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February 01-15, 2024

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with
Jigmet Spaldon, Singer

People's voice:

Ladakh's winter sports battle climate change challenges

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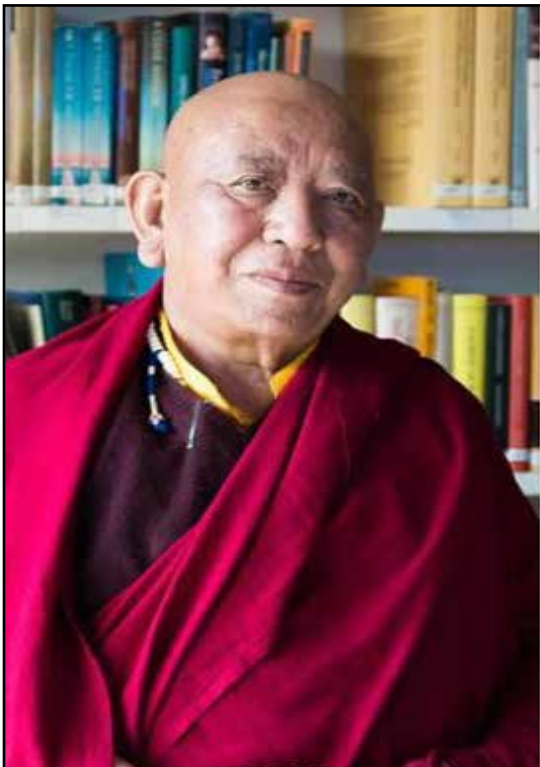
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Togdan Rinpoche awarded Padma Bhushan posthumously



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In another historic milestone for the people of Ladakh, the Government of India has posthumously conferred the prestigious "Padma Bhushan," the nation's third-highest civilian award, upon the revered His Eminence late Chosje Togdan Rinpoche of Ladakh.

Honoring this significant occasion, Tashi Gyalsong, Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Leh extended heartfelt congratulations and warm greetings on behalf of LAHDC Leh and the entire Ladakh community. He expressed immense pride for Ladakh and acknowledged the well-deserved recognition bestowed upon the late Rinpoche by the Government of India, led by the

President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, and the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

His Eminence Chosje Togdan Rinpoche remembered as a respected spiritual leader, a beacon of wisdom, and a source of inspiration for all, has left an indelible mark on the hearts of the people. Tashi Gyalsong congratulated Rinpoche's family members and the entire Ladakh community, emphasizing the moment as a source of pride.

In his remarks, he conveyed heartfelt prayers for the swift reincarnation of Rinpoche, hoping for his return to guide the community toward compassion, harmony, and enlightenment.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal described the day as a momentous occasion for Ladakh. He congratulated Rinpoche's family and the people of Ladakh for this well-deserved recognition.

"It serves as a source of pride for the Union Territory of Ladakh, acknowledging Rinpoche's wisdom and dedication to his lifelong socio-religious and political endeavors, particularly in preserving the Bhoti Language", he added.

He further added, "As we celebrate this recognition, we offer prayers for the swift reincarnation of His Eminence. May he guide us once again in

Rising temperature, melting ice: Ladakh's ice hockey faces unprecedented challenges

Players struggle as climate change shortens ice hockey season

Yangchen Dolma & Stanzin Padma

LEH: The escalating impacts of climate change in Ladakh have emerged as a significant cause for concern. Year after year, the region bears witness to the worsening consequences of climate change, with effects becoming increasingly pronounced over time. Altered weather patterns, glacier melt, and unpredictable conditions are instigating distress within the local community.

Farmers are grappling with concerns about water scarcity and the adverse impact of unprecedented weather conditions on agricultural practices. The pervasive influence of climate change is directly or indirectly affecting everyone's lives, and one poignant example is the beloved sport of Ladakh—Ice hockey. Ice hockey stands as a cornerstone of winter sports in Ladakh, facing formidable challenges attributable to climate change. The sport, traditionally played on natural ice sheets with limited infrastructure, is now confronting significant hurdles due to the changing climate.

The alterations in climate patterns have disrupted the proper formation of ice, adversely affecting the availability of suitable surfaces for ice hockey. Warmer temperatures and a shorter duration of freezing conditions have increased the difficulty for players to engage in the sport. The diminishing ice formation not only impacts the overall practice and playing season for ice hockey in Ladakh but also presents challenges for both recreational players and professional teams.



Konchok Namdol Durbuk, an ice hockey player, expressed, "Climate change is significantly affecting Ladakh's main winter sport, ice hockey. In the past, we could enjoy longer periods of playing, but now, due to accelerated ice melting and poor ice formation, the duration is decreasing. In Ladakh, all ice hockey is played outdoors in makeshift ponds, given the lack of proper indoor infrastructure. The direct impact of climate change on these outdoor ponds is causing a noticeable shortening of the playing season."

More than 20 teams, comprising both men and women, actively participate in ice hockey tournaments such as the LG Cup and CEC Cup in Ladakh. These competitions attract teams from various regions within Ladakh. Currently, the matches are conducted at the NDS Ice Hockey Rink in Leh, but the progress of the rink's development remains pending.

Previously, matches were held at the natural ice pond at Karzoo. However, the growing threat to natural ice ponds due to global warming has prompted an increased demand for artificial rinks.

Konchok Namdol said, "As a player, practicing poses numerous challenges. I started playing in 2012, and I recall that building an ice hockey rink was relatively easier back then. However, nowadays, there are many challenges directly attributed to the impact of climate change. Despite these challenges, ice hockey players from Ladakh continue to represent India in international tournaments. I maintain hope that in the future, Ladakhis will not only participate in the Olympics but also progress further."

This unsettling trend not only impedes the development of players but also dampens the enthusiasm and growth of the sport in the region. The adverse effects of climate

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Fortnightly News

12th ABCP General Assembly for buddhist peace held in New Delhi

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP) took place at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi on January 17-18.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President of India, who inaugurated the 2-day event. The assembly was attended by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Rinchen Lhamo (Member, National Minorities Commission), and delegates from 15 Asian countries, totaling around 80 eminent Buddhist leaders. Distinguished guests, including the 20th Bakula Rinpoche, HE Kundeling Rinpoche; HE Nechung Kuden Rinpoche; Chering Dorjay, Vice President, Ladakh Buddhist Association; Rigzin Dorjey, President, LBA Youth Wing; Tsering Samphel, Former LBA President and senior leader from Ladakh were also present.

During the assembly, a significant resolution was passed



Ven. Lama Lobzang receiving the ABCP Medal of Honour during the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace.

declaring His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama as the "Universal Supreme Leader of the Buddhist World," and designating his birthday, July 6, as the "Universal Day of Compassion." This resolution was proposed by Sonam Wangchuk Shaksपो, Joint Secretary General of ABCP.

The assembly also recognised the outstanding contributions to world

peace and service to humanity by conferring the prestigious "ABCP Medal of Honour" upon two distinguished individuals: Kiren Rijiju and Ven. Lama Lobzang.

This gathering not only served as a platform for fostering peace but also acknowledged and celebrated the exemplary efforts of individuals committed to the cause of global harmony.

75th Republic day celebration: L-G unfurls national flag in Leh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) saluting the national flag during the celebration of 75th Republic Day.

Nenzen Chodon

LEH: The celebration of the 75th Republic Day began with the unfurling of the tricolor national flag by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) on January 26 at Pologround.

The marching contingents comprised Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Reserved Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Ladakh Police (men/women), SPOs, Ex-Serviceman, National Cadet Corps (NCC) Boys/Girls, NCC Kargil (Boys), Mutahary Public School, Kargil; Mahabodhi Residential School, Sindh Public School, Moravian Mission School Leh, Ladakh Public School, Ladakh Scout Regimental Center (LSRC) band and IRP 25 Battalion female band. Ladakh Police's Dog Squad (K9) also demonstrated a drill as a part of the marching contingent.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor encouraged the people of Ladakh to unite and pledge to make the region the most developed and prosperous Union Territory in the next five years. He expressed gratitude to the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and police personnel for their dedication to duty and contributions beyond their assigned responsibilities.

Highlighting Ladakh's achievements, the Lieutenant Governor mentioned the successful celebration of the fifth Ladakh Foundation Day under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme. He praised the progress in art, culture, literature, spirituality, and sports and acknowledged the initiatives taken by the Administration, Hill Councils, and Panchayati Raj Institutions for Ladakh's development.

The Lieutenant Governor shared the various endeavors undertaken, including efforts to tackle increasing airfares, the formation of Ladakh's own Recruitment Board/Staff Selection Commission, and initiatives in education, health, agriculture, and tourism development.

He also acknowledged the successful commemoration of the fifth Ladakh Foundation Day within the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program. This initiative involved sending 175 students from remote areas of Ladakh, accompanied by 35 teachers, to every Raj Niwas and Raj Bhawan across the country to showcase the rich culture and art of Ladakh. Additionally, he extended his best wishes to the people of Ladakh who have excelled in the fields of art, culture, literature, spirituality, and sports.

Highlighting the collaborative efforts of the Administration, Hill Councils, and Panchayati Raj Institutions to foster Ladakh's development, he outlined various initiatives, including the pursuit of a carbon-neutral Ladakh, infrastructure development, telecommunications projects, youth employment, business and skill development, tourism promotion, safeguarding Ladakh culture, security programs, education advancement, healthcare development, agricultural initiatives, sports development, frontier area progress, and the Swachh Ladakh Programme.

The Lieutenant Governor also discussed his proactive measures to address challenges, such as addressing the issue of escalating airfares. Notably, he emphasized the decision to establish Ladakh's own Recruitment Board/Staff Selection Commission and his engagement with the chairman of UPSC to define Recruitment Rules for gazetted posts specific to Ladakh.

He further detailed his persistent efforts in the past six months to facilitate the acquisition of an MRI machine for the District Hospital in Kargil, including discussions with officials in the Ministry of Home Affairs to expedite the purchase process. The Lieutenant Governor outlined steps being taken to reduce the mortality rate of pashmina goat kids during the winter months and initiatives like the detachment of attached teachers and school staff for effective administration and educational out-

comes.

Cultural performances by students from various schools in Leh and Kargil graced the event, with an additional captivating presentation by the cultural troupe from the Culture Academy Jammu.

In the March past competition, Mahabodhi Residential School clinched the first position, showcasing exceptional discipline and precision. Mutahary Public School Kargil secured the second position, while Moravian Mission School Leh earned the third spot.

The winner of the cultural performance category was Government Middle School, Gangles. Following closely, Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Leh, secured the second position, and Mutahary Public School claimed the third position.

The Republic Day witnessed the announcement of the 4th State and District Awards for 2024, recognising outstanding contributions across various fields. In the state awards category, accolades in Literature, Art, and Craft were bestowed upon Tonyot Tashi (Wanla, Leh), Tsewang Rigzin (Shey, Leh), and Late Sonam Dadul (Choglam, Leh). The Bravery Award was posthumously conferred upon Late Mohd Raza from Karkitko, Kargil, and Inspector Dorjay Gyalson (Tia, Leh); Late His Eminence Togdan Rinpoche received recognition for Social Reforms, Empowerment, and Environment Protection. In the realm of sports, Padma Chorol (Spituk Leh) and Shanaz Parveen (Sankoo Kargil) were acknowledged for their noteworthy achievements.

At the district level, notable awardees included Kunzes Wangmo from the Horticulture Department in Leh; Sonam Chorol, Assistant Accounts Officer, Chief Controller Finance Official Officer LAHDC, Leh; Rigzin Norboo, a dedicated teacher in Govt. P/S Education, and Leakes Angmo, recognized for her excellence in the field of Cycling. Earlier, L-G unfurled the Tricolour at Raj Niwas, marking the commencement of Republic Day festivities. Following this, he respectfully laid a wreath at the war memorial and paid homage to the brave martyrs at the Hall of Fame.

Later in the evening, the LG played host to the 'At Home' function on Republic Day. The event was attended by elected representatives, leaders of religious, political, and social organizations, members of the Armed Forces, distinguished award winners, government officials, and other prominent figures from Ladakh.

Dr. Sonam Dawa remembered on his 6th death anniversary



Stanzin Padma

LEH: Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh observed 6th death anniversary of Late Dr. Sonam Dawa, Former CEC, LAHDC Leh at Dr. Sonam Dawa Memorial Park, Diskit Tsal on January 29.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of a butter lamp and offering kathaks to late Dr. Sonam Dawa, attended by Chief Guest Advisor to Lt. Governor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, and Guest of Honor, His Eminence Chokyang Palga Rinpoche, along with other dignitaries.

Paying tribute on the solemn

occasion of the 6th death anniversary of Dr. Sonam Dawa, Dr. Pawan Kotwal expressed that Sonam Dawa served as an inspiration to all. During his tenure in the health department, he devoted himself to providing essential healthcare services to the people. As Chief Executive Councillor, he played a pivotal role in the development of Leh, contributing significantly to its upliftment.

On this occasion of remembrance, Kotwal emphasized the need to formulate a comprehensive plan to transform Ladakh into a carbon-neu-

tral, sustainable, and well-developed Union Territory.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk, reflected on Dr. Sonam Dawa's contributions to Ladakh, highlighting his inclusive approach in uniting everyone for the region's development. Notably, when the BJP established its presence in Ladakh, Sonam Dawa assumed leadership within the party. Since 2015, the BJP has been in power in Ladakh, and Sonam Dawa's leadership has left a lasting impact.

Angchuk emphasised the importance of continuing to remember him and striving to emulate his work ethic. It is crucial for the younger generation to be aware

of Dr. Sonam Dawa's substantial contributions to Ladakh and follow in his footsteps.

His Eminence Palga Rinpoche emphasised the importance of holding the name of Late Dr. Sonam Dawa with respect, expressing his sorrow upon learning of his demise years ago. He noted that Dr. Sonam Dawa was found lying on his right side, a position recognized as Buddha's resting posture, highlighting the significance of our actions in life reflecting upon death.

Palga Rinpoche spoke of the helpful nature of the former CEC, describing him as empathetic and generous, leaving a lasting impact for generations. He shared a child-

hood memory where Dr. Dawa saved his life during an illness.

Lobsang Sherab, Councillor, Khalitse conveyed his gratitude for the position he holds today as a councillor, having worked closely with Dr. Sonam Dawa. According to him, Dr. Dawa sincerely and impartially worked for every corner of Ladakh, irrespective of caste, creed, class, or political affiliation.

He mentioned that the park, initially not secured, was saved for public use by Dr. Dawa and proposed renaming it as "Dawa Tsal" in his honor. Lobsang Sherab reiterated the importance of commemorating Dr. Dawa's contributions by naming the park after him.

75th Republic Day: CEC unfurls tricolor in Kargil



Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil inspecting the parade during the 75th Republic day celebration in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 75th Republic Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium, Bemathang, Kargil, where Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, unfurled the National Flag.

Dr. Jaffer inspected the parade at the stadium, taking the salute during the march past by contingents of Ladakh Police, police band party, NCC Cadets, and school contingents.

Notable attendees included Executive Councilor I&FC/PHE/Tourism, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikanth Suse; SP Anayat Ali Choudhary; Brigade Commander 121 Brigade, Chairman Hajj Committee, Ladakh, Mohd Ali Majaz; District Treasury Officer Kargil, Ifikhar Hussain; Director Tourism Ladakh, Kunzes Angmo; ADC Kargil; Joint Director Information, Ladakh, Inteeaz Kacho; along with senior officers, district officers, councilors, PRI members, and representatives from various religious, political, and social organizations. District awardees, sports persons, students, and a large gathering of the public were also present.

In his Republic Day address, Dr. Jaffer extended congratulations and emphasized the significance of January 26, 1950, when the Indian Constitution was enacted, granting the country the status of an independent democracy. He highlighted the principles of equality enshrined in the Constitution, emphasizing that all religions, nationalities, colors, and races have equal rights without discrimination.

Dr. Jaffer called upon the people to actively participate in the development of villages, cities, and the entire country with a spirit of patriotism. He paid tribute to the veteran soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of the nation.

He said the Council is dedicated to enhancing and developing the district, leaving no area overlooked adding the goal is to propel the district to new heights

of development. He highlighted ongoing projects for public welfare, emphasizing a clean, transparent, corruption-free, and accountable administration. Developmental works in health, PWD, tourism, sports, and rural development are progressing, with a focus on stabilizing other sectors.

Dr. Jaffer discussed the priority given to the health sector, mentioning the recent inauguration of a 160-slice CT-scan machine in District Hospital Kargil. He detailed plans for additional construction in the health sector, including an Rs 89 crore block for the district hospital and the installation of an MRI machine. He discussed plans for over 60 Health and Wellness Centres, approval for an Urban PHC in NHM, and free diagnostic procedures in hospitals. Efforts to provide staff in NTPHCS were mentioned, along with collaboration

with the Army to address the shortage of specialists.

Expressing gratitude to the Indian Army and BRO, Dr. Jaffer acknowledged their contributions to training candidates for Army and Police recruitment and providing better connectivity through infrastructure projects.

Regarding facilities outside Ladakh, the CEC highlighted reduced room rents in Srinagar and Jammu, ongoing construction of Kargil Bhawan in Delhi, and efforts to provide better accommodation for students, commuters, and patients.

Tourism was emphasized as a crucial part of the economy, with plans to promote it through infrastructure development and the creation of a tourist circuit. Dr. Jaffer mentioned efforts to link viewpoints like Changi La Mushkoo Valley and Tiger Hill to the tourism map with the support of the Army.

Under Urban Development, the CEC announced the commencement of projects such as multi-level car parking, sewage treatment plant, and 24x7 water supply scheme. He discussed the revised Homestay Policy, including the inclusion of 550

deserving people to set up homestays.

Dr. Jaffer addressed issues with the UPSC examination center, promising action, and discussed various initiatives in education, including providing laptops to meritorious students, free boarding for students during winter vacations, and employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth.

Projects for residential facilities, the Iqbal Mangrove Hydrel Project, and the Zojila Tunnel were discussed. Dr. Jaffer expressed gratitude for the initiative to clean Kurbathang Plateau and emphasized support for ice hockey.

The CEC concluded by expressing gratitude to all officers, employees, and volunteers for their contributions and thanked the Lieutenant Governor for his recent visit to Kargil.

The Republic Day event featured colorful cultural programs and patriotic songs presented by students from various schools. Dr. Jaffer and dignitaries distributed mementos and certificates to recognize outstanding performances and contributions to public welfare. Prizes were also awarded to participants in the march past and cultural programs.

Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar reviews winter classes progress

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar visited Higher Secondary School Sakti, and High Schools Housing Colony & Choglam on January 25 and reviewed the progress of the residential and non-residential remedial winter classes that have been initiated for 10th and 12th-grade students.

An important development

in Ladakh's education landscape is the transition of the School's Education Department's affiliation from the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). This academic year marks the first time students will be appearing for the CBSE examination, and the department is diligently working to fa-

cilitate a smooth transition for them. As part of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme by the Ministry of Education, these remedial winter classes aim to support the academic preparedness of students in 10th and 12th grades.

School's Education Department in Ladakh has shifted its affiliation from the Jammu & Kashmir

Board of School Education to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). This year, students will be taking the CBSE examination for the first time, and the department is working hard to help them adjust to the change. Under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme of the Ministry of Education, residential and non-residential remedial

winter classes have been initiated for 10th and 12th-grade students.

Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar interacted with the students, inquired about their preparations, and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

Similar classes are being conducted in different blocks of Ladakh.

Rising temperatures and melting ice: Ladakh's Ice Hockey faces unprecedented challenges

...continues from page 1

change on ice hockey serve as a stark reminder of the far-reaching consequences on various aspects of life, extending beyond agriculture to even the cherished cultural and recreational activities of communities like Ladakh.

The root cause of this impact is undeniably human-made, emphasizing the role of human activities in contributing to climate change. As communities strive to adapt and preserve their beloved sports traditions, the shift towards artificial rinks highlights the need for sustainable practices to ensure the continued enjoyment and viability of ice hockey in Ladakh. Despite these challenges, young players perceive ice hockey as a significant opportunity to proudly represent India at the international level. Their aspirations speak to the resilience of the sport and the determination of emerging athletes to overcome environmental obstacles and pursue their dreams on the global stage.

Diskit C Angmo, Player, Indian women's ice hockey team, has shed light on the formidable challenges faced by her team. She emphasised that "one of the most significant hurdles is the absence

of reliable snowfall forecasts and the diminishing severity of winters, courtesy of global warming. Consequently, the ice is melting, and the availability of ice time for practice sessions is severely limited. This poses considerable difficulties for the team, especially when competing at the international level."

In a recent observation, scientists have noted a decline in snowfall and glacial mass in Ladakh, compounding the challenges faced by the team. Diskit pointed out, "Unlike teams in other countries equipped with year-round training facilities, we only have the winter season to practice and compete in international championships. This significantly impacts our training regimen and ultimately influences our performance on the ice."

In Leh, the impact of climate change is notably severe, particularly when compared to more remote regions like Changthang and Zaskar. Presently, the absence of proper ice rinks has led to individuals creating personal ice rinks and charging fees for their use. This trend poses a significant threat to the future of ice hockey, underscoring the urgency to take

proactive measures to address these issues for the well-being of the next generation.

The absence of a government-provided, dedicated ice hockey rink raises concerns about the potential jeopardy to the sport and its players. It is imperative to take immediate action, raising awareness and prioritizing the development of suitable facilities. This proactive approach ensures that future generations have ample opportunities to engage in and foster the growth of ice hockey. By addressing these challenges head-on, we can safeguard the rich tradition of the sport and provide a sustainable platform for the flourishing of young talent in the region.

Speaking about the action plan, Ravinder Kumar, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, stated, "As a sports department, we are actively constructing ice hockey rinks in various locations. However, our enduring solutions involve a concentrated effort on building indoor rinks, as outdoor practice is more susceptible to interruptions. We are striving to ensure uninterrupted training for talented players, enabling practice at any time. Our overarching goal is to promote ice

hockey as extensively as possible."

He emphasised, "We are also directing our efforts towards portable ice hockey infrastructure, enabling us to bring the sport to different locations, especially at the sub-division level. This strategic approach aims to enhance accessibility and foster the widespread participation of communities, ensuring the continued growth and popularity of ice hockey in the region."

The focus on both indoor rinks and portable infrastructure reflects a comprehensive strategy to tackle the challenges posed by climate change and promote the enduring success of ice hockey in the area.

The unseasonably warm weather in mid-January is posing a challenge for the formation of the crucial ice surface, dealing a setback to the beloved sport in Ladakh. While ice hockey has been a cherished sport in Ladakh, this year brings a heightened risk for aspiring players as the lack of natural ice conditions jeopardizes their dreams and the continuity of the sport in the region.

Fortnightly News

MP chairs DISHA meeting in Kargil

Reviews progress of schemes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Member of Parliament for Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal chaired the 4th Quarter District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at Conference Hall, Baroo, Kargil on January 19.

The meeting aimed to assess the strides made under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes within the district.

District Level DISHA Committee, including Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse and heads of various departments, agencies, stakeholders, NGOs, and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

MP Namgyal inquired the progress under Beneficiaries Oriented Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as PM-VISHVAKARMA, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), MGNREGA, SBM, PMAY-Urban and Rural, NHM, Poshan Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), PMGKAY, PM UJWALA, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Family Benefit Schemes, NHM, Status of JIM, PMKKKY, Viksit Bharat



Sankalp Yatra, and others.

During the meeting, MP Ladakh instructed Industrial Promotion Officer, Kargil to introduce various trades tailored to Ladakh's context. He also stressed on implementation of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. He sought updates on the action taken report from the previous DISHA Meeting, along with the latest physical and financial progress reports for each programme/scheme.

He directed CMO Kargil to promote the empanelled hospital list on social media for Ayushman Bharat Golden Card beneficiaries.

He also inquired about the newly sanctioned roads under PMGSY, implementation of labour welfare schemes and asked the concerned to distribute compensation through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for NHIDCL pack-

MP Ladakh underlined the importance of the DISHA meeting for effectively redressing people's grievances and issues of the concerned departments. He stressed that officers to ensure the completion of various centrally sponsored projects and schemes within the stipulated timelines and to avoid delays to prevent cost escalation.

All the sectoral heads of the respective departments were asked to hold awareness camps at various villages in coordination with the DISHA Committee and PRI members so that people get benefit of the centrally sponsored schemes.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer, Kargil, in presence of MP Namgyal through powerpoint presentation presented various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and their achievements.

Amit Sharma attends India International Science Festival



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Administrative Secretary of Science and Technology, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma attended the four-day India International Science Festival 2023 at Faridabad, Haryana (NCR Delhi) on January 19.

The India International Science Festival brought together a lot of personalities from various corners of the country and led par-

ticipants from more than 20 countries of the world including Argentina, South Africa, Singapore, Australia, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Indonesia, and others to deliberate upon critical issues shaping the scientific global landscape and devise a strategy for the future.

Deputy Chairman of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, Tsering Angchuk was also present.

Secretary S&T Ladakh Amit Sharma actively participated in a panel discussion moderated by Dr Satish K, Agnihotri, an alumnus of IIT, Mumbai. The focus of the discussion revolved around strengthening STI Ecosystems in different states/UTs across the nation, with delegates from Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Jharkhand contributing their insights.

Amit Sharma underscored the strategic importance of fostering innovation in Ladakh through the creation of a Bio-Technology Park and the development of a mechanism for start-ups in Aromatic plants. He articulated a vision that aligned with Ladakh's unique ecosystem, emphasizing the potential for sustainable development in the region.

aspects such as carbon neutrality, the establishment of biotech parks in Ladakh, the promotion of biotechnology start-ups in Ladakh, and the way forward for same in which UT Ladakh administration would seek support from RCB for same. He highlighted the commitment of UT Ladakh to positioning itself as a hub for scientific and technological advancements.

Secretary, Amit Sharma along with Deputy Chairman of LAHDC, Leh also addressed delegates of various nations regarding the lead taken by the Union Territory of Ladakh in the field of carbon neutrality and the upcoming step of launching hydrogen-fuel buses there, which shall be first in the nation, which attracted a standing ovation from the visiting international guests there.

The discussion centered around encompassing key

The participation of UT Ladakh at the India International Science Conference 2023, under the leadership of Secretary Amit Sharma, not only exemplifies a commitment to scientific progress but also underscores Ladakh's dedication to sustainable and innovative solutions. As Ladakh marches towards a future defined by technological excellence, Secretary Amit Sharma's leadership continues to be a beacon, guiding the way forward.

National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa and NIPER, Hyderabad, sign MOU for academic and research collaboration

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa in Leh and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, on January 19 at NIPER, Hyderabad.

The primary objective of the MOU is to foster and promote academic and research collaborations, facilitate faculty and student exchanges, develop teaching programs, and propose initiatives to preserve, promote, and advance the Sowa-Rigpa System of Medicine. The partnership aims to establish high standards in teaching, training, and research, integrating a scientific approach into the understanding of Sowa-Rigpa.

The MOU, signed by Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, and Prof. Shailendra Saraf,



Director of NIPER, will provide opportunities for faculty exchange and collaboration. The institutions plan to identify need-based, demand-driven, and sustainable education programs to be delivered through various modes, including e-learning, distance education, and traditional methods.

NIPER Hyderabad will contribute by offering training in research techniques in Molecular Biology, Neurosciences, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Bio-analytical studies,

medical devices, and related areas. Additionally, BSRMS students at NISR will have the opportunity to undertake electives at NIPER Hyderabad.

In turn, NISR will support research activities at NIPER Hyderabad by providing clinical material, Materia Medica-Plant Kingdom, Metal, Mineral, and Animal Kingdom, Therapeutic principles, External and Rejuvenation Therapy, and samples, thus enhancing the collaborative partnership between the two institutions.

LAHDC bids farewell to outgoing SSP P. D. Nitya



Hill Council, Leh accorded warm farewell to the outgoing Sr. Superintendent of Police Leh, P.D Nitya (IPS).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Hill Council, Leh accorded a warm farewell to the outgoing Sr. Superintendent of Police Leh, P.D Nitya (IPS) with a symbolic dinner hosted at the Grand Dragon Ladakh on January 28.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphe; Leader of Opposition, Tsering Namgyal and Councillors of LAHDC Leh, Joint Dy. Director IB, Priyanshu Pandey; SSP CID Ladakh, Stanzin Losal and District officers of District Administration, Leh were present during the occasion.

CEC Gyalson appreciated P.D Nitya for her working style and administrative capabilities contributing an indispensable service to the welfare and benefit of the people of Ladakh. He also recounted the efforts of P.D Nitya in monitoring and providing wide awareness on major issues

including drug abuse, and women's safety in the district. Extending his good wishes to P.D Nitya, CEC expressed hope that she would soon return to serve the people of Ladakh in a higher position with greater responsibility.

He also congratulated Shrutu Arora (IPS) for getting promoted as the new SSP Leh and hoped for continuous coordination to work for the welfare of the people of Leh, Ladakh.

Similarly, DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve also shared and recounted anecdotes of outgoing SSP Leh, P.D Nitya highlighting her dedication, hard work and exemplary work in ensuring a very good law and order situation in coordination with the District Administration, Leh.

P.D Nitya thanked LAHDC Leh headed by Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson, Dy Chairman, Executive Councillors and Council-

lors for making her tenure in the Leh district successful and memorable. She added that her experience of serving in Leh was successful due to the support and understanding of the able leaders and officers of Ladakh. P.D Nitya also stated that she would readily accept any opportunity to serve the people of Ladakh again.

An interaction session was also conducted with the Trainee IAS officers (AG-MUT Cadre) during the event where the officers shared their experiences exploring Ladakh and mentioned that they would love to serve in Ladakh in future.

As a token of gratitude for the selfless service of SSP P.D Nitya, LAHDC and District Administration, Leh felicitated outgoing SSP and newly appointed SSP Leh along with the Trainee IAS officers with traditional khataks and mementos during the event.

'Enchanting Ladakh' wows Delhi with local products

Special focus on GI-tagged products: Ladakhi pashmina, wood carving, sea buckthorn, and apricot



Artists from Ladakh performing cultural dance during the 5th edition of "Enchanting Ladakh at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson inaugurated the 5th edition of "Enchanting Ladakh", an exhibition cum sale of handicrafts, handlooms, and processed food products of Ladakh on January 18 at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.

Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce UT Ladakh, Sanjeev Khirwar, Director, Industries and Commerce, Muhammad Nazir Sheikh, and many other distinguished guests from the government and private sectors were present during the inaugural event.

To expound the rich and diverse culture, tradition, and crafts of Ladakh,

Enchanting Ladakh is organised every year by the Industries and Commerce Department at Dilli Haat. The event will conclude on January 31.

Many of the traditional Ladakhi crafts including wood carving, copper metal craft, woodcraft, felted wool toys, and unique Aryan valley hand embroidery making are on display along with live demonstrations at the venue. 126 artisans/SHGs/entrepreneurs from Ladakh are participating in the event, with the display and selling of their handmade exquisite products from across the region.

CEC Tashi Gyalson stated that several exposures

are being provided to the artisans and craftspeople from Ladakh to showcase and promote their work in the national capital city and other parts of the country, through such exhibitions. He added that the 'Enchanting Ladakh at Dilli Haat' is one such example and an important platform for the artisans from Ladakh. He further mentioned that the 'Brand Ladakh' emporium at the Baba Kharak Singh Marg of Connaught Place is another platform where the products from Ladakh are available for sale and is hence a perfect opportunity for dealing with and developing commercial relationships with the rest of the country.

Six outstanding performing entrepreneur/artisans in their respective sectors and cultural fields were felicitated with certificate of appreciation and mementos by the chief guest.

As informed, this year's special focus has been given to the products that have recently been certified with the Geographical indication (GI) tag, like the Ladakhi Pashmina, Ladakhi Wood Carving craft, Ladakh Sea buckthorn and Ladakhi Apricot (Raktse Karpo).

Advisor reviews Annual Action Plan for the year 2023-24 & proposals for financial year

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal assessed the status of expenditure under the Annual Action Plan for the year 2023-24 and the proposals for the next financial year 2024-25 at UT Secretariat Leh.

The meeting focused on a comprehensive review of the expenditure status for the ongoing financial year 2023-24, alongside an examination of the Revised Estimate (RE) proposal for the same period. Particular attention was dedicated to the ongoing Plan submissions for the Financial Year 2024-25 under the Special Development Package (SDP) and State Sectoral Projects (SSP) with a specific emphasis on Capital Expenditure (Capex).

Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal emphasised on collective efforts of the officers for transparency, accountability, and efficiency in resource utilization, ensuring that every rupee spent contributes significantly to the holistic development of Ladakh.



Dr Pawan Kotwal expressed satisfaction with the progress made and urged all stakeholders to continue their dedicated efforts for the successful implementation of the proposed plans. He emphasised the importance of fiscal responsibility, timely execution, and the need for continuous collaboration to overcome any challenges that may arise during the execution phase.

The meticulous review of expenditures and proposals reflects the UT Administration's dedication to fostering sustainable growth and enhancing the

overall quality of life for the residents of UT Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by all the Commissioner/Secretaries; Administrative Secretaries; Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Head of the Departments; Chief Engineers, UT Ladakh; Director of Accounts and Treasury; Deputy Director of Planning; Officers from the Planning Department, UT Ladakh; and officials from the concerned departments, while Commissioner/Secretary of Health; Chief Conservator Forest; officials from Kargil; and concerned departments officers joined the meeting virtually.

Health and wellness centres to be rebranded as 'Tsey-Ring Nadmed Tsonas'



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson chaired an important meeting with the heads of socio-religious organisations of Leh on January 28 and discussed the rebranding of the Health & Wellness Centre in Leh, Ladakh.

After comprehensive deliberation and suggestions put forth by the officials and the head of socio-religious organizations, the meeting unanimously decided to rebrand the Health & Wellness Centres in Leh with "Tsey-Ring Nadmed Tsonas" in Bhoti, an officially notified language of UT Ladakh in accordance with the provision provided under the guidelines of the order from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India.

CEC affirmed that formal approval would be sought from the UT Administration.

tion Ladakh by LAHDC Leh for the rebranding of these centres in the Bhoti language, following the prescribed guidelines. He further added that within a few days, all the Health and Wellness Centres in Leh district would be rebranded as "Tsey-Ring Nadmed Tsonas".

The meeting was attended by Dy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillor for Art & Culture, Stanzin Chosphe; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; President LGA, Ven Tsering Wangchuk; Vice President LBA, Tsering Dorje Lakrook; President Anjuman Imamia, Ashraf Ali Barcha; and Vice President Anjuman Moin-Ul-Islam Leh, Nazir Ahmed Abdu; Chief Medical Officer Leh, Dr. Diskit Dolma; and Culture Officer, Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Leh, Dr. Thupstan Nurbuo.

National Voters Day celebrated to create electoral awareness

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 14th National Voters Day themed, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure' was celebrated with great enthusiasm at EJM College, Leh on January 25.

Deputy District Election Officer, Leh, Sonam Chosjor briefly outlined the purpose of the gathering and spoke about the importance of community involvement in the electoral process.

Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Leh, Delex Namgyal administered the Voters Day Pledge to the participants on the occasion.

Chief Electoral Officer, UT Ladakh, Yatindra Maralkar urged future voters to actively engage in the forthcoming elections and play a pivotal role in raising awareness within the community. Highlighting the power of an informed electorate, he urged the audience to exercise their right to vote. He reiterated the essence of democracy as a collective endeavor and encouraged the audience to be proactive in building a stronger and more engaged society through their in-

volvement in the electoral process.

District Election Officer, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve motivated the young voters to actively engage in the democratic process.

Providing valuable insights, he emphasised the importance of making informed choices and selecting representatives wisely. In a call for maximum participation, he stressed that the strength of a democracy lies in the collective voice of its people.

EVM/ VVPAT demonstration was also conducted.

To encourage the young voters, a quiz competition was organised between the students of different Higher Secondary Schools of the Leh Block.

The BLOs were felicitated for their exemplary work during the house-to-house survey EPIC coverage registration of new voters during a special summary of Electoral 2024. Also, the Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) was distributed among the newly registered voters.

People's Voice:

Ladakh's winter sports battle climate change challenges

Nenzes Chodon & Stanzin Padma

Ladakh has become a sought-after destination for winter sports enthusiasts, particularly in activities like ice hockey, ice skating, and ice climbing. The unique climate of Ladakh, with frozen water and snow-covered landscapes during winter, provides an ideal backdrop for these thrilling winter pursuits. Ice hockey, in particular, has garnered significant popularity among Ladakhi youth, including active participation from women.

However, the beloved sport faces a substantial threat from climate change, manifested in rapid glacier melt. The impact of global warming on glaciers is now jeopardizing the safety and feasibility of practicing on natural ice ponds. Consequently, there is a heightened demand for more artificial rinks to ensure the continuity of winter sports. The rising temperatures pose a growing challenge to the sustainability of these activities, underlining the urgent need for sustainable solutions and comprehensive infrastructural development. Preserving and flourishing winter sports in Ladakh hinges on addressing these climate-related challenges.

Let's read what they have to say about it?



Rigzin Namgyal, Ice hockey association member: In his perspective, the effect of climate change loom large as a significant threat, particularly affecting the melting of glaciers and ice in Ladakh. Having worked at the NDS stadium, I've observed a notable shift in the dynamics. Previously, a single layer of shed is enough to slow down ice melting, but today, this measure proves inadequate. In the past, ice hockey was played in the open expanse of the Karzoo Zing (pond), but climate change has disrupted the seamless execution of ice hockey tournaments.

Envisioning a solution, the construction of an indoor stadium holds promise. Once fully realized, this facility could facilitate year-round ice hockey, providing a more reliable alternative for players. He attributes the rise in pollution and global warming to the overarching cause of climate change, underscoring the necessity for artificial ice rinks. With diminishing prospects for natural ice formation in the future, especially beyond colder regions, the demand for artificial facilities becomes imperative.

Highlighting the aspirations of youth players, they perceive ice hockey as a significant opportunity to represent India on the international stage. However, the pivotal factor lies in having access to ice throughout the year. Without this continuity, there's a risk of losing potential talent in the game. The distribution of ice hockey equipment by the UT administration to interested players and clubs has significantly improved, marking a positive change from the equipment shortages experienced in previous years. This shift ensures that the budding players of this game are well-equipped and underscores the commitment to nurture and develop ice hockey talent in the region.



Diskit C Angmo, Player, India Women's ice hockey team: It has been 10-15 years since I started skating, with my initiation into ice hockey in 2013, and I have proudly represented the national team since the beginning of 2016. Despite India's predominantly tropical climate, Ladakh, nestled in the Himalayan region, stands out for ice hockey, surpassing other states like Himachal Pradesh, and Dehradun. Our advantage lies in the unique natural weather conditions that prevail here, allowing the sport to thrive. Ice hockey originated on natural frozen ponds, making our dependence on natural ice a defining characteristic.

When I embarked on my ice hockey journey, the winter duration spanned three harsh months, leading to extended winter breaks. However, the current climatic conditions pose a formidable challenge. As an international player, we are entirely reliant on natural ice, making it increasingly difficult for us to practice consistently. One of the most pressing challenges is the unpredictability of snowfall, coupled with winters becoming milder. The absence of sub-zero temperatures contributes to ice melting, severely limiting the availability of ice time for practice sessions. Unlike players from other countries who have the luxury of artificial ice rinks and can play throughout the year, we consider this a drawback, given our dependence on

natural frozen ice ponds.

Climate change is a harsh reality, and players are grappling with its tangible effects. The construction of the artificial ice rink in Leh is taking an extended period, and unless completed soon, the game might face extinction under current climatic conditions.

Today, the majority of players in the national team, men and women, hail from Ladakh. If the prevailing conditions persist, we stand to lose valuable opportunities. It feels like the very essence of ice hockey is melting away, mirroring the thawing of the ice.

Looking ahead, I hope for a more responsible approach, emphasising basic necessities such as reducing fuel consumption and promoting afforestation. It is crucial for all of us to take collective steps to safeguard the future of ice hockey and preserve the beauty of this sport amid the challenges posed by climate change.



Padma Chorol, Member, Ladakh women ice hockey foundation: I have been immersed in ice-related sports since my childhood, initially starting with speed skating and later transitioning to ice hockey, where I currently hold a position in the national team. Reflecting on the past, I recall Guphuks pond remaining frozen for extended periods, providing a conducive environment for ice activities. However, today, the duration of frozen ice has significantly decreased, and the ice conditions have deteriorated due to the harsh sunlight accelerating the melting process.

From my perspective, climate change is not merely altering weather patterns but is gradually impacting ice hockey players. The diminishing winter season leaves us with a limited timeframe for practice, and since Ladakh relies on natural ice, we lack a viable alternative to preserve the essence of the game.

In the absence of accessible ice rinks, many individuals have taken the initiative to create private rinks, often charging fees. If our administration fails to provide suitable alternatives for ice hockey rinks, we risk jeopardizing both the sport and its players. This scarcity of facilities poses a serious threat.

New talents are emerging from various parts of the country, but without proper interventions, these players may face setbacks. Our reliance on natural ice puts us at a disadvantage, and the absence of adequate facilities could potentially place our position in the hands of other states, leading to a loss of our best opportunities.

It is crucial that immediate and effective measures are taken to address these challenges, ensuring the sustainability of ice hockey and providing equal opportunities for players across the country. The administration's commitment to developing proper infrastructure will not only safeguard the sport but also nurture the potential of emerging players.

...continues on page 7



World Cancer Day



Every year World Cancer Day is celebrated on 4 February. It is the global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The purpose of the UICC is to support the World Cancer Declaration. The primary purpose of celebrating this day is to reduce the number of cancer patients and to reduce the death rate causing due to it.

Cancer is a second-leading cause of death across the world and 70% of cancer deaths occur in low-to-middle-income countries. Each year, millions of lives can be saved by implementing resource-appropriate strat-

egies for prevention, early detection, and treatment.

In 2000, World Cancer Day originated at the first World Summit Against Cancer and was held in Paris. At this Summit, several leaders of government agencies, and cancer organizations from around the world signed the Charter of Paris Against Cancer. It was a document of 10 articles that outlined a cooperative global commitment to improving the quality of life of cancer patients and to the continued investment in and advancement of cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Article X of the charter formally declared

February 4 as World Cancer Day.

As per World Health Organization (WHO), if the incidence of cancer continues to grow at the reported rate, the number of deaths worldwide from cancer will increase to more than 16.3 million by 2040. Also, 40 percent of deaths from cancer are preventable according to WHO.

UICC was established in the year 1993. It has its headquarters in Geneva. It is a membership-based organization taking care of Cancer around the world and helping in medical research.

DID YOU KNOW



1. There's a planet mostly made from diamond Called 55 Cancri e, it's around twice the size of Earth and some 40 light-years away from us within the Cancer constellation.

2. Animals can be allergic to humans
Animals can be allergic to our dead skin cells. These allergic reactions can be just like ours, too, including breathing difficulties and skin irritation.

3. Being bored is actually a 'high arousal state' physiologically. This is because when you're bored your heart rate increases.

4. Platypuses sweat milk. This is because it doesn't have teats. Milk appears as sweat on a platypus, but it's an aquatic mammal so it doesn't actually sweat at all.

5. Martial artists who smile before the start of a match are more likely to lose. This could be as a smile can convey fear or submissiveness.

6. It's almost impossible to get too much sugar from fresh fruit.
While the sugar in fruit is mostly fructose and glucose (fructose is what's converted into fat in your body), you can't get too much sugar from fresh fruit. Fresh fruit contains a lot of fibre and water that slows down your digestion and makes you feel full.

7. You don't like the sound of your own voice because of the bones in your head. This may be because the bones in our head make our voice sound deeper.

8. A rainbow on Venus is called a glory.
Appearing as a series of coloured concentric rings, these are caused by the interference of light waves within droplets, rather than the reflection, refraction and dispersion of light that makes a rainbow.

9. Protons look like peanuts, rugby balls, bagels, and spheres. Protons come in all different shapes and sizes, with their appearance changing based on the speed of smaller particles within them: Quarks.

10. Mirrors facing each other don't produce infinite reflections. Each reflection will be darker than the last and eventually fade into invisibility. Mirrors absorb a fraction of the energy of the light striking them.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

A son's tribute to his Dad



What does the loss of one's parents mean? A lot, a whole lot. The entire world of existence seems to have lost its meaning and significance, and one understands of life and death comes into sharp focus.

With Mom gone long ago to her heavenly abode, and now Dad following her, the world seems to be less beautiful and less fascinating.

Having lived for 97 years with great hope, and willing to celebrate life all through, Dad's passing away has shattered some of my beliefs in some of

the well-accepted principles of the philosophy of life. Maybe, those are temporary phenomena, but the fact of the matter is that life can never be the same, a world of love, hope and progress with the physical presence of one's parents.

Dad was a kind of iconic figure. A person of great action, he never had any negative approach towards life, and he exemplified a heroic person who had nothing but 'can do' and 'will do' moments until his last days with his dear and near ones.

A dynamic person, he was a great entrepreneur of sort when the rest of his small world had no idea of what entrepreneurship stood for. He not only 'uplifted' his family members but also those in and out of his village, decades ago, when there was nothing of any modernity, and existence was almost 'tribalist'.

He could see, 70 years ago, that the power to give a good life was education. He educated his children and made them earn good enough for a comfortable and happy life. I was among the first 'educated' persons from my village, formally with a university degree. That could happen because Dad could see the future decades ahead and worked optimistically and wholeheartedly.

A man of ideas, he could give a solution to any problem his family members and villagers faced. As such, he was a much-loved and admired person, but he 'equated' himself with the humblest and the weakest of the people around. He had a mindset that never bent towards negativity.

You have left us physically, DAD, but you will dwell in the temple of our hearts, forever!

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Jigmet Spaldon, Singer

Interviewed by Yangchen Dolma

Q. Briefly explain your journey into singing.

I am Jigmet Spaldon, hailing from Kyungyam Rong. I completed my schooling at Mahabodhi School and pursued my graduation in Chandigarh. Singing has been a part of my life since childhood. My singing journey took root during my time as an assistant at Mahabodhi, where I traveled to various places. While there, I would sing mantras and other songs, receiving compliments that sparked my interest. Subsequently, I joined the Luyang Band, providing me opportunities to explore different parts of Ladakh. Through the band, I delved into Ladakhi Folk songs, particularly the rich traditions of Jabro's and Junglu. This marked the beginning of my official musical journey, and to this day, I continue to embrace and celebrate it.

Q. Can you share your experience with the selection process and journey to represent Ladakh in "Bharat ka Amrit Kalash," and how many participants were involved in the competition?

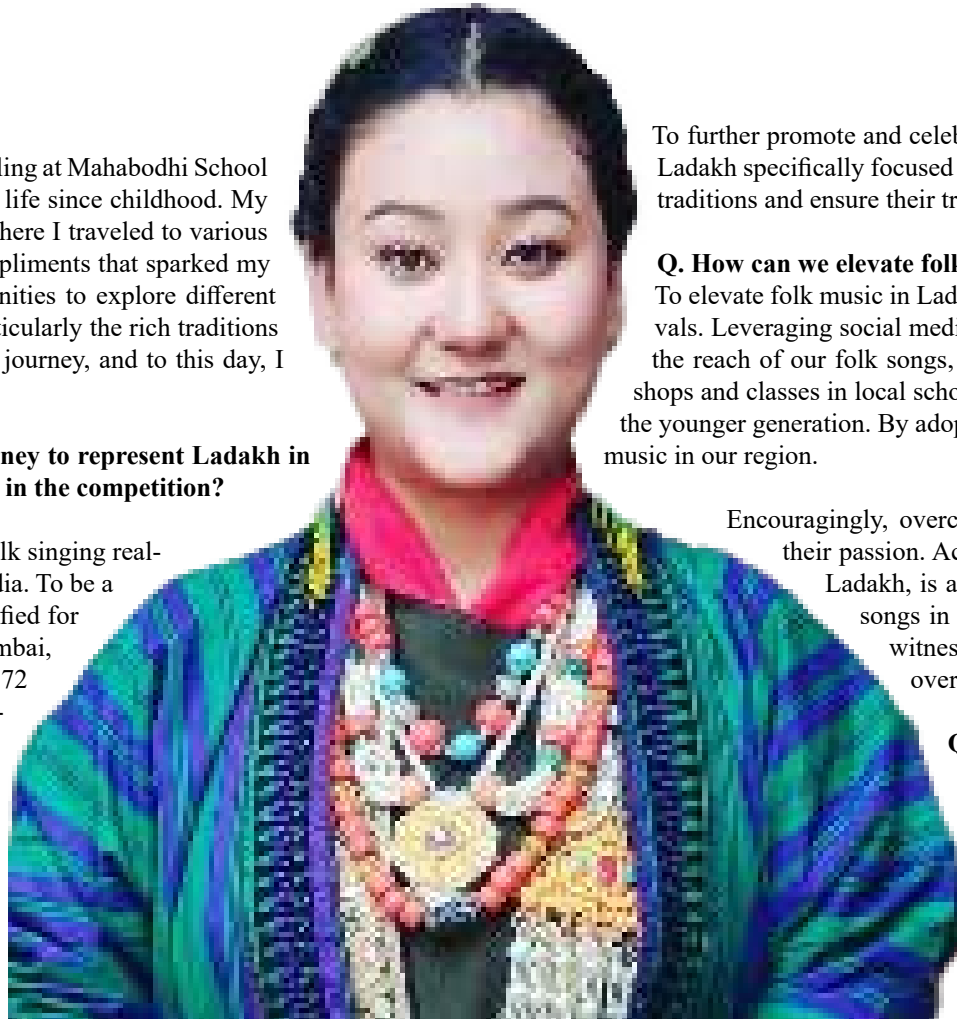
The "Bharat ka Amrit Kalash" stands out as a distinctive and the largest folk singing reality show, featuring participants from every state and Union Territory of India. To be a part of this incredible platform, I submitted a video and successfully qualified for the ground-level round. Subsequently, a mega audition took place in Mumbai, where two individuals were chosen from each state, resulting in a total of 72 participants. As the competition progressed, the number was gradually narrowed down to the top 50, 40, 30, and finally, the top 20. I am honored to have secured a place in the top 15. The much-anticipated competition for the top 15 is scheduled for January 29th.

"Bharat Ka Amrit Kalash" is an initiative guided by Kailash Kher, aiming to provide a significant platform for folk singers. In an era where Western influences are becoming dominant, this show is a commendable effort to promote and celebrate the rich heritage of folk music.

Q. How would you describe the current status and progression of Ladakhi folk songs in today's times?

The appreciation for Ladakhi folk songs has seen a shift, with some challenges in recent times. Initially, there was a lack of interest among Ladakhi people, possibly due to the intricate lyrics that were not easily understood. Even personally, I found it challenging to grasp them initially. The complexity of language in folk songs made it a bit difficult to connect with for many. Consequently, the younger generation has gravitated towards genres like K-Pop and Bollywood music.

However, what makes Ladakhi culture and songs truly extraordinary are their unique and special qualities. When people from other states hear Ladakhi folk songs for the first time, they are genuinely amazed and appreciate the richness of our traditions. Participation in platforms like Bharat ka Amrit Kalash provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the beauty and depth of our folk songs to a wider audience.



To further promote and celebrate our cultural heritage, it's crucial to organize more workshops in Ladakh specifically focused on folk songs. This would serve as a wonderful means to preserve our traditions and ensure their transmission to future generations.

Q. How can we elevate folk music to a higher status in Ladakh, in your opinion?

To elevate folk music in Ladakh, it is crucial to integrate it prominently into local events and festivals. Leveraging social media platforms such as YouTube and Instagram can significantly expand the reach of our folk songs, connecting with a broader audience. Additionally, organising workshops and classes in local schools and colleges is essential to impart knowledge about folk music to the younger generation. By adopting these measures, we can enhance the value and popularity of folk music in our region.

Encouragingly, overcoming self-confidence challenges is vital for individuals to pursue their passion. Actively participating in various opportunities, both within and outside Ladakh, is an excellent way to break free from limiting mindsets. There are folk songs in our cultural repertoire that risk being forgotten. It's disheartening to witness their neglect, making it imperative for us to revive and cherish these overlooked gems.

Q. How do you strike a balance between preserving traditional Ladakhi Folk music and incorporating modern elements into your sound?

It is essential for every musician to acquire proficiency in both traditional and modern music. Striking a balance between these two genres is particularly crucial for professional singers who aim to excel in diverse musical landscapes. My approach involves singing folk music where it fits naturally and seamlessly transitioning to modern music as the occasion demands. By embracing both styles, I believe we can effectively showcase our talent and appeal to a broader spectrum of audiences.

Q. How important is the participation of the young generation, especially females, in the field of folk music?

I acknowledge your viewpoint. In Ladakh, there appears to be a shortage of female singers, and it is noticeable that predominantly boys participate in bands. Currently, there is no exclusive band for girls. Nevertheless, it is imperative for girls to step forward and capitalize on the numerous opportunities available. The success of a singing career ultimately hinges on personal interest and dedication. While in the past, families may not have fully grasped the significance of participation, in contemporary times, families are becoming more understanding and supportive. Encouraging parents to comprehend and support their children's interests is also crucial for fostering inclusivity in the field of folk music.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

"In the journey of life, remember that nothing is impossible when you set your mind to it. In Ladakh, it's evident that some individuals grapple with low confidence at times. However, confidence is a trait that everyone should nurture. It's essential never to compare ourselves to others, recognizing that each individual is inherently unique. Regardless of the circumstances, active participation and unwavering self-belief are crucial elements that propel us forward."

Fortnight Highlights



CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun visited a family affected by a fire incident in Khaus village, Taisuru. He interacted with the family and assessed the damage to the house caused by the fire incident and announced immediate relief of Rs 50,000 to the family, along with free ration for six months.



Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the Dha Bridge, Hanu Gongma Bridge and 8 Km long Khatse Batalik road on January 19. The inauguration ceremony at Khatse was graced by Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh, Minority, Ghulam Mehdi who presided as chief guest whereas Councillor Lamayuru Constituency, Dr. Murup Dorjay and Sub Divisional Magistrate Khatse, Suhail Ahmad.



Junior Under Officer Dechen Chuskit of 1 LADAKH Battalion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) honored with the Raksha Mantri Padak by the Defence Minister of India.



Mehnaz Jabeen, a member of Ladakh Science Foundation (LSF) from Leh got selected for 'Mars Analog Astronaut Program' to be held at 'The Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS)', Utah, USA. CEC, Tashi Gyalson congratulated Mehnaz and extended his best wishes for participating in such a huge program.



Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh, Moses Kunzang, attended the Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai as chef de mission of Ladakh Contingent. A total of 18 players from Ladakh, showcased expertise in archery, boxing, table tennis, and thangka, are representing the region at the Khelo India Youth Games.



75th Republic Day: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson unfurls tricolour at the Council Secretariat, Leh.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson interacted with the students of Govt. Middle School (Council Model School), Gangles. He congratulated and lauded the splendid performances of the students of Govt. Council Model School, Gangles securing top position in the cultural program during the 75th Republic Day celebration.



Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson along with DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve visited Tia village in sham region and reviewed the necessary preparation ahead of the much anticipated visits of His Holiness 12th Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche this summer.

Fortnightly News

L-G inaugurates medical equipment at District Hospital, Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Lt. Governor Brig (Dr) BD Mishra in the presence of MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun inaugurated 160 slice CT-Scan machine, Modular Operation Theatre (MOT) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at District Hospital, Kargil on January 20.



Lt. Governor Brig (Dr) BD Mishra, MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun inaugurating medical equipments at District Hospital, Kargil.

Executive Councillor, Social Welfare/ Agriculture, LAHDC Kargil, Aga Seyed Mujtaba Mussavi; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse; Superintendent of Police Kargil; Anayat Ali Chowdhary, Director Health Services, UT Ladakh; Dr Motup Dorje, Chairperson, Haj Committee UT of Ladakh; Mohammad Ali Majaz, Chief Medical Officer Kargil; Dr Kacho Liyaqat Ali Khan and other officials were present during the inaugural ceremony.

While speaking on the occasion, LG affirms, PM Narendra Modi's dedication to nationwide progress, ensuring amenities reach every citizen. He assured that a state of art

MRI machine will be purchased for the hospital, ensuring timely procurement. Highlighting women empowerment led by Modi government, 33 percent reservation for women in elections announced.

Emphasising national development, he also underscores the pivotal role of women's education, recognizing its significance in fostering progress and advancement for the nation. He urges doctors to exhibit dedication and prioritize patient welfare addressing healthcare priorities.

DC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse while giving cost details said that 160 slice CT-Scan machine costs 7.6 crore, while as Modular Operation Theatre (MOT) and

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) costs 2.67 crore and said it was monitored by LG for its timely completion.

LG also visited GM Pore Hospital Kargil, took a detailed assessment of services provided to the patients inspecting its various sections such as delivery room, operation theatre, etc and enquired about the facilities available.

Affirming his commitment, the Lt. Governor said the UT administration is committed to corruption free and delay free Ladakh.

Councillor GM Pore, Syed Ali also apprised him about the death of doctors in the hospital.

Delegations of PhD holders in Agri/Horti/Veterinary Science, appointment aspirants under SRO-43 cases meets L-G

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation comprising PhD holders in Agriculture, Horticulture and Veterinary Science from Ladakh led by Dr Mansoor Ali met Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on January 24. Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Principal Secretary, Sanjiv Khirwar; ADGP Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal; Secretary to LG, Ravinder Kumar and Secretary, Michael D'Souza, were present in the meeting.

Dr Mansoor apprised the LG of the issue of the non-transference of physical assets along with posts of six units of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)-Kashmir to UT Ladakh. He requested LG's intervention in the transfer of assets and posts so that the recruitment for the said posts could be processed at the earliest as they are nearing the age limit to apply for the posts. He also requested LG's intervention in funding for the 4 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and 2 Research Centers. Dr Mansoor also requested the introduction of post-graduate or undergraduate courses in Agriculture at the Department of Agriculture, University of Ladakh.

LG spoke to Principal Sec-



Delegation comprising aspirants seeking government jobs on compassionate grounds under SRO-43 with LG.

retary, Government Agriculture Production Department, UT J&K, Shailendra Kumar, and mentioned to him to expedite the process of transfer of physical assets and posts to UT Ladakh. Shailendra Kumar assured LG that the assets would soon be handed over to UT Ladakh along with the posts.

LG asked the PhD holders to meet the Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, Padma Angmo regarding the introduction of courses in Agriculture Department at the University of Ladakh.

Later, a delegation comprising aspirants seeking government jobs on compassionate grounds under SRO-43 led by Stanzin Yangskit met LG and informed about the processing of their SRO-43 cases by the Home Department. She requested LG to expedite the process.

She also informed that some of the aspirants under SRO-43 have already been handed over appoint-

ment letters by the concerned departments.

Dr Pawan Kotwal informed LG that the Home Department has 28 SRO-43 cases out of which files of 13 SRO-43 cases have been requested by the Police Department to UT J&K to transfer to UT Ladakh.

Secretary, Michael D'Souza sought LG's intervention in granting a one-time exemption to these SRO-43 cases, some of which are two decades old, so that they could be cleared.

LG asked the General Administration Department to settle these cases in a time-bound manner. He also stated that the Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) should be assigned the task of verifying the authenticity of the compassionate cases and taking videos of the proceedings. He also asked ADGP Ladakh to assign DIG Ladakh Police, Shaikh Junaid, IPS, to go to J&K to transfer the files of SRO-43 cases.

Zanskar celebrates 75th Republic Day



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: The 75th Republic Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and patriotic fervor in Zanskar Sub Division on January 26.

SDM Zanskar, Romil Singh Donk unfurled the National Flag. He inspected the parade and took salute at the march past presented by the contingents of Ladakh Police, Ex-Serviceman Ladakh Scout, NCC and various schools.

The event was attended by Padma Shri awardee Tsultrim Chonjor as guest of honour, Councillor Lungnak, Stanzin Lakpa, all the religious heads and the officers and officials of the

Sub Division were present.

Addressing the gathering, SDM Zanskar enumerated the major developmental works in Sub Division Zanskar such as NH-301 and NPD roads. He also appreciated all line departments' efforts and endeavors to provide the best quality service to the public.

Patriotic and folk songs were presented by the children of different schools. The event concluded with the distribution of prizes, and appreciation certificates among the participants, best employees and position holders of the sub-division.

Hill Council convenes review meeting on drought preparedness in Kargil district



Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun assessing and planning for the potential drought-like situation in the district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in Kargil, chaired a crucial meeting to assess and plan for the potential drought-like situation in the district.

Dr. Jaffer highlighted the significance of the meeting, focusing on gathering suggestions and devising strategies to confront the anticipated drought-like conditions in the upcoming summer, considering the lack of snowfall during the winter season.

He underscored the action plan's priorities, which include ensuring access to drinking water for the human population, addressing the needs of livestock, and implementing measures to safeguard plantations.

Heads of various departments presented their proposed action plans and requirements to tackle the potential drought-like scenario. The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department informed the CEC about the necessity for water tankers, additional manpower, submersible pumps, and other logistical support for water distribution. The

Irrigation Department outlined its requirements, including solar pumps, PVC pipes, gunny bags, and other resources to manage the situation.

Dr. Jaffer stressed the importance of conserving flowing water through streams, and the Deputy Commissioner directed the Agriculture Department to expand the number of greenhouses for the upcoming financial year. Furthermore, he urged the Agriculture Department to disseminate advisories through media regarding the cultivation of water-resistant crops in the upcoming agriculture season.

The meeting involved a comprehensive review of various departments, such as Horticulture, Agriculture, Mechanical Division, Animal Husbandry, Rural Development Department (RDD), Sheep Husbandry, and Command Area. Dr. Jaffer directed all concerned departments to submit proposals within two days to address the drought situation, ensuring timely submission to the Union Territory Administration. He emphasized the need for collective efforts from all departments to effectively mitigate the potential drought.

EC Zakir Hussain flags off 2nd batch of students for educational tour

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The second batch of 90 students and 12 escort teachers for an exposure tour under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA was flagged off by Executive Councillor, Education, LAHDC, Kargil, Zakir Hussain on January 28.

The initiative aims to provide students with a valuable learning experience by visiting historic places and educational institutes. The Executive Councillor expressed his enthusiasm for the tour and encouraged the students to make the most of this opportunity.

Highlighting the significance of such initiatives, Zakir Hussain empha-

sized their role in shaping well-rounded individuals. He further assured the commitment of LAHDC, Kargil, in providing students with opportunities for exposure and learning beyond the Union Territory.

A total of 136 students from different Govt. Higher Secondary and Govt. High Schools along with 16 escort teachers from 7 educational institutions, will be participating in this exposure tour.

Councillor Baroo-Minjee Constituency, Adv. Khadim Hussain and Chief Education Officer Kargil, Mushtaq Ahmad were also present during the flag off ceremony.

14th National Voters' Day 2024 celebrated across Kargil district

Election Commission of India's song in Purgi language released



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 14th National Voters' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at SMM Auditorium Hall, Kargil on January 25.

District Election Officer/Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse was the chief guest. The Election Commission of India's song in the Purgi language was also launched. The song was translated by Purgi language expert Mohd Issa Sabiri, sung by Mindok Tsar Dramatic Club, and produced by Ladakh Planet Production House.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the celebration of National Voters' Day is aimed at promoting a free and fair election process without being influenced by social, race, economic,

and religious status. He further emphasised on the full proof formation of the voter list.

He said the ECI has taken all the possible measures to upgrade the EVM to ensure transparency and a free and fair election process.

Master Mohammad Ali gave a brief training and awareness about the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) clearing the doubts raised about the manipulation of the EVM.

Cash prizes and mementos were distributed among the winners of the quiz competition conducted by SVEEP Kargil, Ladakh.

In Zanskar, the National Voters Day celebration was held at Tourist Dak Bungalow Padum where

Area Development Officer/SDM Zanskar, Romil Singh Donk was chief guest.

Quiz competition among Government Model Degree College, Govt. Higher Secondary School Phey, Govt. High School Karsha, Govt. High School Zangla and Govt. High School Tungri. Govt. High School Tungri won the 1st position, Govt. Model Degree College Zanskar won 2nd position and Govt. Higher Secondary School Phey won the 3rd position.

Appreciation certificates were also presented to the booth level officer for their outstanding performance.

National Voter's Day was also celebrated in Drass Sub Division where SDM Drass Vishal Atri addressed the general public at Tehsil Office and SDM Office. Later, the SDM interacted with students of HSS Drass and informed them about the importance of the right to vote. He also ensured that every individual above 18 years if not enrolled in the electoral roll. The event concluded with an oath-taking ceremony.

DC Kargil flags off team Ladakh for Khelo India Youth Games, honors Thangtha National medalists



DC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse with the National Medalists of Thangtha Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: DC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse flagged off team Ladakh for Khelo India Youth Games on January 23. He also extended felicitations to the National Medalists of Thangtha Ladakh for their remarkable achievements at the 29th Junior National Thangtha Championship.

The recognition ceremony took place at the DC Of-

ice Kargil, with the players being awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals. President of Thangtha Association Ladakh, Mudassar Wazir, and Coach Mohd Hassan graced the event with their presence.

Underlining the immense potential for Ladakh's youth, particularly following the region's transition to a Union Territory, DC Kargil urged the players to seize the available opportunities by putting in dedicated efforts and rigorous practice.

Mudassar Wazir expressed gratitude to DC Kargil for the unwavering support and appealed for further assistance in expanding the association's outreach throughout every corner of the district. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that more talented youths benefit from such initiatives.

CEC inspects healthcare facilities at district hospital, Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akoon visited District Hospital Kargil on January 16 and inspected health facilities for patients.

It was informed that the main work of installation 128-slice CT Scan machine has been completed while the remaining work is under execution. CEC Dr Jaffer directed Chief Medical Officer, Kargil to keep the CT scan machine ready for the inauguration by the L-G, Brig (Dr) BD



Mishra.

CEC was informed that the application engineers will be called from the company for the remaining work. He was also informed that the Intensive Care Unit and Modular Operation Theatre are ready to provide services for patients.

He directed the officials of the Health Department to prepare a detailed proposal along with justifications for the extension of the present hospital bed strength to 300 beds and accordingly, the staff strength will be increased. He also interacted with patients and inquired about the healthcare facilities available in the hospital.

Kargil observes birth anniversary of Hazrat Imam Ali

Mansoor Hosain Beigh

KARGIL: The birth anniversary of Ali ibn Abu Talib or Imam Hazrat Ali was observed on January 25 in Kargil.

Shia Muslims consider Imam Ali as the first Imam and the birth anniversary is observed every year on the 13th day of Rajab, the seventh month according to the Islamic calendar.

The day was organised by Jamiat Ulama Isna Ashriya Kargil & Imam Khomenie Memorial Trust Kargil. Thousand of people from different villages of Kargil attended.

Mosques and Imam Bar-

gha decked up and decorated with bright lights.

While addressing, religious clerics stress for unity among Muslims and the adherence to the teachings of Hazrat-e-Imam Ali (A.S.).

On this significant day, Muslims worldwide recommit themselves to the principles exemplified by Imam Ali (AS), focusing on the ethics of care, compassion, generosity, integrity, tolerance, forgiveness, brotherhood, and service to others.

Imam Ali (AS), with his wisdom and foresight, thwarted all conspiracies against the Muslim Um-

mah, setting forth exemplary precedents for the faithful to lead honorable lives.

The celebration of the birth anniversary of Hazrat-e-Imam Ali (A.S.) was observed at various locations, including Drass, Shargole, Chiktan, Anjuman-E-Sahib Zaman, Markaz-E-Tabligh Imam Reza Sankoo, Taisuru, Barsoo, GMPore, and Panikhar.

The event concluded with prayers for peace and security in the Islamic world and India. Additionally, prayers were offered for timely snowfall, addressing the primary concern of the people of Ladakh.

ARTO, Tourism Department collaborate for positive impact

ARTO Kargil urges drivers to become tourism ambassadors

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In commemoration of National Tourism Day, the observance of National Road Safety Month, and National Voters' Day, a collaborative program themed, "sustainable journeys and timeless memories" was conducted by the Tourism Department, Kargil, and ARTO, Kargil on January 25 at conference hall.

The event was organised in partnership with Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Kargil, and Ladakh Tribal Foundation. Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Kargil, Khadim Hussain; Assistant Director Tourism (AD) Kargil, Syed Toha Aga; District Youth Officer, NYK, Jigmat Spaldon, representatives of Ladakh Tribal Foundation, Travel Trade Association, Kargil, Taxi Union and drivers were present.

The program aimed to improve the interaction of drivers with tourists, enhancing travel experiences through positive and courteous practices on roads.

ARTO Kargil, Khadim Hussain expressed grati-



tude to drivers, emphasizing their role as tourism ambassadors, urging them to prioritize passenger care for a positive tourist impression. He also advised drivers on positive behaviour, cautioning against rash driving for safer roads and improved tourist experiences.

He urged drivers to contribute to promoting tourism by improving their communication skills, adopting proper attire, and actively engaging with tourists within the local community. He highlighted the economic potential, asserted that the tourism industry and transportation can propel regional economic growth.

AD Tourism, Syed Toha Aga said that updated information booklets for tourist destinations will be published and these are aimed to provide compre-

hensive and current details for a seamless tourist experience. He said the footfall of tourists has increased and emphasised the administration's dedication to promoting tourism in the region for sustained growth and development.

He underscored the vital role of drivers in tourism, emphasizing the importance of good manners for a positive tourist experience.

District Youth Officer, NYK, Jigmat Spaldon stressed on the importance of sense of responsibility among drivers for fostering a positive community image.

Other speakers also addressed the drivers, shared insights and advice with drivers on the occasion, promoting a collaborative effort for enhanced tourism experiences

Fortnightly News

Tourism Department in Kargil celebrates Mamani festival at Chiktan



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHIKTAN: The Tourism Department in Kargil organised 'Mamani', Ladakh's ethnic food festival, with enthusiastic participation from the crowd on January 20 at Chiktan.

Executive Councillor, Kacho Mohd Feroz; Director of Tourism Kunzes Angmo; Councillor Chiktan, Kacho Liyaqat Ali Khan; SDM Shakar Chiktan, Abdul Gaffar Zargar; Assistant Director of Tourism Aga Syed Toha; Lambardar, Former BDC, officers of SDM Shakar Chiktan, artisans, and thousands of villagers, along with domestic tourists were present.

EC Kacho Mohd Feroz underscored the importance of traditional festivals like 'Mamani' in promoting communal harmony and

preserving Ladakh's rich culture. He advocated for prioritizing traditional foods, highlighting their high nutritional value, particularly considering local weather conditions.

Expressing commitment to preserving culture and identity, he articulated the goal of positioning district Kargil on the tourism map, leveraging contributions from Zaskar to Shakar Chiktan to bolster the local economy. He commended the artisans of the Handloom/Handicraft Department for showcasing their artifacts and ethnic foods, urging them to take advantage of beneficiary-oriented schemes. He thanked the Tourism Department in Kargil for organising the annual festival at Chiktan. The event featured a play by the RANTHaG Group

Kargil and cultural performances by various cultural troops from Booth Kharboo, Mundik, Chiktan, Kukshow, Henaskot, Balti, and Sheena.

Kunzes Angmo, Director of Tourism Ladakh, expressed that such festivals would continue to be organized to stimulate the local economy and safeguard Ladakh's cultural heritage. She praised Self Help Groups and outlined plans for expanding homestays in Chiktan under the Homestay Policy.

SDM Zargar highlighted the cultural festival's potential to showcase local culture and cuisine nationwide, suggesting elevating it to a national-level event to boost the tourism sector and the economy of Kargil.

The Assistant Director of Tourism stated that the program aims to explore winter tourism and attract domestic and international tourists to Kargil. The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Kargil also disseminated information regarding registration and participation in the electoral process to promote civic awareness.

Road Safety awareness for truck union held

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A Road Safety awareness and education program for the Truck Union in Leh was successfully conducted by Ladakh Police Traffic Wing in partnership with Jammu and Kashmir Bank on January 27.

During the session, Divisional Transport Inspector (DTI) Leh, Parvez Ahmad, presented road accident data from the past three years. Deputy SP Traffic Leh, Mohd Baqir, emphasized the importance of adhering to traffic laws to reduce road accidents.

Superintendent of Police Traffic Wing, UT Ladakh, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman said that the awareness aimed to make a significant impact in reducing accidents and saving lives. He also discussed the new amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act, highlighting their importance. Emphasizing the need for awareness and education, he stressed



the significance of spreading road safety protocols among the public. The session focused on essential road safety measures and central government schemes.

Senior Manager, JK Bank, Toldan introduced several schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana for ₹436, secure a Life Insurance cover of ₹2,00,000, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana open a Zero-Balance basic savings account and get a free accident Insurance cover of ₹2,00,000, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha

Bima Yojana with a minimal ₹20 premium, avail Accidental Insurance cover of up to ₹2,00,000 and Atal Pension Yojana for secure a monthly pension between ₹1,000 - ₹5,000 post-retirement.

A total of 65 truck union members enrolled in these schemes, preparing for a more secure future.

President, Truck Union Leh expressed gratitude to Traffic Police Ladakh and Jammu Kashmir Bank for their collaborative effort in organising this session for the Truck Union Leh.

15th CEC Cup Ice Hockey championship kicks off in Kargil



Players during the 15th CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship inaugural match.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 15th CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, commenced at Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium Bemathang, Kargil, on January 27.

Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, Chairman/CEC, Kargil, inaugurated the championship, and the opening match took place between Drass Warriors and DW-GA-Red. The Drass Warriors emerged victorious with a score of 14-0 goals.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Wani; Chief Education Officer, Kargil, Mushtaq Ahmad; and District Youth Services Sports Officer (DYSSO) Kargil, Abid Ali, along with participating teams and concerned officers.

Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo commended the department for their commitment to preparing the ice hockey rink despite dry weather

conditions. He expressed optimism about Ladakh's potential in winter sports and wished success to the players at national and international levels. The department's hard work ensured a well-prepared venue for the tournament at the stadium.

In support of promoting ice hockey in Ladakh, the UT administration provided ice hockey sets to 10 teams in the district. Dr. Akhoo announced that the Council would supply kits to all other teams to enhance their performance in competitions.

Expressing delight, he praised the enthusiastic participation of young players in the district and appreciated their dedication and efforts. Dr. Akhoo urged the athletes to seize the opportunities presented and dedicate themselves to their respective sports.

DYSSO Abid Ali shared that a total of 36 teams, including 4 women's teams, are participating in the 12-day tournament.

People's Voice Ladakh's winter sports battle climate change challenges

...continues from page 4



Passang Lhawang, Zaskar Ice Hockey Team Manager: He conveyed his concerns about the noticeable impact of global warming in Ladakh, emphasizing that the effects are becoming more pronounced with each passing year. The observable change lies in the reduced formation of ice, a trend that is particularly evident in the comparison between Zaskar and Leh. While Zaskar experiences comparatively less pollution, Leh is increasingly threatened by pollution, intensifying the impact on the region.

The repercussions are significantly felt by everyone involved in the winter sport of ice hockey, with practitioners facing challenges in maintaining their regular practice routines. The severity of the situation in Leh is particularly noteworthy. Looking ahead, he expressed genuine worries about the potential challenges that future generations may encounter if timely pollution control measures are not implemented.

Highlighting the critical need for action, he underscored the importance of constructing an artificial rink for players to practice. Such a facility would not only mitigate the current challenges but also provide a better opportunity for ice hockey players to prepare and excel in their sport, ensuring its continued vibrancy and growth in the face of environmental challenges.



Chamba Tsetan, Ice Hockey Player: I embarked on my journey in ice hockey in 2010, and it has been a remarkable 13 years of witnessing the sport's transformation. Throughout this period, I've observed significant changes, from modest rinks to the emergence of grand stadiums. An encouraging trend is the proliferation of rinks in most villages, leading to a surge in the number of teams and players.

However, the impact of climate change is increasingly evident, notably seen in the altered freezing patterns of Guphuks pond. While it used to freeze in November, the ice quality now exhibits noticeable differences even as late as January. As a player, the challenges have shifted; we no longer grapple with equipment shortages, but the pressing issue is the threat of climate change causing the premature melting of ice. This poses a real risk of losing opportunities to participate in tournaments that have become integral to the sport today.

The spirit of Ladakhi players has propelled them onto the national stage, honing their skills on the natural rinks of their villages. However, the specter of climate change looms large, and it has the potential to distance these enthusiastic players from the sport they love.

In the face of these challenges, there is a crucial need for sustainable solutions and proactive measures to preserve the essence of ice hockey in Ladakh. It is imperative to address the environmental factors that threaten the very foundation of the sport and ensure that future generations can continue to thrive and contribute to the evolving landscape of ice hockey in the region.



Konchok Namdol, Ice hockey player from Durbuk: Climate change is exerting a significant adverse influence on Ladakh's primary winter sport, ice hockey. In the past, the sport enjoyed a lengthier playing period, but the current scenario witnesses a reduction due to premature ice melting and inadequate ice formation. Ice hockey in Ladakh predominantly takes place in makeshift ponds, given the absence of proper indoor infrastructure. The direct impact of climate change on these natural ponds is resulting in shorter sport sessions, posing a challenge for players striving to meet the required practice duration.

Having started playing the game in 2012, I recall a time when constructing an ice hockey rink was a more straightforward endeavor. However, the evolving climate conditions have extended the freezing time, creating hurdles for players. Ladakhi ice hockey players proudly represent India in international tournaments, and the aspiration remains for Ladakhis to participate in the Olympics and achieve further milestones. Nevertheless, climate change stands as the foremost threat, endangering opportunities for the upcoming generation. It becomes imperative to proactively address these issues now to ensure a sustainable future.

NOTICE

I, Tsetan Namgail S/o Ishey Tundup R/o Matho, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded as Tsetan Namgial instead of correct and actual name Tsetan Namgail in my daughter namely Stanzin Wangmo ST Certificate Registration No. 1132-35/ STC-Leh Dated 05-05-2021 duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh. Now, I'm applying for change in ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra successfully conducted in Shaday village



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), with the objective of achieving saturation of government schemes, was organised at Shaday in Panchayat Cha, located in the remote Lungnak Block of Zaskar Sub Division on January 23.

Shaday, despite being a secluded hamlet with just 10 households and approximately 65 residents, served as the venue for hosting the VBSY. Various officers and officials from different departments undertook a challenging journey to reach Shaday village on January 21 overcoming the inaccessible road from Cha Lungnak. Covering a 30 km trek through difficult terrain, the Sankalp Yatra team spent the night at Yougar village near Phukthar monastery on the first day. The yatra contin-

ued on the second day, departing from Yougar village at 7 AM and reaching Shaday late in the evening on January 22.

Day Nodal Officer Abdul Shukoor, along with officials from Health, Revenue, Education, FCS&CA, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, ICDS, RD&PRD, Social Welfare, PWD department, and villagers, participated in the event.

The officers interacted with citizens eligible for various welfare schemes, disseminating information and creating awareness about government-sponsored public-centric initiatives. Interactive sessions were conducted, and different departments organised camps to inform locals about the procedures to avail welfare schemes.

Highlights of the event

included a health camp where 10 patients underwent BP checkups, an Aadhar enrollment camp completing 1 new Aadhar enrollment for an 81-year-old woman and updating 22 Aadhaar records. The FCS&CA Department completed 17 e-KYCs for beneficiaries.

The Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments raised awareness about centrally sponsored schemes like KCC and NADCP. Information on FMD and brucellosis was provided, and activities such as brucellosis vaccination for 4 to 8-month-old female calves and new registration of ear tags were carried out. The department distributed medicines and first aid supplies, educating the residents of Shaday about the significance and benefits of livestock and sheep rearing.

NOTICE

Service No. 11211154 Rank ASI/GD Tsewang Gilik S/o Nawang Namgail Unit 38 BN SSB Tawang (AP) C/o 56APO has claimed that his son namely Sonam Chosphel has been wrongly entered as Sonam Chospal instead of Sonam Chosphel in the service document of, Unit 38 BN SSB Tawang C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA0614884259931W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 38 BN SSB Tawang(AP) C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

I, Padma Namgyal Ajita S/o Tashi Tsering R/o Skara Yokma, Leh UT Ladakh Prop of M/s White Elephant applying for the registration with the Assistant Director Tourism Office, Leh. Any objection in this regard may file their report in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

An application has been received from one Tsering Dorjay S/o Tashi Paljor R/o Korzok UT L

NOTICE

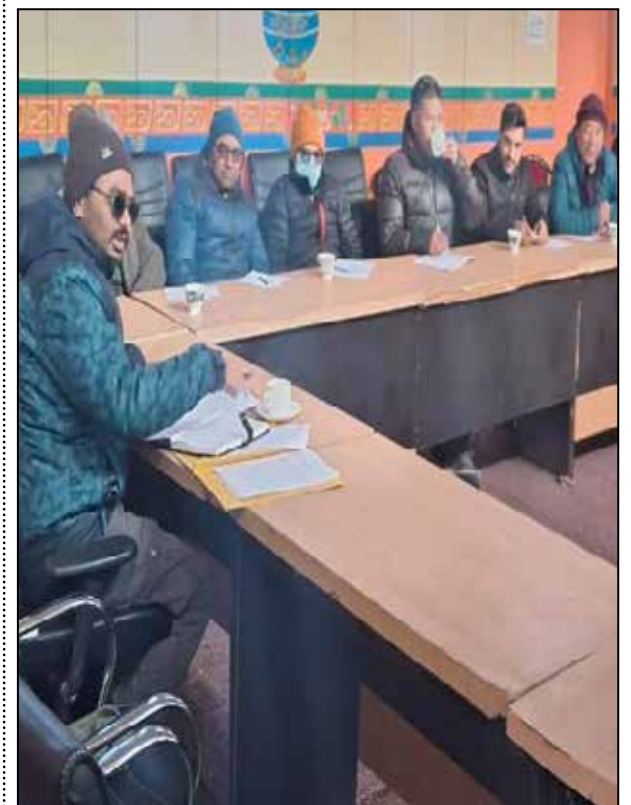
I, Padma Wangil S/o Stanzin Chutak R/o Kukshow, Kargil UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my name has been misspelled as Padma Wangial instead of correct and actual name Padma Wangil and also my Father's name has been misspelled as Stanzin Chotak instead of correct and actual name Stanzin Chutak in my ST Certificate No. 6404/BG/STC, Dated 08-12-2000 duly issued by Tehsildar Kargil Vide File No. 5175/BG/ STC- 2000. Now, I'm applying for change in ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsildar Shakar Chiktan, Kargil UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Chunit Zangmo D/o Tsewang Rigzin R/o Temisgam, Leh UT Ladakh Date of Birth 24-08-1975 is applying for the Birth Certificate from Tehsil Office, Khatse, Leh-Ladakh. Any objection in this regard may file their report in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Zaskar winter festival to be held from February 7 -14

SDM Zaskar reviews festival preparations



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: SDM Zaskar, Romil Singh Donk reviewed preparations for Winter Festival-2024.

The Zaskar winter festival is going to be held from February 7-14.

SDM Zaskar has instructed all Sub-Division employees to take on the responsibility of ensuring the success and memorability of the occasion.

The winter sports event will take place at various locations within the Sub-Division. The festival will feature activities such as ice hockey, ice climbing, archery, a food exhibition, and cultural programs.

SDM Zaskar also constituted various committees to successfully conduct the winter sports activities in the Sub division.

NOTICE



I, Jigmat Norboo S/o Tsering Motup R/o Igoo, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that his name has been wrongly recorded as Jigmat Norboo instead of correct and actual name Jigmat Norboo in his ST Certificate Registration No. 1041/ST-Leh/ 2011 dated 01-11-2011 duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh. Now, I'm applying for change in ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE



Whereas Kunzang Thinlay S/o Tsering Dorjay, Date of Birth 12-02-1984 R/o Korzok, District Leh UT Ladakh, has claimed that he wants to change his name as Kunzang Thinlay instead of Kunzang Thinles and also his Date of Birth 01-04-1985 to 12-02-1984 in his passport bearing Number M4632344 date of issue 18-12-2014 having validity upto 17-12-2024. Now, he is applying for the correction in the passport. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Regional Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication.

Advertisement

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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh



**Conveys warm greetings to all
dear brothers & sisters
of Ladakh
on the**

**75th Republic
Day**