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October 01-15, 2023

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



**In Conversation with**  
Tsering Samphel, Former MLA & Member,  
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

**Opinion:**  
Fostering religious harmony and national integration through education

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**Ladakh Festival showcases rich culture amidst challenges**

*Move for effective planning to make it a bigger draw*



Artist performing folk dance during the inaugural ceremony of Ladakh Festival at Pologround Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

**LEH:** The annual 'Ladakh Festival,' a four-day cultural extravaganza held in Leh from September 21st to 24th, showcased Ladakh's rich cultural heritage and artistic diversity, but faced challenges in attracting tourists and locals.

The festival commenced with an inaugural ceremony on September 21st at the Pologround in Leh, where limited tourists and locals were in attendance. One of the primary issues affecting the festival's success was the late announcement of the festival date, which left minimal time for promotional activities. The lack of an aggressive and proactive campaign by the tourism department and other stakeholders also contributed to lower attendance.

Many locals and stakeholders voiced concerns that the festival is losing its charm each year and stressed the importance of having fixed dates in the tourism calendar to allow for better promotional planning.

CEC Tashi Gyalson, acknowledging the low turnout, called for a more

proactive and aggressive campaign by the Tourism Department and all stakeholders involved in promoting the Ladakh Festival. He emphasized that the festival serves as a platform to showcase Ladakh's rich cultural diversity, including attire, cuisine, dances, crafts, literature, sports, and more, to tourists who may have limited time to explore the region.

Gyalson also shared a vision to transform September into 'The Carnival of Ladakh,' a month of festivals that would attract tourists through various activities, including the Ladakh Marathon, Ladakh Festival, The Himalayan Film Festival, and more.

The Ladakh Festival's first day featured a cultural parade representing the diverse cultures and traditions of Ladakh, starting from Karzoo and concluding at the Polo Ground in Leh.

Retired Brigadier Dr. B D Mishra, the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, inaugurated the festival and praised the performances of cultural troupes. He emphasized that Ladakh's unique flora, fauna, geo-

graphical features, and rich cultural heritage make it a renowned tourist destination.

Mishra also revealed plans to observe UT Ladakh Foundation Day on October 31st by sending Ladakhi boys and girls to different states and Union Territories, aiming to promote Ladakh for tourism within the country.

The Ladakh Festival featured various activities throughout its four days, including mask dances, photo exhibitions showcasing Ladakh's diverse bird and mammal species, live demonstrations of contemporary sculpting, handicraft and handloom exhibitions, local food stalls serving traditional and fusion cuisines, and mandala exhibitions, polo matches, film/documentary screenings, traditional archery, and music concerts.

On the concluding day, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor, Executive Councillor, Hill Council, Leh, highlighted the Ladakh Festival's significance as a celebration aimed at promoting and preserving Ladakh's rich traditional and cultural heritage. He praised the festival for offering a unique opportunity for both locals and visitors to immerse themselves in the essence of Ladakh's cultural diversity, including traditional attire, art and culture, monastic rituals, traditional cuisine, and various other practices.

Mehdi expressed gratitude to the organizers, participants, and tourism stakeholders for their collective efforts in making the Ladakh Festival a resounding success.

Despite initial challenges, the Ladakh Festival remained a vibrant showcase of Ladakh's cultural treasures, with hopes for more effective planning and promotion in the future to draw larger audiences and tourists.

**Kargil gears up for 5th Hill Council election on Oct 4**

*85 candidates in the fray to try their luck*



Stanzin Dasal

**KARGIL:** Kargil is gearing up for the 5th Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) election, scheduled to take place on October 4. A total of 278 polling stations will be set up across all 26 constituencies. Among these, 114 have been classified as hypersensitive, 99 as sensitive, and 65 as normal polling stations. The votes cast during the election will be counted on October 8, as per a recent notification from the election department.

This fresh notification follows the Supreme Court's verdict regarding the reservation of the plough symbol for the National Conference party. Consequently, the election date was rescheduled from September 10 to October 4. Prior to this decision, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh had dismissed the Ladakh administration's plea against a single-bench order allowing National Conference candidates to contest the polls using the party symbol. Additionally, the apex court imposed a fine of Rs 1 Lakh on the administration in this regard.

Notably, this Hill Council election in

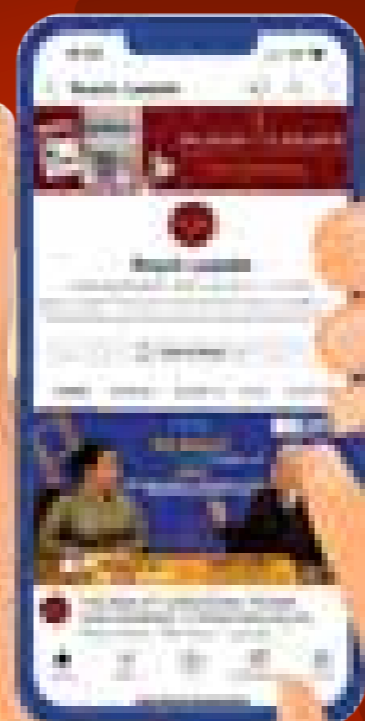
Kargil is the first of its kind following the declaration of Union Territory (UT) status for Ladakh in August 2019. In order to ensure a free, fair, and transparent electoral process, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be utilized. The administration is also focusing on providing necessary security, training for polling staff, and maintaining strict vigilance during the elections.

In the run-up to the election, the National Conference and the Congress have announced an alliance, and political campaigning in the district is currently at its peak. The existing council headed by National Conference leader Feroz Ahmad Khan is completing its five-year term on October 1.

As the election date approaches, a total of 85 candidates including 17 from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), 22 from Indian National Conference (INC), 17 from National Conference (NC), 4 from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and 25 Independent are in the fray. The contest promises to be a significant and closely watched event in Kargil's political landscape.

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## Fortnightly News

### L-G launches Ladakh Deputation Request Portal for J&K officials



Officials during the launch of Ladakh Deputation Request Portal.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) launched the 'Deputation Request Portal' developed by the IT Department of Ladakh at Raj Niwas on September 21.

Secretary, Information Technology, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma presented a detailed presentation on functioning and aspects of the portal - <https://connect.ladakh.gov.in/transfer-request>.

IT Secretary Amit Sharma, through an elaborate presentation, apprised the LG that this portal is designed to streamline the process of deputation of officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Administration opting for deputation to Ladakh. By doing so, they become eligible for attractive incentives while assisting Ladakh in addressing its ongoing shortage of manpower. These incentives encompass various monetary benefits and accelerated career advancement opportunities.

opportunities, in addition to the privilege of serving in Ladakh—an internationally renowned tourist destination. He further highlighted that this portal will serve as a singular gateway for Jammu and Kashmir officials to express their interest for serving in Ladakh and obtaining their willingness for the same. He further mentioned that the launch of this portal shall not only help J&K officials to easily express their willingness to opt for working in Ladakh but it shall indeed facilitate Government of Jammu & Kashmir in identifying the self-motivated and self-inclined officials who shall express their willingness to come and work on deputation in the UT of Ladakh after filling this application form.

Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) appreciated this innovative initiative taken by Information Technology Department, Ladakh by developing this portal and gave his valuable suggestions to further improve the services provided by this portal like its direct connect with the General Administrative Departments of both the UTs wherein a link for this portal shall be provisioned, filling all details of applicants including family details, etc.

It is expected that lot of officers who are already working in different streams in Jammu & Kashmir like General Administration, Police, Accounts, Forest, Engineering, Health and other related departments and interested in change with an intent to contribute towards taking newly created Ladakh Union Territory to new heights with their contributions shall opt to come on deputation here by registering themselves at <https://connect.ladakh.gov.in/transfer-request>.

Lieutenant Governor reiterated Ladakh Administration's unwavering commitment to ensuring that officers who voluntarily choose to serve in Ladakh receive these lucrative allowances, get best working environment and at the same time, get timely relieving on completion of the deputation period.

Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Secretary, Information Technology, Ladakh, Amit Sharma; State Informatics Officer, NIC Ladakh, Mohammad Rauf Wani, District Informatics Officer, NIC Leh, Punchok Paldan besides other concerned officers were present during this historic launch ceremony.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) hold a meeting with Departmental Secretaries and Head of Departments (HODs) at Raj Niwas on September 23 and reviewed the progress of ongoing/pending work and issues faced by the respective departments.

L-G inquired about the delay in the saturation of the installation of 4G mobile towers in uncovered areas of Ladakh under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The contractor, who has been given the contract for the installation of 234 4G mobile towers in Ladakh by BSNL, informed the LG that four towers have been installed to date since the contract was awarded to them in July. The contractor requested for authorisation letter for the installation of mobile towers in wildlife/protected areas so that the saturation of installation of mobile towers in uncovered areas of Ladakh could be achieved by

### L-G convenes meeting with departmental secretaries

Reviews progress of ongoing/pending works, issues



the end of December 2023.

Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal, informed that the National Board for Wildlife has already given approval to all 65 wildlife/protected sites in Ladakh for the installation of 4G mobile towers. He asked BSNL to deposit the requisite fee for land diversion purposes.

L-G spoke to Chief General Manager, BSNL, J&K, Shri Sanjeev Tyagi and asked him to issue NOC/authorisation letter to the Contractor so that the latter could start work on the installation of mobile towers in wildlife/protected areas. He instructed him to prioritise the installation of mobile towers in the 65 wild-

life/protected areas first. LG assured CGM BSNL J&K to take up the matter of the wrong entry made by BSNL in the Parivesh Portal with Minister of Telecommunications, Ashwini Vaishnav for its redressal.

Several other issues, viz. the sanitisation of Sharchay area in Kargil to defuse mortal shells/live bombs; encroachment issue in Kargil district; the non-issuance of electricity bills to consumers by the Power Development Department (PDD) due to the installation of smart meters; the update on the establishment of Engineering College in Ladakh/Government Degree College at

Sankoo; the identification of new land for the construction of Sindhu Central University; the saturation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme in Leh to provide drinking water to rural households; the setting up of security posts in sensitive locations; the issue of an increase in the number of beggars/theft cases in Ladakh; the issuance of pashmina goat pens to ensure the reduction in mortality of kids of pashmina goats in the winter months; the submission of recruitment rules for gazetted posts to UPSC; the progress on the rationalisation of boundaries of Changthang/Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuaries; the border dispute between UT Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh; the construction of nomadic shelters for people residing in border villages of Ladakh; the celebration of UT Ladakh Foundation Day in all Raj Bhawans of states/UTs by sending cultural troupes comprising boys and girls; the update on the revision of logo of Tourism Department of

UT Ladakh; the retendering for helicopter services in Ladakh; the preparation of rules/regulations for conducting Panchayati Raj Institutions elections in Ladakh; the opening of Service Selection Board in Ladakh for the benefit of Ladakhi youth, etc were discussed.

LG instructed the Departmental Secretaries/HODs to release the salary of casual/outsource staff on time for the ease and convenience of the said employees. He instructed the concerned officials to form a committee, conduct a study and prepare a plan on the transfer of teaching and non-teaching staff of schools which have been closed due to low enrolment and also the prospect of reviving these schools if the need arises in future.

L-G also bid farewell to Aditya Madanpotra, IFS, who served as the Regional Director, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, and wished him the best for his future assignments.

### PM's Vishwakarma scheme launched

The scheme aims to support traditional artisans, craftsmen



Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra along with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attending the launch of PM Vishwakarma scheme.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra along with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) virtually attended the launch of PM Vishwakarma scheme at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh on September 17.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi for traditional artisans and craftspeople on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti at the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), in Dwarka, New Delhi.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a new programme that envisages providing end-to-end holistic support to traditional artisans and craftspeople in scaling up their conventional products and services.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra said that the idea behind the scheme is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's desire to make the lives of the people better. It is because of this reason that the scheme is being launched on the PM's birthday, he said.

The minister said that ever since he has been in power, PM Modi has made a positive change in the lives of people, whether it was in the capacity of the Chief Minister of Gujarat or the Prime Minister of India. Mishra

said that the unorganized sector has been a source of employment since ancient times and it is unfortunate that not much has been done in the past for the upliftment of the traditional arts and artisans of the country.

Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said that the scheme will benefit the local artisans of Ladakh to boost their business.

PM Vishwakarma will be fully funded by the Union Government with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crores. Under the scheme, the Vishwakarma will be registered free of charge through Common Services Centres using the biometric-based PM Vishwakarma portal. They will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, skill upgradation involving basic and advanced training, toolkit incentive of ₹15,000, collateral-free credit support up to ₹1 lakh (first tranche) and ₹2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5%, incentive for digital transactions and marketing support.

The Scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by Vishwakarma working with their hands and tools. The prime focus of PM Vishwakarma is to improve the quality as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that they are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.

The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople in rural and urban areas across India. Eighteen traditional crafts will be covered under PM Vishwakarma. These include (i) Carpenter; (ii) Boat Maker; (iii) Armourer; (iv) Blacksmith; (v) Hammer and Tool Kit Maker; (vi) Locksmith; (vii) Goldsmith; (viii) Potter; (ix) Sculptor, Stone breaker; (x) Cobbler (Shoemaker/ Footwear artisan); (xi) Mason (Rajmistri); (xii) Basket Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver; (xiii) Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional); (xiv) Barber; (xv) Garland maker; (xvi) Washerman; (xvii) Tailor; and (xviii) Fishing Net Maker.

program covers the areas of e-commerce, market linkages, awareness regarding government schemes, entrepreneurship development, soft and hard skills, product value additions, bank linkages, and application procedures for loans, etc. he added. The experts from NIESBUD provide the basic expertise on how to overcome various challenges that entrepreneurs face during marketing and packaging etc., he stated.

The project aims to create,

verge of extinction.

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Commissioner Secretary Padma Angmo also visited the construction site of the Government Polytechnic College, Leh, and expressed satisfaction with the pace of work. She emphasized timely completion of the projects and close monitoring by the College authorities.

### Leh celebrates World Tourism Day

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Department of Tourism, Leh celebrated World Tourism Day on September 27. Leh Palace was adorned with festive decorations.

The festivities began with the "Travel for Life pledge" which primarily focuses on adapting to a "planet-friendly lifestyle during everyone's travel." The essence of celebrating this day was to make Ladakh free from pollution, symbolizing the spirit of unity and collaboration in the tourism sector. This was followed by speeches and presentations by key figures in the tourism industry, highlighting the importance of responsible and sustainable tourism practices.

Speakers emphasized the need to promote responsible tourism, preserve the local culture and heritage, and maintain the pristine natural beauty of the region.

Commissioner/Secretary, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan in his keynote address informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government

of India has granted permission for foreign tourists for night stays in Hanle. He conveyed that this decision will rejuvenate the tourism sector in the Changthang region and broaden the scope of tourist destinations in the UT. Further, it was informed that Martse-mik & Sko Valley for tourism and trekking in the UT of Ladakh has been opened with the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has announced Hemis Village, the entry from the UT of Ladakh, as the Best Tourism Village of India under the 'Silver' category. This is a testament to Hemis village's outstanding charm and cultural richness. Further, the Department of Tourism has also been awarded by the International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT) under the category 'Diversity & Inclusion' for the year 2023.

A Heritage walk also commenced from the historic Leh Palace and culminated at the Leh Main Bazaar.

### Mega legal awareness camp in Leh at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority and Ladakh Legal Services Authority of UT Ladakh, District Legal Services Authority Leh organised mega legal awareness camp in Leh at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies Choglamsar Leh on September 28.

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman National Legal Services Authority was the Chief Guest on the programme, which was graced by Justice N. Kotiswar Singh Chief Justice High Court of J & K and Ladakh, Patron-in-Chief Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge High Court of J & K and Ladakh, Executive Chairman Ladakh Legal Services Authority and Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor Lt. Governor UT Ladakh.

Justice S. K. Kaul stated that legal awareness means the ability to understand words used in a legal context, to draw conclusions from them, and then to use to those conclusions to take action. He emphasized that the various organs/agencies should strive to achieve the constitutional objective of access to justice to all particularly the marginalized and vulnerable section of the society.

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh enlightened the gathering

about the basis, structure and role of Legal Services Institutions. He also threw light on the history and coming into existence of different functionaries of Legal Service Institutions and how with the collaboration and participation of all the stakeholders the aims and cherished goals enshrined in the preamble of our constitution can be achieved.

Dr. Pawan Kotwal briefed the about the infrastructural developmental works of judicial and legal services institution in Ladakh and stated that UT Ladakh is committed to extend full possible provisions to improve the same. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul Sreedharan while presenting the vote of thanks address appreciated the participants' participation and the support extended by the UT and District Administration and District Police. Ms. Spalzes Angmo, Member Secretary Ladakh Legal Services Authority conducted the programme.

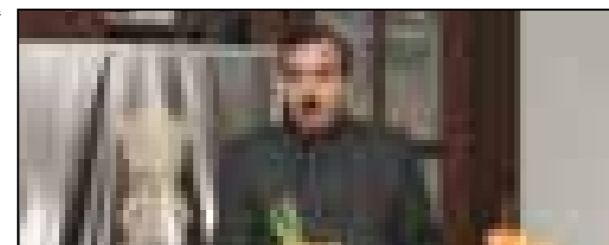
All the departments and banks of Leh showcased the beneficial schemes as well as local grown products by installing stalls at the venue of the programme. During the programme, many beneficiaries were distributed with benefits like Battery run Cycle and Wheel Chair, Sanction Letters of subsidised loans to budding entrepreneur etc.

### Ex-IAS officer Sudhanshu Pandey takes oath as first State Election Commissioner

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** L-G, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) administered the oath of office to the new State Election Commissioner of Ladakh, Sudhanshu Pandey in the swearing-in ceremony held at Raj Niwas on September 23.

Sudhanshu Pandey, a retired IAS officer of the 1987 J&K cadre, is the first Election Commissioner of Ladakh after the region became a union territory in 2019. Sudhanshu retired as Union Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution last year. He is the common Election Commissioner appointed for the Union territories of



The new State Election Commissioner of Ladakh, Sudhanshu Pandey.

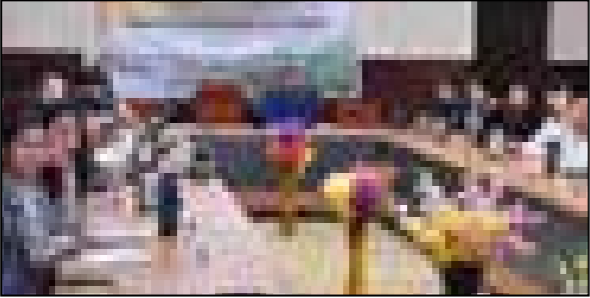
the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.

L-G congratulated Sudhanshu on assuming the charge of the State Election Commissioner of Ladakh and wished him the best. He later discussed various issues with Sudhanshu, including the

preparation for the upcoming Panchayati Raj Institutions elections in Ladakh.

Advisor to LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Councillor, Sku-Markha, Sonam Nurbuo; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve and other officials were present during the swearing-in ceremony.

### Workshop on sexual harassment of women at workplace held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Directorate of Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh conducted a workshop on Sexual Harassment of women in the workplace (Protection, Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2013) at DC Conference Hall on September 27.

The workshop chaired by Director, Social Welfare, UT Ladakh aimed to equip participants

with the knowledge and tools necessary to create safer and more inclusive working environments for women.

During the workshop, Gender and Sexuality Specialist, Malavika Goyal gave a presentation and briefed about the evolution of (POSH).

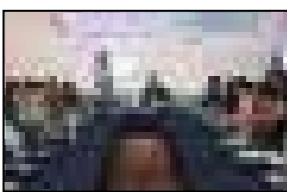
She explained the types of sexual harassment and

highlighted the responsibilities of employers and employees alike in ensuring a harassment-free workplace. She discussed various aspects of the law, including the definition of sexual harassment and the procedures for filing complaints, and also discussed case studies to better understand how to identify, prevent, and effectively address instances of workplace sexual harassment.

Also, an interaction session was held at the end of the training.

The meeting was attended by members of Mission Shakti and Vatsalya; JJB; Child Helpline, CWC, staff of District Social Welfare Office, DCPU, Special Cell for Women, one stop centre, and the NGOs.

### Capacity-building plan for business scaling under SANKALP Project held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Commissioner Secretary for Technical Education and Skill Development Department, UT Ladakh, Padma Angmo, inaugurated a 3-day capacity-building program for existing enterprises and SHGs for scaling up business activities and units

under Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) project of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India at Govt. Polytechnic College, Leh on September 28.

The capacity building program is organised by the National Institute of Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development (NIESBUD) in collaboration with Hindustan Unilever Limited under SANKALP and sponsored by the Min-

istry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India.

Commissioner Secretary Padma Angmo in her inaugural address shed light on the pivotal factors that underpin the growth and success of enterprises like skills, product quality, marketing strategies and professionalism in today's dynamic business landscape.

Padma Angmo also shared that skill centers in various colleges can also extend

quality skill training to the SHGs in fields like jam and jelly making, pickle making, mushroom growing, and embroidery. She exhorted the organizers to extend capacity building under convergence with NRLM, LSDM, RSETIs, and Colleges.

Consultant of NIESBUD, Dr Aijaz Mir said that the program is organized to support young entrepreneurs and to make them aware of sales, marketing, and business communication. The three-day pro-

gram covers the areas of e-commerce, market linkages, awareness regarding government schemes, entrepreneurship development, soft and hard skills, product value additions, bank linkages, and application procedures for loans, etc. he added. The experts from NIESBUD provide the basic expertise on how to overcome various challenges that entrepreneurs face during marketing and packaging etc., he stated.

The project aims to create,

## Fortnightly News

### Indian army mountaineering expedition for Mt Nun

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) flagged off the NATEX Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Nun from Hall of Fame, Leh on September 23.

The army official informed the LG that an Indian Army Mountaineering team has scaled Mount Kang Yatse-II (6247M) and said that the team consisting of eleven Indian Army Gunners achieved the impressive feat under the aegis of the Army Mountaineering Institute, Siachen. They further said that Mt Kang Yatse is situated in the Markha valley region of Ladakh. The Army officials also informed that the team of mountaineers has also to scale Mount Nun



Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition team

(7135M).

The mountaineering expedition was organised by The Bombay Sappers to commemorate the 25th year of celebrations of Operation Vijay.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) expressed best wishes to the team of mountaineering expedition and assured possible support from the UT Administration.

### International conference on Himalayan environment held

L-G for effective steps to protect Ladakh, other Himalayan belts



During the five-day-long International Conference on Himalayan Environment in Changing Climatic Scenario (HECCS) 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Five-day-long International Conference on Himalayan Environment in Changing Climatic Scenario (HECCS) 2023 organised by the Mountain Research Institute of the University of Ladakh began on September 19.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) attended the inaugural session.

L-G termed the theme of the conference as important as climate change is not only affecting the Ladakh region but also the entire trans-Himalayan and Himalayan belt. He stated that experts from different parts of India and foreign countries have assembled for the conference to share their

thoughts and expert suggestions for the betterment of Ladakh and the trans-Himalayan regions. He also stated that the citizens of India worship the Himalayas for environmental purposes and not only for their religious significance.

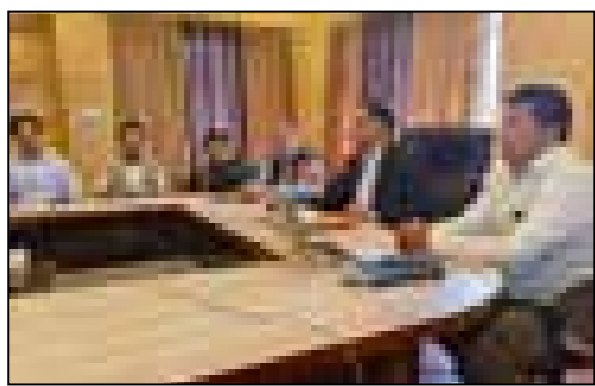
He highlighted the importance of respecting and preserving the Himalayas to maintain the environment and ecological balance. Stating that environmental protection is ingrained in our blood, LG stated that everyone must maintain this trait for the betterment of posterity. He asked everyone to share their learning from the conference with their children family members and relatives so that ev-

eryone comes forward for the protection of the fragile environment/ ecology. He further stated that this conference will leave a lasting impression on the protection of Ladakh's fragile environment.

L-G released the abstract volume of the Conference on HECCS 2023 compiled by Dr. Bhupendra S Yadav along with the book, The Palgrave Handbook of Socio-ecological Resilience in the Face of Climate Change: Contexts from a Developing Country by Sunil Nautiyal, Anil Kumar Gupta, Mrinalini Goswami, and YD Imran Khan.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Dr. Anil Gupta from National Institute of Disaster Management; Dr. OP Mishra from Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India; Prof (Dr) Talat Ahmad from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun; Dr. Prantik Mandal from CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad; Prof (Dr) Marcus Nuesser from Heidelberg University, Germany; faculty/students from University of Ladakh; delegates from different universities/colleges and officials from UT Ladakh were present in the inaugural session of the international conference.

### Director, Ministry of Cooperation, GoI, Dinesh Kumar Verma visits Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Director, Ministry of Cooperation, GoI, Dinesh Kumar Verma visited Leh for his 5-day tour to UT-Ladakh from September 14 to 18.

An interactive session was organised by Cooperative Department Leh in the conference hall of DRC, Leh on September 15, wherein members from various Cooperative Societies especially the Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies, Marketing and Consumer Cooperative Societies of the District, Officers, and officials from the Cooperative Department and representatives from J & K State Cooperative Bank participated.

At the outset, Dr Mohd Abass, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Leh gave a brief presentation on various programs and schemes implemented in the Cooperative Sector in the District.

Director MOC, GOI,

Dinesh Kumar Verma gave a detailed overview of the various initiatives taken by the Central Govt. in strengthening the Cooperative movement in the country especially in making the Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS) economically vibrant business entities through the adoption of model bylaws, Computerization of PACS, opening of Jan Aushadi Kendras through PACS for providing generic medicines, enabling PACS to operate Retail Petrol/Diesel outlets and LPG Distributorship and various other CSC services through them.

A separate session on issues, challenges, and demands of various Cooperative Societies was deliberated upon for which the Director requested the concerned societies to make a written representation which he will take up to the concerned authorities in Govt. of India for suitable

resolution.

Director requested that the societies of Leh engaged in organic production should become members of national cooperatives organic limited (NCOL) so that the ultimate goal of fetching higher prices of their organic produce are achieved and farmers are benefitted.

Zakir Hussain, DRC, Kargil presented an overview of the progress made in the Kargil district in respect of the targets set under various schemes of Govt of India in the Cooperative Sector.

The director later had a meeting with the Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh, Stanzin Choshpel in the afternoon. During the meeting, the issues related to various initiatives were discussed and the Director solicited his active support to mobilize the societies of Leh to participate in various activities. The issue related to the potential of organic produce of Leh was discussed and financial assistance through LAHDC-Leh for strengthening of the Cooperative Sector.

He also had a brief meeting with the Secretary Cooperative, UT-Ladakh, Michael D'souza, and also with the Advisor, UT-Ladakh, and discussed the initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation and expressed satisfaction with the ongoing progress of UT-Ladakh with respect to the initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation.

### Ladakh Poshan Mela held

Highlights importance of providing nutritious food to children, pregnant & lactating mothers



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) inaugurated Ladakh Poshan Mela 2023 organised by the Department of Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, at Eco park on September 22.

The month of September has been marked as POSHAN Maah to address the issue of malnutrition under the Government of India's Flagship Program POSHAN Abhiyan. The theme this year is Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).

Highlighting the importance of improving the nutritional outcomes of adolescents, children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, LG praised the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, for coming up with schemes such as Poshan Abhiyan for healthy future generations. He commended Anganwadi workers for their selfless work of taking care of children and their nutritional requirements. He stated that the Anganwadi centres are the second homes of young children.

L-G stated that India will develop as a nation if we provide nutritious food to children and pregnant/lactating mothers as it will ensure a healthy society. He sought cooperation from everyone in aiming for healthy children, especially those between 3-6 years so that these children will remain healthy throughout their lives

### State Election Commissioner chairs meeting on electoral rolls, delimitation and panchayat elections

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** State Election Commissioner of UT Ladakh Sudhanshu Pandey chaired the meeting on the issues and provisions of the electoral roll, delimitations, and panchayat election in the Union Territory of Ladakh at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on September 25.

Sudhanshu Pandey expressed his dedication to ensuring transparent and fair elections in Ladakh, emphasizing the importance of an accurate electoral roll and equitable delimitation of Panchayat constituencies in Ladakh.

One of the key focus areas during his tenure will be the preparation and maintenance of an up-to-date electoral roll, which is essential for conducting free and fair elections, he stated. Additionally, he will oversee the delimitation process to ensure the equitable distribution of constituencies based on the population demographics of Ladakh.

The meeting focused on critical issues related to the electoral roll and Panchayat elections, emphasizing the commitment to ensure a transparent and democratic electoral process in the region. The meeting underscored the importance of preparing and maintaining an accurate and up-to-date electoral roll. It was emphasized that an error-free electoral roll forms the foundation of credible elections.

The State Election Commissioner reaffirmed the commitment to ensure that every eligible voter in Ladakh is included in the electoral roll. Delimitation of constituencies is a

right from their schooling days.

He distributed laptops to Anganwadi supervisors for timely update of data on Poshan Tracker and also handed over monetary incentives of Rs 500 per month to the eligible Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers. The stalls put up by the different ICDS projects and Anganwadi centres, informed of the various schemes such as the Integrated Child Development Programme, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Mission Poshan 2.0 supplementary nutrition provided to children and pregnant/lactating mothers, etc. For a better understanding of an Anganwadi set up, a model Anganwadi Centre was on display along with the prototype of Anganwadi centre for the nomadic region of Changthang.

Commissioner Secretary Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh Padma Angmo appreciated the efforts put in by the department for the initiative and ensuring the participation of field workers. Further, she stated that efforts have been made to address existing challenges of the department, viz honorarium of the AWWs, infrastructural requirements amongst others and said that continued efforts shall be made by the Administration redress the issue.

The department is in the process of building new centres and recently announced the completion of two winter friendly centres which shall be taken as models for new centres, informed Padma Angmo.

"Capacity building of the AWWs & supervisors is an ongoing endeavour and a comprehensive training plan has been developed to be implemented over the course of the year," informed the Commissioner Secretary, while highlighting that the department is committed towards ensuring there are no malnourished children in Ladakh.

The mela also exhibited a variety of nutrition-rich food items prepared with locally sourced ingredients, and invited all visitors to indulge in a healthy and hearty meal.

Director Social and Tribal Welfare Dept Tashi Dolma in her address stated that addressing mal nutrition in a holistic manner through life-cycle approach is core to Mission Poshan 2.0 and accordingly the focus of Poshan Maah this year is on creating awareness around key human lifecycle stages i.e., pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence for nutrition-based sensitisation across India.

Based on the theme of Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, and Sashakt Bharat the various projects of the ICDS Department have been organising community-based events on Exclusive Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding, Swasth Balak Balika Spardha, Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, Improving Nutrition through Mission LIFE and Meri Mati Mera Desh.

Tashi Dolma also informed the gathering that with the help of the State Nodal officer for the Poshan Tracker app, the workers are now well-trained and are regularly updating their activities on the Poshan Abhiyan Portal.

There are over 1145 Anganwadi centres are functional across Ladakh, catering to 18,354 beneficiaries.

### 3-day road safety workshop held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Three-day road safety related Capacity Building Programme organised by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India culminated on September 25.

Secretary, Transport Amit Sharma mentioned that the basic purpose of organising this Road Safety Workshop in the Union Territory of Ladakh was to enhance the capacities of officials working in Traffic and Transport departments towards latest techno reforms taking place in road safety including Automated Vehicle Inspection and Automated Driving Test which is the need of the hour.

Top expert faculties from all over the nation were called to enhance skills of UT trainee officers through their knowledgeable sessions which included Anil Chhilkara, DC Transport, New Delhi, Ashok Shinde, RTO Transport Department Maharashtra and Dheerendra Samineni, Road Safety Expert, Safe Drive India.

### Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation team meets L-G



A delegation from Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSSIO) with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A delegation from Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSSIO) led by Gopi Krishna Pidatala and Founder of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Choglamsar, Ven Sanghasena met Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at Raj Niwas on September 23.

Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal, was also present in the meeting.

Gopi Krishna Pidatala informed the LG that the organisation has been working in various fields for the past two years and recently associated with MIMC Choglamsar. He also informed that the organisation will assist in revamping the Mahabodhi Karuna Charitable Hospital by providing the latest medical equipment at a cost of Rs 2 crores for the benefit of patients from Ladakh. He further informed about the plan to conduct Mobile Ophthalmic Unit (MOU) eye screening camp in Ladakh for people suffering from eye diseases.

He informed the LG about the plan to train teachers

Secretary Transport Amit Sharma, who also holds the charge of Transport Commissioner in Ladakh, took a detailed feedback from the visiting faculties as well as the officials of Transport and Traffic department about this MoRTH workshop.

The officials said that the workshop is a win-win refresher activity which has indeed helped them to get exposure towards latest rules and developments in road safety domain.

Amit assured the trainees that it shall become a regular feature in Ladakh Union Territory in which the next leg shall be organised in Kargil district soon so that Transport and Traffic department officers there can get abreast with the latest developments in Road Safety domain and he further disclosed that there shall also be virtual workshops organised with MoRTH support in UT with the objective of achieving maximum Road Safety, minimising accident rates and adherence to latest traffic rules in the twin hilly districts of Ladakh.

from Ladakh to provide value education to students. He also informed about the Sri Sathya Sai Hospital at Rajkot in Gujarat where children with cardiac issues are provided free medical assistance. He requested the Administration to identify children with cardiac issues so that surgery could be performed on such children free of cost at the hospital in Rajkot. He also proposed to conduct screening tests in Ladakh to identify people with cardiac problems. He also highlighted the need to resolve the issue of water for irrigating fields in Alchi village along with raising more awareness among people about health schemes such as the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

L-G commended the Sri Sathya Sai organisation for their noble work and for assisting in purchasing equipment for MIMC for the benefit of the patients from Ladakh. He instructed the Advisor to LG to sensitise people from Ladakh about the various central government health schemes so that a maximum number of citizens of Ladakh can avail their benefits.

## OPINION

## Fostering religious harmony and national integration through education

India, with its vibrant tapestry of cultures, languages, and religions, has a complex history of unity and division. While periods of political unity have been fleeting, the country's diversity has remained a constant. In the wake of India's independence in 1947, the hope was that the forces of unity that emerged during the struggle for freedom would persist, but this has not always been the case. The specter of communalism reached its peak during partition, and linguistic divisions perpetuated regionalism and groupism in politics. The result has been a weakening of national solidarity and the strengthening of caste and sectional loyalties. Regional loyalties have become so strong that frequently one hears voices of "more power" for the states or constitutional power to secede from the union. All these shook the very foundation of national solidarity and have strengthened caste and sectional loyalties. Unless the various political parties gear their electoral propaganda to the removal of real problems, such as poverty, disease, ignorance, and unemployment that face the country, the means to achieve national integration cannot be strengthened. The disparities create class consciousness, which runs counter to emotional integration among different groups. Religious minorities, despite constitutional safeguards, pose a problem. This article delves into the vital role of education in promoting religious harmony and national integration in India.

Amidst these challenges, the role of education in nurturing religious harmony and national integration cannot be overstated. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a prominent educationist and India's second President, aptly observed that national integration cannot be achieved through bricks and mortar but must silently grow within the minds and hearts of the people. Education serves as the primary catalyst for this transformation. It is the key to shaping young minds, and teachers play a pivotal role in this process. It is imperative that educators remain secular and avoid promoting communal viewpoints. Schools must not only equip students to realize their potential but also make them contributing members of society. Education acts as a shield, preventing the younger generation from falling into the traps of prejudice, superstition, parochialism, and communalism.

Children, in their innocence, do not harbor feelings of separatism or regionalism until they are influenced by external factors. Within the school environment, they naturally bond, transcending differences and fostering a sense of national unity. Schools serve as instruments for realizing a national community with a glorious past and a hopeful future.

The India of tomorrow has to be built by the young generation. Does this generation have some emotional and intellectual awareness of the fact that caste, communal, and regional loyalties do not fit into this picture and that it has to widen its mental horizons so that communal harmony and India's unity are a reality in their lives? Hence, the permanent solution of religious harmony and unity lies in the right type of education.

Education should aim to produce patriotic citizens who prioritize cooperation over conflict. It should unfold innate qualities and ethical values while spearheading a silent social revolution that tackles societal issues. By focusing on character development, the study of humanities, scientific and technological training, and the cultivation of arts, education can enhance the thinking capacity of individuals regarding religious harmony and national emotional

integration.

Great thinkers like Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, and Sri Aurobindo Ghosh emphasized the significance of education rooted in spirituality and character-building. Swami Vivekananda believed that education should manifest perfection in individuals, transcending the mere accumulation of information. Gandhi emphasized holistic development, while Aurobindo Ghosh viewed education as a means to help the growing soul reach its full potential. They believed in character-building, the study of humanities, scientific and technological training, and fostering a sense of patriotism.



From ancient times, religious institutions have been instrumental in educating the masses. While modern education systems are secular, they contribute to the holistic development of individuals by instilling values common to all religions. This approach is essential as education, rooted in religion, provides a clear vision of ultimate goals. It is through religious education that core values such as truth, beauty, and goodness are instilled, fostering harmony and understanding among people of different faiths.

To promote religious harmony and national integration, a national education policy with a consistent curriculum from primary to university level is essential. This curriculum should reflect national values and achievements, with subjects taught from the perspective of the country's needs. History, geography, civics, national literature, art, and music play pivotal roles in nurturing national consciousness.

Teachers hold a position of public trust and responsibility. They are entrusted with molding the character and citizenship of future generations. To achieve this, they must guide students in the pursuit of knowledge and skills, preparing them for the responsibilities of democracy and self-sufficiency. The strength of a nation lies in the social responsibility, economic competence, and moral strength of its citizens.

Moral and humanistic education should be integral to the system, teaching fundamental truths common to all religions. Educational institutions should organize co-curricular activities, celebrate national festivals, and hold seminars and symposiums on religious harmony and national unity.

In the quest for national integration, cooperation between citizens, the government, and educators is crucial. While diversity and differing opinions are inherent in democracy, national interest should always be paramount. National integration may be a slow process, but it is vital for the nation's survival and progress.

The success of Indian democracy hinges on achieving national integration. It is imperative for the nation's survival and prosperity. Education is the cornerstone upon which India can build religious harmony and national integration. By implementing policies that emphasize unity, fostering a sense of nationalism, and nurturing patriotism, India can illuminate the path toward religious harmony and national integration. While the journey may be slow, it is essential for India's bright and harmonious future.

## World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day was observed for the first time on 10 October 1992. The day, officially commemorated every year on October 10th, aims to raise awareness in the global community about the critical mental health agendas – with a unifying voice through collaboration with various partners – to take action and to create lasting change.

It was started as an annual activity of the World Federation for Mental Health by the then Deputy Secretary-General Richard Hunter.

In 1994, at the suggestion of then Secretary-General Eugene Brody, a theme for the Day was used for the first time. It was "Improving the Quality of Mental Health Services throughout the World." Within three years, the Day had become a valuable occasion for interested government departments, organisations and committed individuals to arrange programs to focus on aspects of mental health care.

World Mental Health Day celebrates awareness for the global community in an empathetic way, with a unifying voice, helping people feel

hopeful by empowering them to take action and create lasting change.

The World Federation for Mental Health, the founder of World Mental Health Day, presents the WFMH Global Campaign 2023. The Global Campaign aims to recognise the 75th Anniversary of WFMH and World Mental Health Day 2023. The campaign and its initiatives will be based on this year's official theme of World Mental Health Day- 'Mental Health is a Universal Human Right'. Learn more about our largest campaign in the making!

## DID YOU KNOW

- In a fascinating discovery, scientists have identified and named a remarkable "giant" fossil spider species that once roamed the ancient landscapes of what is now modern-day Australia. This incredible find sheds light on the unique arachnid history of the region and offers insight into the environmental conditions of a bygone era.
- Rabindranath Tagore's "abode of peace" Santiniketan, which embodies the poet's vision of a place of learning that transcends religious and regional boundaries, was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site — the 41st in India and the fifth in Bengal.
- In a historic marathon performance, Ethiopian runner Tigest Assefa redefined the boundaries of what was believed possible in the women's marathon by obliterating the world record during the Berlin Marathon. Assefa's remarkable achievement, completing the 26.2-mile race in an astonishing time of 2 hours, 11 minutes, and 53 seconds, left spectators in awe.
- Scientists have rediscovered a species of small holly tree in Brazil that had not been seen for nearly two centuries. The tree, known as 'Ilex sapiiformis' or the Pernambuco holly, was feared to be extinct until an expedition in the urban city of Igarassu, Pernambuco state, recently found it.
- A grand 108-foot-tall statue of the revered Hindu saint Adi Shankaracharya has been unveiled in Omkareshwar, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh. This imposing structure, known as 'Ekamata Ki Pratima' or the 'Statue of Oneness,' is a testament to India's rich spiritual heritage.
- Rwanda stands out globally with an impressive 61 percent of women in its Parliament, a stark contrast to many other countries. This extraordinary representation of women in Rwanda's political sphere can be traced back to the country's tumultuous history.
- The Lok Sabha officially designated the new Parliament building as the "Parliament House of India" in a notification issued on September 18. Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha held their sittings in the new Parliament building on the same day.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla officially renames the old Parliament building, previously known as Parliament House, to 'Samvidhan Sadan.'

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

### My work, my joy!

I like the phrase: As busy as a bee! Not that I am an exemplar of this phrase, but surely I try to be as busy as possible despite several factors that seek to divert my attention. It was after my retirement from active service that I got to understand the real meaning of freedom. Decades of working as an employee, wholeheartedly, had turned me into a kind of robot, giving out good work with great speed. I must admit I lost decades not doing anything for myself, and my moment came only when I retired.

And then, my work became my joy!

A few years of a retired life now, I enjoy it as if life has just begun. True, I work as hard even now because I follow the dictum that to remain happy and in a progressive state, one has to remain fully engaged in meaningful activities so that one's life's mission is fulfilled.

As they say, an idle mind is a devil's workshop, and hence we need to have well-defined daily engagements that give us no time to build a devil's workshop! There are many ways of engagement to suit everybody's interest and purpose. Any work, hobby, entertainment and physical exercises of varied kinds could be anybody's game.

After retirement, it is all the more important to have a few hobbies to keep you busy and going. You can turn your work, whatever that may be, into a hobby, to make life's journey a delightful one.

If you find yourself happy at the end of the day, you had a fully-engaged day, and that you get the follow-up rewards too. For instance, seeing and having a better outlook, good sleep and a sense of fulfillment! American author Cal Newport calls it DEEP WORK that needs your full attention of a hermit. DEEP WORK is also the title of Cal's famous book on the art of keeping engaged so that you could use your full potential to come out with a brilliant output!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

**Fortnightly News**

**In Conversation with  
Tsering Samphel, Former MLA & Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

*Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal*

**Q. Tell us about your childhood days, your education, and your political career.**

I was born and brought up in Hemis Shukpachan and studied until class 5th in the village school. Later, I continued my education up to class 10th at Govt. High School Tingmosgang. During those days, very few students appeared for matriculation exams, and in 1967, I was one of the 22 students from the district who took the 10th exam and 12 of us got failed. Times were such that even an 8th grader could secure a teaching job, so I worked as a teacher in Likir.

At one point I came to know that Ven. Lama Lobzang is taking many students from Leh to study in Delhi, so, I joined a group of students, but I returned after two years due to difficulties in settling down. Back in Leh, I reappeared for the subject in which I had failed in class 10th and successfully cleared it. I had a strong desire to continue my studies, but financial constraints prevented me from pursuing higher education in Srinagar like many of my friends did. During this time, obtaining a 10th-grade pass was a significant achievement in Ladakh. The Ladakh Buddhist Association recognized my passion and appointed me as an office secretary for a monthly salary of 100 rupees. The LBA officials recognized my dedication and encouraged me to become a deed writer (Arzi Navis) in Srinagar. After obtaining my license, I set up my chamber in Leh near the LBA office.

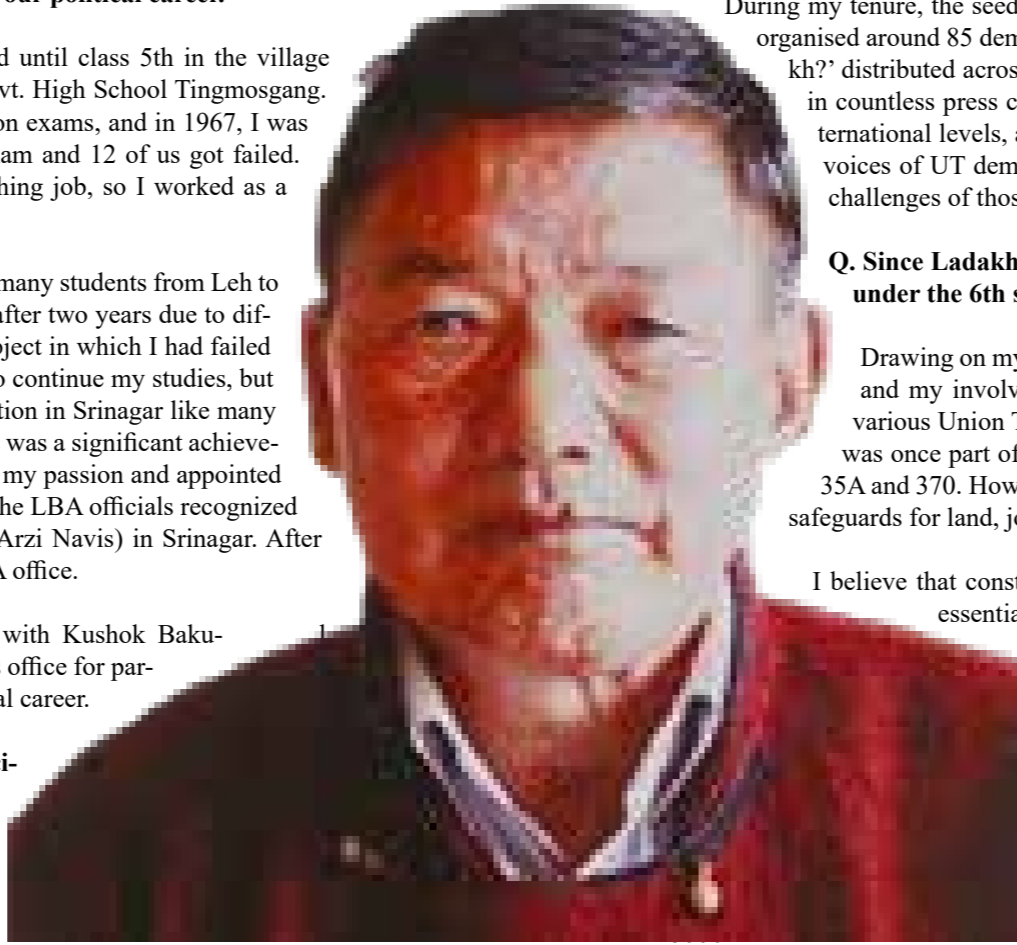
In 1976, during the first parliamentary election in Ladakh, with Kushok Baku-Rinpoche as the candidate, I was asked to work at the Congress office for party-related activities, which marked the beginning of my political career.

**Q. You have worked with the Ladakh Buddhist Association and accomplished incredible work for the benefit and fare of many people. Brief us about it.**

I served as the General Secretary of the Ladakh Buddhist Association from 1974 to 1977, with Advocate Sonam Gyaltsen President. One of our notable achievements during this time was organizing the first Kalachakra Initiation by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Ladakh in 1976. When the Deputy Commissioner of Leh, Mr. Rehman, suggested organizing it at the NDS ground, we recommended the Choglamsar Jevetsal land, situated by the Indus River with lush green surroundings, to make the devotees more comfortable.

Also, in 1998 we were successful in inviting Dalai Lama to Ladakh after an 8 years gap, this decision not only proved to be the best but also led to His Holiness Dalai Lama's frequent visits to Ladakh, strengthening the communal and social bonds here. We also handed over the Jevetsal Photang to His Holiness in 1998.

We also obtained an allotment of 75 kanals of land in Leh town under LBA, a significant revenue generation initiative. Furthermore, we played a pivotal role in transforming the narrow road at Leh gate into the magnificent structure it is today.



During my tenure, the seed for the demand of Union Territory (UT) status for Ladakh was sown. We organised around 85 demonstrations at various levels, published a booklet titled 'Why UT for Ladakh?' distributed across India, organised eight national seminars on the demand, and participated in countless press conferences. I participated in dialogues and conferences at national and international levels, advocating for Ladakh's UT status. Today, I can proudly say that I kept the voices of UT demand alive during the turbulent times in Jammu & Kashmir and amidst the challenges of those times.

**Q. Since Ladakh is a Union Territory now, people of Ladakh are demanding safeguard under the 6th schedule of the Indian constitution. What you have to say about it?**

Drawing on my experience as a member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and my involvement in understanding the functions of Hill Councils in Darjeeling and various Union Territories have given me insight into tribal rights and laws. Ladakh, which was once part of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, enjoyed protection under Article 35A and 370. However, as a Union Territory now, its opened up to the mainland, necessitating safeguards for land, jobs and the environment.

I believe that constitutional safeguards under the 6th schedule of the Indian constitution are essential for Ladakh. While we had high expectations from the BJP to fulfill our demands, it appears they are reluctant to ensure these safeguards under the 6th schedule. Regardless, I firmly believe that Ladakh's safeguard can only be assured through the 6th schedule of the Indian Constitution.

**Q. What you have to say about the status of Hill Council in UT set up and how important is it for further strengthening and empowerment?**

Despite statements indicating that Hill Councils have power in the UT set-up the reality is quite different. Currently, Ladakh has an annual budget of Rs. crore, but the Hill Councils of Leh and Kargil are allocated only approximately Rs. 500 crore out of the total UT budget. The majority of funds are controlled by non-elected representatives, and the Councils have limited oversight over these funds. It's challenging to claim that Hill Councils hold significant power in this context.

**Q. What are your thoughts on the statehood demand for Ladakh?**

The idea of statehood for Ladakh seems difficult given our sparse population, geographical location, and strategic considerations, I am somewhat skeptical. At present, our primary focus should be on achieving the safeguards offered by the 6th schedule, which is no less than statehood in terms of protecting Ladakh's interests. There is a time and place for every demand, and right now, prioritizing the 6th schedule is the prudent approach.

**MESSAGE TO THE READERS**  
**“We, as Ladakhi, should stand united, setting aside our differences, and work together for the betterment of Ladakh. Just as we united for the cause of Union Territory status, let us now unite and strive for the constitutional safeguards of Ladakh under the 6th schedule.”**

*...Continues on page 6*

**Fortnight Highlights**



Volunteers and locals collected soil from different households as part of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. The soil was collected in Kalash from all households of Pushkum village which will be poured into large Kalash thus bringing together symbolically the offering from all households in the neighbourhood of that event location.



Super specialty medical camp by Doctors from AIIMS, New Delhi, and other reputed hospital commenced at Nyoma sub-division. The team of doctors led by General Secretary Asoka Mission New Delhi, Tashi Motup Kau was warmly welcomed by people of Nyoma.



Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson launched a student handbook titled "Bhoti Gyunchod Yig-rigs" a handbook of important letter writing in Bhoti Language authored by Ven. Sonam Paljor, Bhoti Teacher at High School, Chushul. The book has been published by DIET Centre Leh and will be further distributed to all the schools within the district soon.



During the first-ever convocation ceremony of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh (Deemed to be University).



The team of women horse riders, who underwent training at the President's Body Guard (PBG) unit in New Delhi met Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson at Council Secretariat.



A blood donation camp under the banner of Seva Pakhawada was organised by Blood Centre District Hospital Kargil in collaboration with Ladakh Blood Donor. About 50 donors participated in the camp and ten pints of blood were donated by the various donors.



As the world commemorates 'World Ozone Day', on September 16, the students and staff of Govt. Degree College Nubra joined the global call from Khardongla top, the world's highest motorable road, to urge the masses to take urgent steps to preserve the ozone layer.



To enhance the well-being of students in the Leh district, Deputy Commissioner and District Chairman of the Health Society, Santosh Sukhadeve chaired a meeting to evaluate the School Health and Wellness Program under the Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya-Karyakram (RKSK).

## Fortnightly News

### Eliezer Joldan Memorial College organises Reporting and Photography workshop

Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Charkha Development Communication Network

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ), Govt. Eliezer Joldan Memorial College, Leh has joined hands with the prestigious Charkha Development Communication Network, New Delhi, and inaugurated a transformative Five-Day Reporting and Photography Workshop on September 18.

The inauguration ceremony marked the commencement of the enriching workshop, which promises to empower aspiring journalists and photographers with a comprehensive set of skills to excel in the ever-evolving field of media and communication.

The workshop witnessed a series of captivating sessions led by distinguished resource persons from the Charkha Development Communication Network. Chetna Verma, CEO, and Khushi Pahuja, Project Associate- Communication and Strategy, graced the event with their expertise,



offering engaging workshops and interactive discussions that encompassed various facets of writing, storytelling, and the critical themes of development and gender.

The collaboration between Govt. Eliezer Joldan Memorial College and Charkha Development Communication Network reflect their shared vision of nurturing talent in journalism and photography. The workshop not only imparts skills but also encourages participants to envision and work toward a collaborative future in these fields. The collaboration between Govt. Eliezer Joldan Memorial College and Charkha Development

Communication Network underscore their shared commitment to nurturing talent in the fields of journalism and photography.

At the end of the session, on a momentous note the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the college and the Charkha Foundation.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Diskit Angmo, Department of Psychology; Chetna Verma, CEO of Charkha Development Communication Network; Khushi Pahuja; Hajira Bano, Assistant Professor; and Mohd Ali Khan, Lec-

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The 6th Kargil International Marathon-2023 themed, 'Run for Hundurman' was held at Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium Biamathang, Kargil on September 17.

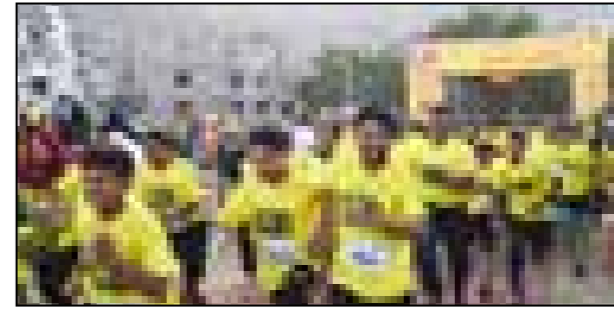
This theme underscores the promotion of border tourism and the dedication to showcasing the enchanting village of Hundurman in Kargil as a destination worth exploring for both domestic and international tourists.

The marathon was inaugurated with the flag-off ceremony by chief guests including Ravinder Kumar Dangi, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, Sachin Malik (YSM), General Officer Commanding 8 Mountain Division Kargil, and guests of honor Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shirkant Suse, and SSP Kargil, Anayat Ali Choudhary and Joint Director Youth Ser-

VICES and Sports UT Ladakh, Moses Kunzang.

Secretary Youth Services and Sports Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar Dangi, extended his congratulations to the District Administration, Ladakh police, and Sarhad Pune along with all stakeholders including 8 Mountain Division for the successful execution of the 6th edition of the Kargil International Marathon. He also commended the participants for their active involvement in the event. Emphasizing the significance of this event in elevating Kargil's global profile, he articulated that international events like these contribute significantly to positioning Kargil as a prominent global tourist destination. Such initiatives benefit the local community by attracting attention and visitors from around the world.

Additionally, he praised the athletic prowess and



sportsmanship displayed by the athletes from Kargil. He emphasized that the players of Kargil possess immense potential to represent Kargil and Ladakh at various national and international sporting platforms.

The marathon featured four distinct categories: Full Marathon (42 kilometers), Half Marathon (21 kilometers), 10 kilometers, and 5 kilometers.

In the 5 km men's category, Nasurulla Elye, Zeeshan Ali, and Hashim Reyaz bagged first, second, and third positions respectively.

Similarly, under the female category, Tabassum Fatima, Zannab Banoo, Parveen Banoo, bagged first, second, and third positions respectively.

In the 10 km race under male category, Sonam Stanzin, Nawaz Ali, and Rahul Surya Wanshi bagged first, second, and third positions respectively. Similarly, the female position holders are Skarma Idong Lanzes, Asiya Banoo and Shanaz Parveen.

In the half marathon race, male category, Ritik Sharma, Kulbir Singh, and Tsewang Nangdan bagged the

first second and third positions respectively. While the female position holders are Tashi Ladol, Stanzin Chondol, and Stanzin Dolkar.

In 42 km the position holders are Nawang Tsering, Ravi Dass, and Jigmet Namgyal while in the female group, the position holders are Agnes Mueni Mutua, Diskit Dolma, and Jyoti Gawate.

The central organizing committee consisting of a total of 16 members from District Administration, Ladakh Police, and Sarhad Pune under the supervision of ADC, Kargil was constituted for the 6th Kargil International Marathon 2023 which has been recognized by Athletics Federation India, New Delhi, and AIM, World Athletics, New York. The Marathon was supported by the Arham Foundation, Pune, co-sponsored by Suhana, 8 Mountain Division and AKTTA.

### GDC, Drass, conducts one-day archaeological, historical tour to Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Government Degree College Drass organised a one-day archaeological and historical tour to Kargil on September 23.

A total of 25 students from the 5th semester along with the faculty members including Dr Azhar Hussain from the History Department and Stanzin Stamdin from the English Department were part of the tour.

As a first step of the tour, the students visited the Drass rock sculpture of the 8th century A.D., where they were briefed about the importance of sculptures like these in understanding the socio-cultural conditions of the past. The group encountered a Petroglyphs site at Latoo Bridge on the roadside where they closely observed the different forms of depictions on the rocks which date back to pre-historic eras.

The next important site that was explored by the group was the impressive cave Monastery of Shar-gole. It was learned that the Monastery belongs to the Gelug or Yellow Hat sect of Tibetan Buddhism.



The monastery has an idol of an Avalokiteshvara or Buddha of compassion, a Bodhisattva and three pictures of Tara.

They also visited Mulbekh monastery and specifically focused on the 9-meter-long rock sculpture statue of Maitreya Buddha or the future Buddha. The group has learned that the rock sculpture of Maitreya Buddha was crafted during the 8th century A.D. by the Kushan Empire, which had dominion over a significant portion of Central Asia, including Ladakh.

Furthermore, the group visited Hundurman village

near the Line of Control (LOC), where they gained practical insights into the restoration and conservation of this historical site. Similarly, the group paid a visit to Karkitchoo village, engaging with local residents in discussions about the village's history, culture, ethnicity, and language, as well as gaining broader insights into the region as a whole.

The tour aimed to reignite the interest of students in the history and culture of the society, which obliviously enriches students' perception regarding the importance of the history, art, and culture of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve chaired the 9th meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Mechanism with the concerned members at the VC room on September 18.

Discussion on exchange of intelligence and information pertaining to the trends in drug trafficking, monitoring the progress of investigations, particularly those cases with cross-state implications, to ensure a coordinated and effective response were discussed. Besides, the committee explored strategies to promote anti-drug abuse awareness, with a particular focus on schools and colleges and assessing the requirements for equipment used in drug detection among others.

Deputy Commissioner Santosh Sukhadeve stressed the importance of a collaborative and proactive approach between the Education, Health, and Police Department in tackling the issue of drug abuse in Leh.



Further, he suggested that creative short videos on drug addictions can be a part of a sensitisation program and directed the officers to work in close coordination. DC Leh also directed the officials to conduct inspection drives in a coordinated manner.

Additionally, CMO, Leh, Dr Nurzin Angmo apprised the DC Leh about the awareness regarding COTPA Act 2023. She informed that they have organised awareness camps both in private as well as Government Schools for the whole month of September.

He stressed on intensified awareness campaigns in schools & to ensure strict actions against shopkeepers violating the COTPA

Act, 2003. He instructed the officers to submit the list of shopkeepers who repeatedly violate the COTPA rules and exhorted that the District Administration would initiate strict legal actions against the violators.

He directed the Education Dept. to prepare a schedule for the awareness campaign to be held in Schools and asked to share among the committee members. Similarly, Superintendent of NCB Jammu, Mohd Nawab briefed about the NIDAAN portal.

Furthermore, DC Leh directed the members to involve Yato Club in the awareness campaign. The meeting was attended by the committee members and concerned officials.

### Market checkings held in Padum, Zanskar



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**PADUM:** A team of government officers and officials headed by Naib Tehsildar Zanskar, Mohd Hassan conducted market checking in the main market Padum, Zanskar, and its adjoining areas on September 18.

During the checking, general stores, restaurants, dhabas, vegetable, meat and chicken sellers were

checked. The team inspected the hygiene and cleanliness of restaurants and dhabas.

An amount of ₹5,600 was collected as a fine from the defaulters. They were instructed to keep their restaurants neat and clean. The team comprised SHO Zanskar and the team, officials of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), and others.

### IIIM-Technology Business Incubator organises city camp on entrepreneurship development at GDC Drass



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DRASS:** IIIM-Technology Business Incubator organised a city camp on entrepreneurship development in Government Degree College, Drass on September 26.

Pr. Scientist, CSIR-IIIM & Principal Investigator, IIM-TBI Jammu, Dr. Saurabh Saran and Coordinator/CEO, IIIM-TBI, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, Er. Ankush Varma was present.

The programme was conducted under the aegis of "Bio-NEST". The Bio-NEST was launched by "BIRAC", a Not-for-profit public sector enterprise that was set up by Department of Biotechnology

(DBT), Government of India in 2012, with a vision that focuses on fostering the biotech innovation ecosystem in the country. The purpose of the city camp was to create awareness about start-ups, understand the challenges of being an entrepreneur, and the importance of skill-based training.

Shabir Ahmad, Assistant Professor of Commerce kick-started the session by sensitizing the audience about the importance of technology in entrepreneurship and its future in India.

Dr. Saurabh Saran briefed about the Bio-NEST how

enterprising ideas in the biotech sector need incubation support and how people need a landing space to test their ideas, run their operations, have access to high-end instrumentations, and locate in a place where they connect with other start-ups and mentors.

Er. Ankush Varma spoke at length about the existing facilities in IIIM-Technology Business Incubator (TBI), and how it offers intellectual, financial, and infrastructural support to entrepreneurs, new start-ups, researchers, students who plan to materialize their ideas into commercially successful ventures. Moreover, the speaker mentioned a few examples of those who got training in TBI and then went on to become successful entrepreneurs in their respective fields.

The faculty members and students of GDC Drass, students of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Drass and Govt. Higher Secondary School, Bhimbhat took part in the camp.

The session concluded with a healthy interactive segment during which students posed questions, and the speakers provided them with satisfying answers.

### Secretary Ravinder Kumar visits Kargil, reviews infrastructure development in sports



Secretary Ravinder Kumar Dangi assessing infrastructural projects.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Secretary Ravinder Kumar Dangi visited Kargil on September 17 and assessed the progress of crucial infrastructural projects.

Accompanied by Joint Director of Youth Service and Sports, UT Ladakh, Moses Kunzang, and other district officials, Secretary Ravinder Kumar commenced his inspection with a thorough evaluation of the ongoing construction of the Ice Hockey rink at Biamathang.

During his visit, he not only sought updates on the completion date but also emphasized the importance of inaugurating Ice Hockey competitions within the rink this year. He urged officials to swiftly address any pending design modifications and tasks.

Joint Director YSS provided an insightful overview of the construction progress along with associated expenditures.

Secretary Ravinder Kumar also reviewed the status of the multipurpose sports

stadium Goma Kargil, which was constructed under the Special Development Package (SDP). He stressed the need to expedite construction progress while efficiently managing expenses. Furthermore, he visited the multipurpose sports stadium in Kurbathang, currently being implemented by JKPC.

He inspected the ongoing construction and inquired about expenditure status, assuring to liaise with JKPC authorities for an expedited project completion.

At the Hatchery Unit of Animal Husbandry in Kurbathang, Ravinder Kumar advocated for an augmentation of production capacity. He also monitored the progress of the new poultry farm building, instructing the construction of ramps and the installation of informational boards.

Secretary Kumar's visit extended to farms exclusively dedicated to the production of turkey birds and Kadaknath Chicken, underlining the imperative to bolster production for enhanced farmer income.

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During the training session for polling staff in connection with 5th General elections to the LAHDC Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Election officer, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Wani along with Deputy District Election Officer, Kargil supervised a training session for polling staff in connection with 5th General elections to the LAHDC Kargil at Auditorium Hall, Kargil on September 26.

ADC Kargil briefed the Presiding and Polling officers of their role and responsibilities and asked them to ensure that all instructions regarding polling day are implemented in letter and spirit. He stressed them to perform their duties honestly and maintain coordination with each other and with sectorial and zonal magistrates for hassle-free conduct of election.

During the training program, around 300 employees of different departments were imparted necessary polling-related

training in the session. During the training, the polling staff were trained in proper handling and operating of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), besides were briefed about duties assigned to Presiding Officers and Polling Officers.

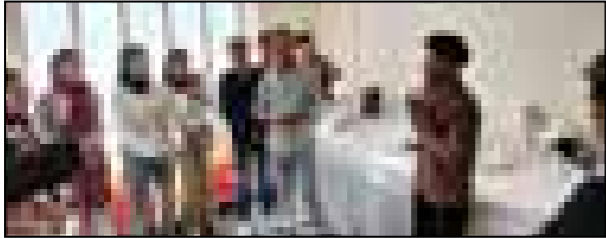
During the training program, detailed deliberations were also held on procedure for conduction of mock poll, tender votes, maintenance of poll diary, sealing election papers and sealing of EVMs etc.

The training program was divided into morning and evening session. The training was imparted by Dy CEO Sankoo, Muhammad Hadi and Senior Lecturer GHSS Trespone, Kacho Hassan Khan.

The trainer Hassan Khan explained the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), Mock Poll Processes, error messages on the display and use of seals and tags.

# Fortnightly News

## GDC, Kargil, hosts students from Nubra for skill exposure



A group of students and faculty members from Government Degree College Nubra on a two-day skill exposure visit to skill centres of colleges in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** A group of students and faculty members from Government Degree College Nubra embarked on a two-day skill exposure visit to skill centres of colleges in Kargil.

The exposure visit is aimed at providing students with insights into a diverse range of skill courses and potential career paths through hands-on learning and interaction with trainers/trainees.

As a part of the two-day skill exposure programme, the participants visited GDC Kargil and visit to Government Degree College Drass is scheduled for the second day.

The team from GDC Nubra was guided by Nodal Officer Skills, visited four

skills centres at GDC Kargil including Beauty and Wellness Skill Centre, Craft and Design Centre, Housekeeping Associate Skill Centre and Graphic Designer Skill Centre.

During the visit, the participants learned about different skill courses and skill centres established in the college. They had the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of skill courses and interact with trainers vis-a-vis trainees.

The Nodal Officer Skills, Dr. Javed Naqi briefed the students on various skill courses introduced in colleges by LSDM and its relevance in terms of certification and placement.

Among the trainers who have oriented the par-

ticipants on skill centre, courses and opportunities included Gulzar Hussain (Trainer House Keeping), Syed Roothullah (Trainer Graphic Design), Zainab Banoo (Trainer Embroidery) and Fatima (Beauty and Wellness).

The exposure visit to the skill centres marked a significant step in enhancing students' understanding of skill-based professions and opportunities.

The visiting students and the faculty members expressed their gratitude to Principal GDC Kargil, Dr Amina Qari, Convener Skill, Prof. Parveen Fatima and trainers for the practical exposure.

Ladakh Skill Development Mission and Higher Education Department UT Ladakh in collaboration with different Sector Skill Councils of NSDC has launched 10 NSQF aligned skill courses and established 13 skill centres in government degree colleges across Ladakh. This initiative also aligns with the vision of NEP-2020 to integrate vocational education/skilling in higher education.

## Day-long literary program 'Yaad-e-Moheb' held in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Around 20 poets and writers presented their papers and poetic compositions during the day-long seminar/poetic symposium titled 'Yaad-e-Moheb' at Conference Hall, Kargil on September 19.

The symposium was organised by the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (LAA-CL), Kargil in collaboration with the Association of Baltis in Himalayas (ABH).

Former Commissioner Secretary Revenue and prominent Urdu/Balti/Purgi poet, Kacho Asfandyar Khan Faridooon appreciated LAA-CL Kargil and the Association of Baltis in Himalayas for organising the unique and productive program in the district.

When discussing the contributions of Raja Hussain

Ali Khan Moheb (Aneese Baltistan) in the realm of Marsiya and Noha, he said it is evident that his impact is both significant and unparalleled.

Kacho added that his renowned book, "Dastan-e-Karbala," drew inspiration from the works of Moheb and his poignant poems depicting the tragedy of Karbala.

Joint Director, Information/ Additional Secretary Higher Education, Ladakh, Mteez Kacho expressed that the program provided him with valuable insights into the works of renowned scholars within the society. He also noted that this program would serve as a platform for future generations, inspiring them to engage in the fields of literature and history.

Kacho said these programs



During the day-long seminar/poetic symposium titled 'Yaad-e-Moheb' at Conference Hall, Kargil.

are important to motivate and encourage the young generation to preserve their culture. He said LAA-CL Kargil and media platforms play an important role in promoting all the important aspects of the rich culture and languages of Ladakh.

Rector of Kargil Campus University of Ladakh talked about the importance of cultural discourse through

participation in the program.

Meanwhile, prominent scholars, writers, and poets delivered their poems, papers, and speeches on Moheb and his extraordinary contribution to Balti literature.

Scholars presented their papers on topics like the future of Balti Language and Literature in Uttarakhand by Syed Mehmood Ali Shah, Bawa Qurban Ali and other literary personalities of Nubra by Fazil Abass Turtuk, Balti Literature by Akhtar Husain Zubdavi, Multilingual Literary Personalities of Kargil and their services by Mohd Sadiq Hardassi and Fan-e-Marsiya Goyewa Balti Shora by Kacho Asfandyar Khan Faridooon.

Writers, poets, district officers, and literary enthusiasts from Uttarakhand, Kashmir, Turtuk, Leh, and Kargil graced the event with their presence.

## Kargil Rocketeers Ladakh Cycling Expedition 2023 flagged off

The cycling team will cover 805 km covering Galwan to Kargil War Memorial



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) interacting with the team of Kargil Rocketeers Ladakh Cycling Expedition 2023.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), flagged off the Kargil Rocketeers Ladakh Cycling Expedition 2023 from the Hall of Fame on September 18.

The concerned army officials apprised LG of the Cycling Expedition which

was flagged off from Galwan on September 9 and will culminate at Kargil War Memorial in Drass. The cycling expedition has been organised to commemorate the 25th year of the victory of the Indian Army in Operation Vijay. The Indian Army team taking part in the cycling expedition will cover 805

kilometers while passing through mountain passes such as K'Kongta La, Namika La, and Photu La.

The officials informed the LG that this Indian Army cycling team will pay homage to the Bravehearts of the Indian Army who sacrificed their lives for the security of the nation in the wars fought on the land of the Ladakh region in operations such as Operation Meghdoot and Operation Vijay.

LG praised the Indian Army for their bravery and nationalism. He stated that the Indian Army has played a pivotal role in national security and integrity. He commended the cycling team and asked them to keep up the good work. LG also paid homage to the martyrs and laid a wreath at the War Memorial, Hall of Fame.

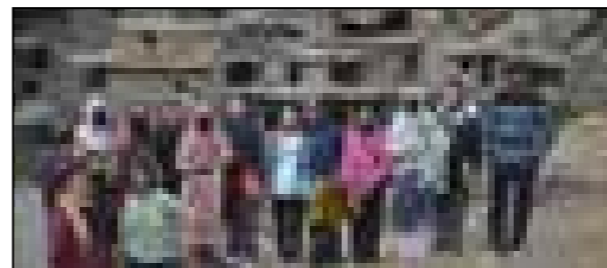
## GMDC Zanskar's week-long educational tour concludes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** Government Model Degree College, Zanskar concluded its week-long educational and exposure tour to different sub-divisions within the Kargil district on September 27.

The educational journey was thoughtfully crafted to enhance students' knowledge by delving into the historical aspects of the regions and providing valuable insights into the local flora and fauna.

Throughout the tour, which encompassed regions such as Sankoo, Drass, and Chikitan subdivisions, stu-



Students of GMDC, Zanskar during the week-long educational and exposure tour.

dents were fully engaged in a diverse learning experience. This encompassed enlightening field trips, expert talks, visits to historical landmarks, agricultural sites, and revered religious places.

The array of activities was designed with the aim of

offering students a comprehensive understanding and exploration of the region's rich heritage, culture, and biodiversity.

On the final day of the tour, the students gathered medicinal plants in Parkachik and also paid a visit to the Rangdum monastery.

## Measures intensified to control goat plague outbreak in Shakar-Chiktan Block

Nearly 80 percent of livestock vaccinated; disease contained



Vaccination campaign being carried out in Shakar Chiktan block to contain goat plague.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** An outbreak of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), a highly contagious viral disease affecting small ruminants, recently struck various villages in Shakar-Chiktan Block, raising concerns among the local community and livestock owners.

PPR, commonly known as goat plague, is a viral disease that poses a severe threat to goats and sheep. The disease is caused by the PPR virus, which belongs to the family Paramyxoviridae. It is characterized by symptoms such as fever, nasal and ocular discharge, coughing, pneumonia, mouth ulcers, and diar-

rhoea. The transmission of the PPR occurs through direct contact with infected animals, respiratory droplets, and contaminated feed and water sources. PPR can lead to significant production losses and high mortality rates, making its rapid containment crucial for the well-being of the region's livestock.

The team visited the highland pastures and collected blood, Serum, and Nasal swab samples from the live animals which were then sent to Disease Investigating Laboratory, Nowshera, Srinagar, for confirmation. The results of the report confirmed the PPR disease outbreak.

Taking prompt action, Director of Animal/Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries timely procured the PPR vaccine and consequently vaccination drive was started in Shakar Chiktan Block by the Sheep Husbandry Department Kargil on September 18.

Nearly 80 percent of livestock were vaccinated in the block. Further public awareness was also carried out through print and electronic media. As of today, the disease has been contained, and affected animals are showing good response to the treatment.

Taking cognizance of the

contagious nature of the disease, a team of experts was constituted on the spot and dispatched to contain the disease followed by an initial finding report.

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## DLSA Kargil organises awareness program on public utility services, central government welfare schemes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** District Legal Services Authority, Kargil organised an awareness programme on 'Public Utility Services and Central Government Welfare Schemes' at Sawab Public Secondary School Baroo, Kargil on September 26.

Advocate Nissar Hussain, Assistance Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Kargil highlighted the importance and significance of the event. He said that public utilities are concerned with the supply of essential products and services. In the absence of the services, the normal life of the individual will be



disturbed. Public utilities are mainly meant for the supply of services to the consumer. These services should be provided at a reasonable rate. The service includes a supply of water to homes, Supply of electricity, postal system, a Banking system Railways, etc.

He also highlighted some

important central government schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Ujala Yojana, National Ayush Mission, etc.

Mohammad Shareef, Principal, Sawab Public Secondary School Baroo thanked DLSA Kargil for organizing such a fruitful awareness program in their school.

### NOTICE

Whereas Tsering Sonam S/o Phunchok Angchok R/o Pun Pun Durbuk of Leh district UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has wrongly been recorded as Tsering Sonom instead of actual and correct name Tsering Sonam in his J&K Bank Share Certificate No. 266058 bought from J&K Bank Tangtse Durbuk, Leh UT Ladakh. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in the above mentioned office, within seven days from the date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

### NOTICE

No 9928905H Rank Naik Mohd Ali Unit 2 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his wife namely Zahra Khatoon has been wrongly entered as Zahara Khatoon instead of Zahra Khatoon 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-LA05051909247066V 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 necessary correction will be made.

## In Conversation with Tsering Samphel, Former MLA & Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

...Continues from page 4

**Q.** Having been in politics for so long and witnessed changes, how do you perceive the political situation today? Are there any notable changes?

I have had the privilege of working alongside leaders like Kushok Bakula Rinpoche and P Namgyal, who fought for the basic needs of the people, such as schools, colleges, bridges, and roads, with limited resources. The political landscape has shifted today, with leaders often emphasizing their contributions, which should be an inherent part of their responsibilities. Back then, leaders were more concerned with serving the people than showcasing their achievements. For instance, during Minister Sonam Nurboo's time, he used an 18-crore fund under PWD to build iron bridges in Nubra, Sham, and Rong, instead of using it for smaller, vote-winning projects.

However, the political landscape has changed. Today's leaders often focus on self-promotion and achievements. It's essential to discourage politics driven solely by money and power. Instead, we should work collaboratively for Ladakh's betterment, leaving behind petty disputes.

## Workshop to celebrate Hindi Diwas was held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Secretary of the General Administration Department, UT Ladakh Yatinder M. Maralkar launched the workshop to celebrate the Hindi Diwas at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on September 15.

The Secretary highlighted the significance of the Hindi language in India's cultural, historical, and administrative contexts. He stated celebrating Hindi Diwas helps reinforce the importance of the language and encourages its continued use.

Stressing promoting and popularising Hindi as a language of the masses, Assistant Professor Dr.

Tsering Chorol said it is our collective responsibility to promote regional languages as well as the Hindi language. The UT Administration is trying to identify the gap areas and organise more such programs/workshops for further promoting Hindi as a language," she added.

She also offered all possible help in promoting the Hindi language at the grassroots level and hoped the program would act as the pedestal of connectivity for future activities. She also highlighted the aim of celebrating 'Hindi Diwas', and also delineated the objectives of organizing the workshop.

### NOTICE



Whereas, Tenzin Tsomo D/o Rinzin Dorje & Tsewang Dolma R/o H.No. 40, TR Camp No. 11, Choglamsar, District Leh, UT Ladakh had claim that her Father's name is wrongly been recorded as Ringzin Dorjee instead of Rinzin Dorje in her 1st, 2nd, 3rd year marks card and Diploma certificate in Nursing Examination duly issued by Karnataka State Diploma in Nursing Examination Board through Narayana Hrudayalaya School of Nursing, Bangalore under Registration no. 07DN2358.

An Affidavit duly attested by Notary Public Leh is produced to this Office for making necessary correction in the marks card of 1st, 2nd, 3rd years and Diploma certificate.

Hence, notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this regard to Narayana Hrudayalaya School of Nursing, Bangalore within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

### NOTICE



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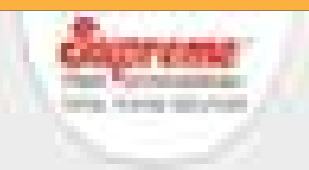


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