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April 01-15, 2024

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with
Rinchen Angmo, Fulbright TEA Program Awardee

PEOPLE VOICE:
Sixth Schedule Demand: Perspectives of Community Representatives

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Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorjey

Editor-in-charge: Tsering Dolkar

Reporters: Yangchen Dolma, Nenzes Chodon, Stanzin Padma

Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup
 Contact: +91 9469451102

Designer: Dhondup Tashi

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Mortal remains of Lama Lobzang reach Ladakh; tributes pour in

Yangchen Dolma and Stanzin Padma

LEH: The mortal remains of Lama Lobzang, widely revered in Ladakh for his dedicated service to critical patients from Ladakh, were brought to Leh from Delhi on 19 March. Lama Lobzang was known for his compassionate care, particularly for patients referred to hospitals outside Ladakh for medical treatment. He was actively engaged with prestigious hospitals such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, and Safdarjung Hospital. On arrival at Leh Airport, religious leaders, relatives, and prominent citizens from Ladakh gathered to pay respects to the procession with Khataks. The procession continued to Chokhang Vihara, where people had gathered to offer condolences and pray for his soul.



People gather at Leh airport to pay homage to Lama Lobzang.

Among those present was Deputy Chairman of LAHDC Leh; Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councilor; Ghulam Mehdi, President of Apex Body, Leh, Thupstan Chewang and the Presidents of Ladakh Gompa Association and Anjuman Imamia.

Tsering Angchuk addressed the gathering, highlighting Lama Lobzang's significant contributions to support Ladakhi patients, including financial assistance and arrangements to stay for those who were poor and needy.

Thupstan Chewang also extended his heartfelt condolences, acknowledging Lama Lobzang's selfless dedication to the people of Ladakh over several decades. He said, "He was a guardian for

the people of Ladakh. He dedicated his life to serving the people of Ladakh selflessly, putting their needs before his own desires and offering voluntary assistance. Even though Lama Lobzang's absence will be deeply felt in Ladakh, his vision will keep growing and supporting people though the organisation he established for this work, Asoka Mission, which is funded through contributions by people from different places."

President of Anjuman Imamia offered his condolences and praised Lama Lobzang's service to all Ladakhi patients in Delhi irrespective of their religious background. He lamented the rarity of individuals with such compassion and inner peace in today's world and expressed profound sadness at his passing.

The mortal remains were

then taken to Lama Lobzang's residence at Skara Kau's house. On 25 March, monks from various sects gathered for his funeral and were joined by a large crowd. A huge procession accompanied the remains to the cremation site, where Ladakh Police paid their respects by giving a guard of honour.

Lama Lobzang: A legacy of compassion and service
 Lama Lobzang, a Buddhist monk, was born in 1931 in Leh, then part of Jammu and Kashmir. He belonged to the Boto Community, classified as a Scheduled Tribe under the Indian constitution. For nearly 60 years, he dedicated his life to serving the people of Ladakh. He focussed on providing healthcare to economically marginalised families and remote communities, as well as revitalising Buddhism in India and globally. Lama Lobzang received monastic training in both the

Theravada and Mahayana traditions of Buddhism and attained full ordination as a Buddhist monk in Tibet in 1952, at the age of 21.

An extraordinary individual, Lama Lobzang epitomised selfless service and compassion. His efforts to bring essential medical services to remote areas of Ladakh touched thousands of lives. He extended his compassion to Delhi, assisting numerous patients in receiving treatment at renowned hospitals such as AIIMS, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, and Safdarjung Hospital. Affectionately referred to as 'Mey lay' by the people of Ladakh, Lama Lobzang's unwavering dedication and indomitable spirit left an indelible mark on thousands of families across Ladakh.

Despite his age, he tirelessly accompanied patients for treatments, fostering bonds of healing, love, and empathy.

CEO chairs meeting to assess preparation for Lok Sabha elections



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Electoral Officer of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Yatendra M. Maralkar, chaired a meeting on March 26 to assess the preparedness for the general election to Lok Sabha.

He impressed upon all the State Nodal Officers to take charge of their roles and responsibilities immediately and submit compliance reports to his office on a daily basis. He also stressed that the 22 Nodal Officers appointed for various election-related tasks should discharge their duties diligently in accordance with the instructions, SOPs, and protocols prescribed by the ECI.

The CEO emphasised that all officials and political stakeholders involved in the electoral process should adhere strictly to the guidelines and instructions issued by the ECI, including the model code of conduct guidelines, media certification instructions, and all other relevant legal provisions.

He also apprised them that deviation from the standing instructions of ECI and legal provisions regarding the conduct of elections would be taken very seriously, and strict legal actions would be taken against the defaulters.

The CEO also emphasised to all the stakeholders of the election, both official and political, to uphold Indian democratic traditions and the legal and constitutional provisions in their conduct during the entire election process.

Joint CEO and Nodal Officer for Expenditure Monitoring, Sonam Chosjor, emphasised the coordination among the Nodal Officers for Model Code of Conduct (MCC), Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC), and Expenditure Monitoring. He also briefed the attendees on the instructions relating to the pre-certification of political advertisements during the meeting.

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Fortnightly News

Department of School Education conducts third phase of FLNAT



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The third phase of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) under ULLAS was successfully conducted across all zones in Leh district on March 17.

The primary aim of the FLNAT was to achieve 100% literacy in the district. It is a centrally sponsored scheme falling un-

der the purview of Chief Education Officer. Adult learners demonstrated active participation in the test.

der the purview of Chief Education Officer. Adult learners demonstrated active participation in the test.

It was further informed that the first and second New India Literacy Programme (NILP) Assessment Tests were conducted in 2023 and this marks the 3rd phase, with only 2% illiteracy left to ad-

dress. FLNAT is an all India scheme and it was informed with great pride that Ladakh will become the first Union Territory in India to achieve full literacy one the remaining 2% literacy is addressed.

Director of the School Education Department, UT Ladakh, Tsering Paldan, Chief Education Officer, Leh, Sonam Angchuk, ZEO Leh, District Coordinator NILP Leh, Tsering Yangzom, Vigilator, Thinless Wangmo and PRI Members visited exam centres in Stok and Matho.

Tashigatsal Tashithongmsom also expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and the active engagement of learners. It was informed that all the concerned ZEOs and ZEPs took the responsibility and supervised the exam centres of their respective zones.

Kargil GDC organises awareness programme on substance abuse

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Department of English at Government Degree College Kargil, in collaboration with the District Nodal Officer for Mental Health, District Society Kargil, organised an awareness programme on substance abuse in the college's seminar hall on March 28.

The event's key speakers were Dr. Fatima Nissa, Nodal Officer for the District Mental Health Program, Dr. Jalil Wani, Block Medical Officer Kargil, and Dr. Murtaza Ali, a Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist.

The programme began with a formal welcome extended to the guests with traditional khataqs, presented by Parveen Fatima, Head of the Department of English.

Dr. Fatima Nissa addressed the causes of substance abuse, particularly its adverse effects on society and youth. She highlighted the harmful consumption



of substances such as cannabis, nicotine, cocaine, opium, and alcohol, citing factors like parental conflict, negative school environment, and community issues contributing to their prevalence.

Dr. Jalil Wani discussed the uses and drawbacks of tobacco, stressing the importance of strong community bonds and parental support in curbing tobacco use among youth. He also emphasized on the collective responsibility of the community to raise awareness and combat substance abuse.

Dr. Murtaza Ali elaborated on the physical, psychological, and social dependencies associated with drug use, attributing factors such as peer pressure, media influence, and the need to cope with past trauma. He also highlighted the societal consequences of drug abuse, including criminal activities like drug possession, trafficking, theft, and murder.

The programme concluded with an interactive session with students, moderated by Dr. Azra Khatoon, Assistant Professor in the Department of English.

Leh DEO chairs meeting regarding Lok Sabha elections



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Election Officer/Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve chaired a meeting in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in the video conferencing room of the Deputy Commissioner's office on March 26.

The eight-point agenda of the meeting included distribution of Electronic Photo Identity Cards (EPICs), polling stations and Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF), Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP) campaigns, Electoral Rolls status, identification of Persons with Disabilities and more than 85 electors for postal ballot facility, addition/deletion/correction after the announcement of elections, vulnerability mapping, and absentee/shifted/deceased (ASD) list.

DC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve instructed the Sub Divisional Magis-

trates and Tehsildars of the Leh district to ensure the distribution of Electronic Photo Identity Cards. He asked them to conduct random checks at the polling stations and in the villages to ensure that the voters have received the Electronic Photo Identity Cards. Along with this, he instructed them to visit the villages to oversee the reasons for low electoral roll, check the facilities at polling stations, and spread awareness about SVEEP.

Furthermore, he said that all the polling stations should have the facilities under Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF), mainly ramp, drinking water, toilet facility, and electricity. To ensure an increase in voter percentage, he asked the SDMs and Tehsildars to identify Persons with Disabilities and more than 85 voters so that they can be given the option of postal ballot.

In view of the low voter turnout in the last elec-

tions, DC, Leh, set a target of 80 percent for the upcoming election and said that the percentage should not go below 75 percent. He asked them to ensure that there is maximum voter turnout in their divisions.

Additionally, the SDMs and Tehsildars acting as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AERO) raised their concerns regarding issues related to the polling stations.

DC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve assured them that he will talk to the concerned departments to provide immediate solutions. A review meeting will be held again in the first week of April as instructed by DC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve.

The meeting was attended by the Electoral Registration Officer/Additional District Commissioner, Leh, Ghulam Mohd (JKAS), Nodal Officer, SVEEP, Leh, Tajamul Ara, and all the SDMs and Tehsildars of the sub-divisions.

Amit Sharma chairs meeting to enhance preparedness for Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) hazards



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Amit Sharma, the Administrative Secretary of the Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) Department, UT Ladakh, convened an important meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on 28 March to address potential threats of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) hazards in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The meeting saw the participation of all major stakeholders, including both Deputy Commissioners, NRSC-IS-

RO, IIRS, and IMD experts, among others.

The primary objective of the meeting was to methodically assess the challenges posed by GLOF hazards and strategise a vigorous framework for effective risk management and mitigation.

At the outset of the meeting, Secretary Amit Sharma emphasised the need to conduct in-depth studies on major glaciers in UT Ladakh, particularly focusing on those glacial lakes that are expanding rap-

idly. A comprehensive presentation on the subject was delivered by the Director of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad. The presentation highlighted the utilisation of satellite technology for Glacial Lake inventory, risk assessment, and long-term monitoring of glacial lake extent.

Amit Sharma expressed gratitude to the NRSC-ISRO team from Hyderabad for providing Ladakh-specific crucial data-driven insights into the distribution and dynamics of glacial lakes, laying a foundation for informed decision-making.

Additionally, another presentation was made by distinguished scientists from the Indian Institute of Remote

Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun, which focused on flood hazard assessment modelling techniques specific to GLOF occurrences in Ladakh. This presentation offered invaluable insights into cutting-edge methodologies aimed at enhancing predictive capabilities and preparedness measures.

Secretary Amit Sharma highlighted the importance of safeguarding human habitation and preventing loss of life due to natural calamities. He further emphasised the significance of proactive risk management towards implementing robust strategies to mitigate the risks associated with GLOF events and shared that more extensive studies shall be carried out in both Leh and Kargil dis-

tricts, especially in vulnerable Padum, Suru, and Rumbak glacial belts for future flood hazard assessment. Specialised capacity-building drives shall also be carried out to train Human Resources for mitigating GLOF related disasters in UT.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Leh, Superintendent of Police, UTDRF, Ladakh, Deputy Secretary of the Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department, UT Ladakh, EOC In-charge; while the Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Director Indian Meteorological Department, Ladakh, representatives from NRSC, and representatives from IIRS participated in the meeting virtually.

Directorate of Industries and Commerce organises international conclave for Ladakhi pashmina



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Directorate of Industries and Commerce, in collaboration with the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), organised an international conclave for Ladakhi Pashmina in the presence of Executive Director N. Shreedar at the Grand Dragon Hotel on March 23.

The primary objective of the event was to facilitate interaction between local sellers, artisans, and buyers from the domestic and international markets dealing with pashmina and other wool sectors. The conclave provided a platform for budding entrepreneurs/artisans and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for a buyer-seller meet.

The event was attended by more than 30 exhibitors, more than 20 overseas trade visitors, and more than 10 domestic visitors. Director of Industries and Commerce, Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, gave the welcome speech and thanked all the buyers on behalf of the UT admin-

manually made.

He added that previously they used to sell it to the Kashmiris with little to no benefits, but under the current administration, they have received better opportunities and could set up stores around India.

At the end of the conclave, experiences, suggestions, and ideas from domestic and international entrepreneurs were shared. These included individuals from Europe, the UK, Chile, Vietnam, Mauritius, Taiwan, Germany, and Nigeria, as well as some local entrepreneurs from Ladakh.

He also put forward his suggestions to the buyers on how to improve the supply chain and to find ways to make the conclave more successful. He added that Ladakh supplies some of the finest pashmina in the world and noted that the pashmina fibre averages 12-15 microns.

He informed the entrepreneurs that there is no blending involved in Ladakhi pashmina and it's all of pure variety. He further added that the entire process is handmade, with no utilisation of machinery at all, which is a hallmark of Ladakhi pashmina.

Additionally, Nawang Phuntsog, a local entrepreneur from Ladakh, thanked all the domestic and international buyers for engaging in the conclave. He stressed that Ladakhi pashmina is sustainable, eco-friendly, and

manually made.

He added that previously they used to sell it to the Kashmiris with little to no benefits, but under the current administration, they have received better opportunities and could set up stores around India.

The buyers suggested that Ladakh pashmina should have certification so that international market buyers can know its authenticity, and they also praised the artisans for keeping it handmade and having no carbon footprint.

The programme concluded with the launch of a booklet dedicated to the local artisans and entrepreneurs of Ladakh. Additionally, both domestic and international buyers bought and placed orders with the sellers directly after the inauguration.

The conclave consisted of a three-day programme with site visits on March 24 and an interactive discussion session on March 25.

Ladakh Cultural Academy Leh celebrates World Theatre Day



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh Cultural Academy, Leh, in collaboration with the Ladakh Theatre Organization, celebrated World Theatre Day at the Lotsawa Auditorium Hall on March 27.

Commissioner Secretary of Tourism and Culture, UT Ladakh, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan, was the chief guest on the occasion.

During the event, local artists from Leh showcased different theatrical performances depicting conflicts between humans and animals and script readings of a play highlighting the distortion of family ties in modern times.

The event served as a platform for artists to express

themselves and showcase their talents in theatre art. Commissioner Secretary of Tourism, Kacho Mehboob Ali Khan, in his address, encouraged and appreciated the theatre artists and the entire team of the Cultural Academy Leh for their work and contribution to society through their artistic endeavours. He mentioned that through theatre art, the rich cultural heritage and timeless traditions of our region can be promoted worldwide through cultural exchange activities.

Additionally, he highlighted how theatre can bring about positive changes in society by shedding light on prevalent issues, which can have a significant impact, especially on the youth, guiding them

towards making informed life choices. He emphasised the importance of introducing theatre education in schools and colleges, aiming to use the art form and the platform to raise awareness among students about different issues.

Mepham Otsal, Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee, emphasised the importance of theatre art in today's world and how it shapes the overall development, especially of the younger generation.

Deputy Secretary Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, Leh, Tsewang Paljor, was also present on the occasion. The event was also attended by art and theatre enthusiasts from the region.

Chief Electoral Officer chairs meeting with political party representatives



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Electoral Officer of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Yatendra M. Maralkar, chaired a meeting with representatives of political parties to sensitise them to the instructions and guidelines of the Election Commission regarding the Model Code of Conduct, media certification of political advertisements, and other related matters on March 27.

He highlighted that this election is the first after the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised the importance of strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and instructions relating to media certification of political advertisements for the smooth conduct of elections in Ladakh. Additionally, he emphasised that defacement of walls and public places with posters and other violations will be dealt with strictly. Furthermore, representatives of political parties were urged to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to assist Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in updating electoral rolls at

the booth level.

Joint CEO Sonam Chosjor (JKAS) provided a detailed presentation on the instructions and guidelines regarding the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and media certification of political advertisements issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) from time to time. He emphasised the active participation of political parties in implementing the MCC, guidelines on media certification of political advertisements, and other instructions relating to various election matters. A pendrive containing all the instructions and guidelines was handed over to the representatives of political parties attending the meeting.

CEO UT Ladakh, Yatendra M. Maralkar; State Police Nodal Officer, DIG Sheikh Junaid; Joint CEO, Sonam Chosjor; State Nodal Officer Law and Order, Rigzen Spalgon; State Nodal Officer MCC, Sonam Nuboo; and representatives of political parties were present in the meeting.

BRO completes Nimmo-Padum-Darcha road

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant accomplishment, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has completed the construction of the Nimmo-Padum-Darcha Road, a crucial route linking the remote Zaskar Valley to the mainland. Amidst the nationwide celebration of the festival of colours, Holi, the dedicated personnel of BRO demonstrated resilience in harsh conditions, enduring sub-zero temperatures and rugged terrain to carve through vertical rock faces. This tireless effort culminated in the connection of the final stretch of the Nimmo gorge at 23:50 hours on March 25.

This monumental accomplishment is the result of years of relentless effort, dedication, and perseverance exhibited by the BRO personnel amidst some of the most challenging terrains and adverse weather conditions in the region. Stretching across 298 kilometres, the road links Manali to Leh via Darcha (NH-03) and Nimmu on the Kargil-Leh Highway.

Beyond mere infrastructure and transportation, the completion of the Nimmo-Padum-Darcha Road signifies a commitment to bridging the gap between aspirations and opportunities, empowering local

communities, and fostering a better future for the residents of the Zaskar Valley. This road will also give a tremendous boost to economic development in the Zaskar Valley.

By joining the ranks of the third axis, alongside the Manali-Leh and Srinagar-Leh routes, the Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road plays a pivotal role in enhancing connectivity to Ladakh from the mainland. Its strategic importance is further highlighted by its shorter route and the impending construction of the Shinkun La tunnel by BRO, ensuring all-weather connectivity to the strategically significant Ladakh region.

Speaking on this momentous occasion, Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan, VSM, the Director-General of Border Roads, said, "In January when the River Zaskar was frozen, we used this to our advantage and moved equipment and personnel along the frozen river to establish additional work points. This enhanced the progress of work. Today we have established connectivity on this vital axis. Soon we will start work on black-topping the road. With the construction of the Shinkun La tunnel, the third all-weather axis to Ladakh will be established."

Fortnightly News

CEC Dr Jaffer visits Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road till last point, takes assessment of road construction

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman/Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr Mohd. Jaffer Akhoun visited Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road to assess the present status of the road construction being executed by Border Road Organisation (BRO) on March 14.



The road starting from Nimmu in Leh to Padum Zaskar will finally end at Darcha in Himachal Pradesh for a distance of around 245 Km is a strategically important road funded under Ministry of Defence and started its execution in the year 2000.

The project was initially assigned to Project Vijayak and taken over by Project Yojak stationed at Manali three years back.

Commander 13 BRTF, Lt Col Paras along with Captain Garav of 114 RCC accompanied the dignitaries and briefed about the project and said that they are at the last phase of the

project and expected to complete the remaining portion within next one month which is a historic achievement by the BRO. The CEC was inspired by the workmanship and the dedication they shown in accomplishing this important road and appreciated entire team particularly officers of BRO, machine operator and labours with whose hardwork such a marvelous work is going to complete thereby connecting Zaskar with Leh through this alternative road.

The socio-economic uplifting as well as overall progress and development will usher in Zaskar once

this road is connected. Executive Councilor RDD and Zaskar Development Authority, Er. Punchock Tashi also appreciated the entire strong force of BRO team as well as Government of India, MP Ladakh and UT Administration for their intervention in speedy execution of this project.

EC Er. Punchok Tashi, Executive Councilor LAHDC Kargil, Zakir Hussain, Executive Councilor LAHDC, Kargil, Lt Col Paras Commander 34 BRTF, Captain Garav OC 114 RCC besides galaxy of officer of BRO accompanied the CEC during the tour.

Nodal Officer organises day-long SVEEP campaign ahead of LS elections

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A day-long SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) campaign was organised by the SVEEP Nodal Officer, Leh on the directives of the District Election Officer to enlighten the electorate about the forthcoming general election to Lok Sabha 2024 on March 16.



to actively participate in the democratic process by casting their valuable votes.

ly was also conducted in the Leh market, spreading the message of electoral awareness.

The primary objective of the campaign was to impart knowledge and understanding to new voters regarding the electoral process and to instill a sense of responsibility among them

A pledge, symbolizing democratic commitment towards democratic values and the exercise of voting rights, was administered to all participants. Additionally, a SVEEP campaign rail-

The event saw the participation of District Election Office staff, students from Government Girls Higher Secondary School and Rigjung Public School, Leh.

Kargil observes World Tuberculosis Day

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: World Tuberculosis Day was observed at the Chief Medical Officer's office in Kargil on March 24, where distinguished guests and healthcare professionals shed light on the importance of combating TB and its impact on communities.



mitment of local authorities to this cause.

The Chief Medical Officer of Kargil provided valuable insights into the evolution of TB management from historical perspectives to contemporary approaches, highlighting the need for continuous innovation and commitment in tackling the disease.

The chief guest was Deputy Commissioner of Kargil, Shrikant Suse, with the Chief Medical Officer of Kargil as the special

guest. DC Kargil emphasised the importance of enhancing notification rates, tracing efforts, and sputum examination rates. He advised providing a free helpline number at the district level and directed the development of an action plan.

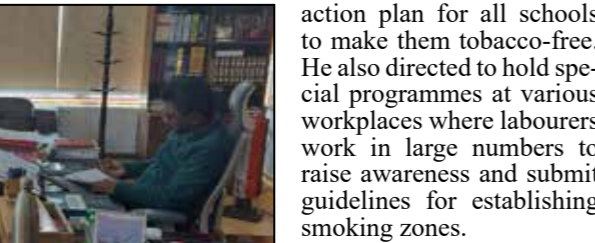
The District TB Officer delivered a presentation on TB and its implications, stressing the urgency of addressing this public health challenge.

Subsequently, the District Programme Coordinator presented the performance report, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement in the fight against TB.

DC Shrikant chairs meeting of DLCC to review implementation of COTPA in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Suse, who also serves as the chairman of the District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) of the National Tobacco Control Programme, chaired a meeting on March 26 to review the implementation and enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) in the district.



other concerned officials were present.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed to strictly monitor the shopkeepers that sell tobacco products within the 100-metre vicinity of the school area. He further directed to impose fines on shopkeepers found selling tobacco products to minors.

During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer Kargil, Dr Kacho Liyaqat Ali Khan, District Immunization Officer, Dr Rabiya Banoo, Chief Education Officer, Sonam Dorjey Namgial, Sales Tax Inspector, Municipal Committee Inspector, Drug Inspector, Food Inspector, SHO Kargil, District Consultant NTPC, Masood Ahmad besides

At the outset, a thorough discussion was held to formulate a plan to ensure a visible impact of the implementation of COTPA on the ground through effective surveillance, feedback mechanisms, and timely measures to curb the menace of tobacco products. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers of Police, Health, and other relevant departments to develop a collective and effective plan for the implementation of COTPA and against the tobacco menace in the district.

He appealed to the people of Kargil, particularly shopkeepers, to refrain from the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products and to protect the younger generation from the ill effects of tobacco products. DC Shrikant also directed to organise creative awareness programmes such as paintings, essay writing, skits, etc., to educate students about the negative effects of tobacco and drugs in daily life. Furthermore, the DC Kargil instructed the identification of areas and their constant surveillance and monitoring to ensure the identification of defaulters.

Ladakh Transport Department organises half-day workshop to promote electric freight vehicles

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In yet another first-of-its-kind initiative in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the UT Transport Department, led by Secretary-cum-Transport Commissioner Amit Sharma, organised a half-day workshop on March 19 to deliberate upon and brainstorm among all the stakeholders of transport sector towards promoting the usage of Zero Emission Vehicles for freight transport to make it first carbon neutral state/UT of the nation.



Secretary of Transport Amit Sharma, in his address, highlighted the successful completion of E-3 and E-4 Wheelers' trials conducted in the months of August and September last year. The trial exercise demonstrated that E-3 and

E-4 wheeler operations are feasible in UT Ladakh and would result in substantial operating cost reductions for the owners/drivers.

Amit further shared that Ladakh is relentlessly working towards its carbon neutrality mission and its initiatives last year were chosen from India for presentation in the United Nations' top environment awareness initiative COP-28 held in Dubai last year. He further mentioned that a Memorandum of Understanding is going to be inked soon between NTPC

and the Transport Department to dedicate five hydrogen-cell fuel buses to the public of Ladakh which is the first such initiative in the nation.

Apart from this, a detailed presentation by the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC) was made before the Secretary of Transport Amit Sharma and all stakeholders to share the course of trials, merits, and needs of Zero Emission Vehicles in the UT of Ladakh. It was followed by detailed brainstorming sessions on

establishing EV Charging Stations here along with actively involving defence institutions, which are present in a good number in the UT of Ladakh.

Secretary Transport also talked about the UT Administration's role in encouraging Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the Corporates, especially financial institutions active in the UT to establish EV Charging Stations in UT Ladakh as part of their respective Corporate Social Responsibility.

The organisers were requested by Transport Secretary Amit Sharma to organise an EV/ZEV Himalayan Two-Wheel and Four-Wheel Rally here in Ladakh, which shall be a novel initiative, in

the coming peak summer season this year, along with an Investors' Meet to highlight Ladakh initiatives and steps being taken towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In concluding remarks, Amit Sharma and his team complimented organisers for this workshop, stating that these initiatives mark an important step towards sustainable and eco-friendly transportation solutions in Ladakh and set a perfect trend in the entire nation.

This workshop was attended by ARTO Leh, members of the Transport Association, the driving community, and leading media persons of UT of Ladakh.

Nehru Yuva Kendra, Leh, organises district-level neighborhood youth program



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Nehru Yuva Kendra, Leh organised a district-level neighborhood youth program at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Leh on March 16.

Deputy Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Leh, Tajamal Ara, welcomed the guests and participants.

Addressing the audience, DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, Leh emphasized the profound theme of the programme, 'One Earth One Family,' and 'Viksit Bharat' - the vision to transform India into a developed nation by

the aspirations and goals set forth for the nation's progress.

To promote health awareness, ICTC Counsellor, SNM Leh, Stanzin Dolma, sensitised the audience about natural health practices and menstrual hygiene, addressing prevalent issues such as anemia among adolescents in Ladakh.

A cultural program by students from Girls Higher Secondary School Leh was also presented.

Besides, the Deputy Director NYK Leh presented mementoes to Deputy Commissioner, Leh, and the participants for their invaluable contributions.

Principal, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Leh, Deachen Angmo spoke about the intricacies of 'Viksit Bharat' or Developed India, providing a comprehensive understanding of

3-day training session for entrepreneurs begins in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: District Industries Centre Kargil, in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI), begins a three-day training session aimed at empowering local entrepreneurs with the requirements of packaging (FSSR-2018) and labelling (FSSR-2020) for food commodities on March 16.

ACD Kargil, Padma Angmo, General Manager, DIC Kargil, Rehmatullah Batt and District Librarian Zahoor Ahmad were present and warmly welcomed by the QCI team members with traditional khataks.

training session included interactive workshops, importance of food quality, standards of packaging and labelling for different food items.

Experts from DIC and QCI shared their expertise and best practices, offering invaluable guidance to participants seeking to establish and expand their ventures in the region. They said empowering local entrepreneurs is essential for the socio-economic development of Kargil.

The program was attended by 92 entrepreneurs and different SHG members came from different far-flung areas. They expressed gratitude for the opportunity to enhance their skills and network with fellow entrepreneurs.

The resource persons said Kargil continues to emerge as a hub of entrepreneurial activity and such initiatives play a pivotal role in nurturing talent, fostering innovation and driving economic growth.

4th Khelo India Winter Games: Reflecting and Looking Ahead

Jigmet Stenzin

The Union Territory of Ladakh had the opportunity to host the 4th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 in Leh from February 2nd to February 7th. It was the first time that a national-level tournament was held in UT Ladakh.

The 4th Khelo India Winter Games took place in two phases. The first phase focused on ice events and was hosted at three venues: NDS Ice Hockey Sports Stadium, Gupuks Pond, and Ladakh Scout Regimental Centre (LSRC) rink. The second phase, dedicated to skiing events, took place in Gulmarg, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Lieutenant Governor Dr. BD Mishra officially launched and inaugurated the mascot of the games, Snow Leopard, named "Sheen-E-She (Shan)", at Raj Niwas Leh on January 30th.

The event was participated in by 344 athletes representing 15 states and Union Territories, including UT Ladakh. Additionally, two public institutions competed for medals in two sport events: Ice Hockey and Ice skating. The best part of the game was that UT Ladakh stood at third place in the overall ranking in the medals tally, with 2 gold, 5 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

The Khelo India Winter Games operate in a team championship format, wherein the medals earned by individual athletes or teams contribute to the overall medals tally of their respective state, Union Territory (UT), or institutions. At the conclusion of the event, the team securing the highest count of gold medals is declared the winner. The participants from Maharashtra showed their mental strength and toughness

by winning the maximum medals in the 4th Khelo India Winter Games 2024.

We should all feel happy and proud that we contributed to the success of KIWG 2024 with great enthusiasm. All participants expressed satisfaction with the facilities and hospitality provided by UT Ladakh. Athletes from different states provided positive feedback, reflecting their high satisfaction.

Therefore, I was immensely happy to be part of the 4th edition of KIWG 2024 in which I served as the Nodal officer ICT section (Information and Communication, Broadcasting & Technical) at all three venues. From the first day of the preparation for KIWG at Leh, I had the opportunity to gain several experiences and knowledge in my work life.

Coming from a sports background, I thoroughly enjoyed fulfilling my duties to the best of my abilities. It was an honor to interact and collaborate with the experts and technicians from DD Sports TV channel, Prasar Bharati Sports TV channel, and the technical officials of Ice Skating and Ice Hockey (TSR team). I felt privileged to coordinate under the guidance of technical experts from SAI (Sports Authority Of India) throughout the event at all three sites. Also, it was a great honor to work under my FA member, Tsering Paldan, Technical Director NIC, UT Ladakh, ensuring the smooth functioning of all information and technology sections during the live broadcasting of Ice Hockey matches and Speed Skating events.

Besides, I had the opportunity to interact with many ice skaters from various states who have represented India at the international

level. We engaged in conversations about sports science, physical fitness, and the current state of sports culture in India. Indeed, India is progressing in the field of sports, with several sports dominating at the international level. However, when it comes to Ladakh, there is still a long way to go. The region has been lagging behind due to a lack of sports culture in the past. But now, the development of sports in Ladakh is gaining momentum at a faster rate.

Conducting the Khelo India Winter Game 2024 in Leh created significant momentum for sports in the region. Therefore, it is imperative that in Ladakh, permanent solutions be highlighted and concrete blueprints developed by the concerned authorities to address the requirements for the development of sports culture. This will contribute to strengthening sports in the region for the future.

After granting Union Territory status to Ladakh, the sports scenario has undergone a drastic change. Many talented youths got the opportunities to participate in state-level and national sports competitions. Hosting the game would undoubtedly help enhance the positive sports environment in the region. Various associations are showing interest in promoting games and sports in Ladakh. However, it is unfortunate that many sports infrastructures currently under development in Ladakh lack standardization.

For example, the NSD Ice Hockey rink has been dedicatedly made on a temporary basis until the conclusion of the Khelo India Winter Games. The technical and professional requirements, along with necessary accessories designed for specific site re-

The team members of QCI Abhishek, Project Analyst, Subah Tripathi, Project Coordinator and Reni, Expert Analyst provided insights into various aspects of entrepreneurship including importance of food packaging and labelling. She also highlighted the guidelines of FSSAI, importance of registration/licence with FSSAI.

Key highlights of the

National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa organises workshop to promote Hindi



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, organised a one-day workshop on the importance of the official language Hindi and its promotion in Ladakh on March 27 at the conference hall of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh.

The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Deputy Director General of Doordarshan and All India Radio, Ladakh, R.K. Jarangal.

Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, highlighted the significance of the Hindi language in the official works of Central Government offices and the rules and regulations concerning its use as the official language. He also underscored the substantial contribution of All India Radio and Doordarshan in promoting Hindi in Ladakh, acknowledging the role of Central Government employees, including Army and Paramilitary forces, in promoting Hindi in the region.

R.K. Jarangal congratulated the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, for

organising the workshop and emphasised that Hindi is the official language that everyone, especially Central Government employees and Indian citizens, should contribute to promoting. He expressed satisfaction with the level of understanding of the Hindi language in Ladakhi society, noting that around 90 percent of the public in Ladakh can comprehend Hindi. He reiterated the commitment of both Doordarshan and All India Radio to promote Hindi.

Technical lectures on various aspects of the official language Hindi were presented by Dr. Tsering Chorol, Hindi Lecturer at EJM College, Leh; Phuntsok Angchok from the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) office, Leh; Shilpi Shaw, Hindi Assistant at DIHAR Leh; and Dr. Sonam Angchok from the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh.

Dr. Nawang Tangais, Associate Professor at NISR Leh, delivered a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and organisers for their contributions to the workshop.

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People Voice:

Sixth Schedule Demand: Perspectives of Community Representatives

Yangchen Dolma & Stanzin Padma



PT Kunzang, BJP Leh Spokesperson: The demand for the Sixth Schedule is not a new one; it arose after Ladakh became a Union Territory. This demand encompasses constitutional safeguards, land protection, job reservation, culture preservation, and more. It's crucial to have safeguards in place. The BJP has consistently supported Ladakh's need for safeguards, as Article 370 and 35A provided protection when Ladakh was part of Jammu and Kashmir. However, after becoming a Union Territory, this protection was lost.

During the meeting on March 4 between the Leh Apex Body, KDA subcommittee and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the MHA emphasized the necessity of safeguards for Ladakh. Instead of the Sixth Schedule, they proposed a different framework considering Ladakh's geographical, topographical, and tribal aspects. They will carefully consider Ladakh's needs, including job reservation, and empower both hill councils by granting them legislative power.

As we advocate for our demands, we often encounter challenges in implementation. There are drawbacks to the Sixth Schedule, such as the reservation of 33 percent for BDC (Sarpanch, Panch), crucial for women's empowerment, but concerns remain about the effective utilization of funds for the panchayat. Currently, the state land is under the council's control. If the UT administration needs land for an office, they must seek the council's consent first, as no decision can be made without it. If the Sixth Schedule is granted, it may not provide all the necessary powers.

The Government of India is willing to provide constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, and it's important for us to pursue this. This will ensure the well-being and prosperity of Ladakh.



Tundup Nurboo (Cheeta), Councillor, LAHDC Leh: The sixth schedule of the Indian constitution is defined as the mini-constitution of our nation, which empowers the governance of tribal autonomous District councils. There is no doubt that Ladakh needs protection on land, jobs, economy, and environment for our own survival. However, protection alone cannot be the ultimate solution for Ladakh; we need a powerful political tool that empowers us to make laws on the aforementioned subjects, and the sixth schedule provides the only provision for it. No other constitutional safeguard can give us the power to make laws on land, jobs, the economy, and the environment.

In the sixth schedule, we primarily talk about 20 paragraphs that define the whole power of the 6th schedule. To comprehend the significance of the schedule, I would like to briefly discuss three of its paragraphs:

Paragraph 3 of the Sixth Schedule:

Powers of the District Councils and Regional Councils to make laws: This paragraph grants the power to make laws on more than 40 subjects. However, I will mention a few of them: The allotment, occupation, or use, or the setting apart of land, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social security and social insurance, employment and unemployment, flood control schemes for the protection of villages, paddy fields, markets, towns, etc. Agriculture, including agricultural education and research, protection against pests, and prevention of plant diseases. Education, including primary education, higher secondary including vocational training, adult education, and college education (general). Panchayat and rural development.

Paragraph 9 of the Sixth Schedule:

License or lease for the purpose of prospecting for or extraction of minerals. This paragraph grants the power to issue licenses from small shops to big industries, and without the consent of the Autonomous council, no one can set up any sort of business in the area that falls under the 6th schedule. Additionally, this paragraph gives the rights to the council to collect royalties.

Paragraph 12 of the Sixth Schedule:

Application of acts of parliament and the legislature of the state. This paragraph empowers the Autonomous council to modify or even deny any act of parliament or the state assembly to be implemented in the 6th schedule areas. As I mentioned some of the salient features of the sixth schedule, one can easily comprehend the significance of the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution and its importance for Ladakh. We must understand the fact that our long-pending demand for a Union Territory with legislature was not fulfilled in 2019. However, we have accomplished half of our journey, and we still have miles to go. It is our duty to protect the micro-minorities of the nation to celebrate the diversity of our nation. If not us, then who? If not now, then when?



Thinles Tundup, Former President, All Ladakh Unemployed Youth Association: Demanding the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution is not just a political demand but a constitutional imperative. Article 45 underscores the need to safeguard the interests of tribal communities, especially considering that 97% of Ladakh's population is tribal. Unlike other constitutional provisions, the Sixth Schedule provides a robust framework, enabling the President to declare an area as tribal prior to inclusion, thereby offering a solid legal foundation against potential legal challenges.

The establishment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, though limited in its powers due to its statutory nature, reflects the region's readiness for autonomous governance, aligning with the structure of Sixth Schedule councils. The BJP Government has twice pledged Ladakh's inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, first during the 2019 general elections and again in the 2020 local hill council elections.

It is imperative for the government to honor this commitment, especially given the significant public support across Ladakh, as evidenced by Sonam Wangchuk's twenty-one-day hunger strike. Failure to fulfill this promise could exacerbate existing grievances and further fuel sentiments of marginalization and alienation among the people of Ladakh. The inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule would not only meet constitutional imperatives but also represent a concrete step towards empowering and safeguarding the interests of its tribal population.



Tsering Dorje Lakrook, Member, Leh Apex Body: According to the people of Ladakh, the Sixth Schedule is considered more important, whereas the government has declared another constitutional safeguard. So, which one do you believe is more important and why?

Firstly, everything we have demanded has been discussed with constitutional experts. However, the government has not yet clarified at their level what they should provide. They are unsure which constitutional safeguard is suitable for Ladakh. Although they are planning to provide Article 371, when asked, they were uncertain.

When we met with the Home Minister, they talked about empowering two councils, but that wasn't our main concern. We think we need the Sixth Schedule to protect us and statehood to control our resources. Right now, bureaucrats have

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WORLD WATER DAY

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis, in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

In 2024, World Water Day focuses on Water for Prosperity and Peace; UNESCO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe are the lead UN agency.

Sustainable water management generates a plethora of benefits to individuals and communities, including health, food and energy security, protection from natural hazards, education, improved living standards and employment, economic development, and a variety of ecosystem services.

It is through these benefits that water leads to prosperity. And equitable sharing of these benefits promotes peace. When it comes to water, sharing truly is caring.

Courtesy: unesco.org

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

What makes you a winner!

Nobody wants to be a loser, and everyone wants to be a winner. There can be no dispute on this statement. But the fact of the matter is that there can't be a guy who is an all-loser, and a guy who is an all-gainer. One who gains loses too; and, similarly, one who loses gains as well.

So, winning and losing is a reality, and a part of life's journey. Did you ever come across any person who has never failed? Impossible! The rich have become rich after many failures, but since they never gave up, they stood to be winners in the long run.

Losers are basically those who fail to play the 'game'. They take everything so casually that anything meaningful fails to come their way. They are cowards, lazy, fearful and arrogant. And they have several other bad habits that keep them away from winning at their game.

There is a lovely saying that each one of us wants to go to heaven, but none of us wants to die. Yes, that is one of the prime characteristic of a loser because it is your fear and lack of understanding the process and philosophy of life that drags you down from the path of success.

A winner is not scared of failure. In fact, a winner knows that there are challenges that need to be tackled, and that nothing comes so easily. You need to struggle a lot and while doing so, and you take it as a challenge, and not as problem. A winner realises those are the price they have to pay to be a winner.

A winner is bold, fearless and has a positive outlook. Winners are quite practical and they know themselves as much as others know them. They are confident and well-disciplined. They set a direction which they never drift away from. They have passion and vision to steer them clear of any problem.

And, above all, winners are focussed and dedicated. Once they are 'out on work', they never look back until they are winners.

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

DID YOU KNOW

1. Australia is wider than the moon.
2. Venus is the only planet to spin clockwise.
3. Allodoxophobia is the fear of other people's opinions.
4. Human teeth are the only part of the body that cannot heal themselves.
5. Competitive art used to be an Olympic sport.
6. The first person processed at Ellis Island was a 15-year-old girl from Ireland.
7. Google Images was created after Jennifer Lopez wore the green dress at the 2000 Grammys.
8. Lemons float, but limes sink.
9. The Eiffel Tower was originally made for Barcelona.
10. It would take 19 minutes to fall to the center of the Earth.
11. The real name for a hashtag is an octothorpe.
12. Neil Armstrong's hair was sold in 2004 for \$3,000.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Rinchen Wangmo, Fulbright TEA Program Awardee

Interviewed by Nenzes Chodon

Q1. First of all, could you give a brief introduction about yourself and then share how you came to know about the Fulbright TEA program?

I am Rinchen Angmo, currently working as a science teacher at Ladakh Public School, Leh. I teach Physics, Chemistry and Biology to grade 9 and 10, while also holding the position of high school co-ordinator. I have been teaching for the last seven years. I wanted to develop my professional skills in teaching, so I took up many professional development courses, but every course turned out to be repetitive. I have been looking forward to develop new pedagogical skills to enhance students' interest in science. In March 2023, I noticed the Fulbright TEA program application form online in my mail sent by the CBSE RO Office, Chandigarh. So, I thought of it as the perfect opportunity to enhance my teaching skills. Fulbright offers two types of programs: one is the Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (FTEA) for 6 weeks' duration, and the other one is the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program (Fulbright DAI), which lasts for 6 months.

Q2. Can you walk us through the selection process for the program? How difficult was it?

The selection process is quite intensive. It is a merit-based open competition in which high school teachers from all over the country apply. For the initial stage of the merit-based competition, the candidate pool is in the lakhs. There are four specific steps. The first stage involves filling out a form with questions spanning from your school information, educational background, work history, professional experiences and statement of purpose. I believe this test aims to assess leadership qualities and passion for education. After the first level, the results are declared in two months, and those who are selected are invited for an in-person interview at the USIEF office in Delhi. The interview panel includes Fulbright representatives from the United States and India. In total, there are 6-7 interviewers, and the interview lasts around 30 minutes. Following the interview, we have to wait for 1-2 months for the interview selection results, which are informed via email. Once we clear the interview, our forms are forwarded to the US selection committee, which determines our eligibility. The next step in the process is the TOEFL exam, where a score above 60 out of 120 is required. The TOEFL exam assesses English reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The application form for the program is typically released online in December, with a deadline of March 10th each year. This provides us with three months to fill out the form, allowing ample time to carefully consider and write our essays.

Q3. How would you describe your overall experience during the Fulbright TEA program?

I believe this program not only enhances teaching skills but provides a means to become a global teacher. It's not just a professional development course but also a cultural exposure opportunity. During this FTEA program, I was enrolled in Florida Gulf Coast University as a student for six weeks, alongside teachers from 20 other countries. We underwent rigorous training and engaged in discussions, shared insights into our respective education systems and teaching methods. Representing India alongside another teacher, Dinesh Kumar, provided us with a valuable exposure to diverse educational systems. We underwent training in Academic teaching methodologies and techniques, Instructional technology and STEM-centred teaching methodology at the University.

Q4. Reflecting on your time in the program, what were some of the most valuable insights and skills you gained

requirements, should be emphasized for long-term purposes. This is because there is still ample time to enhance and readjust in all four directions. On the final match day of the Khelo India Winter Games, there was a jam-packed audience witnessing the matches. However, many members of the public were unable to watch and enjoy the thrilling moments due to the congested size and seating capacities.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SAI (Sports Authority of India) and the Sports Department of the Union Territory of Ladakh to establish a Khelo India Centre of Excellence in Boxing, Archery, and Athletics in Ladakh is indeed a significant milestone in the region's history, aimed at enhancing the standard of sports facilities.

Hence, I believe that KIWG 2024 has significantly contributed to fostering a national-level sports environment in Ladakh. This will undoubtedly instill widespread enthusiasm among the youth of Ladakh for sports, motivating them to actively participate. Moreover, it serves as a solid deterrent against engaging in drug trafficking and substance abuse, given that the youth are the backbone of the nation. It is crucial to empower and nurture them with essential qualitative traits. Once they develop an interest in sports, they will learn many valuable lessons and understand the importance of fitness and maintaining a healthy body and mind. They will also gain a broader understanding of the significance of games and sports.

Undoubtedly, this marks a historic moment in Ladakh in terms of sporting events, with Khelo India being one of the prestigious sports events in India. Khelo India is organized across the nation in various categories such as Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India Winter Games, Khelo India University Games and Khelo India School Games. The Government of India is focused on making India one of the best sporting countries in the world. It is a fact that India has set a target to host the Olympics in 2036, and it will bid for the hosting rights with full force.

In Ladakh, KIWG 2024 had a significant impact on the common masses, who witnessed the event both next to the ice ring and through social media platforms. To make this event successful, the host state (UT Ladakh) put forth every possible effort, led by Heads of Departments, under the guidance of our esteemed Sports Secretary, Ravinder Kumar (IAS), and his team, including OSD Dr. Stanzin Thakchos. Additionally, Moses Kunzang (KAS), the Joint Director of Youth Service and Sports UT Ladakh, provided valuable direction. The employees of our Youth Service and Sports department in Leh also played a crucial role by providing exceptional service throughout the tournament, despite the challenges faced at different work locations and ground levels.

The experience could have been immensely beneficial for everyone involved by providing valuable learning experiences, enhancing event management skills, and fostering a systematic working culture. I take this opportunity to request the UT Administration to reinstate and resume the "Ladakh School Olympic" competition for the children of Ladakh. This initiative would not only enhance their sports talent but also provide them with the opportunity to participate in the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) and Khelo India Youth Games, allowing them to showcase their abilities alongside athletes from other states. This small change could bring immense glory to Ladakh in the field of sports, and perhaps one day, we will witness the pride of seeing Ladakhi athletes win medals at the Olympic Games.

Jigmet Stenzin serves as a Lecturer in Physical Education at Government Higher Secondary School, Diskit, Nubra.

from participating in the program?

We were 23 Fulbright TEA participants from 20 different countries. So, I learnt about the education system, culture, traditions, clothing, cuisine and beliefs of countries such as Croatia, Russia, Guatemala, Ghana, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Vietnam and many more. They were the best teachers representing their countries; therefore, I learned a lot about their teaching styles and systems. So, the best outcome from this program is the partnership that has been forged between all the participating teachers. Four of us are soon going to start a project between the students of Croatia, Guatemala, Russia and India (Ladakh). Another valuable insight was the understanding of US culture and education system. As I had a two-week field experience at Estero High School, Fort Myers, Florida, I had an in-depth exposure about their administration, class design, course structure, assessment methods, grading, teaching methodologies used by the teachers, use of technology in class etc.

Q5. As a teacher from India, what were some of the notable differences you observed between education in India and the United States during the program?

One of the major notable differences is the use of technologies in schools. Books are getting replaced by laptops which I feel has benefits as well as some disadvantages. The biggest takeaway for me was diversity in course structure. Students are offered subjects such as culinary, robotics, carpentry, pottery-making, arithmetic, statistics, fine arts, song writing and composition, from grade 9 onwards. This provides them the scope to enhance their skill as well as understand their interests at a broader level as children have diverse forms of creativity in them.

Q6. Did participating in the program change your approach to teaching or your perspective on education in any way?

Yes, I definitely feel that my outlook towards education has changed immensely after participating in this exchange program. There is a need to drastically shift the teaching methodologies from teacher-centered education to a student-centered one and to do this two important pedagogical tools that I learned are project-based learning and service learning. Even though it's a mounting task to incorporate such methods in our education system, with proper support and skill-development programs from educational departments, a change can eventually be brought.

Q7. How do you plan to incorporate what you have learned from the program into your teaching back home?

Firstly, I would like to introduce the importance of AI to the teachers in my school. AI is taking over the world but if used with the correct prompt and caution, it can be a helping hand in the cumbersome lesson planning process that teachers go through. I would love to see Model UN as a part of school curriculum in Ladakh. It will help us create conscientious future citizens in Ladakh as it enhances confidence, collaboration, problem-solving and leadership skills. It provides students with firsthand experiences of international relations. But to achieve the benefits of Model UN, we need a strong community that understands its requirements. It is an activity that will require cooperation between teachers, parents and members of the civil society.

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4th Khelo India Winter Games: Reflecting and Looking Ahead

...continues from page 3



Ice Hockey match between ITBP and Himachal Pradesh at the NDS Ice Hockey Rink.



Khelo India Winter Games 2024: Speed-skating competition held at the NDS Ice Hockey Rink.

Fortnightly News

SVEEP team organises awareness programme at Qatilga

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The district SVEEP team Kargil organised an awareness programme at Qatilga, attended by officials from various departments on March 19.

The program was attended by District Program Officer, Nargis Banoo, CDPO Kargil, Parveen, SVEEP Nodal Officer Ghulam Rasool, District Level Master Trainer (DLMT), Mohd Shabir, officers and officials from ZEO Office, CDPO Office, Sale Tax Department, Fisheries, Handicrafts, Handloom, Information, YSSO, Tourism and other departments.



The aim of the program was to educate citizens about their voting rights and responsibilities. It aimed to foster active participation in democratic processes, particularly focusing on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Distinguished speakers, including electoral experts and district officials, provided valuable insights into the working mechanism of EVMs, the importance of ECI apps, ECI guidelines, and also directed all district employees to strictly abide by the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

3-day training session for entrepreneurs concludes in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The three-day training session for entrepreneurs, organised by the District Industries Centre (DIC) Kargil in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI) concluded at the Auditorium Hall, Kargil on March 18.



The program aimed to empower local entrepreneurs with the knowledge of packaging (FSSR-2018) and labeling (FSSR-2020) requirements for food commodities.

consumer appeal, along with discussing the guidelines of FSSAI and the importance of registration/licensing with FSSAI.

to participants seeking to establish and expand their ventures in the region.

During the event, practical demonstrations for packaging and labeling were also held.

Key highlights of the training session included interactive sessions, discussions on food quality, standards of packaging and labeling for different food items.

The program was attended by a large number of entrepreneurs and different SHGs from different areas of Kargil district. They expressed gratitude for the opportunity to enhance their skills and network with fellow entrepreneurs.

Experts from DIC and QCI shared their expertise and best practices, offering invaluable guidance

GDC, Nubra, observes International Day of Forests



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first series of Ladakh Ideathon-2024 was organised by DST Technology wing of Leh campus on March 22.

Ladakh Ideathon provides a platform for technology enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, startups, and students of universities, colleges, polytechnics, and schools to showcase their business ideas, innovations, inventions, and product prototypes.

Students of Government Degree College Nubra participated in two groups to present their innovative ideas and product prototypes. One group of students

presented their innovative herbal products like soap, lip balm, and herbal tea under the title 'Wild to Market,' made from Black Goji Berry (*Lycium ruthenicum*), an important medicinal herb found exclusively in the Nubra valley of Ladakh. The second group presented products made from waste materials under the title 'Waste to Market' and showcased many innovative products, including the Nova Handmade Pad made from the wool of the Bactrian camel, a species found only in the Nubra valley of Ladakh.

More than 30 registered participants from across India showcased and presented their business ideas, innovations, inventions, and product prototypes. In the category of product prototypes, students of Government Degree College Nubra secured the second position for their innovative Nova Black Goji Berry products under the title 'Wild to Market' in a cut-throat competition with competitors such as Ladakh Basket, an entrepreneurial venture, EJM College, CIBS, and many others.

Principal of Government Degree College Nubra, Doctor Tsewang Motup, congratulated students and faculties for winning the second position at the first series of Ladakh Ideathon-2024. He appreciated the innovative ideas and endeavours of students and their mentors in bringing laurels to the institution. He congratulated the participating students and encouraged them for future endeavours and achievements during a brief ceremony held for this occasion.

GDC, Nubra, secures second place in Ladakh Ideathon-2024

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ghulam Mohd JKAS, who also serves as the CEO of Leh Development Authority, chaired a meeting with the Executive Engineer and other technical staff of LDA in the DC Office chamber on March 18.

The meeting aimed to introduce and finalize ongoing projects promptly, ensuring a timely and efficient execution.

CEO LDA, Ghulam Mohd directed the Executive Engineer and technical staff to swiftly mobilize contractors and initiate ongoing projects. Clear targets were set for each project, emphasizing the need for completion within stipulated timelines.

Particular focus was placed on urban development projects in the vicinity of Leh. CEO LDA stressed the importance of both the physical progress and financial status of these endeavors.

Remarkably, it was noted that 98% of the State Development Plan (SDP) allocation and 95% of the state sector budget allocation have been expended thus far, showcasing a commendable commitment to utilizing resources effectively.

During the event, 20 poets from different parts of Kargil described the virtues of Ramadan by presenting poetic compositions in Purgi, Balti, Dard Sheen, Dard Aryan, and Urdu.

ITI, Leh, students attend short-term training programme at CSIR-IHBT Palampur

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Students from the Floriculture and Landscaping trade at ITI Leh are currently participating in a short-term training programme at the Institute of Himalayan Bio Resource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, from March 15 to 25.

Thirteen students along with a faculty member are presently at IHBT Palampur for the ten-day programme, receiving hands-on training and mentorship from faculty and experts at CSIR-IHBT. The training curriculum encompasses various topics, including cultivation techniques, plant propagation, pest management, and post-harvest handling. It involves interactive sessions, field visits, and practical exercises.



This training initiative is part of the 'Skill Immersion Programme' of LSDM where students of Industrial Training Institutes are attached to renowned national institutes for two to six weeks to receive hands-on training, industry exposure, mentorship and technology integration.

The initiative was launched in 2023 by the Ladakh Skill Development Mission, wherein 14 students specialising in the 'Motor Mechanic Vehicle' trade from ITI Leh and Kargil were sent to the Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (CFMTTI) in Budhni, Madhya Pradesh, for a 40-day training session in October 2023. Subsequently, in October 2023, students of the 'Electrician' trade also underwent an 18-day training program at CFMTTI, Budhni.

LSDM is collaborating with other national institutes for extending 'Skill Immersion Programme' to students of the Industrial Training Institutes.

Department of Health and DIET Leh organises training for school teachers in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A training for the school teachers designated as ambassadors and for the heads of institutions was conducted by the Department of Health and DIET Leh on March 19.

It was informed that for the effective implementation of the School Health and Wellness Programme, teams have been constituted at zone, district, and UT levels. During the training, the teams interacted with the heads of institutions, school ambassadors, and messengers regarding the effective implementation of SHWP. They have discussed various advantages of the programme and challenges while implementing the SHWP.

In accordance with the programme, district monitoring teams comprising the Health and Education Department, have been assigned to monitor the schools located in Leh zone. They will assess the implementation of the SHWP under Ayushman Bharat.

It was further informed that they have divided the teams into two groups: Team A and Team B. Team A will monitor HS Likir, MS Likir, HS Basgo, and MS Basgo Zasa. Meanwhile, Team B will monitor MS Tungalung Basgo, MS Ney, HS Nimmo and MS Nimmo.

Team A consists of State Consultant, Stanzin Angmo, Coordinator, Dawa Tsering, Lecturer DIET, Leh, Tsering Angmo, Lecturer DIET, Leh, Dr. Lobzang Chosdup. Team B consists of Special Educator, SNM Hospital, Chonyit Dolma, IT Officer, NHM, Leh, Syed Amir, Lecturer DIET, Leh, Lobzang Chorol, and Lecturer, DIET, Leh, Phunstog Dolma.

The School Health and Wellness Programme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education, Government of India, launched in 2018. The programme aims to empower school children with knowledge and skills to foster positive attitudes and responsible behavior towards their health, focusing on enhancing life skills and promoting healthy habits among students.

LAACL, Kargil, organises district-level multi-lingual Hamdiya Naatiya Mushaira



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In connection with Ramadan, the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (LAACL) Kargil organised a district-level multi-lingual Hamdiya Naatiya Mushaira at the Cultural Academy Hall, Kargil, on March 28.

During the event, 20 poets from different parts of Kargil described the virtues of Ramadan by presenting poetic compositions in Purgi, Balti, Dard Sheen, Dard Aryan, and Urdu.

Padma Shree awardee and renowned scholar of Kargil, Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat, was the chief guest, while Editor of All India Radio Kargil, Mohd Abdullah, was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat appreciated LAACL Kargil for organising such a fruitful literary event. While praising the poets for their successful rendering of poetry, Basharat expressed hope that men of letters can play

a greater role in bringing positive changes in society. He said Ramadan preaches self-control, tolerance, and patience and is an annual strengthening of one's inner personality.

Editor of All India Radio, Kargil, Mohd Abdullah, in his speech, appreciated the academy for organising such poetic symposia from time to time, thereby giving a fillip to literary activities in the district.

Eminent poet and writer, Ghulam Ahmed Jawan (State Awardee), and renowned Purgi poet Aga Sayed Hadi Shah graced the event.

Earlier, in his welcome speech, Deputy Secretary of LAACL Kargil, Nazir Hussain, spoke about the aims and objectives of the two-day literary event. He said the contribution of writers and poets in the literary field is commendable and has been instrumental in making a healthy society. He said LAACL Kargil is committed to preserving and promoting rich art, culture,

and languages in the district through such literary programs.

The Deputy Secretary also expressed gratitude to the literary fraternity of Kargil for their tremendous support in gracing such programs from time to time. He further said that Ladakh Cultural Academy is open to lending a helping hand to people interested in showcasing their poetic talent. He urged novices to participate in such programs to have a know-how of the ambiance and seek necessary guidance from seniors.

Nazir Hussain urged the concerned quarters connected to continue their support, enabling the academy to fulfil the desired objectives with ease and contentment.

Noted Balti and Urdu Scholar, Abdul Hadi Balti, conducted the program proceedings, while Head Assistant of LAACL, Kargil, Zakir Hussain Khan, presented the vote of thanks.

DEO Leh chairs meeting regarding forthcoming Lok Sabha elections



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Election Officer/Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve chaired a meeting in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in the video conferencing room of the Deputy Commissioner's office on March 26.

The eight-point agenda of the meeting included distribution of Electronic Photo Identity Cards (EPICs), polling stations and Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF), Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP) campaigns, Electoral Rolls status, identification of Persons with Disabilities and more than 85 electors for postal ballot facility, addition/deletion/correction after the announcement of elections, vulnerability mapping, and absentee/shifted/deceased (ASD) list.

DC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve instructed the Sub Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars of the Leh district to ensure the distribution of Electronic Photo Identity Cards. He asked them to conduct random checks at the polling stations and in the villages to ensure that the voters have received the Electronic Photo Identity Cards. Along with this, he instructed them to visit the villages to oversee the reasons for low electoral roll, check the facilities at polling stations, and spread awareness about SVEEP.

Furthermore, he said that

all the polling stations should have the facilities under Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF), mainly ramp, drinking water, toilet facility, and electricity. To ensure an increase in voter percentage, he asked the SDMs and Tehsildars to identify Persons with Disabilities and more than 85 voters so that they can be given the option of postal ballot.

In view of the low voter turnout in the last elections, DC, Leh, set a target of 80 percent for the upcoming election and said that the percentage should not go below 75 percent. He asked them to ensure that there is maximum voter turnout in their divisions.

Additionally, the SDMs and Tehsildars acting as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AERO) raised their concerns regarding issues related to the polling stations.

DC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve assured them that he will talk to the concerned departments to provide immediate solutions. A review meeting will be held again in the first week of April as instructed by DC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve.

The meeting was attended by the Electoral Registration Officer/Additional District Commissioner, Leh, Ghulam Mohd (JKAS), Nodal Officer, SVEEP, Leh, Tajamal Ara, and all the SDMs and Tehsildars of the sub-divisions.

GDC Nubra observes International Day of Forests



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Department of Botany and Environmental Science, Government Degree College, Nubra, in collaboration with the Forest Department, Nubra, observed International Day of Forests on March 20. Assistant Professor, Environmental Science, Tsewang Lahmo presented an overview of International Day of Forests and its theme for this year 'Forest and Innovation: new solution for a better world'.

Principal of GDC Nubra, Dr Tsewang Motup, the chief guest, spoke about the role of trees in conservation of wildlife in the desert ecosystem of Ladakh. He emphasised on maximum plantation drive for conservation and promotion of forest and to develop an ecosystem. He encouraged students and teachers to act as green ambassadors for society and future generations. He also highlighted the vision of Degree College, Nubra, to establish an arboretum in the college campus, which will serve as an invaluable resource for educational and research purposes, harbouring a repository of different indigenous and exotic tree species.

Additionally, Forester, Sonam Wangyal presented an overview, historical background and importance of International Day of Forests, and highlighted

ed the conservation work being executed by the Forest Department in Nubra valley.

Assistant Professor, Botany, Dr. Konchok Dorje highlighted the role of plants and trees in maintaining ecosystem balance and survival of diverse life-forms present in a forest ecosystem. He emphasised that forests represent a repository of life-forms and biodiversity and conservation of a forest may contribute to conservation of biodiversity.

The event witnessed the inauguration of a mega plantation drive programme in presence of the chief guest, officials and participants. Dr Tsewang Motup planted a sapling of pine tree as a symbolic gesture to begin the plantation drive. All the students, faculties and staff members of forest department actively participated in the plantation drive and planted more than a hundred trees representing different species of pine, juniper, willow, polar, Russian olive and tamarix provided by the Forest Department, Nubra. During the event, many students also expressed their views on forest day and conservation of trees and biodiversity.

The other attendees included the faculties, students of GDC Nubra and staff members of the Forest Department.

In conversation with

Rinchen Wangmo, Fulbright TEA Program Awardee

...continues from page 5

Q8. What message would you like to share with fellow teachers/educators in Ladakh who are considering applying for programs like Fulbright TEA?

I believe Ladakh has some of the most innovative teachers. I want to encourage high school teachers in Ladakh to apply for the Fulbright TEA program, offered by the US Department of State, to enhance their professional skills and understanding of the global education system. As teachers, we need an exposure to learn where our teaching stands in the global education scenario and FTEA is the perfect platform for this. This program will empower you to become a teacher leader and help you create partnership with teachers from the US and rest of the world, bringing the global outlook in our classrooms.

Fortnightly News

ICDS Project, Kargil, celebrates Poshan Pakwada at AWC Grong Minji



The event focused on educating the participants about the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life and the holistic development of children from infancy to six year old.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: ICDS Project Kargil celebrated Poshan Pakwada at AWC Grong Minji, with the participation of supervisor, block coordinator and ANM (ICDS project Kargil), AWWs, AWHs and beneficiaries from respective AWCs on March 18.

They were also briefed on the significance of overall nutrition and locally available dietary options. Weight and height measurements were recorded for the beneficiaries present during the event.

National Institute of Sowa Rigpa organises two-day workshop and training programme

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, organised a two-day workshop and training programme for Sowa Rigpa practitioners of Ladakh at the conference hall of NISR, Leh, on March 22 and 23.



Director of Health, Medical Education and Ayush, UT Ladakh, Dr. Motup Dorjai inaugurated the event on March 22 and Former Chief Amchi of the Health Department, Leh, Amchi Tsering Phuntsog, was the guest of honour on the occasion.

dress on the role of Sowa Rigpa for public health in Ladakh and importance of reorientation training for the upgrading of medical knowledge for Ayush practitioners.

sector, particularly Sowa Rigpa, in Ladakh by the UT Administration.

A total of 85 Sowa Rigpa practitioners from various parts of Ladakh participated in the two-day workshop and training programme.

Director of the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, Leh, Dr. Padma Gurmet, presented the keynote ad-

Dr Motup Dorjai expressed his gratitude to Amchis for their services for public health in Ladakh since ages and highlighted the important works carried out for the development of Ayush

Eminent doctors and Sowa Rigpa experts presented technical presentations on various aspects of public health and Sowa Rigpa.

University of Ladakh, Kargil campus, celebrates World Theatre Day



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages Kargil, in collaboration with the University of Ladakh, Kargil Campus, celebrated World Theatre Day at the Auditorium Hall of the university campus on March 27.

Dr. Jaffer Ali Khan, Senior Assistant Professor from the Sociology Department, and Dr. Mohd Taqi, Assistant Professor from the Geography Department,

along with all faculty members, praised Kacho Ahmed Ali, Founder of the RANTHAG Theatre Group, and his team for their efforts in promoting engagement in such creative and innovative activities.

The RANTHAG Theatre Group presented the play "AMAA'S KAL" (Mother's Share), creatively addressing a deeply rooted social concern contributing to familial division.

This collaboration between the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages and the University of Ladakh, Kargil Campus, reaffirmed their dedication to promoting art and culture in the region.

World Theatre Day 2024 provided a platform for fostering cultural exchange and dialogue, enriching the community, and nurturing future generations of theatre enthusiasts.

Dr Pawan Kotwal chairs 5th UT-level NCORD committee meeting



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal, chaired the 5th UT Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) committee meeting at the Civil Secretariat on March 29.

The committee reviewed the actions taken following the outcomes of the 4th UT Level NCORD meeting and deliberated on various crucial issues concerning drug trafficking prevention, rehabilitation, and awareness campaigns within the state.

At the outset, a comprehensive presentation was given by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Leh-Kargil Range (Member Convener of the UT level NCORD Committee), on issues concerning drug trafficking prevention, rehabilitation, and awareness campaigns within Ladakh.

Deliberations were held on the actions taken and the progress made based on the resolutions of the previous NCORD meeting, emphasising the need for effective implementation and follow-up actions.

The committee examined the prevailing drug trafficking situation in Ladakh and deliberated on strategies to combat it, including stringent actions against drug peddlers.

The committee explored measures for rehabilitating victims of substance abuse, focusing on the functioning of Drug De-addiction Centers (DDACs) and strategies for countering supply chains.

The chairperson directed

to expedite the establishment of Drug De-Addiction Centers and instructed officials to ensure the readiness of essential facilities by 1st May 2024. "Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and staffed by dedicated professionals, the centers will serve as beacons of hope for those grappling with addiction, offering comprehensive support and rehabilitation services," he stated.

Dr Kotwal emphasised the importance of coordination among all stakeholders involved in combating drug trafficking and substance abuse. He stressed the involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), religious institutions, and other stakeholders in fostering awareness and prevention initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a determination to implement the discussed strategies effectively, fostering a drug-free and healthier society in UT Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Director General of Police, UT Ladakh; the Administrative Secretaries of the Social and Tribal Welfare Department, Health and Medical Education Department, and Excise and State Taxes Department; the Director of Health Services, Deputy Commissioner of Leh, Superintendent of Police Leh, and Drug Controller of UT Ladakh. Meanwhile, the Zonal Director of NCB, Jammu; the Deputy Commissioner of Kargil; the Senior Superintendent of Police of Kargil; and the Chief Medical Officer of Kargil joined the meeting virtually.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Director General of Police, UT Ladakh; the Administrative Secretaries of the Social and Tribal Welfare Department, Health and Medical Education Department, and Excise and State Taxes Department; the Director of Health Services, Deputy Commissioner of Leh, Superintendent of Police Leh, and Drug Controller of UT Ladakh. Meanwhile, the Zonal Director of NCB, Jammu; the Deputy Commissioner of Kargil; the Senior Superintendent of Police of Kargil; and the Chief Medical Officer of Kargil joined the meeting virtually.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh celebrates Holi with soldiers in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh celebrated the festival of colour, Holi, with soldiers in Leh, accompanied by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande and General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps Lt Gen Rashim Bali on March 24.

Addressing the soldiers, the Defence Minister commended their valour, determination and sacrifice as they serve in harsh terrain and inclement weather conditions to protect the motherland. "The positive commitment of the soldiers posted in high altitudes surpasses the challenges of sub-zero temperatures," he said. He referred to Ladakh as India's capital of valour and bravery, just as Delhi is the national capital, Mumbai is the financial capital and Bengaluru is the technology capital.

"The entire country feels safe as our brave soldiers guard the borders. We are progressing and leading a happy life as our vigilant soldiers stand ready at the borders. Every citizen is proud of the Armed Forces as they live far away from their families so that we can celebrate Holi and other festivals with our families peacefully. The nation will forever be indebted to our soldiers, and their courage and sacrifices will keep inspiring the future generations," he said.

The Defence Minister asserted that he decided to celebrate Holi with the soldiers a day before, as he believes that the festivals should first be celebrated by and with the protectors of the country. He urged the Chiefs of the three Services to establish a new tradition of beginning the celebrations of the festivals with the soldiers a day before. "Such celebrations with soldiers on the snowy peaks of Kargil, in the scorching plains of Rajasthan and in the submarines located in the deep seas should become an integral part of our culture," he said.

On the occasion, Rajnath Singh also laid a wreath at the War Memorial, Leh as a solemn tribute to the bravehearts who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation.

Later, the Defence Minister spoke with the soldiers posted in the world's highest battlefield, Siachen, over the phone and extended his Holi greetings. He assured them of his upcoming visit to Siachen to interact with them personally. The Defence Minister was scheduled to visit Siachen and celebrate Holi with the troops there. However, due to adverse weather conditions, there was a change in the program, and he celebrated the festival of colours with the soldiers in Leh.

Leh ADC chairs meeting to expedite development projects

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ghulam Mohd JKAS, who also serves as the CEO of Leh Development Authority, chaired a meeting with the Executive Engineer and other technical staff of LDA in the DC Office chamber on March 18.

The meeting aimed to introduce and finalise ongoing projects promptly, ensuring a timely and efficient execution.

Particular focus was placed on urban development projects in the vicinity of Leh.

CEO LDA, Ghulam Mohd directed the Executive Engineer and technical staff to swiftly mobilise contractors and initiate ongoing projects. Clear targets were set for each project, emphasising the need for completion within stipulated timelines.

Particular focus was placed on urban development projects in the vicinity of Leh. CEO LDA stressed the importance of both the physical progress and financial status of these endeavors.

Remarkably, it was noted that 98% of the State Development Plan (SDP) allocation and 95% of the state sector budget allocation have been expended thus far, showcasing a commendable commitment to utilising resources effectively.

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People Voice: Six Schedule Demand: Perspectives of Community Representatives

...continues from page 4

too much power. If there is no legislature or MLA, then full power remains with the bureaucracy. Therefore, we are demanding both statehood to have control over our affairs and bureaucracy, and the Sixth Schedule for comprehensive protection. If we settle for only a partial solution based on public opinion suggesting to explore another provision, we may find ourselves in the same situation for another 10 to 15 years, leaving us vulnerable to potential threats. Therefore, it may be the right step to avoid making a decision at this stage.



Haji Mustafa, Legal Advisor to Leh Apex Body: The primary difference between the Sixth Schedule and Article 371 lies in the weight each carries in the Constitution of India. The Sixth Schedule is mentioned in Articles 244 and 275(1), emphasizing the autonomy of the mentioned regions to enact laws and elect representatives in the Autonomous Development Councils (ADCs). This grants them legislative powers similar to the Parliament and state legislatures, forming a three-tier institution. The subjects covered, such as land, culture, education, and courts, make it a robust provision.

On the other hand, Article 371 does not grant exclusive rights to tribals but instead confers certain privileges and powers to states to legislate in specific domains. Central laws apply to these areas with certain exceptions. Overall, the Sixth Schedule grants exclusive rights and powers to tribal people, enabling them to legislate for their protection from the mainland and other inhabitants, thus holding a stronger position in the constitution.

Benefits of Sixth Schedule:

1. One of the biggest benefits is that it gives autonomy to the tribal areas to make laws for their own protection and the central and the state laws do not apply to these areas easily and that is the reason why the Sixth Schedule has been called a mini constitution by some people. And when law making power is given to the ADCs they become almost like legislatures.

2. And because these are exclusive rights and powers the government cannot take away these powers easily unlike that of 371 provisions and in order to do away with the Sixth Schedule there should be huge majority in the house which is not easily possible and anything that cannot be done away with easily is a strong provision.

3. All these years the different ADCs have been added with more powers, such as the Bodoland and it looks like that due to these strong provisions the government has not been able to make too much exploitation in these areas.

Ladakh should not discard the proposal for Article 371 altogether if it is proposed to us, because in Article 371 there is an assumption that there would be a Legislature as well. All the states where 371 exists today are states with legislature. However, if the government—though there is no official stance on this, neither from the home ministry nor the central government in general—is considering only Article 371 for Ladakh in its current setup, it becomes somewhat challenging to comprehend how it will materialize. If it follows the model of Mizoram, it could be acceptable provided Ladakh is granted state status, but that doesn't appear to be the government's plan based on what we've seen so far. Therefore, the effectiveness of Article 371 provisions in Ladakh will depend on how they are formulated and implemented.

NOTICE

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR

Allocation of shops at Dhan Singh Thapa Institute, Karu by HQ 3 Infantry Division on rent. Last date of application - 10 Apr 2024. For further details please contact 503 ASC Battalion. Phone No- 7988983179&8217259117

NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable Society under the name and Style 'BEDHURYA SOCIAL SERVICE THIKSAY LEH' UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

S.NO	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation
1	Sh.Tashi Tundup	S/o Sh.Tsewang Paljor	Rambirpur, Yartsa	President
2	Dr.Tashi Motup	S/o Late.Lobzang Tsultem	Thiksay, K-sar	Vice-President
3	Ven.Chamba Norfall	S/o Late.Lobzang Choklang	Thiksay, Bechung	General Secretary
4	Sh.Phuntsog Tashi	S/o Sh.Tashi Urgain	Stakmo, Phineer	Joint Secretary
5	Sh.Skarma Chosphenel	S/o Sh.Tsering Nurboo	Thiksay, Arzoo	Technical Evaluator (Social)
6	Sh.Tundup Spalzang	S/o Sh.Tsetan Spalbar	Thiksay, Tashisgang	Treasurer
7	Smt.Tsering Dolkar	W/o Sh.Tashi Tundup	Rambirpur, Yartsapa	Member

Objections if any, in this regard, may kindly be submitted to the Registrar of Society, Leh UT Ladakh within 21 days from the publication of the Notice.

President

Bedhurya Social Service, Thiksay Leh UT Ladakh

NOTICE

I, Faisal Ahmad Giri S/o Abdul Majid Giri R/ o Giri House Skara Leh UT Ladakh Prop of M/s The Giri 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

I, Rigzin Norboo S/o Sonam Norgais R/o Saspol, Leh UT Ladakh Prop Camp Delight Ullay have applied for the change in Name of the Travel Agency of Camp Delight Ullay to Apple Orchard Ule. If anyone has an objection please contact Assistant Director Tourism Leh within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, No 15136944N rank Hav Sri Har Kishan Basor S/o Ajuddi Basor R/o Vill. Asati, Post-Asati, Teh-Niwari, Distt-Niwari, State-Tikamgarh MP Pin-472441 have changed my wife's Name from Champa Devi to Champa Devi Banshkar. An affidavit duly verified by Notary Leh to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

I, Tashi Dolker D/o Tsering Sonam R/o Matho, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded as Tashi Dolker instead of correct and actual name Tashi Dolker in my ST Certificate duly issued by Leh Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 2117-20/ ST-Leh/ 2004 and Dated on 12/03/2004 Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Leh Tehsil Office, UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

Whereas, Phuntsog Rabtan S/o Nawang Tsering R/o Thiksey Leh, UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Phuntsog Raftan instead of Phuntsog Rabtan in the Driving Licence bearing No. JK-1020110005798 and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary, UT Ladakh with Certificate No. IN-LA06393120229141W to this office for making necessary corrections. Hence the notice is at this moment served through the press to file an objection if any in this office, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh, Ladakh within 7 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

I, Tsering Palmo W/o Regzin Gurmed R/o Tia, District Leh, UT Ladakh, declare that my Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 03-04-1973 instead of the actual and correct Date of Birth 05-12-1972 in my Aadhaar card bearing no. 403291157562 and I'm applying for the correction in my Aadhaar Card.

NOTICE

I, Zahara Bano D/o Ibrahim Ali & Fatima Bano R/o Bogdang Nubra, UT Ladakh have lost my class 10th pass certificate duly issued by J & K State Board of School Education Leh through Govt Higher Secondary School Bogdang, under Roll 8116261 and Registration No. E-12NWJRF00257 with Session Annual 2015. Now I have to apply for the issuance of a duplicate pass certificate. Objection if any may be sent to the J&K State Board of School Education Jammu/Leh within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

Whereas Sonam Norphel S/o Konchok Thinles R/o Sankar, Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Padma Otsal instead of Sonam Norphel in her daughter Edzin Wangmo School Admission records book Mahabodhi Residential School, UT Ladakh. Objection, if any may be conveyed to concern authority Leh UT Ladakh within 7 days from the date of publication.

Advertisement



ཚོན་རྟགས།

ཁམས་བདེ་བཟང་པོའི་རྟགས།



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ཕོར་ཉི་པ་ཡིའི་གྱི་ཚོན་རྟགས་

FORTIFIED SAMPOORNA POSHAN SWASTH JEEVAN

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ཉི་ཡི་ཕོར་དང་ལྷན་པའི་སྟེང་ལས་
ཡར་སྟེང་གྱི་དང་།



ཕོར་ཉི་པ་ཡིའི་གཉེས་ལྷན་ཚན་ནི་ཚུ།
ཨའི་རན་དང་ཨ་ཡི་འཕྲི་རྒྱ།

