

Fortnightly News

CEC Leh reviews alignment plan for Leh-Nimoo four-lane highway project



During the meeting on alignment of the Leh-Nimoo Four-Lane Highway Project.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson, convened a meeting on February 10 at the Council Secretariat’s Conference Hall to discuss the alignment of the Leh-Nimoo Four-Lane Highway Project.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer PWD, ACR Leh, Tehsildar Leh, Officer Commanding 81 RCC, Executive Engineers from the Construction and R&B Divisions, Naib Tehsildar Basgo, and Officer In-charge 81 RCC.

Vivek Kumar, Site Engineer, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed

highway alignment. His presentation covered key routes, potential challenges, and the expected benefits of the four-lane highway, which aims to enhance connectivity between Leh and Nimoo.

After reviewing the proposal, CEC Gyalson stressed the importance of a collaborative approach and recommended a joint survey involving concerned councillors, Nambardar, relevant departments, and other stakeholders. He urged officials to work together to finalize the alignment, ensuring that all potential challenges are effectively addressed.

Ladakh University under Anti-Corruption Bureau scanner for alleged financial misuse



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Anti-Corruption Bureau / Vigilance, Ladakh, carried out a joint surprise check at the Ladakh University Campus, Taru-Thang, following allegations of the misuse of official positions and government funds.

Under the directives of Chief Vigilance Officer Dr. Pawan Kotwal and Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau/Vigilance Ladakh, Piyush Fulzele (IPS), the operation was led by Inspector

Jigmet Singay Wangdus. The team also included SI Welayat Ali, SI Chuskit Angmo, and ASI Konchok Dorji.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau team conducted raids at the university premises, during which they seized a significant number of documents related to past financial transactions. These included purchase records and stock details, which will be subject to further investigation.

University of Ladakh’s MRI team assesses soil and water quality in Taru



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

TARU: The Mountain Research Institute, University of Ladakh, in collaboration with the DST PURSE team, has successfully completed a comprehensive soil and water sampling survey across Taru village. The initiative, conducted on February 11, aimed at assessing environmental and geological conditions in the region.

The research team collected over 60 samples, including water from various sources such as streams, springs, bore wells, hand pumps, and Jal Jeevan sources. Soil samples were gathered from diverse agricultural zones, including kitchen gardens, potato and pea fields, alfalfa and barley farms, fallow lands, greenhouses, flood-affected areas, and apple-apricot orchards. Additionally, partial rock samples were collected as part of a geological assessment.

Recognizing the significance of the study, Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, along with the Registrar and senior faculty members, visited the sampling site. Their presence provided encouragement to the farmers of Taru village.

During the visit, Prof. Kushwaha met with Namgyal, the Nambardar of Taru village, and lauded the MRI team for their dedicated and systematic approach to the research. The team, led by Prof. (Dr.) Jigmet Yangchan, Tsering Dolma, and Tariq Ahmed, was commended for their efforts in advancing environmental research in Ladakh.

This study is expected to contribute significantly to sustainable agricultural and water resource management in the region.

Delegation from Kungyam seeks L-G’s intervention for better telecom connectivity



A delegation from Rong-Churgyud, led by Councillor Kungyam, Thinles Nurboo during their meeting with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation from Kungyam, led by Councillor, Thinles Nurboo, met the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), at the Lieutenant Governor’s Secretariat on February 8.

Advisor to the L-G, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Commissioner/Secretary to the L-G, Dr. L. Franklin, IAS; and Secretary, IT, Shashanka Ala, IAS, were also present at the meeting.

Thinles Nurboo apprised

the L-G of the challenges faced by Kungyam residents due to frequent voice call disruptions in the absence of an optical fiber cable (OFC) connection. He informed that the village currently relies on VSAT for voice calls and internet access. While a Jio tower was installed under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in 2021-22 to provide telecommunication services, he urged the L-G to facilitate the village’s connection to a dedicated OFC line for improved connectivity.

Recognizing the importance of enhanced telecommunication for Ladakh’s remote communities, the L-G reiterated his commitment to improving digital infrastructure. He emphasized the need to upgrade the existing 2G network to 4G and directed Secretary, IT, Shashanka Ala, IAS, to expedite the completion of the 4G mobile service saturation project in uncovered areas.

Lt. Governor BD Mishra attends virtual meet on Viksit Bharat Youth initiatives

Announces Ex-Gratia relief of Rs. 4 lakh from SDRF and Rs. 1 lakh from council fund



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson during his visit to the site of a fire at the Industrial Estate in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, accompanied by Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi, visited the site of a devastating fire at the Industrial Estate in Leh, which tragically claimed the lives of two individuals.

The victims have been identified as Manoj Kumar (30) from Chhattisgarh and Mohd Faisal Ansari (24) from Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

Councillor Lamayuru Dr.

Morup Dorje, Tehsildar Leh Attaullah Khan, Industrial Promotion Officer Mohd Zakirra, and other officials were also present during the visit.

The fire caused extensive damage to the factory, destroying vital machinery and infrastructure, rendering the facility inoperable. During the inspection, CEC Tashi Gyalson expressed deep concern over the tragic incident and assured full support to the affected families. He announced that an

ex-gratia relief of Rs. 4 lakh each is being provided from the SDRF by the District Administration, along with Rs. 1 lakh each from the Council Fund.

Furthermore, he stated that he would request the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh to extend additional assistance to the victims. He also directed officials to conduct a thorough assessment of the damage to determine the full extent of the losses.

Ladakh’s Ice climbing festival concludes, paving the way for winter sports and innovation



Disket Angmo

GANGLES: The 6th Edition of the Ladakh Ice Climbing Festival concluded on February 3 in Gangles village. Organized by the Ladakh Mountain Guide Association (LMGA), the three-day event (February 1–3) attracted a diverse group of participants and dignitaries.

The event was attended by Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Advisor to Lt. Governor; Santosh Sukhadeve, IAS, DC Leh; Tsering Angchuk, Deputy Chairman, LAHDC, Leh; Phuntsog Stanzin Tsepag, Councillor Upper Leh; students from Shara and kids’ society, Leh.

In his welcome address, LMGA President Skalzang Rigzin introduced the association and outlined the motivation behind organizing the festival. He also called on the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) to support the construction of an international-standard ice climbing wall, while addressing some of the challenges

encountered this year.

Dr. Pawan Kotwal expressed his excitement for the event, emphasizing the importance of promoting winter sports in the region. Tsering Angchuk highlighted the festival’s continuous improvement and assured support to enhance the event in the future, all while preserving the aesthetic beauty of the area.

Two young participants shared their experiences of the festival, highlighting how their confidence has grown over the years. One student remarked, “Last year, I was really scared, but this year I wasn’t,” reflecting a newfound sense of assurance and readiness to take on challenges. Another participant added, “Last year, it was difficult, but I still enjoyed it. This time, I’m excited to climb the ice wall.” Their comments underscore not only personal growth but also the festival’s evolving ability to inspire and nurture courage in its participants.

Lt. Governor BD Mishra attends virtual meet on Viksit Bharat Youth initiatives



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), virtually attended a meeting chaired by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. The meeting aimed to brief State Ministers, Lieutenant Governors, and sports department officials on the roadmap for the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect initiatives.

The meeting highlighted that these transformative initiatives seek to engage young minds in national discussions and policy deliberations, fostering leadership and civic participation. Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the initiatives aim to empower youth voices and encourage their contributions toward achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

Lt. Governor BD Mishra emphasized that the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect initiatives will play a crucial role in shaping a developed nation by 2047. He assured that the UT Administration of Ladakh will implement the programs as per the directives of the Union Minister to actively engage Ladakhi youth.

Recognizing sports as a key medi-

um for youth engagement, the Lt. Governor sought assistance from the Union Minister in providing training, qualified coaches, and establishing sports federations in Ladakh. He specifically emphasized the promotion of ice hockey and horse polo, which hold cultural and regional significance. The requested support, he stated, would not only benefit Ladakhi youth but also encourage broader participation in sports across the region.

Earlier in the meeting, a detailed presentation outlined the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, focusing on coordinated efforts at the district, state, and national levels for its successful execution. A PowerPoint presentation on the Viksit Bharat Ambassador-Yuva Connect Programme was also shared, highlighting direct engagement opportunities between India’s youth and top policymakers.

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya urged all states and union territories to extend full support to the initiative and host youth engagement programs under these schemes.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Youth Affairs & Sports, Vikram Singh Malik, IAS; Secretary, School Education, Bhanu Prabha, IAS; and Additional Secretary, Law & Justice, Shashi Kant Bhagat.

DIET Leh conducts three-day SEE learning workshop for school heads



Participants during the three-day workshop on Social, Emotional & Ethical (SEE) Learning.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: As part of its winter training schedule, the District Institute of Education & Training (DIET), Leh, organized a three-day workshop on Social, Emotional & Ethical (SEE) Learning for Heads of Institutions (HoIs) and faculty members. The workshop commenced on February 11 at the Indus Valley Hotel, Leh.

The primary objective of the workshop is to foster compassionate leadership and promote a nurturing school environment in educational institutions across Leh-Ladakh.

The event was graced by Sonam Wangchuk, Chief Education Officer, Leh, as the chief guest.

Deldan Angmo, Principal of

DIET Leh, extended a warm welcome to the SEE Learning facilitators—Tsering Wangdus, Senior Lecturer, and Tsering Angmo, Lecturer—both esteemed faculty members at DIET Leh. She highlighted the significance of SEE Learning in today’s rapidly evolving world and emphasized the need for social, emotional, and ethical education to cultivate a support-

ive and compassionate learning atmosphere in schools.

In his address, Sonam Wangchuk commended DIET Leh for its continuous efforts in conducting SEE Learning workshops, benefiting over 1,200 teachers and school heads. He particularly praised the institution for organizing this specialized workshop for school leaders in the comfortable setting of the Indus Valley Hotel. He further informed the participants that SEE Learning has been officially integrated into the regular curriculum by the UT Ladakh administration and urged all HoIs to ensure its effective implementation from the upcoming academic session following the winter vacation.

The workshop witnessed active participation from 50 school heads and approximately 15 DIET faculty members. The facilitators initiated the session with an engaging activity,

gathering participants’ concerns under three key themes: social, emotional, and ethical. Throughout the workshop, they covered a range of crucial topics, including the SEE Learning curriculum and framework, exploring compassion, creating a compassionate classroom, and attention cultivation and self-awareness.

Interactive activities were conducted to develop various skills related to social, emotional, and ethical growth, ensuring a practical and immersive learning experience for all attendees.

The SEE Learning workshop aims to equip school leaders with essential skills and insights to implement a more compassionate and ethically aware educational framework, ensuring the holistic development of students across Leh-Ladakh.

Fortnightly News

Delegation led by former MP JTN meets Director General, Border Roads Organization
Seeks urgent road and infrastructure development



Former Member of Parliament Jamyang Tsering Namgyal with Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan, Director General of the Border Roads Organization (BRO).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A delegation of public representatives from Ladakh, led by former Member of Parliament Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, met Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan, Director General of the Border Roads Organization (BRO), at Seema Sadak Bhawan on February 6. They discussed critical road and infrastructure needs in Ladakh, stressing the urgency of pending projects and the necessity of strategic tunnel construction to enhance connectivity and national security.

The delegation included Councillor Aga Syed Ali Almusavi (LAHDC Kargil), former Councillor Tsering Paldan (LAHDC Leh), and Nawang Dorjay Lungdo, representing the Tharuk Villagers Community. They collectively emphasized the need for immediate intervention in key infrastructure projects crucial for both civilian and military movement. A delegation led by Tsering Paldan and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal submitted an urgent appeal for the sanction of funds to improve the 30 km stretch of the Upshi-Gya Road on the Leh-Manali Highway. Citing its deteriorating condition as a major risk to civilians, tourists, and defense personnel, they emphasized that despite multiple requests over the past four years, the project remains stalled at the central level. The delegation strongly urged the Director General of the Border Roads Organisation (DG BRO) to expedite approval and funding to ensure safer and more efficient

connectivity.

Councillor Aga Syed Ali Almusavi and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal also submitted a memorandum advocating for the construction of a strategic tunnel from Faronra (Lasar La) to Drass. The proposed tunnel aims to:

- Strengthen national security by creating a 45 km buffer zone and enabling rapid troop movement.

- Ensure all-weather connectivity, reducing travel time by an hour and improving both civilian and military logistics.

- Boost hydroelectric power generation, adding 8 MW to support the Chutuk Hydroelectric Project.

- Foster economic growth, promoting regional development and tourism.

Recognizing the tunnel's strategic importance for Ladakh's security and development, the delegation urged the DG BRO to conduct feasibility studies and fast-track approvals for the project.

Another key demand was the expedited construction of the Kela Tunnel at Changla, which is crucial for ensuring all-weather access to strategic areas. Representing the Tharuk Villagers' Community, Nawang Dorjay expressed gratitude to the Modi government and BRO for their commitment to making this long-awaited project a reality.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal also raised broader

BRO-related concerns, emphasizing the need for the earliest completion of:

- Blacktopping of the Nimoo-Padum Road
- Construction of the Shinkun La Tunnel
- Development of the Korzok-Spiti Road

- Concerns regarding civilian labor involved in BRO projects

The former MP further commended BRO's exceptional efforts, particularly the contributions of Project Vijayak, Project Himank, and Project Yojak in enhancing Ladakh's connectivity. He expressed appreciation for key accomplishments, including:

- Successful construction of the Nyoma-Mudh airfield

- Enhancement of the Leh-Pangong, Leh-Hanle, and Leh-Turtuk roads

- Paving of Khardung La and Changla roads

- Completion of the Umling La road

- Widening of the Kargil-Batalik road via Hambuting La Pass

- Expansion of the Khalasi-Gurgurdo road

Following detailed discussions, the DG BRO assured the delegation that their concerns would be addressed at the earliest, with concrete actions to expedite approvals, funding, and execution of these crucial projects.

Community Health center of Padum, Zaskar to serve as new district hospital: Advisor Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To enhance medical infrastructure in UT Ladakh, Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting to review the progress of construction work on the Community Health Centre (CHC) of Padum, Zaskar.

The centre is being built on 13.79 acres (55,584 sq. m) with a project cost of ₹81.82 crore. Its design is tailored to the climate and cultural aspects of Padum, Zaskar.

Officials from CPWD and DLF Consultants provided a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting key progress updates on the CHC. The meeting discussed essential features of the facility.

The Advisor reviewed the status of ongoing construction, infrastructure

development, equipment installation, and utility provisions at the CHC. Concerned officials presented updates on the project timeline, budget utilization, and measures taken to ensure high-quality construction.

Emphasizing the importance of timely completion, the Advisor directed officials to expedite pending work while maintaining high construction standards. He also stressed the need to equip the CHC with essential medical facilities like MRI and CT scan, along with patient-friendly amenities to enhance healthcare services for the local population.

The meeting also addressed logistical challenges posed by Ladakh's

unique terrain and weather conditions, workforce mobilization, and adherence to safety protocols. The Advisor urged officials to resolve bottlenecks in coordination with relevant authorities to prevent project delays. He emphasized that CHC Zaskar should function as a district hospital.

Considering the local climate, he instructed officials to implement a robust electrical system, avoid false ceilings, and adopt tested technology, with SNM Hospital Leh serving as a benchmark.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to complete CHC construction at the earliest to provide improved healthcare services to the residents of Zaskar.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretary of Medical and Health UT Ladakh, the Director of Health Services, Executive Engineer CPWD Anand Gupta, and Senior Manager Associate Nipendra Sharma from DLF Consultants.

DC Santosh Sukhadeve tours Likir: Focus on education, local artisans, and development projects



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LIKIR: Santosh Sukhadeve, Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh, conducted an extensive tour of Likir village on February 7, engaging with the local community and reviewing developmental projects. His visit included interactions with students at Government High School, Likir, during the closing ceremony of their six-week winter tuition program, along with visits to pottery centres and Likir Monastery.

The visit was accompanied by LAHDC Leh, Saspol Councillor Smanla Dorje Nurboo; Superintending Engineer, R&B Leh, Dorje Gyatso; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Likir, Sajjad Hussain; Lt. Colonel (Retd.) Tundup Wangyal, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer; and officials from the R&B and Revenue Departments. The Village Nambardar, Ex-Sarpanch, members of Lhukhil Gon-

yul Thundel Tsogspa, Village Education Committee members, teachers, and students also participated in the event.

During his interaction with students and parents, the DC assessed the school's needs and identified areas for improvement. After receiving a traditional welcome and witnessing a vibrant cultural program presented by the students, he shared his personal journey and encouraged students to explore careers in public administration. He stressed the importance of integrating technology into education and career development. The interactive session allowed students to pose insightful questions, fostering an engaging dialogue.

Saspol Councillor, Smanla Dorje Nurboo, in his concluding remarks, highlighted ongoing development initiatives in Likir,

including school improvements and broader community development. He urged students and parents to make the most of resources available through government schools.

Following the ceremony, the DC toured key local project sites, including the New Community Hall, the upcoming Museum at Likir Gonpa, the New Craft Village Centre, and the Circular Road at Kharyok. He also visited the homes of local artisans practicing the traditional Likir pottery, exploring potential collaborations and future support for their craft.

The visit concluded with a comprehensive review of various developmental projects, reinforcing the administration's commitment to fostering growth and preserving local heritage.

ReT teachers urge L-G Ladakh to address transfer policy issues



A delegation of Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), at the L-G Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation of Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers from Nyoma, Durbuk, Khaltse, and Nubra blocks, led by Tsering Dolker, met Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), at the L-G Secretariat on February 7. Advisor to the L-G, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Commissioner/Secretary to the L-G, Dr. L. Franklin, IAS; and Secretary, School Education, Bhanu Prabha, IAS, were also present at the meeting.

The delegation apprised the L-G of their

long-standing service, highlighting that many of them have been teaching in the same schools for over two decades. They expressed concerns over the lack of a transfer policy for ReT teachers, despite being regularized as per the norms applicable to general line teachers after completing five years of service. They also cited a decision by the erstwhile J&K government, which stated that "the service of ReT teachers shall be transferable after regularization within the district to which they belong."

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, informed the L-G that ReT teachers hold supernumerary posts, and merging them with general line teachers could impact fresh recruitments.

The L-G directed Secretary, School Education, Bhanu Prabha, IAS, to consult with J&K counterparts regarding their approach to ReT teachers, including policies on transfer and promotion. He assured that the UT Administration would align its policies with those adopted by J&K for ReT teachers.

Joint meeting held to finalize rationalization of Karakoram, Nubra-Shayok, and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries



During the joint review meeting at the Civil Secretariat Leh to finalize the rationalization process for the Karakoram, Nubra, Shayok, and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson of LAHDC Leh, in the presence of Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a joint review meeting on February 8 at the Civil Secretariat Leh to finalize the rationalization process for the Karakoram, Nubra, Shayok, and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The meeting began with a detailed PowerPoint presentation by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, outlining the rationalization process for these wildlife sanctuaries, followed by an in-depth discussion on implementing result-oriented solutions.

The Advisor to the LG emphasized the need for a balanced approach that supports both conservation efforts and sustainable development. He highlighted the importance of ensuring ecological preservation while addressing local livelihood concerns, stressing that human habitation should not be negatively impacted.

CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson, along with other Executive Councillors and Councillors, raised their concerns and suggestions regarding the rationalization of sanctuary boundaries. Detailed discussions focused on boundary demarcation, biodiversity conservation strategies, and the involvement of local communities in protecting these ecologically sensitive areas and agricultural lands. The meeting acknowledged the rights and demands of the local population and directed officials to ensure that these rights are

upheld while achieving practical, result-oriented solutions.

The Forest Department officials presented reports on the current status of the wildlife sanctuaries, outlining key conservation challenges and proposed solutions. The rationalization process aims to enhance habitat protection, streamline management strategies, and address issues related to human-wildlife conflict.

During the meeting, the Advisor emphasized the need for thorough coordination with the CEC, LAHDC Leh, concerned councillors, and other stakeholders before finalizing the rationalization of the Karakoram (Nubra-Shayok) and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to expedite the rationalization process while ensuring that conservation priorities are upheld. A final proposal will be submitted to the State Wildlife Board for further processing.

The meeting was attended by the Dy. Chairman of LAHDC Leh, Executive Councillors, Councillors from Nubra and Changthang, Commissioner Secretary of Forests, UT Ladakh, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UT Ladakh, Councillors, DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Wildlife Warden Leh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, and other concerned officials. The Director of the Wildlife Institute of India participated virtually.

ITBP Indus Ice Hockey challenge 2025 kicks off in Chushul



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHUSHUL: The inaugural ITBP Indus Ice Hockey Challenge 2025 commenced in Chushul, Ladakh, uniting teams from eight villages in a spirited competition. Organized by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the tournament aims to foster unity and encourage youth participation in the rapidly growing sport of ice hockey.

The event was formally inaugurated by Dr. Akun Sabharwal, IPS, Inspector General, ITBP, in the presence of senior Army officers, local administration officials, village heads (Nambardars), and religious leaders. Their participation highlighted a collective commitment to strengthening Ladakh's sports culture and community bonds.

Scheduled from February 12 to 15, the tournament will feature high-energy matches played on the fro-

zen expanse of Chushul. Ice hockey, deeply embedded in Ladakh's sporting culture, has witnessed growing enthusiasm, particularly among the youth. This initiative by ITBP seeks to nurture local talent, provide a competitive platform for young players, and celebrate the region's sporting spirit.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Akun Sabharwal emphasized the tournament's role in engaging youth and promoting excellence in ice hockey. He reiterated ITBP's commitment to community development and sports promotion in high-altitude regions.

With Ladakh's stunning landscape as the backdrop and the passion of local players driving the competition, the ITBP Indus Ice Hockey Challenge 2025 promises to be an exciting and memorable sporting event.

Training workshop for sanitation workers held at Chuchot Yokma



Semi-skilled and unskilled sanitation workers during the two-day training-cum-workshop.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHUCHOT: Two-day training-cum-workshop for semi-skilled and unskilled sanitation workers was organized at the Community Hall, Chuchot Yokma by the CII Foundation in collaboration with HFDC Parivartan and the Rural Development Department (RDD), UT Ladakh.

The workshop focused on developing soft skills and enhancing waste management knowledge, enabling participants to efficiently segregate waste at their respective Solid Resource Management Centres (SRMCs) in Chuchot and Kharu.

The training was conducted by Dr. Shafia Wani, an international sanitation

consultant and change-maker, and was facilitated by the CII Foundation team. Around 16 sanitation workers, along with two drivers, Shamaz Din and Chemat Dorje; supervisors, Amina Khatoon and Padma Yangdol; and CII Foundation staff members, Jibran Zakir, Thinley Nurboo, Nangail Angmo, Tsering Angdu, and Tsetan Dolker, participated in the session.

To ensure active engagement, the facilitators incorporated Ladakhi translations and interactive activities, such as alertness games and physical movement exercises.

Topics covered under the two-days training were decoding scenarios of

sanitation workers, importance of wearing PPE kits at the field, various types of wastes, how to convert waste to resource, and interpersonal skills imparted through audio-visual means of documentaries and videos on waste and an hour of practical waste segregation at the Chuchot unit. The key learnings by the attendees were the better handling of waste along with better segregation so as to keep raw materials for an industry seeking for recycling waste ready at both units. The attendees expressed their grievances regarding some issues such as mixed waste given by households, low wages, and other economic opportunities during the summer season.

People’s Voice:

By Stanzin Padma

Ladakh’s Marriage Revolution: A threat to traditional customs

Ladakh is witnessing a groundbreaking shift in its marriage culture. As modernity and urbanization sweep through this ancient land, traditional customs and practices are facing an unprecedented threat. The once-cherished rituals and ceremonies that bound families and communities together are slowly giving way to new, more contemporary norms. This evolution raises critical questions about the future of Ladakh’s cultural heritage and in favor of this village and organisation representatives expressed their concern over the changing traditions, rituals and customs in marriages in Ladakh.



Tsewang Tsojung, President, Ladakh Women Alliance:

We have observed significant changes in Ladakhi weddings over the years. While some outdated customs have been successfully abolished through the efforts of the Women Alliance, certain practices still persist, threatening the region’s cultural heritage.

Traditionally, Ladakhis used khataks (ceremonial scarves) as symbols of prosperity and blessings. However, modern trends such as money garlands, alcohol consumption, and extravagant gift-giving have crept into wedding customs, straying from Ladakh’s traditional values. Another concerning trend is the calculation of the bride’s trousseau, where every item—from lipstick to handbags—is accounted for, and money is demanded if anything is missing. This practice, which has no roots in Ladakhi culture, is now widely adopted.

Grand and excessive gift-giving has also become an issue, leading to practical challenges. Instead, I suggests offering monetary gifts, will allow families to invest according to their needs. Recognizing these concerns, the Ladakh Women Alliance initiated discussions and has taken steps to protect and restore traditional customs.

To address these concerns, the Ladakh Women Alliance held a meeting with representatives from religious organizations, local associations, and community leaders. Key decisions included efforts to ban money garlands, discourage the cake-cutting ceremony, prohibit alcohol at weddings, and restrict the sale of drugs in shops.

By taking these steps, the alliance aims to preserve Ladakh’s rich cultural heritage while ensuring that wedding customs remain meaningful, inclusive, and accessible to all families, regardless of financial status.



Nazreen Fatima, President, Anjuman Imamia Women wing:

Change is inevitable with time, and traditions should evolve accordingly. However, if we allow our customs and heritage to fade away entirely, it could lead to serious consequences. Preserving traditions is not just the responsibility of the elderly or the youth—it requires the collective effort of the entire community.

One of the concerning habits in society is how quickly people adopt new customs without considering their long-term impact. When it comes to wedding traditions, practices such as the cake-cutting ceremony, excessive monetary gifts, and the growing trend of lavish dowries (Raktag) are viewed as problematic.

While weddings should be a time of joy and celebration, it is important to maintain moderation. Cutting one cake is reasonable, as it allows the couple to celebrate their special day. However, the tradition of sending a bride to her new home with a car full of household items—such as sofas, washing machines, and refrigerators—has become a growing trend. This practice, which was originally limited to simple essentials like a cup, spoon, and other daily-use items, is now placing unnecessary financial pressure on families. Those who cannot afford such extravagance feel inadequate, creating an unhealthy social competition.

To address this, there must be a collective effort to set limits on such

practices, ensuring that traditions remain meaningful without becoming burdensome—especially for families with limited financial means.

There should be awareness campaigns before the wedding season, as people tend to forget the importance of preserving meaningful traditions. Education is the greatest gift a family can give to a daughter, and sending her to her new home with knowledge and skills is far more valuable than material possessions. Additionally, if parents ensure that daughters receive their rightful share of property, it can provide them with a sense of confidence and security in their new life.

As part of our efforts at Anjuman Women Wing, we have introduced several reforms to simplify wedding customs:

- **Mehendi Ceremony:** Previously, multiple cakes were cut during the celebration, but now we have limited it to one cake to maintain simplicity.
- **Gold Gift:** A standard ½ tola of gold is given, ensuring equality for all.
- **Bridesmaids’ Fees:** The amount given to bridesmaids has been fixed at ₹3,000 to prevent financial strain on families.
- **Guldaar (Khatak) Distribution:** Previously, silk scarves (khataks) were offered to all relatives. Now, this custom is limited to only first cousins, reducing unnecessary expenses.

We firmly believe that weddings should be a celebration of joy, not financial burden. While entertainment, such as qasida and qawwali, is an integral part of our cultural and religious traditions, it should not come at an unreasonable cost. With increasing education and awareness, women today are more conscious of these customs, and we trust that they will uphold these values in the future.

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Fortnight Highlights



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, felicitated Nawang Namgail from Chemday, who successfully completed 365 day Ice Bath Challenge. Nawang, a Physical Education Research Scholar at the University of Ladakh, took on this unique challenge to immerse himself in cold water every day for few minutes for an entire year, this practices is believed to be beneficial for health.



In a moment of immense pride for Ladakh, Rigzen Angmo, a Class 10 student from PM Shri Govt. High School, Chumathang, had the unique opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 8th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) held at Sunder Nursery, New Delhi.



15 days Sowa-Rigpa Exhibition and free medical camp was organized by the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh in collaboration with the Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association, New Delhi at Maha Kumbh 2025, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh.



A Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) camp was successfully organized by the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Khatse, Dr. Shamim Ahmad, at Charchar village. The camp provided a variety of medical services, including consultations from a medical officer, dental care, traditional Amchi services, laboratory services, NCD screening, and RBSK services.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk
You and your wishes

When I talk of wishes, many things ‘entangled’ in my mind for years come up afresh, trying for a solution. I do hope there is no abnormality about that. Most of us must have had that kind of experience quite often.



Having said that, let us get down to the thematic point. The fact is that all of us wish the very best day after day, and, particularly on the eve of a New Year.

Whatever you wish for, it is important that you be very clear about it, and you need to fix all those necessary requirements to bring your wishes to fulfilment. Just wishes alone carry you nowhere as long as you don’t take hard and consistent steps.

Whenever I can’t fulfil a wish, I admit and say to myself that I had been half-hearted. And that gives me some sort of solace, and also the energy and determination to push a little harder.

Let’s take the famous saying by Michael Jordan: “Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, and others make it happen.” I believe this quote gives us a correct picture of the varied attitude that people have. And I believe a majority of us while away our time without taking any proactive step. And some want their wishes happen but they are not determined enough to work seriously.

And then comes the third group of people that is quite rare. They not only dream or wish for great things, they make it a point to sort out every obstacle that comes their way to success. They are so determined and hardworking that they somehow find out their way out. They take their dreams and wishes as their first step, and they know it well that but for which they can’t take the second and the rest of the steps.

They are quite aware that intelligence and smartness do play a role but only hard work and determination can get them the winning goal.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with
Eshey Tundup, Executive Director, LEDeG

Q. Congratulations to the LEDeG team for receiving the State Award for its initiatives on Social Reforms, Empowerment, and Environmental Protection. Please tell us about yourself and your journey with LEDeG.

Jullay! I am Eshey Tundup. I previously worked in the Government Education Department and served as the Principal of Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School for around 22 years. I left in 2018 and have been working with LEDeG ever since.

Q: When did LEDeG established and with what motivation and vision?

The group was founded in 1983, initially known as ‘Ladakh Chapter’, pioneered by Helena Norberg-Hodge, an activist and author from Sweden. She was among the first foreign tourists or visitors to Ladakh when it initially began making space for tourist exploration. She visited, explored and observed different corners of Ladakh. She came out with a result or realisation that, the place’s reckless developments, carried forward without proper mapping and planning can drastically impact its environment and leave footprints on people’s lifestyle, culture and traditions.

Tsewang Dorje, Lakrook was the first Ladakhi president of the Group. The significance of the organisation was recognised by native leaders hence, Dr. Sonam Dawa, Thupstan Tsewang. Ven Paldan also headed the group in achieving its intentions for Ladakh’s future.

The vision laid for the preservation of primitive yet sustainable lifestyle ancestors lived, cultural and traditional livelihood followed in the society and protection of its fragile environment.

Since its formation, LEDeG has worked for Ladakh’s welfare from North-South and East-West. It primarily focussed on spreading awareness on importance of well-prepared development plan for a place like Ladakh, especially environmental stewardship and sustainable measures, vital to secure it for future generations. Along with advocating on Environment protection, LEDeG developed solarised water heater, promoted passive/active solar house, introduced Trombe wall to prevent the usage of carbon-emitting fuels such as diesels and kerosene which are major pollutants commonly used in households. LEDeG has been consistent in expanding its environment friendly initiatives till date.

Q. Since LEDeG focuses on environmental actions, must

Interviewed by Nenzes Chodon



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ **Everyone must be responsible and mindful of their actions. Sustainability is key to preserving Ladakh for future generations. It’s not too late—nature can thrive if we care for it. Let’s take accountability and protect our environment together.** ”

have conducted researches and surveys as well, so can you brief us about the transformation Ladakh gone through? Where is it inclined to more, positive or negative?

The expansion of human settlements and livelihood activities has had an adverse effect on Ladakh’s ecosystem, leading to ecological imbalance. Ladakh is now facing environmental challenges similar to those seen worldwide.

One of the key factors contributing to environmental degradation is the evolving lifestyle of its people. Human-driven developments have led to road construction in once-isolated, snow-covered mountains, a surge in vehicle numbers far exceeding the population, and a growing waste crisis with inadequate management and preservation efforts. The rapid shift in lifestyle and the increasing scale of human activities have significantly disrupted Ladakh’s ecological balance.

From my observations, the negative impacts outweigh the positive. Environmental damage is a direct consequence of our own actions and the way we exploit natural resources. Instead of shifting blame, we must take responsibility and implement mindful measures to mitigate and control further damage.

Q. Research and surveys have highlighted concerns about unsafe drinking water in Leh. Do you believe Ladakh is currently facing a water crisis, or is it at risk of one in the future?

Water is essential for human habitation and ecosystem sustainability. However, in Ladakh, water is being excessively used and exploited beyond its natural availability and recharge capacity.

LEDeG has conducted research and surveys on water quality and availability, revealing growing concerns. The increasing number of guesthouses, hotels, restaurants, and modern facilities has led to higher water consumption. Traditionally, Ladakhis used soil-based toilets that converted waste into manure, but there is now a shift towards water-flush toilets, which consume significant amounts of water. Overloaded septic tanks and sewage systems often leak, contaminating underground water sources.

Additionally, the excessive extraction of underground water through bore wells is a serious issue. Ladakh, being an arid region with minimal rainfall, has a slow underground water recharge rate. Over-extraction depletes underground water reserves and reduces their natural replenishment capacity.

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In Focus:

What is in the Union Budget 2025 for Ladakh’s Women Entrepreneurs?



By Dr. Tsering Tashi

A key highlight of the Union Budget 2025-26 is the introduction of a new scheme aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs, with a special focus on first-time entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Under this initiative, ₹2 crore term loans will be disbursed to 5 lakh SC/ST women entrepreneurs over five years, ensuring access to formal credit. The loans will be collateral-free, with subsidized interest rates and flexible repayment options to overcome systemic credit barriers faced by marginalized communities. By easing collateral requirements and offering concessional interest rates, the program seeks to foster grassroots entrepreneurship, particularly in rural and tribal regions, thereby uplifting SC/ST women through inclusive fiscal policies.

Announcing the scheme on February 1, 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized its alignment with India’s Viksit Bharat vision and its foundation on the success of the Stand-Up India initiative. Recognizing the importance of women’s participation in economic activities, the government and industry have proposed measures to boost workforce inclusion, creating a supportive environment for sustainable economic growth. By addressing key challenges such as financial awareness, skill development, and market access, this initiative has the potential to unlock new opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Ladakh, transforming them into key drivers of economic progress and sustainable development.

Entrepreneurship in Ladakh

Ladakh’s industrial and manufacturing sector remains in its early stages, with 95% of micro and small industries operating at the household level as of 2021. However, the region has the potential to become a model for sustainable and innovative industrialization. To strengthen this sector, the government must formalize these units through targeted schemes, improved access to credit, and capacity-building programs, enabling them to scale and integrate into broader supply chains.

Despite the presence of 1,270 industrial units, fewer than 50 are small-scale food processing units, catering solely to domestic demand. Encouraging investment in food processing infrastructure, promoting niche products such as organic and traditional foods, and connecting producers to national and international markets can unlock significant economic opportunities.

Ladakh produces 40–50 tons of Pashmina wool annually—less than 1% of global production. Enhancing the Changthang Development Package, strengthening the supply chain, improving wool quality, and branding Ladakh Pashmina as a premium product could help the region capture a larger share of the global market.

Additionally, while Ladakh has 34 handicraft training centers, only 3,000 artisans have been trained in the past five years. Handicrafts, a cornerstone of Ladakh’s cultural heritage, hold substantial export potential. Expanding training programs, integrating modern design and marketing skills, and developing robust market linkages can revitalize this sector, fostering economic growth and preserving traditional craftsmanship (Vision 2050 for the Union Territory of Ladakh).

Economic Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs

The Union government’s recent scheme holds immense potential, particularly for Ladakh, where entrepreneurship is expanding rapidly. Women entrepreneurs are playing a pivotal role in driving the region’s economic growth through sustainable tourism, handicrafts, renewable energy, and agri-technology. With institutional support and innovation, they are seamlessly blending tradition with modernity. Their success stories highlight how empowering women fosters community growth and positions Ladakh as a model of entrepreneurial excellence. The 2025 budget initiative presents a historic opportunity to transform the lives of emerging women entrepreneurs in Ladakh, reinforcing a national commitment to boosting women’s workforce participation, inclusive economic growth, and women’s empowerment.

This initiative is particularly significant for Ladakh’s predominantly Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. By addressing the funding gap faced by marginalized communities, it has the potential to reshape Ladakh’s entrepreneurial landscape, creating a level playing field for first-time women entrepreneurs from ST backgrounds. Many tribal women entrepreneurs struggle with limited access to credit, professional networks, and essential resources. This scheme reflects the government’s efforts to bridge financial disparities by ensuring easier access to capital for sections of society that often face challenges in securing loans. By fostering the growth of women-led businesses, the initiative will contribute to regional economic development, job creation, and inclusive growth.

Women entrepreneurship schemes for tribal communities act as economic catalysts for regional development. By promoting entrepreneurship and job creation, they stimulate economic activity—generating higher incomes, increasing consumer spending, and ultimately driving economic growth. For instance, a loan to a tribal woman for a food processing unit not only supports her business but also boosts demand for farmers’ produce, packaging suppliers, and transportation services. Additionally, increased business activity leads to higher GST revenue for the government and strengthens Ladakh’s overall GDP. Using economic tools like cost-benefit analysis and the multiplier effect, it is clear that such schemes have far-reaching impacts. For the common people, these initiatives translate into better opportunities, higher incomes, and a brighter future for their families and communities. In essence, government schemes are not just expenditures; they create a ripple effect that uplifts the entire regional economy and propels it toward long-term prosperity.

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Fortnightly News

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Ladakh’s Marriage Revolution: A threat to traditional customs

The best way to preserve and reform customs is to start within our own homes. If we are dedicated to protecting our culture, rituals, and traditions, only then can we encourage others to do the same.

At present, there is no specific demand from the groom’s side for dowries; however, many brides voluntarily carry excessive household items with them. If this practice continues, it may gradually lead to increased expectations and demands, making the situation similar to that in other parts of India.

Among the four major societal concerns, one of the most important is protecting our cultural identity. Unfortunately, many young people are unaware of the importance of preserving traditions. However, if they are properly informed, they are just as eager to uphold and protect our heritage. It is our collective responsibility to create awareness and ensure that these values are passed down to future generations.



Tsewang Dorjee Goba Temisgam: We are making every effort to preserve and uphold Ladakh’s traditional customs, while also addressing certain modern influences that impact our rituals. Cake cutting, wedding boards, and the use of money garlands have begun to affect our traditions, so we are working towards minimizing these practices and bringing positive changes.

As a representative of Temisgam, I strictly follow the directives issued by the All Goba Association, Leh, and strive to preserve and uphold our traditional customs. To ensure that weddings remain aligned with Ladakhi traditions, we have implemented the following measures:

- Prohibiting the use of beer and alcoholic beverages at wedding venues.
- Limiting the payment for bridesmaids to prevent unnecessary financial burden on families.
- Standardizing Raktak (wedding gifts) by creating a predefined list of essential items.
- Mandating the use of only white khataks (scarves), as colored scarves are traditionally reserved for prominent spiritual figures.

These traditions continue to be practiced today, and our vision is to protect and strengthen Ladakh’s rich cultural heritage for future generations.

The key to preserving our identity lies in each community sticking to its own customs and rituals rather than incorporating Western traditions into Ladakhi weddings. If we remain committed to our values, we can protect our rich cultural legacy while ensuring that celebrations remain meaningful and respectful of our traditions.

CHC Khaltse conducts mobile medical unit camp at Ursi village



During the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) camp at Ursi village. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

URSI: The Community Health Center (CHC), Khaltse, organized a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) camp at Ursi village in Singaylalo block under the supervision of Block Medical Officer (BMO) Dr. Sham-

im Ahmad on February 6. The medical team included Medical Officer Dr. Adnan Shah, Dental Surgeon Dr. Nilza Angmo, NCD Counselor Toldan, Laboratory Assistant

Sonam Thinlay, and FMPHW RBSK Padma Dolker. The camp primarily focused on screening for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes, malnutrition, and anemia. The objective was to facilitate early detection and timely intervention, improving overall health outcomes for the local community. A total of 49 patients attended the camp, including 28 general OPD patients and 21 dental OPD patients. Additionally, 49 NCD screenings were conducted, along with 53 laboratory tests.

This initiative underscores the commitment of the Block Medical Officer, Khaltse, to ensuring accessible healthcare, particularly in remote areas.

UoL Vice-Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha makes maiden visit to Kargil Campus



Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh (UoL), Prof. Saket Kushwaha. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh (UoL), Prof. Saket Kushwaha, made his inaugural visit to the Kargil Campus at Khumbathang on February 4, where he received a warm welcome from students, faculty, and non-teaching staff.

Accompanied by Controller of Examinations, Prof. Deskyong Namgyal; In-charge Registrar, Nawang Tundup; and Associate Director of the School of Agriculture Science and Technology (Leh), Dr. Dorjay Namgyal, the Vice-Chancellor engaged in an interactive session with the campus community.

During the visit, Dr. Mehboob Ali, In-charge Administration of the Kargil Campus, presented an overview of the campus, highlighting its vision, layout, academic progress, student achievements, faculty and

staff structure, and existing infrastructure. He also outlined key requirements for further development, including approval of the master plan, construction of staff quarters and a conference hall, high-speed internet connectivity, retrospective recognition of B.Ed and B.P.Ed courses, and the appointment of a sports coach. Representing the student body, the President of the Ladakh University Student Union at Kargil Campus raised several issues for consideration. These included establishing clear departmental coordinatorship, better management of departmental affairs, granting autonomy to departments, setting up a dedicated Student Union Office to facilitate communication, implementing a rotational Vice-Chancellor office between Leh and Kargil, improving heating facilities in faculty cabins,

creating a permanent doctor post, increasing bus services, installing water dispensers and dustbins, and providing sanitary pads for female students. Faculty, non-teaching staff, and students also voiced additional challenges during the interactive session. In response, Prof. Saket Kushwaha assured that he would be present at the Kargil Campus two days a week and promised that all concerns would be addressed in accordance with established norms.

Later, the Vice-Chancellor visited the School of Agriculture Science and Technology at the Kargil Campus. Chief Scientist and Head of the School, Dr. Faizan Ahmed, along with faculty members, staff, and students, extended a warm welcome. Prof. Saket Kushwaha congratulated the students on their academic pursuits and praised the staff for their dedication in establishing the campus within a short period. He reiterated his commitment to addressing the issues raised and ensuring continual progress.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Prof. Deskyong Namgyal, Nawang Tundup, Dr. Dorjay Namgyal, Dr. Faizan Ahmed, along with faculty members and students.

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In Conversation with Eshey Tundup, Executive Director, LEDeG

If these issues are not addressed through proper planning and management, the situation could worsen, leading to severe water contamination and scarcity. Historically, Ladakhi ancestors revered natural water sources—springs, rivers, and lakes—protecting them from contamination and using water judiciously. In contrast, today’s reckless exploitation and pollution of water resources pose a serious threat to Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem.

Q. What is the significance of sustainable livelihood in protecting the environment from reckless human activities?

Adopting a sustainable livelihood is crucial for the responsible and judicious use of Earth’s resources. If we fail to recognize the importance of using resources only as per our necessity, pollution and environmental degradation will continue to escalate.

For instance, while some villages face displacement due to water scarcity, many still extract water excessively and waste it without consideration. Sustainable practices help ensure that resources are used efficiently, minimizing waste and reducing the negative impact on the environment.

Q. What measures can be taken to protect and preserve the Earth for future generations?

• **Timely Action:** Addressing ecological concerns at the right time is essential. Resources should be preserved and used responsibly—only as per necessity, not to satisfy excessive or greedy demands.

• **Sustainable Practices:** Eliminating unsustainable habits and re-adopting traditional, eco-friendly lifestyles can significantly contribute to environmental preservation.

• **Intergenerational Responsibility:** Our ancestor’s upheld deep respect for natural elements, keeping them unpolluted. Similarly, future generations must inherit and continue a sustainable way of life.

If changes are not implemented swiftly, the future remains uncertain. We may find ourselves living the reality of the saying: “Where there is no water, there is no village.”

Advisor Dr. Kotwal approves project implementation plan under PMFME for FY 2025-26



During the meeting of the State Level Approval Committee (SLAC) and District Level Committee (DLC) for the implementation of the PMFME Scheme. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting of the State Level Approval Committee (SLAC) and District Level Committee (DLC) for the implementation of the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme was held on February 7 at the VC Hall, Civil Secretariat, Ladakh. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh.

The session began with a presentation by the Director of Industries and Commerce, Ladakh, on the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) of the PMFME Scheme. Discussions covered the scheme’s objectives, including support for micro-enterprises, self-help groups (SHGs), farmer producer organizations (FPOs), and cooperatives. Key initiatives such as seed capital assistance, common infrastructure development, incubation centers, and branding and marketing support were also reviewed.

The committee examined the approved PIP, budget allocation, and expenditures for the financial years 2022-2025, along with the proposed implementation and budget plan for FY 2025-26. Strategies for promotional activities to increase awareness and participation in the scheme were also discussed.

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal emphasized the need for standardized facilities and well-equipped testing labs to ensure high-quality production in the micro food processing sector. He directed officials to extend maximum support to beneficiaries through various centrally sponsored schemes.

Highlighting the importance of public welfare, Dr. Kotwal stressed that all decisions and initiatives must prioritize societal well-being. The SLAC committee, chaired by the Advisor to the Hon’ble Lieutenant

Governor/Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, approved the Project Implementation Plan for FY 2025-26. The department was instructed to forward the approved Action Plan to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for final consideration and approval.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Sanjeev Khirwar; Administrative Secretary, Agriculture, Bhupesh Chaudhary; Administrative Secretary, Technical Education, Bhanu Prabha; Director, Industries and Commerce Department, Mohd Nazir; Director, Rural Development Department, Sajjad Qadri; Director, Accounts & Treasuries, Dr. Safdar Ali; Director, Animal Husbandry, Dr. Mohd Ismail, along with representatives from NABARD, banking, finance, marketing, and branding sectors.

Advisor Ladakh chairs governing body meeting of ‘Yountan Society’ Samagra Shiksha



Advisor Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal chairing the Governing Body Meeting of ‘Yountan Society’ Samagra Shiksha, UT Ladakh. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Governing Body Meeting of ‘Yountan Society’ Samagra Shiksha, UT Ladakh, was held under the chairmanship of Advisor Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on February 6.

The Director of the School Education Department, UT Ladakh, delivered a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation covering key issues, including the financial and physical progress of projects under Samagra Shiksha, the status of elementary and secondary education, the implementation of vocational education, and CBSE adoption. The major component-wise approved outlay for 2024-25 was also discussed.

The meeting focused on enhancing educational infrastructure, teacher training, digital learning initiatives, and special interventions for stu-

dents in UT Ladakh. Concerned officials provided updates on ongoing projects, including school upgradation, monitoring mechanisms, smart classrooms, and vocational education programs.

Discussions and deliberations were held on intervention-wise projections under Samagra Shiksha and fresh proposals. The Chief Secretary/Advisor to HLG, UT Ladakh, emphasized the need for result-oriented capacity-building training for teachers and urged officials to adopt the requisite modalities as per norms to strengthen schools.

Highlighting the importance of primary education, the Advisor stressed that all teachers, including ReT teachers, should be adequately trained to ensure students acquire foundational literacy and numeracy

skills as they transition to higher classes.

The meeting also addressed concerns over students’ poor performance in CBSE exams last year. The Advisor instructed officials to enhance educational investments to improve student outcomes in future CBSE exams.

Committee members Kacho Isfindyar Khan and E.S. Gergan provided detailed insights into school monitoring mechanisms and teacher assessment workshops. They emphasized that once these measures are implemented, Ladakh’s educational sector will see significant improvement.

Recognizing the needs of specially-abled children, the Advisor directed officials to train at least 120 eligible teachers over the next three years in consultation with CBSE experts. He also instructed the procurement of fortified food items for hostels and schools under SSA, ensuring that students from classes 9 to 12 receive fortified nutrition.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary of UT Ladakh, the Administrative Secretary of PD&MD, the Administrative Secretary of the School Education Department of UT Ladakh, the District Magistrate of Leh, the Director of the School Education Department, and other concerned officials. The District Magistrate of Kargil, CEO Kargil, Kacho Isfindyar Khan, E.S. Gergan, and CBSE officials joined the meeting virtually.

Fortnightly News

One-day Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission workshop in Kargil reviews progress and challenges



During the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), Ladakh, one-day workshop in Kargil. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), Ladakh, organized a one-day workshop in Kargil on February 9 to review its implementation and assess progress among various stakeholders.

Director of Health Services, Ladakh, Dr. Tashi Thinles, attended as the chief guest. Also present were ABDM Director (Coordination) Dr. Phunchok Nurboo, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kargil Dr. Liyaqat Ali Khan, Project Manager ABDM Tashi Angmo, Block Medical Officers (BMOs), doctors, medical staff, and other healthcare professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tashi Thinles emphasized the

importance of effectively implementing the e-hospital system in the district. He urged all stakeholders to dedicate themselves to the initiative and collaborate for its success.

CMO Kargil, Dr. Liyaqat Ali Khan, highlighted ABDM's role in securing patient records, which will enhance healthcare services in Ladakh. He noted that the e-hospital system minimizes paperwork and strengthens ongoing transformations in the health sector under ABDM.

Project Manager ABDM, Tashi Angmo, provided a detailed presentation on the scheme, showcasing achievements and areas needing improvement for more effective implementation.

The presentation covered key topics such as the Health Professional Registry (HPR) status of model facilities, the HPR status of doctors, and the usage of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) in District Hospitals (DH), Community Health Centers (CHCs), and Primary Health Centers (PHCs) in Kargil.

A practical session demonstrated how to update facility details, enhancing participants' understanding of the e-hospital system. Additionally, the presentation highlighted the five-month ABHA usage trend on HMIS, integration with other programs like the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) initiative, lab integration, and the status of model facilities and DHIS in Kargil.

The workshop concluded with a Q&A session, where experts addressed participants' concerns and clarified doubts regarding the system.

The District Hospital Kargil was recognized for its outstanding implementation of ABDM. Certificates of appreciation were also awarded to top performers for their contributions to ABDM's overall implementation and its integration with other programs at the district, CHC, PHC, and block levels.

What is in the Union Budget 2025 for Ladakh's Women Entrepreneurs?

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Success Stories of Ladakh's Women Entrepreneurs

Ladakh's women entrepreneurs are redefining the region's economic landscape with inspiring success stories across diverse sectors. Rigzen Lachic (Dolker Boutique Hotel) is transforming tourism with authentic hospitality, while Nilza Wangmo (Alchi Kitchen) is revolutionizing food and hospitality through farm-to-table traditions. Padma Yangchan (Namza) is preserving Ladakhi heritage through handicrafts and social enterprise, while Sonam Angmo and Stanzin Minglak (Lena Startup) are pioneering sustainable fashion. Thinlas Chorol (Ladakhi Women's Travel Company) is championing eco-tourism, and Rigzin Angmo, Rigzin Yangdol, and Padma Angmo (Kangla Nyishar/Nima Goos Goos) are driving innovation in agri-processing and food enterprises. Meanwhile, Fatima Banoo (SHG Leader) is empowering rural livelihoods through agriculture.

These stories matter because they demonstrate how women-led initiatives are not only generating economic opportunities but also empowering communities, preserving traditions, and promoting sustainable development.

Despite these inspiring examples, significant challenges remain. Many women entrepreneurs in Ladakh still rely on personal savings or informal loans due to limited awareness of government schemes. Women's participation in entrepreneurship remains constrained by financial barriers and inadequate institutional support. Raising awareness of central government initiatives is crucial to unlocking opportunities for young women entrepreneurs and driving regional economic progress.

Recognizing these challenges, the Government of India has introduced a groundbreaking scheme in the Union Budget 2025 to empower women entrepreneurs from marginalized communities. This initiative not only provides financial support but also creates a multiplier effect across various sectors. By offering credit facilities at subsidized interest rates, the scheme reduces borrowing costs, lowers capital expenses, and enhances profitability. This, in turn, enables women to reinvest, scale their businesses, and explore new markets with confidence.

This initiative opens doors to unprecedented opportunities, leveraging Ladakh's unique strengths. Horticulture is poised to become a cornerstone of the region's economy, with apricot-based products, traditional crafts, and women-led ventures in solar and wind energy solutions, e-commerce, and content creation offering immense potential.

New women entrepreneurs in Ladakh have the power to pioneer innovative ventures. By embracing a risk-taking mindset, conducting rigorous market research, and leveraging available support, they can reshape Ladakh's economic landscape. The 2025 Budget also promotes eco-friendly homestays by offering MUDRA loans under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), further supporting women-led businesses in the tourism sector.

Ladakh stands at the cusp of an economic transformation driven by women entrepreneurs. With the right support, awareness, and policy framework, these women can fuel regional economic growth, create jobs, and establish Ladakh as a hub of sustainable entrepreneurship.

Way Forward

The Union Territory Administration of Ladakh is making significant strides in empowering women across all sections of society by creating opportunities and fostering inclusive growth. This includes the effective implementation of central government schemes for vulnerable and marginalized communities, such as: Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) – supporting maternal health and nutrition; POSHAN Abhiyaan – addressing malnutrition and child development and Pension schemes for senior citizens and widows – ensuring financial security for the elderly and vulnerable women.

In addition to these social welfare initiatives, the UT Administration has accelerated development programs with a strong focus on entrepreneurship, reskilling, and upskilling the youth. The introduction of Kaushal Melas in Leh and Kargil and short-term training programs under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) demonstrates a proactive approach to workforce development and economic empowerment.

Beyond existing schemes, the UT Administration should actively explore the newly announced scheme in the Union Budget 2025, specifically designed to empower emerging women entrepreneurs from Scheduled Tribes (STs). Ensuring equitable access to financial resources, training, and market linkages will be key to fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.

A landmark step in this direction is the announcement of 33% reservation for women in the Hill Councils of Leh and Kargil. This progressive policy is set to create a transformative wave of women's empowerment across various sectors in Ladakh. Greater representation in decision-making bodies will enable women to play an active role in governance, entrepreneurship, education, and community development.

By addressing gender disparities and promoting equitable opportunities, the administration is laying the foundation for a more inclusive and prosperous Ladakh—one where women are at the forefront of shaping the region's socio-economic landscape.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor of Economics, GDC Khaltse, University of Ladakh. You can send your views and comments at aahil000riyaz@gmail.com)



सत्यमेव जयते

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
OFFICE OF THE EXCISE AND TAXATION OFFICER EXCISE RANGE LEH-KARGIL

Public Notice

It is for the information of general public of the locality of Rumbak Village, Leh that Shri. Tsewang Nurbo S/o Lobzang Namgail R/o Rumbak, Leh Ladakh has applied for liquor license LAEL-4 (Retail vend of foreign liquor in a Bar attached to a Restaurant) at The House of Rumbak, Rumbak, Leh Ladakh.

Objections, if any may be filed in the office of Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range Leh-Kargil within a period of sixty days from the publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of this notice period.



Inspector
Excise Range Leh-Kargil

No:ETO/LEH/2024-25/ 453
Dated: 22-01-2025

NOTICE

I , Ex No 9080983Y Hav Sonam Phunchok of JAK LI S/o Sonam Angchuk R/o Igoo, Leh, Ladakh do hereby declare that my wife name has been wrongly entered as Chhering Dolkar instead of her correct and actual name Tsering Norzom in my Service record, and also produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA08217251280407X to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in the concerned office within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

Whereas, Tsewang Punchok S/o Mephram Stobdan R/o Hunder Nubra, Leh has claimed that his father name has been wrongly recorded as Mephram Stobdan instead of the correct name which is Mephram Stobdan in his PRC duly issued by Office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Nubra, and also produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA08221891109833X to this office for making necessary correction. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Nubra within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

PID No EXK851583 Belt No. 45/AHJ, Rank SI Tsering Namgial S/o Tundup Namgial R/o Nurla Tehsil Khaltse District Leh-Ladakh Department Ladakh Police has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Tsewang Namgial instead of correct and actual name Tsering Namgial in the service document of, Ladakh Police and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA08162537120655X to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Ladakh Police within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

Whereas, Jegmet Yangskit W/o Ishey Tsewang R/o Stok, Leh has claimed that her name has been wrongly recorded as Jigmat Yangskit instead of the correct name which is Jegmet Yangskit in her Ladakh Resident Certificate bearing no. 2977/NTC(R)22 Dated 10/09/2022 duly issued by Office of the Naib Tehsildar Niabat Chuchot Leh-Ladakh. Now, She is applying for the correction in her Ladakh Resident Certificate. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Naib Tehsildar Niabat Chuchot Leh-Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Tashi Angmo D/o Tsering Spalgais (old name) to Jigmet Konchok Lamo D/o Tsering Spalgais (new name). In future, I will be known as Jigmet Konchok Lamo D/o Tsering Spalgais. If anybody having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

NOTICE

I, Rigzin Tamchos S/o Chhering Wangial R/o Phyang, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as Tsering Wangial instead of correct and actual name Chhering Wangial in my ST Certificate duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 646-49/ ST-Leh/ 2002 and Dated on 23-11-2002. Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

Notice

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'Zanskar Sorig Association' UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.no	Name	Parentage	Residence	Profession	Designation
1	Stanzin Thinlay	S/o Stanzin Tashi	Thangso Zanskar	Farmer	President
2	Lobzang Norbu	S/o Stanba Thinlay	Thangso Zanskar	Farmer	Vice-President
3	Stanzin Nurboo	S/o Tsering Tashi	(Shangka) Thangso Zanskar	Tourist Guide	General Secretary
4	Tenzin Tsega	S/o Tsewang Rinchen	Thangso Zanskar	Farmer	Cashier/ Treasurer
5	Stanzin Tsega	S/o Tsering Tashi	(Shangka) Thangso Zanskar	Farmer	Secretary
6	Stanzin Ningsal	D/o Stanzin Kunga	Thangso Zanskar	Self Employed	Joint Cashier
7	Stanzin Gonbo	S/o Stanzin Tashi	(Shangka) Thangso Zanskar	Farmer	Storekeeper
8	Stanzin Tsepal	S/o Tashi Falber	Thangso Zanskar	Self Employed	Advisor

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

President
Zanskar Sorig Association

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