RO), Ahmedabad was inaugurated by L-G BD (One District One Product) products of the Union Ter-Mishra on September 9 at ritory that comprised of the Lamdon School, Leh. Pashmina (woven shawls, mufflers, stoles and other Chairman/CEC, LAHDC knitted items) and Wood carved products (decorative items, traditional wooden

tables (choktse), souvenirs,

bowls, trays, etc). The par-

ticipants made a sale record of around 2.20 lakh during

the 2 days of the exhibition

boosting their morale and

understanding of the Global

With the aim and objective

of highlighting the rich and

diverse cultural heritage of

our country before the glob-

al audience, the event was

organized to showcase the

artistic skills, traditions, and

indigenous products of our

country. The Crafts Bazaar

also aligns with the nation-

al priorities of promoting

'Make in India' and 'Vocal

for Local'. The exhibition

was mainly designed for

showcasing and selling the

products from India to the

G20 foreign delegates and

dignitaries of other visiting

The G20 Summit in Delhi

has become more than just

a platform for discussing

global economic issues. It

has transformed into a vi-

brant display of India's rich

cultural heritage, economic prowess, and diplomatic finesse. The Craft Bazaar

was an attraction that right-

ly captivated India's civili-

zation heritage where craft

forms took center stage, fascinating delegates from

countries under one roof.

market demands.

Leh, Tashi Gyalson; Director, SAC-ISRO, Ahmedabad, Nilesh M Desai and Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof S K Mehta were also present.

Terming the event as 'positive' and the information provided by the experts as beneficial, LG commended the organisers, especially the scientists from SAC ISRO, for disseminating information on initiatives being taken by the Government of India along with the scope for students and youth in space applications as a career. Stating that the Vikram Sarabhai Space Exhibition is a big event, LG highlighted the importance of the youth coming forward to contribute to the overall development of

ple have immensely bene-Commending ISRO for fited them and shown the their various space miscapability of India to build sions that immensely benthe satellites indigenously. L-G advised the Ladaefit billions of Indians, he stated that now everykhi youth and students one knows about ISRO to become top scientists, as much as NASA due to leaders and educationalists and progress ahead the recent success of the Chandrayan 3 mission. in their lives. He also ad-He also stated that ISRO's vised them to come up success is the result of with their own start-ups their years of hard work and ventures and become and the lessons learned job providers instead of from the launch of Chanjob-seekers so that they drayan 1 and Chandrayan could contribute to the 2, which proved to be a overall development of stepping stone to success Ladakh and the country. for them. He further stated

Dignitaries releasing the LAMA (Ladakh-specific Mod-

eling and Space Applications) poster and documentary

film during the Space Science exhibition.

SAC-ISRO, Director, Nilesh M Desai, and other scientists were felicitated on the success of the Chan-

Space Science Exhibition by SAC-ISRO, Ahmedabad, in Leh

drayan 3 Mission. He also released LAMA (Ladakh-specific Modeling and Space Applications) poster and documentary film on the occasion.

CEC, Tashi Gyalson expressed gratitude to the team of scientists from SAC-ISRO, Ahmedabad led by Director, Nilesh M Desai for fulfilling the commitment of visiting Ladakh with a program on Space Exhibition and workshop on the LAMA Project. He also lauded the ISRO scientists and the scientific community for the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 and their dedication and hard work in achieving the space dreams of India.

CEC said that the Ladakh-specific Modeling and space Applications (LAMA) Project with SAC Ahmedabad will be beneficial to Ladakh as it aims to carry out interdisciplinary scientific investigations of natural resources, environment, and climate change over the Ladakh region through satellite observations, modeling, and ground measurements to address various environmental-re-

lated issues like flashfloods, cloudbursts, etc.

Director, SAC-ISRO, Nilesh Desai highlighted the commendable space history of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and India's historic journey to the Moon (Chandrayaan 3), which is the first successful soft-landing of a moon mission on the South Pole of the Moon in the world. He also added that SAC Ahmedabad provide necessary hand-holding support and guidance in exploring collaborative mechanisms for science-based decision support systems and advancing space science research and education in

He also informed about the launch of the Aditya-L1 mission, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun, on September 2 from Sriharikota.

Documentary on the LAMA project was released and screened along with the launch of the Brochure of the LAMA project by the dignitaries.

#### 10 girls from Ladakh get polo training from President's Body Guard

that the instruments/ma-

chinery used in building

Chandrayan 3 by involv-

ing a large number of peo-



During the felicitation ceremony of the Ladakhi girls who underwent horse polo training under the President's Body Guard (PBG) in New Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) felicitated Ladakhi girls who underwent horse polo training under the President's Body Guard (PBG) in New Delhi on September 7 at Raj Ni-

The girls who underwent training at PBG are Phun-Dolma, Stanzin Angmo, Chuzin Angmo, Stanzin Edzes, Skarma Youtan Chosto, Deachen Angmo, Jigmet Stanzin, Samına Kousar, Tsering Delhi.

Yangskit and Haniya Za-

L-G had recommended 10 girls from Ladakh for training by the President's Body Guard to learn polo for the revival of traditional sports of polo in Ladakh. The President's Body Guard or Rashtrapati Ke Angrakshak provided training to the girls on the basics of Polo, the nuances of correct grip, swing and balance along with horse riding for a period of four weeks in New

went training under the guidance of Col Amit Berwal, Commandant PBG, Naib Risaldar Sundar Singh and Daffadar Sukhjeet Singh. Monika Saxena, Captain of

The Ladakhi girls under-

the Indian Women's Polo Team also conducted a oneday workshop and gave personal coaching to all the trainees.

Deachen Angmo was adjudged as the Best Player while Haniya Zahara bagged the award for Most Promising Rider during this Polo camp.

President's Body Guard has a historical connection with Ladakh as the Armoured Fighting Vehicles of the President's Personal troops were the first to be inducted to Chushul in 1962. This Regiment will complete 250 years of service at the end of September

#### 2nd edition of Himalayan Film Festival announced: September 29-October 3, 2023

..Continues from page 1

talent and encourages the have the opportunity to pitch their projects to exexploration of innovative storytelling. Through inecutives from major OTT tensive mentoring sessions platforms who will be led by Satyanshu Singh, participants will have the present at the festival. This is a great opportunity for budding talent from Lada-kh to shape their dreams. privilege to refine their craft under the guidance of a National Award-winning filmmaker, writer, Renowned and esteemed professor of cinema. Satyanshu Singh, known for his exceptional contributions to the world of cinema, brings his expertise to the table. His directorial debut short, "Tamaash," and his debut feature, "Chintu Ka Birthday," have not only

ues to captivate audiences. masterclasses and various

Ayushmann Bhav campaign

launched

Selected participants will other discussions.

filmmakers, industry experts, and luminaries are all set to grace the event. Amit Sharma, Rima Das, and Dominic Megam Sangma lead the esteemed jury for the short film competition, adding a layer of expertise to the evaluation process. The festival will also welcome the presence of distinguished filmmakers and actors like Janhvi Kapoor, Kenny Deori Basumatary and Vikramaditya Mot-OTT platform SonyLIV, wane, among others who will share their insights

and experiences through

#### ment rules Wants submission of gazetted recruitment rules for each department by September 15

Advisor chairs meeting to expedite service recruit-

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting of all Commissioner Secretaries and Administrative Secretaries reviewed the implementation of various ongoing works, and initiated expedited service recruitment rules at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on September 11.

At the outset, Dr. Pawan Kotwal emphasized the importance of submitting the Gazetted Recruitment During the review, the Rules for each department by September 15, 2023. Additionally, they instructed that the Service Recruitment Rules should be uploaded to the Union Public of these expenditures. He Commission (UPSC) website for concurrence in a clear timeline progress of expenditure, and procedure for the submission and approval of recruitment rules.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A team of scientists

from the Space Applica-

tions Centre (SAC) of the

Indian Space Research

Ahmedabad, led by group

directors Dr. Mehul Pan-

dya and Dr. Shashikant

Sharan, met with the Dep-

uty Commissioner, Leh,

Santosh Sukhadeve on

the meeting was to pro-

vide an update on the

development of a Lada-

kh-specific geoportal, which is poised to be a

game-changer for the

administration. It was in-

(ISRO)

The primary agenda of The team added that one

Organization

September 11.



Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal.

advisor assessed the expenditures of different departments and advised the Secretaries to maintain regular monitoring stressed the importance of staying updated on the addressing any obstacles or issues that may arise, and ensuring the seamless

Scientists from Space Applications Centre, ISRO,

meets DC, Leh

formed that this advanced

geoportal will play a piv-

otal role in shaping policy

and administrative deci-

sions related to various

critical areas, including

vegetation monitoring,

rural and agricultural land

use, renewable energy ini-

tiatives, air quality man-

agement, and snow and

of the most striking fea-

tures of this geoportal

is the incorporation of

the powerful geo-pro-

VEDAS. This tool will

equip the administration

glacier monitoring.

execution of various development projects.

Director of the Finance Department, UT Ladakh Dr. Safdar Ali mentioned that his department is specifically reviewing expenditure meetings with the heads of various departments to ensure effective financial management and accountability within UT Ladakh.

with interactive web-based

multi-criteria support tools,

facilitating informed deci-

Furthermore, they informed

that the geoportal will serve a vital role in disas-

ter management by offering

the capability to forecast

glacial lake bursts. It will

also include a solar power

calculator and maps high-

lighting desertification and

land degradation specific to

It is worth noting that all

these features are current-

ly at the proof-of-concept

level, indicating the cut-

ting-edge nature of this

SAC requested the district

administration for field ob-

servations and data mon-

itoring centers, aiming to

data with remote sensing

findings to enhance data ac-

Deputy Commissioner Leh

assured all possible support

future endeavors within the

on-the-ground

Ladakh.

project.

combine

curacy.

cessing tool known as to the ISRO team in their

sion-making processes.

#### Vishwakarma scheme to be rolled out on Sept 17

Reach out to maximum beneficiaries, states Advisor Kotwal

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviewed preparations for the rollout of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in the Union Territory of Ladakh, along with the rest of the country on September 17.

The scheme was announced in February this year and aims at improving the quality, scale, and reach of products handmade by traditional artisans and craftspeople with the help of tools. Under the scheme, the artisans shall be recognised for their works with the help of certification and ID cards and shall be provided credit support, skill upgradation, toolkit incentive, the incentive for digital transactions as well as marketing

support. Director, Industries and Commerce Department, Nazeer Sheikh gave a detailed presentation on the objectives, benefits, and process of enrolling under ensure wide publicity of the scheme. A total of 18 the scheme, identify the



tions for the rollout of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

trades have been identi- maximum number of benfied under the scheme and discussions were held on Ladakhi trades that must be included under the scheme to promote and revive many of the traditional trades such as copper/goldsmith, sculptor, basket weaver, carpenters, potter, and footwear artisan, amongst others. Advisor Dr. Kotwal stat-

ed that it is a highly incentivized scheme of the GoI and the scheme must be promoted to benefit the maximum number of beneficiaries. He further directed the respective Deputy Commissioners to eficiaries, and stated that the Panchayat Pradhans must be apprised of their roles and responsibilities pertaining to the dissemination of information about the scheme. Discussions were also

held on the scope of diversification of the existing trades, the inclusion of these trades in the ITIs of Ladakh, etc.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar, Commissioner Secretary Padma Angmo, DC Leh and Kargil, Convenor UTL-BC, and other concerned officers of the administra-

garnered critical acclaim

but also earned presti-

gious awards. With a rich

background as a script

consultant for prominent

Satyanshu's debut web se-

ries, "Jehanabad," contin-

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Dr. B. D. Mishra (Retired) chaired the state-level launch event of the Ayushmaan Bhava Campaign in Ladakh on September 13. The campaign was launched by the President

of India Droupadi Murmu through video conferencing. Ayushmaan campaign to ensure optimum delivery of health schemes to every intended beneficiary, including those in the last mile of India. This comprehensive healthcare initiative aims to enhance healthcare access and awareness across India and aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, focusing on "Healthy Villages." It seeks to make healthcare services, education, and support accessible to all segments of society, ensuring good health as a fundamental right.

L-G underscored the paramount importance of healthcare services and the vital need for organ donation during the launch of the event Ayushmaan Bhav. He highlighted the need for accessible and people.

quality healthcare facili-ties, especially in remote areas, to meet the healthcare requirements of the local population effective-

Advisor Ladakh Dr Pawan Kotwal commended the dedicated efforts of healthcare workers in Ladakh, who have been at the forefront of battling the challenges and he expressed his gratitude for their unwavering commitment and urged continued support and resources to enhance the region's healthcare infrastructure.

He emphasized that organ donation can save countless lives and transform the landscape of healthcare in Ladakh. He encouraged individuals and families to consider registering as organ donors, emphasizing the positive impact such a decision can have on soci-

Pawan officially

launched the Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis Van, an innovative initiative aimed at bringing TB diagnosis services closer to the public. The TB Diagnosis Van, equipped with the latest technology, particularly the Cartridge-Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT), will travel to various communities, reaching even the most remote and underserved areas, to provide timely and accurate TB diagnosis services. This initiative is a crucial part of the ongoing efforts to combat tuberculosis, a disease that continues to affect millions of

#### **Defence Minister inaugurates ₹14.8 Cr double-way** modular bridge at Fanjila village

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated a 70-foot long double-way modular bridge, constructed at a cost of ₹14.8 crore at Fanjila Village on September

a series of project inaugurations conducted virtually. Nambardar Wanla(B), Ťashi Dorjay, extended heartfelt gratitude to the Defence Minister, Rajnath

and all the dedicated staff involved in the bridge's swift completion.

Roads Task Force (BRTF), Paras Rehni; Incharge SDM Khaltse, Tanveer Stanzin Gylaks, Sarpanch Ahmad; OIC/AEE, Amit Wanla(B), Kunckok Nam-Anchal, along with vendol, Nambardar Wanerable monks, BDO Sinla(A), Skarma Rinchen, gay Lalok/Khaltse, Pankaj and Namberdar Wanla Rajput, Junior Engineer (B), Tashi Dorjay, all GREF, Hariharan, Junior graced the event with their Engineer PWD Khaltse, presence.



### LEH: Defence Minister, Singh, Commander GREF,

The occasion was a part of

#### Delhi FC beat Tibet team 6-0 in Climate Cup Football Tournament

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Delhi FC won the Climate Cup Football Tournament by defeat-ing the Tibetan National Sports Association 6-0 in the final match played on September 7 at Astroturf Open Stadium, Leh

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended the final match.

Four teams including Delhi Football Club, UT Ladakh team, 1 Ladakh FC, and Tibetan National Sports Association Teamtook part in the week-long event which aimed to provide a platform for players to exhibit their skills and foster a sense of responsibility towards saving the environment.

Clothing and other logistical requirements used in the event are made of recycled materials.

Terming the Climate Cup a good initiative, LG stated that such a football tournament on a grand scale has been organised in Ladakh for the first time. Highlighting the mantra of carbon-neutral Ladakh given by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, LG stated that the Climate Cup is a medium to spread the message of carbon neutrality initiative taken by the Administration, both the Hill Councils and PRIs, as it is India's first zero polythene, minimal waste football event.



Team Delhi FC along with dignitaries after winning the Climate Cup ootball Tournament at Astroturf Open Stadium, Leh

match.

ticipate in sports events to ensure their involvement in building a stronger community. He hoped that the Ladakhi youth would make the most of sporting events such as the Climate Cup for their own benefit and the Ladakhi community's benefit.

Congratulating both the winning and the runners-up teams, he appreciated all four teams for displaying sportsmanship spirit during the Climate Cup. He sought cooperation from the people of Ladakh to take sports forward in the region so that the maximum number of Ladakhi youth could be engaged in sports activi-

Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Ravinder Kumar highlighted the car-bon-neutral initiatives taken while organising the Climate Cup.

The LG and other dignitaries, including Indian football legend Bhaichung Bhutia, distributed med-LG stated that he wants the Ladakhi youth to par- als and certificates to the winning and runners-up

men's team and women's LAHDC Leh and UT Administration teams which took part in the exhibition

A cheque of ₹3 lakh and the special Climate Cup made using the Ladakhi woodcarving technique were presented to Delhi FC while the TNSA team won ₹2 lakhs as the runners-up team.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson; Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillors- Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Stanzin Chosphel; Councillors; Administrative Secre-Joint Director, taries; YSS, Moses Kunzang; President, AIFF, Kalyan Chaubey; Secretary General, AIFF, Shaji Prabhakaran; former Indian footballer, Bhaichung Bhutia; District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Leh, Tsering Tashi; officials from Powergrid and Ladakh Football Association; district officials, students and large number of spectators were present during the final match.

#### Ladakh's IT sector launches E-Governance Magazine



During the launch of the first-ever e-Governance Magazine.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first-ever e-Governance Magazine which carries informative IT-related articles for widespread circulation amongst IT buffs of the Union Territory was launched by Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal on September 8.

Facilitated by the IT Secretary Amit Sharma the magazine was launched through the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The launch of this inauguration edition of Ladakh UT e-Governance Magazine has been widely appreciated and it was also disclosed by IT Secretary Amit Sharma that its subsequent additions shall be issued on a quarterly basis to benefit the public of the UT and also keep them abreast with latest developments in IT sector.

In another important lead taken by Information Technology Department of the UT of Ladakh led by IT Secretary Amit Sharma, a start-up led by its Co-founder and Chief Product Officer, Shubham Karnwal delivered an informative presentation on the revolutionary networking platform, "TAP ONN," during another simultaneous event held in Civil Secretariat, Leh under the chairpersonship of Dr Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh and presence of all Administrative Secretaries.

The presentation highlighted the innovative features and advantages of TapOnn, which promises to streamline net-working, provide instant and efficient connections, and offer comprehensive data management capabilities. He introduced

product and application designed to enhance networking experiences. He also emphasized its key at-tributes, including a central-ized admin dashboard for managing connections and networks, robust data security backed by blockchain technology, and a solution to the shortcomings of tra-ditional networking meth-

One of the core messages conveyed during the presentation was the potential for exponential team growth through the establishment of meaningful relationships using TapOnn. The platform's custom dashboard was touted as a valuable tool for end-to-end management of networking activities. TapOnn's networking ecosystem, represented by its smart card, was showcased as a versatile three-in-one solution. It not only promotes eco-friendliness but also simplifies networking processes, making connections seamless and efficient

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal proposed the introduction of TapOnn cards and passes at a nominal charge, highlighting their responsibility and alignment with national e-governance standards. The proposal encompassed metal and PVC cards with two hierarchies, in line with India's Paperless Norm TapOnn as an eco-friend- and Government Financial ly, NFC-powered smart Rules (GFR).

# Ladakh Organic Fair held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent LEH: The Department of Agriculture organised Krishi Mela/Ladakh Organic Fair on September 9 at Eco Park, Leh.

Inaugrating the event, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) termed the event as a big achievement. He stated that his biggest concern is the marketing of agricultural produce, vegetables, and flowers of the farmers/ agripreneurs from Ladakh. He informed about the request made to the Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphel to meet other concerned Departmental Secretaries/Head of Departments to formulate a strategy to sell the agricultural produce of the farmers to boost their livelihood opportunities through better income.

L-G stated that the UT Administration is committed and determined to promote vegetables/flowers produced in Ladakh in other states of India and at the global level to ensure the overall development of Ladakh.

Councillor, Executive LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphel informed about the plan to certify all 113 villages in Leh as organic under the Mission Organ-

ic Development Initiative (MODI) scheme by 2025. He also informed that around 81 villages in Leh have already been certified as organic and the remaining would be certified at the earliest.

further informed about the promotion of Ladakh Greenhouses and drip sprinkling irrigation techniques in Ladakh. Chosphel informed about the decision to stop using urea in fields from next year and instead promote organic manure only. He also informed about the support from the Sikkim State Organic Certifica-tion Agency (SSOCA) regarding the implementa-tion of the MODI scheme with the aim of converting Ladakh into an organic region by 2025.

L-G inspected the stalls in which vegetables and flowers grown by the farmers were put on dis-

Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Councillors from LAHDC Leh; Chairpersons from Block Development Council (BDC); Director, DI-HAR, Dr OP Chaurasia; Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), Leh, Thinles Dawa, district officers and farmers were present in the event.

#### Border Management Secretary engages with communities



Secretary Border Management MHA, GoI, Atal Dulloo during his

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary Border The public highlighted neni Mina, Goi, Atal Dulloo visited the Pangong area, specifically the villages of Chushul, Maan, Merak, Urgo, and Tangtse on September 9 and assessed the progress of the vibrant villages in the Union Territory of La-

Manoj Singh Rawat, ADG ITBP, senior security officers, and civil administrators from the UT Administration also accompanied him.

Secretary, Atal Dulloo was warmly received by PK Sriwato, DIG of ITBP, and SDM Shakeel Ahmed. During his visit, Secretary Dulloo engaged in discussions with members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), local residents, and ITBP personnel at a community ministration.

Subsequently,

Dulloo visited the villag-

Secretary

es of Maan, Merak, Urgo, and Tangtse, where he interacted with the residents. He emphasized the priority placed on the vibrant village program by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aiming to provide essential infrastructure in these border villages. The villagers expressed gratitude to Prime Minister several pressing demands, Modi for his special attenincluding the installation tion to the border areas of of mobile connectivity UT Ladakh. They reitertowers to address the abated the need for internet sence of internet facilities, connectivity, development which directly impacts the of tourist destinations, and local education system. land allocation for the con-Additionally, requests struction of rest houses to for a dedicated block for support their livelihoods, support their livelihoods, Chushul, solar-powered as there are limited avenues housing, hand pumps, for earning a living in the and guesthouses were region. put forth. The locals also

emphasized the need for Residents of Changthang area also raised concerns about construction restrictions imposed by the Wildlife Act, hampering economic activities such as the establishment of resorts, restaurants, and dhabas.

assured the community Secretary Dulloo assured that their concerns would them that their demands would be taken up with the relevant authorities for for resolution. He further resolution, highlighting the government's commitment to maintain close com- to addressing the needs and munication with the local aspirations of the people population and civil ad- living in these border areas.

# tively.

Ladakh's first full moon marathon held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh (ASFL) with support of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, District Administration Leh, and Indian Army organised the first-ever full moon marathon in Ladakh, attracting 100 runners who participated in the 42 km and 21.9 km races on Sep-

The marathon started from at Merak village and con- and Sonam Chinba holds

cluded at the Rezang La war memorial. It was held in honor of the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the 1962 war and this event marked a significant milestone in adventure sports in the re-

position in the half marapleting the run in 1 hour 44 minutes, Chetan Namgval holds second position with the bank of Pangong Lake timings 1 hour 47 minutes

third position with timing 1 hour 47 minutes respec-

Similarly, in the half marathon- Women category Tashi Ladol holds first position completing the run in 1 hour 51 minutes, Stanzin Chorol holds second position with timings-2 hours 40 minutes and Thinles Angmo holds third position with 2 hours 44 minutes respectively.

In Full marathon men category, first position holder was Stanzin Namgyal with timings of 3 hours 52 minutes, second position holder was Jigmet Singay with timings 4 hours 24 minutes Sonam Rigzin holds first and third position holder was Padma Tundup with thon - men category com- timings of 4 hours 37 minutes. In Women category Namgyal Angmo holds first position and completed the run in 4 hours 27

#### Leh welcomes captivating exhibition: 'Ladakh 1907-1913' by Amalie and Sebastian Schmitt"



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: An exhibition, "Ladakh 1907-1913: Letters and Photographs by Amalie and Sebastian Schmitt' opened in Leh on September 12 until the end of November at LAMO, Kharyog, Old Town.

The exhibition is in collaboration with the Ladakh Arts and Media Organization (LAMO) and is jointly curated by Anne Hartig, Ph.D. /J.N. Univ. New Delhi (curator at the Museum Five Continents in Munich, Germany), Dr. Monisha Ahmed (Executive Director, LAMO), and Dr. Michaela Appel (former curator at the Museum Five Continents). It presents excerpts from letters written by the Schmitt's, Moravian Missionaries based in Leh, as well as a selection of 74 black-and-white photographs by them.

Sent out to Ladakh by the Herrnhut Brethren Church, Sebastian, and Amalie Schmitt lived with their family in the

mately 450 photographs depicts a wide variety of the population, most of which are distinguished from one another in particular by their style of dress and the activities they are involved in.

high officials, dignitaries, and religious figures, as well as ascetics, musicians, craftsmen, farmers, and merchants with their families. As a missionary doctor, Sebastian Schmitt

came into contact with many people, including the Rinpoche of Hemis Monastery and members of the royal family. The extensive biographical notes bear witness to the close connection to the persons portrayed in the photographs.

While the letters of Amalie Schmitt to a friend at home in Germany were rediscovered as early as 2006, the photographic volume, thought to have been lost, turned up in 2016 in the possession of a granddaughter of the Schmitt couple, Gisela Muller. An earlier German edition of the letters was republished in 2022 in English together with the original photographs.

In many ways, the exhi-

bition project also ties in with a former collaboration between the Museum Five Continents and LAMO, an exhibition held in Leh in 2008 called Kashmir-Ladakh- Baltistan 1911/12.Photographs by Honigmann. Incidentally, Otto Hopiemann was in the region at the same time and also met the Schmitt's. Around 200 of his photographs have already been given to the Museum Five Continents. These letters and pictures not only provide a comprehensive insight into a historical period in Ladakh, but they also fill a gap, as photographs of the region from the early 20th century have rarely survived, especially as such a large group of images.

Through LAMO's archive, the Schmitt and Honigmann photo collections will be made available in digital form to the Iocal public and thus also to the descendants of those depicted.

#### L-G discusses proposal for State Science and Technology Programme in Ladakh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) with officials discussing the proposal for the development of the State Science and Technology Programme in Ladakh.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) discussed the proposal for the development of the State Science and Technology Programme in Ladakh on September 8.

IT/Science Secretary, and Technology, Amit Sharma informed the LG that the vision of the implementation of the State Science and Technology Programme (SSTP) is to catalyse Science Technology Innovation (STI) ecosystem by assessing, developing, and delivering appropriate S&Tbased solutions to Ladakh-specific challenges. He also informed that the mission of the programme is to develop a holistic STI ecosystem for the socio-economic development of Ladakh.

He apprised L-G of the objectives of the SSTP, including formulation

of STI Policy for Ladakh, identification of S&T needs of Ladakh through consultations with stakeholders to facilitate socio-economic development of communities of Ladakh, identification and demonstration/dissemination of proven technologies useful for adoption by societies in Ladakh, support STI projthe STI ecosystem in Lathe R&D Institutes/Agencies and Industry.

ment of Ladakh Science Centre, S&T Research Grants on Ladakh-specific issues, entrepreneurship development, support to conferences/workshops, travel grant support to researchers from Ladakh; popularisation of science through annual programs such as Ladakh Science Congress and Children Science Congress, publication of scientific and policy papers, etc.

programmes, viz. establish-

It was informed that the proposal will be submitted to the Ministry of Science and Technology, GoI, for assistance in the development of the State Science and Technology Councils Programme.

the Ministry of Science and Technology at the earliest.

Herrnhut Mission Station in Leh from 1907 to 1913. During this period, they recorded their impressions of life in the Himalayas through photographs and letters. In addition to landscapes and everyday scenes, the collection of approxi-

Among those depicted are

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent **LEH:** The Ministry of these posts wherein the candidates from Ladakh Home Affairs sanctioned two Border Battalions and were excluded in the new two Women Battalions advertisement, and refor the Border districts of cruitment was restricted

the erstwhile J&K State which also included the then Ladakh Division. 270 posts for the Border Battalion and 162 posts for the Women Battalion were earmarked for the two districts of Ladakh i.e., Kargil and Leh.

The posts were advertised in 2019 and physical tests/examinations of the candidates from Ladakh who had applied for these posts were held between 27.07.2021 to 03.08.2021. However, the Police Headquarters J&K had canceled the earlier advertisement and re-advertised to only the Domiciles of

J&K government transfers 270 posts of Border Bat-

talions to Ladakh

the area to be declared

an international border,

enabling their children to

access employment op-

portunities in border-re-

Secretary, Atal Dulloo

be promptly conveyed to

the relevant authorities

instructed security forces

lated sectors.

Keeping the interest of the youth of Ladakh in mind, the Lieutenant Governor raised the issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs with the request to transfer the 432 posts meant for the UT of Ladakh. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide letter dated 05-06-2023 decided that the posts meant for Ladakh shall be transferred by the UT of J&K to the UT of Ladakh. Subsequently, the Honorable Lieutenant

Governor took up the mat-

ter with the Honorable

Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K vide D.O. No. LG-UTL/2023/168/247 dated 02-09-2023 with the request for early intervention in the matter.

As a result of due deliberations and follow-up, the Home Department, UT of J&K vide order No 443-Home of 2023 dated 11-09-2023 has transferred 270 posts of Border Battalions and 162 posts of Women Battalions which were earmarked for the districts of Ladakh i.e., Kargil and Leh today on 11 September 2023.

The recruitment process for filling these posts shall be resumed by the Administration of the UT of Ladakh very soon.

ects on issues of Ladakh in the evaluation and monitoring process of and strengthening the delivery mechanism for technology deployment, develop and support the appropriate programmes and systemic interventions for nurturing and catalysing dakh in coordination with

LG about the Governing Council and Executive Council, Sharma apprised the LG of the proposed

LG commended the department led by Sharma along with the University of Ladakh led by Prof SK Mehta for Along with informing the the initiative and instructed them to expedite the submission of the proposal to

# People's Voice:

# Debate intensifies: Should Ladakh have a railway line to boost connectivity?

Yangchen Dolma

Ever imagined a railway line in Ladakh? On July 26, 2023 Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed Parliament that the survey for a new rail project connecting the Union Territory of Ladakh with the rest of India has been completed. The 498-km proposed line is planned to start from Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh and via Manali will reach Leh. He said that the detailed project report has been prepared and there will be 40 railway stations along the line.

The line will be laid along 2,557.96 hectares of land. Nearly half of the railway line, up to 270 km, will snake through 62 tunnels. It will also entail the construction of 114 major bridges and 90 minor bridges. The hill rail project will also require the laying of 156 km of access roads.

The estimated cost of the project is approximately ₹99,201.40 crore. The new line will start from Beri, passing through the major towns of Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Sissi, Darcha Keylong, Sarchu, Pang, Rumtse, Upshi, Kharu and terminate at Leh Terminus.

The government claims that the railway line is the third such proposal to connect strategically important Ladakh with the rest of India and will give all-weather access to the armed forces, boost tourism, bring development in the region, and alternate travelling routes to the people beside road and air. However, the people of Ladakh have some mixed responses regarding the new railway line. Many have opposed the project and find it irrelevant in Ladakh which has a sparse population and is environmentally fragile. Let's read what they have to say about the new railway line?

Ishay Wangmo- Resident of Martselang: A Railway line should not be brought to Ladakh because the population is very sparse and won't be very helpful to the people. Rather it will be more beneficial if we have an adequate bus service that can reach every household.

I don't think the railway is so important and relevant for places like Ladakh. Bringing a railway line to Ladakh would have a significant impact on the environment as it would attract a large number of people from other parts of the country. Though the tourist influx is growing every year in Ladakh only those are coming who can afford it because of the expensive traveling cost.

With the opening of the railway, mass tourism will be encouraged which will put pressure on Ladakh's resources. There will be noise pollution along with all other negative impacts. I don't see any advantage of trains for Ladakh. For round-the-year connectivity they are building the Zojila Tunnel, so it will be more appropriate if they first fix the road properly and complete the tunnel at the earliest.

If we continue to use vehicles excessively, it will lead to more melting of glaciers and cause problems. If tomorrow we start breaking mountains to build railway tracks, how many problems will we have to face? It's not just us humans who live in Ladakh, but there are wildlife residing in the region. If we destroy their homes to build railways, where will they go?

The team who are assessing the nowadays is coming to our village Martselang and is not even informing us about their work and project. At least they should inform the villagers. Ladakh could end up in a situation like Joshimath too if we neglect it now and don't act responsibly.

Mutasif Hussain- Resident of Thiksay: In modern times, exaggerated claims fed to us of Ladakh being cut off from the world have impulsively forced us to look for avenues of connectivity with the larger world. On July 26, 2023 Honourable Member of Parliament from Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal tweeted quoting a reply by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways -'Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway line project with 40 stations, 62 tunnels, and 116 Bridges at the cost of Rs 99,201.40 Cr' is ready. Thus Ladakh 'hopefully' is prepared to welcome the 'mass' transporter into Ladakh.

Do we really need trains in Ladakh? Images of Former MP Thupstan Chhewang, Former MLC Chering Dorje Lakrook, Former MLA Nawang Rigzen Jora, and Late CEC LAHDC Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo appeared on the first page of the 8-page digital magazine detailing the railway project. Therefore, maybe we can trust that the stalwart leaders of Leh have thought through the requirement of Trains in Ladakh.

Why are Trains being introduced in Ladakh especially when Cultural and Environmental degradation is a given? Is it for the people of Ladakh, for the Tourists, strategic or Industrial requirements? Under the present Bureaucratic setup in Ladakh,, we can just hope that at the very least the Government has aimed for an integrated approach balancing the needs of the people of Ladakh and strategic necessities. Especially since The Hindu informs us that the other two planned railway lines into Ladakh, the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh (2016-17) and Pathankot-Leh (2017-18), were shelved citing 'low traffic projections' i.e. economic viability was cited as the main reason for its deferment.

The approved railway line is said to be 498 km between Bilaspur (HP) and Leh (UT Ladakh) and of the 40 stations, Sarchu, Pang, Rumtse, Upshi, Kharu, and Leh are mentioned.

The Railway enters Ladakh with the promise of all-weather, faster connectivity. However, the trains being introduced into Ladakh are not your standard trains. The introduction of special pressurized cabins as required in high altitudes forces us to ponder over the economic effectiveness of Train transportation in this region.

The Economic Times reports that Ashwini Vaishnaw clarified that railways will never be privatized however, the same article informs us that the ministry has 'asked to expedite monetization of other assets, including trains, goods sheds, hill rail, stadiums, railway colonies and railway land parcels among others.' The ministry likes to call it liberalization under the 'National Monetization Pipeline.' Whatever the larger economic reasons, it is not just the 'Train' that will enter Ladakh, but also big private players, Railway stations, railway colonies, Railway workers, etc. not forgetting the mass of people and thus new law and order complexities.

Then the question to be asked is merely introducing another form of transport connectivity in Ladakh, will that inherently make it efficient in terms of economic viability for the people of Ladakh? The complaints to check the atrocious airfare between Leh and various destinations charged by the airlines introduced in India as low-cost airlines have without fail fallen upon deaf ears.

> Tsetan Chuskit, Resident of Chemdey: Building a railway line in Ladakh might not be the best idea because it could have a significant impact on the beautiful nature and precious wildlife. The increasing traffic and pollution are already becoming a matter of concern for every Ladakhi and with the introduction of train, I feel that it may only aggravate the issues and cause more harm. And let's not forget about the maintenance of the railway line itself! The roads in far-flung villages are not even in good condition but the plan is going on for train.

While there may be some advantages, like faster transportation services, and alternate travelling routes but it's also very crucial to consider the potential negative impacts on the environment. Ultimately, I believe that development should be approached in a way that benefits everyone without causing significant

> Padma Dolma- Resident of Martselang: If there is a railway line, it will bring numerous benefits to us. The railway line will enhance connectivity in Ladakh, making travel easier and more convenient. It can contribute to the region's economic growth by facilitating trade and tourism. It can also have strategic significance in terms of defence and security. The construction and operation of the railway line can create job opportunities for locals. It will require supporting infrastructure development, which can further benefit the region. I also want to request the government to start preparing for this and I want to express my gratitude and its definitely something to look forward to.

# The World of 7

# **World Tourism Day**

World Tourism Day is observed on September The first time it was celebrated on 27 Septem-27 to highlight the significance of tourism as a tool for global development and cultural enlightenment. No doubt countries all over the world whether big or small some or the other way depend upon tourism for its economic survival and highlight their cultural, social, and political values. It is a unique opportunity to raise awareness of tourism and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

A special assembly was held in Mexico City on 27 September, 1970 by the International Union of Official Travel Organisation (IUOTO) and adopted the Statutes of the World Tourism Organisation. Then, UNWTO decided in late Sepber, 1980.

Do you know why 27 September is chosen for World Tourism Day because this date coincided with an important milestone in world tourism i.e. the anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on 27 September, 1970? Also, according to the UNWTO, the date is appropriate for World Tourism Day because it comes at the end of the high tourist season in the northern hemisphere and the start of the tourist season in the southern hemisphere. With a different theme, every year this day is celebrated with full enthusiasm.

tember 1979 to institute World Tourism Day. This World Tourism Day 2023, the UNWTO, Source: Jagran Josh & UNWTO webpage

under the theme "Tourism and green investment" highlights the need for more and better-targeted investments for the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN roadmap for a better world by 2030. Now is the time for new and innovative solutions, not just traditional investments that promote and underpin economic growth and productivity.

World Tourism Day 2023 will be a call to action to the international community, governments, multilateral financial institutions, development partners and private sector investors to unite around a new tourism investment strategy.

# SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

#### A newer you!



If going out on a trip is a great joy, it is also a great fun to return to one's sweet home. The sense of fulfilment when you go around newer places makes you feel that you are not only yet to learn many things but you also get a new angle of insight into the spiritual and the temporal world.

The fact that getting back gives one as much pleasure and excitement as going out does re-

mind us that there is nothing on this planet that is permanent. You go out for newer experiences and come back fulfilled to ponder on those great moments that moved you a lot and made you think afresh. Your perceptions of people and places change quite a lot, and you become a 'NEWER YOU.'

It is in human nature to find beauty and goodness in everything. That is because things change a lot slowly but steadily but your perception of men and material remain unchanged until you get to welcome the changes. That is why the joy of travelling has been beautifully described by St. Augustine: "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page"! What a great description, but I would like to put it this way: The world is an unending and expanding book that one can never do a complete reading but can definitely get better and wiser every time one decides to go footloose. Similarly, there s a necessity 'to come back to look back' on those experiences, and be a better person. The world is a great teacher as well and you can make yourself richer in knowledge and wisdom as much as your capacity allows.

Travelling gives you not only 'new eyes' but also a 'new mind' and your sense of exploration widens and you could have a feeling that the world is too big to conquer or too small to give you fulfilment. That depends on your mindset.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

# DIDYOUKNOW

- The Amazon is thought to be home to 10% of known species on Earth.And incredibly, a new species of animal or plant is discovered in the Amazon every other day on average.
- More than 400 different indigenous groups live in the Amazon, which is more than anywhere else on earth, and around 300 indigenous languages are spoken throughout the Amazon.
- Shockingly, the first 9 months of 2022 saw the highest recorded deforestation rates in the Brazilian Amazon since 2016. The main causes of deforestation are cattle ranching and agriculture, the building of roads and other in frastructure, illegal logging, mining, and land grabbing and speculation.
- · Space junk is any human-made object orbiting Earth that no longer serves a useful purpose. Scientists estimate there are about 500,000 pieces of space junk today, including fragments from rockets and satellites, and everyday items like spanners dropped during construction of the International Space Station!
- You wouldn't be able to walk on Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus or Neptune because they have no solid surface!
- Puffins are known as 'sea parrots' due to their brightly coloured bills and are mainly found on rocky coasts and offshore islands.
- Oak trees may live for 1,000 years, although 600 years is more typical - an oak tree is



classed as ancient once it reaches 400 years old. In the UK, 326 species are completely dependent on oak trees, including 257 species of invertebrates.

- In 2022, woodland covered 32,400 sq km of the UK; or 13% of the UK's land. Ancient woodland covers only 2.5% of the UK. Sadly, up to 70% of ancient woodlands in the UK have already been lost.
- 1,225 of the UK's ancient woods are currently under threat from development, overgrazing, air pollution and the spread of invasive species such as rhododendron. Around half of the UK's remaining ancient woodlands are affected by felling and replanting with non-native conifers.

#### In Conversation with

**Fortnightly News** 

# Rigzin Lachic Wangmo, Entrepreneur

#### Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

#### Q. Brief us about yourself.

I was born in Leh but never really got a time to spend my childhood days in Ladakh as my father was serving in the Airforce, and we had to move around with his postings. I spent my school days studying in different parts of India. I pursued IT Engineering in Delhi and worked in Tokyo in a typical corporate setup and later at a startup in Delhi. I spent all my life outside Ladakh and used to visit every year during summer vacations. My grandmother is the one who inspired me and kept me connected to the place. In 2017, I came back to Leh because I always had it in my mind and realized the purpose of going back home. I spent my initial days in Ladakh by traveling and exploring every nook and corner of Ladakh. All those trekking and places, meeting people taught me so much about the place and reconnected me to my roots.

#### Q. Share the story of your venture, the idea of 'Dolkhar' and 'Tsas by Dolkhar'.

I always wanted to work for Ladakh and its people, but to do social work, you also need capital. Thus, I came up with the idea of a tourism-driven business model by integrating traditional practices. This is how the idea of setting up a boutique property came up, and we restructured the 150-year-old ancestral property into a space that values sustainability and also refreshes my memory of old Leh. I named the property "Dolkhar" after my grandmother, and the front building of the property is the replica of our old ancestral house. When we dismantled the old house, we reused the bricks, wood, stone, and all other materials, resulting in less waste compared to modern buildings. This experience taught me that traditional construction methods are eco-friendly, and I decided to use natural materials as much as possible while constructing Dolkhar.

Dolkhar is made of locally sourced materials using traditional construction techniques. It is rooted in Ladakh's people, culture, and practices. The villas are built with compressed stabilized earth blocks, local wood, traditional columns, and beams that showcase Ladakhi craftsmanship. The whole developmental process aims at creating a zero waste and zero plastic ecosystem.

Tsas by Dolkhar is a vegetarian restaurant associated with Dolkhar. It showcases Ladakh's culinary traditions while incorporating innovative approaches. The recipes are designed to reduce kitchen waste. The inspiration behind opening Tsas was to offer guests a unique dining experience that celebrates Ladakhi culture, local ingredients, and sustainable practices. Tsas supports local farmers and producers by sourcing ingredients directly from them.

Q. You have been supporting local artisans along with promoting Ladakhi culture. Share more about it.

During my initial days in Ladakh when I was exploring the region, I came across many artisans such as straw basket weavers, potters in Likir village, a coppersmith/silversmith from Tsogsti village, a resident of Turtuk village who practices stone carving work, and many more. I felt that all these skills and craftsmanship need to be valued because they might be the last generation of its kind. That's where the idea for 'Hatti,' a shop where these traditional artisans can sell their goods to both locals and tourists, came into being. There is a good response, but due to demand and supply issues, we are facing challenges.

#### Q. What is your view on sustainable tourism in Ladakh?

When it comes to tourism, achieving 100 percent sustainability may not be possible, but we can strive to balance it out and reduce the impact. Sustainability involves not only environmental aspects but also social and economic impacts. We can contribute by constructing energy-efficient buildings, reducing waste, being mindful of our waste generation, and conserving water. In Dolkhar, we have just 7 energy-efficient rooms with eco-friendly products, and the limited number of rooms is deliberate to reduce the overall environmental impact, save water, and maintain economic viability. The goal is to embrace modernization without losing the essence of traditional knowledge and practices.

Q. You have been honored with the prestigious 'Forward Thinker in Travel' title at the Inspiring Women in Travel-Asia (IWTA) 2023 awards. What do you have to say about it?

I never expected to win this title considering there are so many experienced women who have done incredible work. Winning the title for a project in Ladakh, which is relatively small when compared to others in Asia, overwhelmed me and made me realize that local Ladakhi initiatives can also be valuable. I hope this award helps people recognize the value of traditional knowledge and practices because in Ladakh, we often don't appreciate our own local products and traditions.

# Q. How do you see the tourism sector in Ladakh? What are the challenges and actions needed?

I believe there's a need to change the mindset of all stakeholders in the tourism industry. Instead of focusing solely on one's own business and property, we need to step back and think about the whole of Ladakh. Tourists come to Ladakh for its uniqueness, landscapes, natural beauty, rich culture, and tradition, not just to stay in hotels. Therefore, we must preserve these assets to ensure the growth of individual businesses.

Additionally, some tourist destinations in Ladakh are overpromoted, leading to only a few benefiting. There's a need to explore and promote many other destinations so that everyone can benefit.

### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

"In a world where self-centeredness is prevalent, we need more empathy and compassion, even in business. An empathetic approach, considering the environment, society, and the economy, can help create a better world. Every individual's small contribution can make a significant difference."

# **Fortnight Highlights**



Animal Birth Control and Anti-Rabies Vaccination Camp was held at the Block headquarters in Tangtse. A total of 182 dogs were sterilized and given anti-rabies vaccines.



A delegation from the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile comprising Members of Parliament, Dawa Tsering; Tenpa Yangphel and Yeshi Dolma; President, Local Tibetan Assembly, Dhundup Tsering and Officiating Community Representative Officer (CRO), Karma Sonam met L-G Ladakh at Raj Niwas.



A delegation comprising of Member of Parliament of Central Tibetan Administration expressed gratitude to Hill Council, Leh for the extensive support and dedicated measures undertaken for the welfare of the Tibetan community residing in Ladakh.



A delegation comprising of Member of Parliament of Central Tibetan Administration expressed gratitude to Hill Council, Leh for the extensive support and dedicated measures undertaken for the welfare of the Tibetan community residing in Ladakh.



During the inaugural session of the international conference themed 'Geothermal Ladakh PIVOT 2023 Building Bridges' organised by Mountain Research Institute, University of Ladakh in collaboration with Women in Geothermal (India) and Inner Project Space, USA in Leh.



Joint Secretary (JS) MoRD Smriti Sharan convened a meeting of Ladakh Rural Livelihood Mission (LRLM), operating under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) on September 5.



MC Kargil in coordination with other departments and NYK Kargil, conducted a Swachata Pakhawada cleanliness drive at Api Nallah, Kabadi Nallah, and Adul Gund, Kargil



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson visited and assessed development projects at various site including Cooperative Super Bazaar, legacy waste clearing site at Bomb Garh Leh and New Transport Stand near Bomb Garh Leh.

**Fortnightly News** 

#### Senstisation workshop held on sexual harassment of women at workplace

Reach Ladakh Correspondent Sensitization LEH:

workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) for the employees of Deputy Commissioner's office Leh held on September 6.

The workshop was organised by State Hub for Empowerment of Women, under the Department of Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh to promote safe and inclusive work environment.

District Program Officer, Leh, Sonam Norboo aimed to raise awareness and educate participants about the critical provisions of the Act, which is designed to prevent and address sexual harassment issues in the workplace. Besides, ACR Leh, Shabir Hussain was also present during the workshop.

District Social Welfare Officer, Leh; Nilza Angmo stressed the significance of such initiatives in creating safer work environments. She added that workshops like these play a pivotal role in spreading



Sensitization workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace.

awareness and ensuring that every woman feels secure and respected at her workplace. Further, she informed that the Internal Committee I/C have been formed recently in UT La-

During the workshop, Specialist, Gender Deachen Angmo provided insights into the Act's nuances, highlighting the responsibilities of employ-ers and employees alike in ensuring a harassment-free workplace. She discussed various aspects of the law, including the definition of sexual harassment, the redressal mechanisms available to victims, and the procedures for filing complaints.

Similarly, Research & Training Specialist, Tashi Lamo briefed about the various schemes under Mission Shakti, like One Centre, Women Helpline, among others.

In conclusion, participants, including government officials, and members engaged in interactive sessions and case studies to better understand how to identify, prevent, and effectively address instances of workplace sexual harassment.

#### DC, Kargil, discusses arrangements for Swachhta Pakhwada

Schedule to be observed from September 15 to October 2

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse discussed the arrangements and participation of various departments in the upcoming Swachhta Pakhwada, scheduled to be observed from September 15 to October 2, 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

The meeting was attended by DFO Kargil, MC Officer Kargil, CEO Kargil, Executive Engineer, PHE Kargil, Executive Engineer, I&FC Kargil, DPO Kargil, ARTO Kargil, various officers from police and other departments.

At the outset of the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner received updates on various pre-event activities and discussed measures aimed at ensuring the seamless execution of the upcoming event.

During the meeting, DC Shrikant inquired about the plans and activities of each department in relation to Swachhta Pakhwada. He directed the department heads to ensure the cleaning of their respective offices and properties.

He specifically instructed the I&FC Department to undertake the task of cleaning the streams and



Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse discussing the arrangements and participation of various departments in the upcoming Swachhta Pakhwada.

Nallahs. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of raising awareness among the public regard-ing the cleanliness of water bodies.

The DC also directed the PHE Department to focus on cleaning the sources of drinking water and educating the public about their importance. Furthermore, he instructed the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department to actively participate in cleanliness drives across various Blocks and Panchayats.

He instructed the relevant departments to prioritize the cleanliness of government buildings, offices, hospitals, schools, and other public places.

The DC instructed all officers and officials from every department to take responsibility for main-

taining cleanliness not only within their office buildings but also in their premises and the surrounding areas, with the goal of creating a clean and tidy environment.

> In addition to the aforementioned directives, the Education Department was instructed to actively engage in the event and organize related activities.

DC Kargil also directed the Tourism Department for the cleaning of tourist destinations, parks, base camps, trekking sites etc.

DC Shrikant also directed the concerned departments to raise awareness among the general public regarding the significance of cleanliness. In conclusion, a pledge was taken to work collectively towards creating a clean and healthy society

#### Preparatory meeting for Kargil International Marathon held



During the preparatory meeting for the Kargil International Marathon.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** A preparatory meeting for the Kargil International Marathon was convened by ADC, Kargil Ghulam Mohi-ud-in Wani on September 12.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations and discussions were held on the different aspects pertaining to the successful conduct of the marathon. During the meeting, ADC mittee Mem Margil took a detailed re-During the meeting, the the meeting.

view of the arrangements to be made by the concerned departments.

The departments provided the necessary information to ensure the successful organization of the marathon. ADC emphasized the importance of implementing all required measures to ensure the event's suc-

transportation plan during the marathon, management of participants, security, refreshments, medical, water, roles and responsibilities of each department, and law and order situation were also discussed thoroughly.

ADC Wani instructed all departments to make comprehensive arrangements to ensure the successful execution of the marathon. He directed all concerned officers that carelessness of any kind wouldn't be tolerated during the event management and all arrangements should be made in a timely manner.

Chief Controller, Finance, ACR, AD Information, District Youth Services & Sports officer, Kargil, representative nominated by SSP, Kargil, representative of 121 HQ (Army), representative of NHIDCL, Kargil, Founder President, Sarhad, Chief Coordinator, President AKTTA Kargil, District Kargil Olympic Association, President Ladakh Olympic Association, Kargil, beside Sub Committee Members attended

#### Principal Secretary reviews 24x7 water supply status in Leh & Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Principal Secretary to the Administration, Housing & Urban Development Department, UT Ladakh Sanjeev Khirwar reviewed the status of 24x7 water supply in Leh & Kargil, at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on September

detailed presentation on the status of the 24x7 water supply in Leh and Kargil by the Tata Consulting Engineers covered various aspects, including the wards, scope of work, GIS Base map, population projection, and water plan of towns, current and further plans for water supply in UT Ladakh.

The 24x7 water supply is a crucial step towards enhancing the water infrastructure and ensuring sustainable access to clean

Sanjeev Khirwar expressed the significance of the review, stating, "Assessing Ladakh's water supply system is vital to addressing the growing water challenges faced by the region. We are committed to ensuring that Ladakh's residents have access to clean and reliable water sources, and this review is a crucial step towards achieving that goal."

work in coordination to create a comprehensive strategy that aims to ensure equitable and reliable access to water for all residents of Ladakh, the Principal Secretary stated.

The Administration will



Principal Secretary to the Administration, Housing & Urban Development Department, UT Ladakh Sanjeev

The review meeting concluded with a commitment to develop a detailed action plan based on the assessment's findings, and a dedicated commitment to undertake responsible actions aimed at addressing diverse ments, resource managefacets of water supply plan- ment strategies, technology

ning, encompassing infrastructure development, conservation initiatives, and fostering community engagement. This plan will guide the implementation of infrastructure improvety engagement initiatives.

integration, and communi-

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretary, PHE/I&FC; Director of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), UT Ladakh; Chief Engineer of Public Chief Engineer of Public Health Engineering, UT Ladakh; Executive Engineer of Public Health Engineering, Leh; officers from concerned departments; Project Management Unit (PMU) H&UDD, UT Ladakh; Representative from Tata Consultancy; Representatives from Shah Consultancy, while Deputy Commissioner/CEO of LAHDC, Kargil; Executive Engineer of Public Health Engineering, Kargil; and concerned officers joined the meeting virtually.

#### DC, Leh, convenes Swatchhata Pakhwada meeting



Deputy Commissioner of Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve convening a meeting on 'Swachhata Pakhwada' initiative.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner of Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve convened a meeting on September 12 at the DC Conference hall and discussed the upcoming 'Swatchhata Pakhwada' initiative. 'Swatchhata Pakhwada,'

a week-long cleanliness drive, is scheduled to be observed from September 11 to 17 with a multitude of pre-event and main event activities planned. Pre-event activities include 'Swatchhta League' between Leh and Kargil, coupled with a thorough

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

missioner, Leh, Santosh

Sukhadeve chaired a meet-

ing of the District TB Fo-

rum under the National

Programme on September

District Tuberculosis Of-

ficer, Leh, Dr. Diskit Dol-

ma gave an overview of

the current tuberculosis

situation in Leh and the

measures being taken to

combat the disease. She

discussed the latest ad-

Com-

LEH: Deputy

cleanliness drive in the vicinity of Leh Palace and Tsemo. Additionally, a cycling event and cleanliness drive in Trench Ward No. 1 have been organised. A painting competition and mass awareness campaign

like EJM and Polytechnic, are also set to take place. Plogging activities along the Indus River will mark the celebration of the 9th anniversary of the Swatch Bharat Mission.

District TB Forum meeting held in Leh

Leh registers 191 TB cases in 2022 and 107 in 2023 till September 7

of Educational Institutions

concerning cleanliness, engaging the participation

has been sought from SID-CO and the Transport Department for maintaining cleanliness in buses, along with a thematic painting competition. A plantation drive and a program aimed at supporting sanitary workers have been added to the agenda, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to enhancing cleanliness and hygiene in the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner, Leh Santosh Sukhadeve emphasized the importance of civic awareness and the involvement of all stakeholders in preserving the pristine beauty of Ladakh. It was also discussed that the engagement of wholesalers would be sought to ensure a holistic waste management approach.

The meeting concluded with all participants taking a Swatchhta pledge, reaffirming their commitment to making Leh a cleaner Furthermore, cooperation and greener place to live.

#### **Meeting on sewerage treatment** plants held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** In a significant sustainable development aimed at addressing vital infrastructure needs, the Principal Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Sanjeev Khirwar, took charge by convening a high-level meeting at the sized that sewerage treat-Civil Secretariat in Leh on ment plants should not September 13.

The meeting focused on the critical subject of Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) and their crucial role in improving sanitation and environmental conditions in the region.

At the outset of the meetgroundbreaking advance- across the UT. ments in sewage manage-

The Principal Secretary emphasized the UT Ladakh administration's commitment to environmental sustainability, detailing operates in an eco-friend- agency.

ly manner. He highlighted the plant's increased capacity to handle sewage, demonstrating its ability to accommodate growing urban populations while maintaining high-quality treatment standards.

Sanjeev Khirwar emphaonly treat sewage effectively but also meet stringent environmental standards. He underscored the importance of involving local communities in the planning and execution of sewage treatment projects.

Discussions and deliberations revolved around the ing, the consultant agency ambitious plans for the ex-Yash Innovative Solutions pansion and establishment left an indelible mark by of new Sewerage Treatdelivering a comprehen- ment Plants in Ladakh. The sive and detailed presenta- objective is to meet the tion on the state-of-the-art growing demands of ursewerage treatment plant banization while preservin Leh. The meeting, at- ing the pristine environtended by key stakeholders ment of the region. STPs and experts in the field, are expected to significantserved as a pivotal moment ly enhance sanitation and in shedding light on the environmental conditions

The meeting was held with the attendance of the Director of the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), UT Ladakh; key officials and officers from UT Adminishow the treatment plant tration, and the consultant

#### **Meeting on Pradhan Mantri** Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana proposal held

Directed officers to submit demands of respective departments with approximate cost

Reach Ladakh Correspondent department's requirements



Com-LEH: Deputy missioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve chaired a meeting to deliberate on proposals under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKK-KY), also known as the District Mineral Funds in the VC room of DC office Leh on September 4.

The meeting aimed to address the pressing needs of different departments and prioritize the allocation of funds from the PMKKKY for projects that would benefit the people of Leh district.

Additionally, DC Leh added that the proposals will

During the meeting, district officers representing various government de-

and discuss the projects that required financial support under the PMKKKY. Commissioner,

Leh emphasized the importance of a transparent and efficient allocation of funds under the PMKKKY. He directed all attending officers to promptly submit their department's demands with approximate cost estimation, to facilitate the decision-making process. In line with the spirit of

the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana, the meeting demonstrated a collective effort to ensure that the benefits of mineral resources directly contribute to the welfare and development of the local communities in Leh.

undergo scrutiny and evaluation to determine their feasibility and alignment with the overarching goals partments present their of the PMKKKY.

#### vancements in diagnosis Regarding Nakshay Mitras, she informed that 24 tv Commissioner Leh and treatment, highlightemphasized the crucial ing the importance of early people are providing help importance of de-stigmadetection and timely intertizing tuberculosis (TB)

vention. She also apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the 'TB Mukt Panchayat' and added that the aim is

to empower PRIs to realize the extent and magnitude of problems associated with TB and take necessary actions towards addressing these problems, create healthy competition amongst Panchayats to eliminate TB and to publicly appreciate their contribution.

It was informed that there are 191 TB cases registered in the district in 2022 and 107 TB cases notified in 2023 till September 7.



During the meeting of the District TB Forum under the National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme.

to TB patients as Nakshay

DC,Leh emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in tackling health challenges, particularly tuberculosis. He highlighted the need for a concerted approach to achieve better outcomes in tuberculosis prevention and treatment.

Further, he asked the District TB officer to ensure that all the identified and listed TB patients get proper nutritional support from Nakshay Mitras.

Discussing the stigma attached to TB, Depu-

DTO to start the 'Ayushman Bhav' program on Mission mode to achieve 100% coverage of health schemes. The meeting was attended

by the District Panchayat Officer, Leh; Representative of CMO, Leh; Physician Specialist, SNM, Leh; Health Coordinator SOS Leh; President Women Alliance Leh, State Law Officer, NHM, President, Merchant Association; TB champions and other concerned staff.

and directed them to work

extensively on creating

awareness among the peo-

ple. He also directed the

#### PUBLICITY FOR TENDER NOTICE FOR BARBER SHOP SERVICES AT FIRE & FURY SHOPPING COMPLEX

Tender/Quotation are invited from prospective bidders for provision of Men Barber Shop Services at Fire & Fury Shopping Complex based on priority as decided by IHQ of mod (Army) and rebate

Detailed terms and condition to be obtained from 1801 Pioneer Unit (Mob No 7080123405, E-Mail -ranibagh.1962@gmail.com) before submission of Tender/Quotation.

Interested bidder may submit quotation on their letter head by 1000 hrs by 21 September 2023 alongwith a Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/Postal Order of Rs. 5000/- (Refundable)

#### **Devendra Fadnavis lays foundation stone of Trishul** War Memorial, museum



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHARU: Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra laid the foundation stone for renovation of Trishul War Memorial and Museum at Kharu on September 3.

The War Memorial and Museum is an effort to honour the sacrifices and great contributions made by the personnel of the Division in defending the honour and integrity of the Nation. The museum is being constructed at Kharu in Trishul Division, adjacent to the Trishul War Memorial, and is in the shape of a Trishul with three exhibition halls covering all the operations carried out thus far by the Indian Army. The museum will also have an auditorium that will showcase the glorious accomplishments of the Indian Army in the

Kargil and Ladakh sectors. It will be constructed over an area of nearly 9,000 square feet amidst the scenic backdrop of Ladakh mountain ranges and the Indus River and is expected to have a substantial number of visitors in the tourist season, which will serve as an inspiration.

The inauguration ceremony at Kharu was conducted at the proposed site of the museum and was attended by the General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps, General Officer Commanding, Trishul Division, and Shrikant Bhartiya, Member of Legislative Committee, Govt of Maharashtra. The inauguration stone was unveiled on the occasion and marked the site of the museum as a tribute from Govt of Maharashtra and

all grateful citizens of the nation. A large number of Veterans, Veer Naris, community members, and students turned up to witness the momentous occasion.

Devendra Fadnavis high-lighted that it is a rightful tribute to the Bravehearts of Ladakh who have made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation. He highlighted that the museum is an example of civil-military cooperation at the highest level and it will serve as an inspiration for generations to come. He further highlighted that the Govt of Maharashtra shall stand in close cooperation with army authorities in the successful execution of the project.

The Trishul Division has a glorious history of being the defenders of the mountains. They have actively participated in operations of 1962, 1965, 1971, 1991, and 1999.

Fire and Fury Corps expresses its gratitude to the Govt of Maharashtra for its generous contribution to the construction of the Trishul War Museum which will place Kharu on the tourism map of Ladakh and will showcase the golden history of Trishul

#### GDC Drass launches first batch of "21st Century **Employability Skills Course**"



The first batch of "21st Century Employability Skills Course: Intermediate" at GDC, Drass.

Students playing volleyball during the three-day intra-

fit and healthy.

He advised the players

to enjoy the games and

maintain the spirit of the game as well. He also

lauded the Director Phys-

ical Education and Sports,

Mohd Yassin, for organiz-

The event started with a

men's Volleyball match

between Tololing House

and Tiger Hill House, in

which Tiger Hill House

emerged as winner and

the second match was

NOTICE

No 9928429 P Rank NK Rinchen Gyaltson Unit 2 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO

has claimed that his Father- in-law namely Tsering Wangchuk has been wrongly entered as Tsering Angchok instead of Tsering Wangchuk in the Army

record of, Unit 2nd Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly

verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA0541213544870V to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 2nd Ladakh

Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which nec

ing the tournament.

mural tournament at GDC Drass.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DRASS:** Department of

Physical Education and

Sports, Govt. Degree Col-

lege Drass kick-started a

three-day intramural tour-

nament in various sports

activities on September

Dr Amjad Ali Abbasi,

Principal GDC Drass in-

augurated the event and

briefed the players about

the scope and importance

of sports and emphasized

the significance of physi-

cal exercise to the human

body for keeping oneself

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DRASS:** The first batch of "21st Century Employability Skills Course: Intermediate" was launched at GDC, Drass on September 11. A total number of 26 students have enrolled for this course.

Employability Course: by Wadhwani Foundation collaboration with the

ment UT Ladakh. It is a three-month skills course aimed at honing fundamental skills such as communication, teamwork, customer centricity, attitude and behavioral skills, problem-solving, work- and assured them that this place awareness skills, and well-structured interview skills, among will significantly enhance

Higher Education Depart- tance of the course, Stan- future.

3-day intramural tournament begins at GDC Drass

zin Stamdin, the course trainer, urged students to maximize their benefits from it and advised them to engage with the course content daily and complete the exercise diligently.

In-charge Principal of the college, Mumtaz Ahmad congratulated the first-ever batch of the course. He said that this batch is a trial run and assured that if students make the best use of it, the college will increase its intake capacity in the upcoming batches.

Assistant Professor, Sajad Hussain also encouraged students to take this wonderful course seriously course their basic skills, preparing them for various com-

played between two wom-

en's teams; Batra Top and

won the match with a mar-

In the afternoon session, a

Table Tennis matches were

held. The first match was

played between Moham-

mad Ashraf of 3rd semester

and Mubasir Hussain of 1st

semester. The former player

won the match by defeating

the latter by 2-1. The second

match was played between

Naseem Ahmad of the 3rd

semester and Mudasir Hus-

sain of the 5th semester in

which Naseem defeated his

The first women's table

tennis match was played

between Farhat Anjum of

the 3rd semester and Archo

Kubra of the 5th semester,

which was won by Farhat

Assistant Professor of Zo-

ology Mohd Ali was the

match referee in volleyball

Anjum.

matches.

rival with a close margin.

petitive exams in the near Emphasizing the impor-

gin of 08 points.

# **Fortnightly News**

DURBUK: Poshan Tracker Application, a revolutionary mobile application aimed at improving nutrition outcomes among children and women, conducted a successful training session in Durbuk on September 12.

The training, which fo-cused on equipping An-ganwadi workers with the necessary skills to effectively utilize the application, witnessed the participation of dedicated workers from all the anganwadi workers of the area.

It was informed that the Poshan Tracker Application has covered four projects, making a signifcant impact in enhancing the delivery of vital nutrition services to vulnerable communities. The recent training at Durbuk aimed to further expand the reach of this life-changing initiative by empowering local Anganwadi workers with hands-on training.

State Coordinator from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ankush Sharma conducted the training. His expertise and knowledge proved invaluable in familiarizing the participants with the functionalities of the Poshan Tracker Application, enabling them to efficiently monitor and record crucial data related to the nutritional status of beneficiaries.

During the training, Anganwadi workers were

Anganwadi workers learning the necessary skills to effectively utilize the Poshan tracker application.

made to walk through various modules of the application, including data entry, monitoring, and reporting functionalities. The session also provided an opportunity for the workers to clarify any doubts and concerns, ensuring their complete understanding of the application's potential.

Further, it was informed that the Poshan Tracker Application has already

made substantial progress in transforming the way Anganwadi workers collect and analyze data pertaining to nutrition services. By streamlining the process, the application enables real-time monitoring and tracking, ensuring timely interventions and improved outcomes for beneficiaries.

Ankush expressed his satisfaction with the enthusi-

Poshan tracker application training empowers Anganwadi workers in Durbuk asm demonstrated by the Anganwadi workers during the training. He emphasized the importance of leveraging technology to tackle malnutrition effectively and praised the Poshan Tracker Application for its role in this mission.

> The Poshan Tracker Application is a mobile-based platform designed to improve the nutrition outcomes among children and women in India. By digitizing data collection and monitoring processes, the application enables real-time tracking, timely interventions, and improved outcomes. The initiative aims to support the Government of India's National Nutrition Mission, focused on reducing malnutrition and improving the overall health of the country's population.

#### Joint Secretary MoRD Smriti Sharan visits TSG, Sankoo



Reach Ladakh Correspondent KARGIL: Joint Secretary of NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Smriti Sharan, accompanied by Anchor Person NRLM for UT Ladakh, Shrimati Vasuda Shukla, along with the NRLM team, visited TSG and Sankoo on Sep-

During their visit, they engaged with local village organizations and members of Self Help Groups SHGs). The SHG members showcased local and forest products at stalls established in collaboration with BDO Drass, coordination with ACD Office.

The NRLM team, along with Director RD&PRD, Tahir Hussain Zabdavi, ACD Kargil, Ghulam Mohd, and BDO Sankoo, Kaneez Fatima, provided a comprehensive briefing on the operations and overview of SHGs. They discussed the various livelihood products being developed by the SHGs and also highlighted the challenges that these groups have encountered.

The Joint Secretary recommended that NRLM members should focus on strengthening the NRLM program, which is dedicated to empowering women in rural villages of Ladakh. Smriti Sharan instructed the NRLM team to acknowledge that the SHGs in the region are in their early stages, underscoring the importance of launching their efforts with unwavering commitment right from the outset.

She encouraged SHG

support of the NRLM team and advised them to prioritize savings, which will prove beneficial in the long term.

She also emphasised technological intervention for local forest products in rural villages for SHG VO and CLF so that value addition in all sectors may achieved in time timebound period.

The Joint Secretary also inquired about various trades and gave a patient hearing to the grievances of SHGs and assured of all possible

She was overwhelmed by the products showcased by the SHG groups. She emphasized various schemes pertinent to women's empowerment by the Ministry of RDD.

Furthermore, Smriti Sharan asked the SHGs to focus on packaging and marketing.

Later, she thanked all the allied departments for their contribution and asked for joint coordination to support them and make them members to leverage the financially independent.

#### 224 cases disposed of in Lok Adalat in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A total of 224 The 1st bench was presidcases were disposed of out ed over by Iqbal Ahmad of 474 cases and the settlement amount of

₹ 8,31,011 and a fine of ₹ 35,700 was imposed during the National Lok Adalat held in Kargil on September 9.

The Lok Adalat was organised by the District Legal Services Authority Kargil in which five benches were constituted for different kinds of cases pending in the Courts like criminal Compoundable matters, and cases u/s 138 NI Act. MACT cases, Bank recovery cases, Matrimonial disputes, and other civil cases, etc.

Masoudi, Principal District and Sessions Judge Kargil and Advocate Asgar Ali Yarkain, the 2nd bench was presided over by Phuntsog Angmo Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate/Secretary DLSA Kargil and Advocate Muzaffar Hussain, the 3rd bench was presided over by Shafiq Mushtaq Lone, Ld. Munsiff/ JMIC Sankoo and Advocate Aga Syed Abass, the 4th bench was presided over by Imran Hanif, Munsiff Additional/ Special Mobile Magistrate Drass and Tehsildar Drass and the 5th bench was presided over by Abdul Gaffar Zargar, SDM Shakar Chiktan and Tehsildar Kargil.

#### CEC, Leh, assesses Integrated Solid Waste Management plant functioning

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson visited the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) plant at Skampari, Leh on September 3 and Zojila Top. Team Zojila Top assessed the operations of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

> Team of district officers, including Chairperson, Block Development Council, Leh, Dr. Skalzang Dorjey; Additional District Development Commissioner, Leh; Sonam Nurboo; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh; Stanzin Rabgais; Executive Engineer, PWD (Construction Division) and other concerned officials were present during the visit.

Executive Officer, MC eh briefed the functioning of the ISWM plant, where sanitary workers and machines are used to segregate the waste, sort recyclables into different components, and send them outside Ladakh to the designated recycler. He



the decision to augment manpower for effective operations with enhanced remuneration of the work-

also visited the legacy waste site at Bombguard,

Waste Management (ISWM) plant at Skampari, Leh.

CEC Gyalson interacted with the sanitary workers of the ISWM plant and taking note of their grievances, he instructed Executive Officer, MC Leh to undertake necessary actions such as regular health check-ups, health insurance, and enhanced remunerations at the earliest. Further he asked to extend all possible assistance to resolve their issues, considering their hazard-

also apprised CEC about Leh and reviewed the ongoing cleaning process of the dumpsite and the legacv waste.

> The representatives of the agency assigned to clean the legacy waste at Bombguard, Leh, informed that more than 90% of the legacy waste has been cleared and assured to complete the remaining work in the coming 10-12 days.

> CEC Gyalson added that detailed deliberations will be held regarding the effective and sustainable management of the enormous waste generated in the region that peaks during the tourist season and further processing of the Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) generated at the waste management plants.

#### NOTICE



Whereas, Ramita Shahi D/o Gangaram Shahi and Mansara Shahi R/o Nepal has claimed that her name has been wrongly entered as Ramita Limbu instead of Ramita Shahi, and her father's name has been wrongly entered as Khadga Bahdur instead of Gangaram Shahi also her mother's name

has been wrongly entered as Mana Sara Shashi instead of Mansara Shahi, and her Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 12-05-2004 instead of 14-05-2004 in her School Record of Govt. High School Thiksey UT Ladakh. Now, I am applying for the necessary correction in the school record. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Govt. High School Thiksey UT Ladakh within 7 days from the Date of publication.

#### NOTICE



Whereas Rigzin Angmo D/o Rigzin Wangchuk, Date of Birth 11-09-2000 R/o Ayu Saboo, District ben UT Ladakh, has claimed that her name has been wrongly entered as Rigzen Angmo instead of actual

and correct name which is Rigzin Angmo in her passport bearing
Number M2598127 date of issue 16-10-2014 and
is applying for the correction in the passport. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Regional Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication.

#### NOTICE



Whereas, Tsetan Dolker D/o Punchok Dorjey R/o Skindiyang, Leh has claimed that her father's name has been wrongly recorded as Punchok Dorjay instead of the correct name which is Punchok Dorjey in her Ladakh Resident Certificate bearing no. Teh/K/RC/2021-986 duly issued by Tehsii Office, Khaltse Leh-Ladakh.

Now, I am applying for the correction in my Ladakh Resident Certificate. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Khaltse within 07 days from the date of publication.

#### NOTICE



I, Urgeen Chokling S/o Thinlas Thirchan & Rigzen Angmo R/o Skindiyang , Khaltse, Leh UT Ladakh claims that his father's name has been wrongly entered as Thinles Tharchin instead of Thinlas Thirchan and also his Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 17-12-2007 instead of correct Date

of Birth 07-12-2007 in his 10th Pass Certificate duly issued by The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education through Imamia Model School, Leh under Roll no. 150013019 with Registration No.2150002000520020. Now I am applying for the correction in my Pass Certificates. Objection if any may be sent to the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education Jammu/ Leh within 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

#### CEC along with other officials at the Integrated Solid

ous working conditions. Later, CEC and the team

### NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'SEMCHAN WELFARE SOCIETY' Leh UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860. List of Executive members of the Society:

S.NO	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation
1	Jigmet Nurzin Angmo	D/o Nawang Chonjor	Skara	President
2	Jigmat Morup	S/o Tsering Morup	Sankar	Vice-President
3	Vishal Saroch	S/o Rakesh Saroch	Jammu	Secretary
4	Sonam Gyalpo	S/o Tsewang Phuchok	Stok	Manager
5	Tenzin Spaldon	D/o Tsering Motup	Saspol	Cashier
6	Kanmila Rungsung	W/o Dawa Tsering	Choglamsar	Executive Member
7	Stanzin Chorol	D/o Tonyot Chozang	Charasa, Nubra	Executive Member

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

> President 'SEMCHAN WELFARE SOCIETY' Leh UT Ladakh

# **NOTICE**

An application has been received from one Nazir Hussain S/o Mohd Hussain R/o Chuchot Gongma, Leh - UT Ladakh to transfer the Vehicle No. JK10 A 5059 owned by Zakir Hussain S/o Gulzar Hussain R/o Horzey, Leh-UT Ladakh. Now, it is therefore notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) within a period of 10 days from date of publication of this notice.

No: ARTO/Leh/ 2508-9 Date: 13-09 2023

essary correction will be made.

Asstt. Regional Transport Officer Leh Ladakh

# CHUNKA JEWELLERS

MAIN BAZAR,NEAR CHOCHO SOUVENIR SHOP, LEH, LADAKH-194101 MOBILE NO: +91 9596747885



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