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Ghulam Haider, UPSC- Civil Services Examination Qualifier

# People's Voice:

Buddhists seek control over Mahabodhi Temple: Ongoing protest to repeal Bodh Gaya Temple act 1949



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# reach—Ladakh

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# Reach Ladakh Bulletin

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# Solid waste plant in Leh sets new benchmark in sustainable management

The unit handles 30-tonne capacity; composting wet waste, recycling plastics, and running entirely on solar power

By Stanzin Dasal

**LEH:** Waste management has become an urgent environmental challenge in Ladakh, where the fragile ecosystem is increasingly threatened by unplanned urbanisation and booming tourism. In Leh town alone, approximately 14 to 15 metric tonnes of waste are generated daily—60% of it dry, largely composed of non-biodegradable plastics, and 40% wet.

To address this mounting problem, the Municipal Committee (MC) Leh has been operating a Solid Waste Management Plant at Skampari, La Sermo since 2020. The facility, India's first fully solar-powered waste processing plant, runs on a 100 kV solar system and employs 12 workers.

At the facility, waste is sorted into recyclable and non-recyclable components. According to plant manager Tsewang Dorjay, all waste is first weighed and unloaded onto a tipping floor, where workers begin manual segregation.

"We separate cardboard, tins, Tetra Packs, plastics, bottles, and clothes before running the recyclables through machines



Workers segregating the waste manually before running in machines at Solid Waste Management Plant at Skampari, La Sermo.

like shredders, crushers, and balers," Dorjay said. Recyclables are sold to recycling units or reused to create new Non-recyclables products. are directed to landfills, incinerators, or waste-to-energy plants.

With population growth, changing lifestyles, and ac-celerated development, the volume of waste has surged.

According to Executive Officer Stanzin Rabgais of MC Leh, the waste problem intensified after 1974, when Ladakh opened to tourism. "More packaged goods came in, and the volume of waste grew. Until 2020, we had no scientific method of disposalwaste was simply dumped at the Bomb Guard site near Leh," he said.



ri La Sermo.

That changed with the launch of the Cleaning of Legacy Waste project in 2020. The Bomb Guard dump was cleared, and the new plant at La Sermo was constructed under the UIDSSMT scheme.

Built at an approximate cost of ₹14 crore, the plant has a daily capacity of 30 metric tonnes. Initially developed by the Public Works Department (PWD), it was first operated by WAPCOS and later managed by 3R Company before being handed over to the MC Leh. The facility has now been running successfully for five years.

As part of Swachh Bharat Mission I, around 3,500 urban households in Leh were provided with green and blue dustbins—for wet (kitchen) waste and dry waste, respectively. Designated waste col-

lection trucks service each category, collecting garbage from homes and businesses on a regular basis.

Rabgais noted that wet waste peaks during the summer months, when hotels and restaurants operate at full capacity. Of the plant's 30-tonne capacity, 10 tonnes are allocated to wet waste, which is processed via in-vessel composting to produce compost.

"This compost is currently used in municipal gardens and for departmental needs," he said. "Eventually, we plan to make it available to the public at a nominal cost."

While the waste plant marks a major step forward, officials stress that it is not a standalone solution. Community awareness and cooperation remain key.

"People must make conscious efforts to reduce waste, segregate at the source, and refrain from dumping or burning garbage in open areas," Rabgais emphasized. "The system will only work if the public actively participates. A cleaner, greener Ladakh depends on all of us."

# Lt Governor honours 12 teachers with Ladakh's First State Awards

Ceremony celebrates dedication, innovation, and excellence in education across the Union Territory

• Dr Lotus Rabgais - MS,

• Mohd Yusuf – Model MS.

Chamba Yangtak – Igoo

Langkhor • Talib Hussain – HS, Kaksar

• Ishey Lamo – HS, Domkhar

• Khaduim Hussain - HSS,

Sonam Angchuk – HSS,

In his address, the Lt Gover-

nor lauded the awardees, call-

ing them "nation builders"

who hold a place of honour

even above deities for their role in guiding future gen-

erations. Emphasising the transformative power of education, he urged parents and

guardians to prioritise qual-

ity education and called on

teachers to continue shaping

the character and patriotism

The Lt Governor also un-

derscored the importance

of aligning with futuristic

visions such as harnessing

nuclear energy, as advocated

by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, to meet the nation's



Karith

Taknak (Sakti)

Pashkyum

Baima, Leh

of students.

Biathang, Shilikchey

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To acknowledge the unwavering dedication of Ladakh's educators in enhancing school education and inspiring students, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), felicitated 12 outstanding teachers and masters during the 1st State Teachers Award 2024. The ceremony was held at Arya Nagarjuna Auditorium, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Choglamsar on May 29 and organised by the UT Ladakh Department of School Edu-

The awardees were recognised for their exceptional service, commitment, and innovative contributions to education across government schools in Ladakh.

#### Those honoured include: • Mehboob Ali - HSS,

- Trespone
- Shamima Bano HSS, Chuchot • Farzana Parveen - HS,
- Goma (Kargil) • Rinchen Angmo - Boys HSS, Leh
- Mohd Abdullah MS,

growing energy demands. He highlighted key educational reforms in Ladakh, including the transition from JKBOSE to CBSE and the implementation of the National Education

Deputy Chairman of LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, congratulated the awardees and credited Ladakh's improved board examination results to the consistent efforts of the teaching community. He also shared ongoing initiatives, including student transport facilities, conversion of rural schools into residential units, and plans to train staff for Atal Tinkering Labs.

Chief Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, echoed the sentiments, reflecting on the crucial role teachers played in his own academic journey. He highlighted the UT administration's commitment to honouring public servants for exemplary service and reiterated the national focus on nuclear energy as a developmental pri-

He urged the educators to nurture academic excellence among Ladakhi students and inspire them to become national achievers.

The event was attended by First Lady Neelam Mishra, councillors from LAHDC Leh and Kargil, Vice-Chancellor of CIBS Prof Rajesh Ranjan, administrative secretaries, education department officials, religious leaders, and school faculty.





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# Leh celebrates 83rd birthday of His Eminence the 9th **Thiksey Rinpoche**



During the 83rd birthday celebration of His Eminence the 9th Thiksay Rinpoche, Ngawang Jamyang Chamba

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The 83rd birthday celebration of His Eminence the 9th Thiksay Rin- A significant highlight of poche, Ngawang Jamyang Chamba Stanzin, was held with great reverence and joy at Thiksey Monastery on May 20.

The celebration was graced by Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, accompanied by Deputy Chairman Tsering Ang-chuk, Executive Councillor Stanzin Chosphel, DC/CEO Leh Santosh Sukhadeve, and several Councillors.

Among other distinguished attendees were Chief Planning Officer Tsewang Gyal-son, Additional SP Rigzin wavering commitment to Sangdup, President of LBA Chering Dorjey Lakrook, President of Anjuman Imamia Ashraf Ali Barcha, President of Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam Dr. Abdul Qayum, Former Members of Parliament Thupstan Chhewang and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, former CECs Gyal P Wangyal and Rigzin Špalbar, as well as Abi Cho Cho and a large gathering of monks, nuns, devotees, scholars, and cultural groups.

The event commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting cake-cutting ceremony was tendees. held in honour of the occa-

the day was the inauguration of the Chamba Animal Welfare Society Van, marking an important step towards enhancing animal rescue and welfare initiatives in the region. A short biographical tribute was presented by Chocho Thinles Chosdon.

CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson extended warm birthday wishes to His Eminence, highlighting his lifelong dedication to spiritual service, his unifying presence in Ladakh, and his invaluable role in the movement for Union Territory status. peace, compassion, and the preservation of Ladakh's rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

LBA President Tsering Dorjey Lakrook also delivered a heartfelt address on the occasion.

His Eminence the 9th Thiksay Rinpoche, in his address, spoke with humility and compassion, emphasizing the importance of a life rooted in kindness, wisdom, and service to

ceremony followed by a The celebration conclud-musical offering (Lhar- ed with vibrant cultural nga). Ven. Geshe Lobzang performances by local Tashi formally welcomed communities, monastery the gathering and shared a members, students, and brief account of His Em- relatives of His Eminence, inence's spiritual jour- leaving a deep sense of joy ney and contributions. A and devotion among the at-

# Ladakh hospitality sector launches 'Ladakh is Waiting' campaign to revive tourism



Nenzes Chodon

LEH: The All Ladakh Pahalgam incident. Many ing destination for tourists on May 27. The initiative Lobzang Tsendol, ALH-aims to revive the region's GHA member, highlightfollowing the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

short promotional film also is the backbone of Ladatitled 'Ladakh is Waiting', kh. Entire householdswhich will be shared wide- through homestays, hotels, ly through digital platforms taxis, and support serto reach both domestic and vices—depend on it," she international audiences. The launch event was at- is not just a film, it is the tended by key tourism stakeholders Tsewang Dorjey (President, ALTOA), Thinless resilience, warmth, hope, Namgial (President, Taxi and readiness to welcome Union), Tashi Yountan guests once again." (President, Ladakh Bikers Club - LBCL), Jigmet Raf-Stanzin Jigmet, Co-founder Wing), members of AL-HGHA, local influencers, tourism industry.

of ALHGHA, emphasized peak travel season. "The here, waiting to welcome hospitality industry has our guests." taken a serious hit after the

Hotel and Guest House families and businesses Association (ALHGHA) that rely on tourism are launched a new marketing under financial stress. This campaign titled 'Ladakh is campaign is our effort to Waiting' to promote Lada-kh as a safe and welcom-port," she stated.

tourism industry, which has ed the efforts made by the been significantly impacted All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) in providing free accommodation to stranded tourists The campaign includes a after the attack. "Tourism said. "Ladakh is Waiting' voice of our people. It is a including tender visual narrative that

tan (President, LBA Youth of Pixel Challenger Films, the production partner for the campaign, shared that and other members of the the film was completed within a week. "It is not just a collection of scenic Rigzin Wangmo, President shots with background music. It tells a story—a heartthe urgent need for such felt message from Ladakh a campaign ahead of the to the world—that we are

# Ladakh pays tribute to Kushok Bakula Rinpoche on 108th birth anniversary

Statue and Park inaugurated to commemorate visionary leader's legacy



**LEH:** Marking the 108th birth anniversary of the 19th Gyalsras Bakula Rinpoche, revered as the architect of modern Ladakh, Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, unveiled a statue and inaugurated the Bakula Rinpoche Memorial Park on May 19 in Leh.

Speaking on the occasion, Kiren Rijiju expressed his deep sense of honor in being part of the event, stating that although he had visited Ladakh before, this particular visit would remain etched in his memory.

"Some individuals leave behind a legacy that stands the test of time, and Kushok Bakula Rinpoche was one such soul," said Rijiju. He emphasized Rinpoche's lifelong dedication to the upliftment of marginalized communities, despite his own royal lineage.

The minister also high-lighted Rinpoche's contributions as India's Ambassador to Mongolia, particularly his pivotal role in the revival of Buddhism in the country. Rijiju shared how, during a recent visit to Mongolia with the relics of Lord Buddha, he witnessed the immense reverence still held for Rinpoche. "The exceptional hospitality and warmth extended to us in Mongolia was a direct reflection of the deep respect earned by Rinpoche's efforts," he said, adding that Mongolia had honored him with its highest civilian award.

Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Lada-kh, Brig (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd), praised Rinpoche's unparalleled contributions, stating, "There is hardly any sphere of life in Ladakh Kushok Bakula Rinpoche

untouched by his efforts." He made special mention of Rinpoche's role in safeguarding Ladakh during the 1948 Pakistani aggression, affirming that his legacy would remain eternally rel- recognition for the region.

Ambassador of Mongolia to India, Dambojay Gambold, also addressed the gathering and delivered a message from the President of Mongolia. He spoke of the ancient cultural and religious bonds between India and Mongolia, acknowledging that the tireless efforts of visionaries like Bakula Rinpoche had helped preserve and strengthen these ties for future generations.

CEC Tashi Gyalson thanked Minister Rijiju for attending the unveiling and recognizing its significance. Speaking about Rinpochey's unparalleled service to the region, he said, "His contributions are immeasurable. He was the torchbearer for Union Territory status and Scheduled Tribe status for Ladakh. He worked tirelessly for the welfare, education, and rights of Scheduled Castes and Tribes across India."

He added, "The Ladakh we live in today owes much to Rinpoche's vision and dedication. This statue is a tribute, a reminder to every Ladakhi of his legacy."

drive was organized to mark the occasion, along His legacy continues to in-

Rinpoche

was a revered Buddhist monk, visionary statesman, and social reformer who played a pivotal role in shaping modern Ladakh. Born into the royal family of Ladakh and recognized early as a reincarnate lama, he committed his life to the Mahayana Buddhist path and the service of humanity.

A key figure in Ladakh's defense during the 1948 Pakistani invasion, Rinpoche was called into public service by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He became a champion for Ladakh's development and security, and a relentless advocate for Union Territory status and Scheduled Tribe

He served as a minister in the Jammu and Kashmir Government and as a Member of Parliament, dedicating his efforts to eradicating poverty, illiteracy, and social inequality. His vision led to significant progress in education, healthcare, and infrastructure in Ladakh.

Appointed as India's Ambassador to Mongolia in 1990, Rinpoche served for over a decade, guiding the country's peaceful transition from communism to democracy. He played a key role in reviving Buddhism in Mongolia and parts of Russia and was deeply involved in interfaith dialogue and environmental conservation.

He was a founding member of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP) and the UK-based Alliance of Religion and Conservation (ARC). In recognition of his life's work, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1988 and Mongolia's highest civilian honor, the Polar Star, in 2001.

Despite his global influence and achievements, Kushok Bakula Rinpoche remained As a tribute, a plantation a humble monk, fully devoted to the Bodhisattva ideal. with the release of a book spire generations and lives titled "Kushok Bakula Rin- on in the peaceful, progressive society he helped build. Modern Ladakh – Life and Times."

Photo Caption: Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Legacy of Kushok Bakula Affairs, unveiling a statue and inaugurating the Bakula Rinpoche Memorial Park.

# Nb Subedar Tsewang Chosgail conquers Mt. Kangchenjunga with **NIMAS** team



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Bringing immense pride to the Union Territory of Ladakh, Nb Subedar Tsewang Chosgail has successfully summited Mt. Kangchenjunga (8,586 m)—India's highest and the world's third-highest mountain—on May 18, as a member of the expedition team from the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS). The mission was led by renowned mountaineer Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal, under the banner of the 'Har Shikhar Tiranga' initiative.

A seasoned mountaineer, Chosgail boasts over 15 years of high-altitude climbing experience and has participated in more than 35 mountaineering expeditions. He was also a proud member of the 2015 and 2016 Indian Army Everest-Lhotse Expeditions.

His latest achievement is a testament to his unwavering dedication, remarkable endurance, and commitment to the spirit of Indian mountaineering.

Hailing from the village of Nang (Thiksay) in Ladakh, Tsewang Chosgail's journey to the summit of Kangehenjunga marks a historic milestone making him the first Ladakhi to scale this iconic peak. His inspiring story is one of grit, resilience, and unyielding determination.

Speaking after the successful summit, Chosgail said,"It was an honour to be the first Ladakhi to summit Mt. Kangchenjunga and to be part of this historic expedition conducted under the aegis of NIMAS. Climbing Kangchenjunga was not just a personal dream, but a moment to represent Ladakh, the Indian Army, and the entire nation under the Tiranga."

The expedition has been widely lauded by the adventure sports community, particularly in Ladakh, and is expected to inspire many young Ladakhis to pursue careers in mountaineering and adventure sports.

With this remarkable achievement, Nb Subedar Tsewang Chosgail has firmly cemented his place as a mountaineering icon of Ladakh, and a true source of inspiration for the entire nation.

# Nubra delegation urges LG to include Shatse Taknak Bridge in **CRIF**



A delegation from Nubra with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation comprising councillors, political leaders, and community representatives from Nubra, led by Deputy Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, and Former Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, called on Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) on May 28 to request LG's intervention in the inclusion of the Shatse Taknak Bridge over the Shayok River in the CRIF sanctions scheme.

The delegation emphasized the significance of the Shatse Taknak Bridge, stating that it is one of the most crucial infrastructure projects for the region and has been on the priority list of LAHDC Leh. Despite its importance, the bridge was not included in the recently announced projects under the CRIF sanctions scheme. Concerned about this exclusion, the delegation sought LG's support in ensuring its

LG sought clarity from the Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD), Michael D'Souza, IAS, regarding the omission of the project and also sought an update on the way forward. In response, the Secretary PWD, through a phone call with LG, informed that the project would be taken up in the supplementary proposal sought by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway from the LAHDCs.

Assuring the delegation of his commitment, LG stated that the matter would be pursued on a priority basis in the supplementary proposal.

Deputy CEC LAHDC-Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Commissioner/Secretary to the LG Dr. L Franklin, IAS; former MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Councillor Tigar, Rigzin Lundup; Councillor Panamik, Tsering Sangdup, Chief Engineer PWD, Abdul Mutalib; Deputy Secretary PWD, Jigmat Raftan, JKAS; former councillor Rigzin Wangdus, LBA Nubra President, Nambardar Charassa and youth representatives were present during the

# **Tibetan Children's Village School celebrates** 50 years, expresses gratitude to India and Ladakh



**LEH:** The Tibetan Chil-Village (TCV) School in Leh has launched a week-long educational exchange program on May 19 to mark its Golden Jubilee—50 years of dedicated service—and to express heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India and the people of Ladakh for their unwavering support to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and the Tibetan community.

As part of the celebrations, ten students each from nine different schools across Ladakh are participating in the exchange program, which focuses on the teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, including Social, Emotional, and Ethical (SEE) Learning, Riglam (logic and debate), Buddhist philosophy, and environmental responsibility.

Participants will reside on the TCV campus, engage with Tibetan students, experience hostel life, and share educational journeys to promote mutual understanding and personal growth. The program is designed to inspire young minds to become responsible citizens and future lead-

This year also commem-

orates the 90th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, adding greater significance to TCV School's golden milestone. Since its establishment in 1975 by Jetsun Pema, the sister of His Holiness, TCV Ladakh has played a vital role in educating children, caring for the elderly, and supporting underprivileged families in Sonamling Tibetan Refugee Settlement and the Changthang nomadic region. To date, over 9,164 students have been educated at the institution, including both Tibetan and Ladakhi children.

Tsering Angchuk, Deputy Chairman of LAHDC Leh, applauded the initiative and

underscored the importance of SEE Learning and the Bhoti language in the holistic development of students. He emphasized that Buddhist philosophy fosters compassion, ethical conduct, and critical thinking skills essential to navigating the challenges of modern life. He also expressed in-terest in reviewing feedback from the students following the program, stating, "Every student will take away something valuable from this experience."

Tenzin Rabten, Village Director of TCV School, spoke about the school's humble beginnings and its mission to serve the Tibetan and Ladakhi communities. He dedicated the school's achievements to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, as well as to the people of India and Ladakh.

Tashi Dhondup, Chief Representative Officer of the Sonamling Tibetan Settlement, expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration, calling 2025 a "year of celebration and gratitude." Welcoming the participants, he referred to the students as "seeds of the nation's future," and quoted John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

# Chief Secretary chairs 13th Governing Body meeting of LLARMA to review land digitisation in Ladakh



During the 13th Governing Body Meeting of LLARMA.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh and CEO of the Ladakh Land Records Management Agency (LLARMA), Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired the 13th Governing Body Meeting of LLARMA virtually to review the progress of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and other related initiatives in Ladakh.

Key agenda items discussed during the meeting included the revision of vendor rates as per General Financial Rules (GFR), the current status of the DILRMP, the issuance of digital signatures for Patwaris, and the establishment of an escalation plan to monitor vendor performance.

Dr. Kotwal directed the Information Technology Department and the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ladakh, to expedite the issuance of digital signatures for Patwaris in the Revenue Department. He instructed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) to share the necessary details with the IT and NIC teams to facilitate the e-signature process.

He also asked the Finance Department to revise vendor compensation in ac-

cordance with GFR norms and called for the formulation of a robust escalation plan to ensure accountability and timely delivery by vendors. Stressing the importance of meeting project deadlines, the Chief Secretary urged vendors to adhere to their committed milestones. He further directed the ACR to prepare a comprehensive roster to streamline and speed up the digitisation of land records across Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner/Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department; Additional Secretary, Law Department; Deputy Commissioner, Kargil; State Informatics Officer, NIC Ladakh; Additional Deputy Commissioner; Senior Director, NIC Ladakh; Joint Director (Finance), Revenue Department; Joint Director (Planning), Kargil; Assistant Commissioners Revenue of Leh and Kargil; Project Director from Monarch Consol-Geotech; and Project Manager from Ramtech Software Solutions Pvt.

Officers and representatives stationed outside Leh participated in the meeting virtually.

# MoU signed to bridge education gap in Ladakh through language labs



LAHDC, Leh, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Headlight Foundation to establish language laboratories in schools across Ladakh.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Headlight Foundation on May 28 to establish language laboratories in schools across Ladakh and to implement a digital marketing initiative aimed at empowering the region's youth.

The MoU was signed during a meeting chaired by the Deputy Chairman of LAHDC, Leh, Tsering Angchuk.

Present at the meeting were Deldan Angmo, Chief Education Officer, Leh; Phuntsog Toldan, Director of NIELIT; Phunchok Dorjay, In-charge of DIET Leh; and Manish Bhaskar and Rajendra Prasad, Directors of the Headlight Foundation. Representatives from iDream Education and the Director of Physics

Wallah Skills also participated virtually.

During the session, the Directors of the Headlight Foundation shared their vision and objectives. Their primary goal is to bridge the educational gap between students in Ladakh and those in other parts of the country. The initiative emphasizes enhancing students' language proficiency and digital literacy to improve employability and prepare them for future job opportunities.

Discussions also addressed the practical aspects of implementing language labs in Ladakh's schools, including anticipated challenges and proposed solutions.

This collaboration marks a significant step toward strengthening Ladakh's educational infrastructure and expanding career opportunities for its youth.

# Nationwide 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' begins May 29; KVK Nyoma to spearhead campaign in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Nyoma the highest-altitude KVK in the country — is set to launch the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' a nationwide agricultural outreach campaign aimed at equipping farmers with vital knowledge and tools for the upcoming Kharif cropping season. The cam-paign will be conducted from May 29 to June 12, 2025, across all states and union territories of India.

Spearheaded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, the campaign is a strategic ini- support. tiative to connect directly with farmers—especially those in rural, remote, border, and underserved

The campaign seeks to:

- practices for their specific tives. agro-climatic zones.
- · Introduce modern techniques in animal husbandincluding pashmina goat and sheep rearing, poultry, and fisheries.
- Spread awareness about key government schemes offering financial assistance, insurance, subsi-

- Promote the effective use of Soil Health Cards for organic nutrient management and informed crop planning.
- Document grassroots in-• Educate farmers about novations and gather farmsuitable Kharif crops er feedback to guide future and improved agronomic research and policy initia-

The Abhiyan will be implemented through 731 KVKs, including KVK Nyoma, with the support of 113 ICAR research institutes, agricultural universities, and state-level departments in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. Each district will deploy three dies, and infrastructure dedicated outreach teams

ter specialists, scientists, government officials, and progressive farmers. These teams will visit three gram panchayats daily, interacting directly with 100-200 farmers per day. The campaign aims to reach over 1.3 crore farmers nation-

Special emphasis will be placed on tribal areas, border villages, and regions with difficult agro-ecological conditions, ensuring inclusive outreach. Teams will disseminate information through village-level meetings, on-site demonstrations, and distribution of digital and printed materials in local languages.

Topics covered will in-

- Natural farming practices and sustainable techniques
- Use of improved seed varieties and crop-specific best practices
- · Integrated nutrient and pest management
- Livestock care, breed improvement, and disease
- Agricultural diversification through horticulture, floriculture, dairy, beekeep-

comprising subject mat- ing, and other high-value

As part of the campaign's communication gy, farmers will receive brochures, posters, audio-visual content, and scheme-specific materials highlighting credit facilities, subsidies, and support programs.

The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan represents a major step forward in strengthening the research-extension-farmer interface. It aims to prepare Indian farmers for a successful Kharif season while promoting innovation, diversification, and climate-resilient practices. The campaign will also provide valuable feedback and insights to help shape future extension programs under ICAR and State Agricultural Universities.

Through this landmark initiative, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, ICAR, and partnering institutions are reaffirming their commitment to building an Atmanirbhar Krishi and a Viksit Bharat, rooted in knowledge empowerment, capacity building, and inclusive development.

# **Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal** chairs review meeting on decriminalization of state laws



**LEH:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a virtual meeting to review the ongoing process of decriminalising various state laws administered by different departments across the UT on May 26.

sentation by Shashikant Bhagat, Acting Secretary, Department of Law and Justice. He provided an overview of the current status and progress of the decriminalisation initiative, highlighting several state-specific laws in force in Ladakh that require review. Bhagat outlined the categorisation of laws by department and presented the overall strategy being adopted for the exercise.

He informed participants that departmental-level committees have already been constituted to examine and identify provisions within their respective state laws that could be decriminalised. The broader goal of the initiative is to streamline legal provisions, improve ease of doing business, and reduce unnecessary legal burdens on citizens, while maintaining regulatory compliance through civil penalties.

Chief Secretary Dr. Kotwal appreciated the efforts of the Law Department and

emphasized the importance of this reform initiative. He directed all departmental secretaries to constitute their own committees to actively identify and recommend laws and provisions suitable for decriminalisation.

The meeting began with a detailed pre- He further stressed that the aim is to modernise Ladakh's legal framework and ensure that outdated penal provisions do not impede administrative efficiency or public welfare.

> The meeting was attended by the Director General of Police, UT Ladakh; Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Commissioner/Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring and Finance; Secretaries of Transport, Agriculture, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Higher Education, and General Administration; Member Secretary of the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee; Additional Secretary, Home Department; Acting Secretary, Law Department; Chief Prosecuting Officer; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Leh; Deputy Labour Commissioner, and concerned Legal Assistants of the Law Department. Officers stationed outside Leh joined the meeting via video conferencing.

# **Secretary Transport chairs review** meeting on decriminalisation and reform of transport laws in Ladakh



Bhupesh Chaudhary, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, UT of Ladakh chairing a meeting on existing transport-related legislations.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Bhupesh Chaudhary, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, UT of Ladakh chaired a high-level meeting at the UT Secretariat on May 21 to review existing transport-related legislations and examine potential reforms in line with the Government of India's Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) and Jan Vishwas initiative. These initiatives aim to improve Ease of Doing Business through simplification, digitisation, and decriminalisation of minor regulatory provisions.

The meeting involved a comprehensive discussion on key laws including the Central Motor Vehicles Act, the Jammu & Kashmir Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, the Jammu & Kashmir Passenger Taxation Act, and the Highways Act. The review focused on identifying redundant, outdated, or overly penal provisions that may be streamlined to promote efficient governance and citizen-centric service delivery.

Secretary Chaudhary asked the depart- The meeting was attended by the Rement to examine the feasibility of omitting Schedule I and Schedule II of the the context of Ladakh, and to explore a Department, UT Ladakh. restructured taxation framework that is

progressive and administratively viable for the Union Territory. He also highlighted the need to rationalise fines and penalties applicable to public transport operators to ensure a fair and compliance-friendly regulatory regime.

The Secretary further instructed the Public Law Officer (PLO) to conduct a thorough legal review of the applicability of the J&K Passenger Taxation Act within Ladakh and to identify provisions eligible for decriminalisation under the Jan Vishwas framework.

Recognising the need for technology-driven solutions, the Secretary directed the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Ladakh, to initiate discussions with local transport unions on revising the passenger taxation structure and to take expeditious steps towards implementing electronic ticketing (e-ticketing) to enhance transparency and convenience for commuters.

gional Transport Officer, Chief Accounts Officer, Deputy Secretary (Transport), J&K Motor Vehicles Taxation Act in and Public Law Officer of the Transport

# NHM Ladakh marks menstrual hygiene day with awareness program



World Menstrual Hygiene Day: Students from the University of Ladakh, Leh campus performing Nukkad-Natak (street play).

# Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Ladakh, the Swasthya raising awareness about misconceptions. the importance of good menstrual management", In her address, First Lady

in promoting biodegrad- longstanding myths. able sanitary napkins and shared that similar instal- Stanzin lations are underway in State Kargil district.

Shashanka Ala, IAS, Sec- mission's commitment to retary, Social & Tribal menstrual health and ed-Welfare Department, de- ucation. livered a keynote address, stressing the importance Prominent attendees inof educating children— cluded Dr. Tashi Thinless, young girls.

cologist at SNM Hospital Ladakh. Leh, conducted an inter-

The National active session, explaining Health Mission (NHM), the menstrual cycle, modunder ern hygiene practices, and Rashtriya Kishor addressing traditional ta-Karyakram boos. Her session covered (RKSK), observed World key health topics such as Menstrual Hygiene Day toxic shock syndrome, on May 28 at Lotsawa ectopic pregnancy, and Auditorium Hall, Cultural cervical cancer, followed Academy, Leh. Themed by a lively Q&A session "Breaking taboos and that cleared up common

the event reflected a Neelam Mishra led a strong commitment to pledge, urging particimenstrual health as a crit- pants to actively engage ical public health priority. in spreading awareness and dismantling men-The occasion was graced strual taboos. She emby the First Lady of Lada- phasized the crucial role kh, Neelam Mishra, who of parents and teachers attended as Chief Guest. in educating the younger generation and fostering a The event began with more open, informed cul-an insightful address ture around menstruation. by Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Adding to the event's im-Mission Director, NHM pact, students from the Ladakh, who highlighted University of Ladakh, the region's initiatives, Leh Campus performed including the installation a Nukkad-Natak (street of six sanitary vending play) that creatively highmachines in Leh, im- lighted the social chalproving access to sanitary lenges linked to menstrunapkins. She also ex- ation and emphasized the pressed appreciation for importance of awareness the First Lady's initiative and dialogue in breaking

> Angmo, Consultant, NHM,thanked participants and reiterated the

especially boys-about Director NHM; Tashi menstruation to break Dolma, Director, Social the silence and remove & Tribal Welfare; Dr. stigma. She emphasized Dolma Chuskit, Chief that understanding among Medical Officer; Dr. boys could significant- Rinchen Chosdol, Medily reduce the discomfort cal Superintendent; along and taboos often faced by with women leaders from religious organizations, and faculty and students Dr. Stanzin Dolker, Gyne- from the University of

# Leh gears up for week-long world environment day activities

drives.



Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Leh, Ghulam Mohammad (JKAS).

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Additional Depu- (JKAS), convened a prepaty Commissioner (ADC) ratory meeting on May 29 Leh, Ghulam Mohammad at the VC Room, DC Office

During the meeting, Ex-

Leh, to discuss the up- lic awareness and behav- other stakeholders. coming observance of ioral change, in addition

Celebration.

ecutive Officer, Municipal These activities will fea-Committee Leh, Stanzin ture pledge ceremonies, Stakeholders suggested ALTOA, President of Rabgais, presented a de- awareness rallies, ze- placing dustbins at key ALHGHA, and several tailed activity calendar ro-waste craft bazaars, locations across Leh town other officials and stakefor World Environment water body cleaning to improve cleanliness holders. Day 2025. This year's drives, and more, engag- and waste management. observance will place a ing students, tourists, strong emphasis on pub- community members, and ADC Ghulam Moham-

of reviewing collabora- Cleanup Challenge; Clean present innovative action tive efforts and finalizing Water Drive and Grand plans to minimize waste The meeting was at-preparations for the event. World Environment Day and promote eco-friendly tended by the Divisional spective sectors.

mad instructed all departments and stakeholders World Environment Day to traditional cleanliness Rabgais further informed to maintain strong cothat all participating de- ordination and adhere partments and stakehold- to the proposed activity The meeting was held in The calendar includes ers will gather at Leh calendar. He stressed response to minutes re- several thematic days Market on May 30 to take the importance of World ceived from the Principal such as, Sustainability pledges committing to Environment Day and Secretary, Housing & Ur- Advocacy Day; Student plastic reduction and sus- reaffirmed the adminisban Development Depart- Engagement Day; Clean tainable waste manage- tration's commitment to ment (H&UDD), UT La- Market Day; Rural Clean- ment practices. Depart- maintaining a clean and dakh, with the objective up Drive; Tourist Hotspot ments are also expected to sustainable environment.

> alternatives in their re- Forest Officer, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Leh, President of

# People's Voice:

#### By Nenzes Chodon.



Ven. Shedup Chamba, Former President, Ladakh Gonpa Associa-

On the third day of the Ladakh Monlam Chenmo, monks and nuns participated in a peaceful procession to express our deep concern and sorrow

over the management of Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India—particularly the Bodh Gaya Temple, where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.

The Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee Act of 1949 currently grants majority authority to non-Buddhist (Hindu) members in administering and managing this sacred site. For several months now, Buddhist communities have been holding hunger strikes, demanding full Buddhist control over the temple's management. Despite its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the temple is not being maintained accordingly. Instead, it is treated primarily as a source of revenue.

Our procession seeks to draw the urgent attention of the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Bihar to this issue. It also reflects broader concerns—many other significant Buddhist pilgrimage sites are not under Buddhist control. Lumbini (Buddha's birthplace), Sarnath (where he gave his first sermon), and Kushinagar (where he attained Mahaparinirvana) are similarly outside Buddhist administration. Even historically important sites like Ajanta and Ellora (Mumbai), Elephanta Caves (Maharashtra), and Buddhist sites in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or other government agencies. These sites are primarily treated as tourist destinations rather than living religious and cultural heritage.

No one can question the ability of Buddhists to preserve and manage these sacred sites. The Nalanda tradition, for

instance, continues to thrive under the care of Buddhist communi-

In recent times, the ASI has shown interest in bringing monasteries under its purview. However, I would like to emphasize that we, as Buddhists, have safeguarded our monasteries and their dignity for centuries and are fully capable of continuing to do so. Instead, the ASI should focus on preserving ancient, endangered Buddhist artifacts—such as the rock-carved statues of Chamba (Maitreya Buddha) in Mulbekh and Kartse. It is imperative to act now, lest these sacred monuments face the same tragic fate as the Bamiyan Buddhas, which were destroyed due to neglect and conflict.

Our call is not just for administrative rights but for the rightful guardianship of our heritage, traditions, and places of profound spiritual significance.



#### Jigmet Raftan, President, Ladakh Buddhist **Association Youth Wing:**

Through the peaceful march on the third day of Ladakh Monlam Chenmo, the people of Ladakh are voicing a clear and heartfelt message: we urge the repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee Act and demand rightful

representation of Buddhist members in the temple's management.

It was deeply disheartening to witness Hindu prayer rituals being conducted inside the sacred Mahabodhi Temple, where the statue of Lord Buddha resides. Such acts are seen as a violation of the sanctity of this holy site and an injustice to the minority Buddhist community

Our core demand is the repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee Act. In support of this cause, delegations from Leh have met with Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Minority Affairs. We are hopeful, as he has assured us that the matter will be taken up with the Government of Bihar.

We trust that the legal proceedings will move forward smoothly and expect a favourable outcome from the decision-makers involved. The demand is not only about religious rights but also about the dignity, autonomy, and rightful stewardship of one of the most sacred sites in the Buddhist world.

#### Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Former Member of Parliament, Ladakh:



The issue concerning the Mahabodhi Temple has been raised on various platforms, and Buddhist communities across India continue to protest, seeking rightful authority over the sacred site. A related case is also currently being heard in the Su-

preme Court.

BUDDHISTS SEEK CONTROL OVER MAHABODHI TEMPLE: ON-

GOING PROTEST TO REPEAL BODH GAYA TEMPLE ACT 1949

Recently, Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, acknowledged the matter but clarified that the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC) Act is under the jurisdiction of the Bihar State Government, as it was passed through the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

It is essential to recognize that Buddhists should have full authority over the Mahabodhi Temple. Buddha Purnima, celebrated to commemorate the three most significant events in Lord Buddha's life—his birth, enlightenment, and passing into Mahaparinirvana—underscores the spiritual importance of the Bodhi Tree, under which he attained enlightenment.

The Mahabodhi Temple is not just a historical monument; it is the very heart of Buddhist faith. Its administration and sanctity must be safeguarded under Buddhist stewardship, without interference from other communities. This is not a political demand but a rightful plea to preserve the spiritual and cultural integrity of one of Buddhism's most sacred sites.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

...continues on page 6

# The World of

World Oceans Day was first declared on 8 June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro during the Global Forum, a parallel event to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This forum offered a platform for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society to voice their concerns and ideas on envi-

The declaration was inspired by an event titled "Oceans Day at the Global Forum – The Blue Planet," organized by the Oceans Institute of Canada with support from the Government of Canada. The programme brought together international experts, thought leaders, and advocates to highlight the vital role oceans play in sustaining

In 2008, Canada led efforts in the United Nations General Assembly, resulting in the official designation of 8 June as World Oceans Day through Resolution 63/111. The inaugural UN observance took place in 2009 under the theme "Our Oceans, Our Responsibility", emphasizing the global reliance on healthy oceans.

World Oceans Day has since served as a rallying point for action and awareness, encouraging individuals and governments alike to

# **World Oceans Day: Celebrating**



protect marine ecosystems. A milestone moment occurred in 2017, marking 25 years since the first celebration in Rio. A special event was held during the United Nations Ocean Conference (5–9 June 2017), aligning with the global effort to advance Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable

This year, World Oceans Day 2025 will be celebrated on 8 June in Nice, France, just ahead of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (9-13 June). The convergence of these two major events presents a unique opportunity to amplify ocean advocacy, collaboration, and innovation.

The 2025 theme, "Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us," invites the world to reflect on the beauty, mystery, and essential role of oceans in our daily lives—and to recommit to preserving this precious resource for generations

# the Lifeline of the Blue Planet





My tryst with a divine soul I was lucky that chance led me to The

Mother recently in Puducherry. There, the sublime and the divine atmosphere could inspire anybody to get into a spiritual world that gives one a quiet, blissful and happy moments.

There, I read the following words of wisdom: "You who weep, who suffer and tremble, who dare not expect an end to your ills, behold: There is no night without dawn, and the day is about to break when darkness is the thickest."

Those were The Mother's words that capture everybody's mind and imagination to a deep, rejuvenating spiritual world.

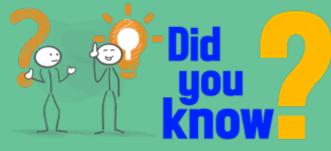
My 12-day stay there, originally planned only for 2 days, says so many things about Puducherry and The Mother. I could learn, through the divine presence of The Mother, that one can have the supreme discovery if one surrenders to the almighty. That means that you keep on doing all that is good and noble in the name of God, and have the feelings of someone directing and inspiring you to do certain things that you never had any plan to do until that moment of discovery. The Mother says that the true believers in the power of the SUPREME can develop that kind of power of mind.

One learns that the "Self of each one and the great universal Self are one. Since that exists for eternity in its essence and principle, why make a distinction between the being and its origin, between ourselves and what we place at the beginning? Take it for sure, this oneness should not be understood merely as a more or less close and intimate relationship of union but as a true identity."

What does that mean? In simple words, it means, just like what the Buddha Dhamma says, there is a little Buddha in each one of us. All that is required is to 'exploit' it in the sense that one must develop it and nurture it to become a real Buddha. A further explanation could be done this way: There is nothing that can't be done provided you go for the right 'tools' and the means.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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



THE OCEANS COVER ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE PLAN-ET'S SURFACE

The ocean is vast and on average about 4,000 metres deep. It contains 1.3 billion cubic kilometres of water – that's 97% of all the water on the surface of the Earth.

#### THE OCEAN PROVIDES AROUND HALF OF THE EARTH'S **OXYGEN**

It doesn't just provide the air we breathe; oceans absorb over a quarter of human-induced carbon emissions and has a tremendous ability to store heat, making it a vital life support system. Our oceans have absorbed 90% of the warming that has occurred in recent decades due to increasing greenhouse gases, and the top few metres of the ocean store as much heat as Earth's entire atmosphere.

CORAL REEFS, MANGROVES, SEAGRASSES, AND SALT-MARSHES ARE NATURAL COASTLINE BARRIERS They buffer shorelines against 97% of the energy from waves, storms and floods, helping to prevent loss of life, property damage, and erosion. By absorbing some of the storm's energy, they can help reduce damage from extreme weather events like cyclones.

#### SEA WATER CONTAINS ABOUT 3.5% SALT

But what makes our oceans so salty? Carbon dioxide in the air dissolves into rainwater, making it slightly acidic. When rain falls, it erodes rocks, releasing mineral salts that separate into ions. These ions are carried by rivers and streams to ultimately reach the ocean. Coupled with underwater volcanoes and hydrothermal vents, which directly release minerals into the ocean.

#### MELTING SEA ICE CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS OCEAN CURRENTS

Adding freshwater to the ocean decreases the saltiness of the sea, which, coupled with increased temperatures, disrupts the ocean currents that move important nutrients around the world. This can affect weather, for example, the UK is comparatively mild because of the heat brought by an ocean current from the Gulf of Mexico. Melting Arctic glaciers is weakening this current, meaning the UK could face more extreme weather.

# COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS SUPPORT PEOPLE, WILDLIFE, AND THE

Coastal 'blue carbon' ecosystems, or blue forests, including mangroves, seagrasses, and saltmarshes, capture carbon at a faster pace than tropical forests. Mangroves, for example, can remove up to 130 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year – equivalent to taking 28 million cars off the road for an entire year! Protecting and restoring these ecosystems has benefits beyond the capturing of carbon, including reduction in flooding and erosion, storm protection, increased food security, and improved livelihoods for coastal communities.

#### In Conversation with

# Ghulam Haider, UPSC- Civil Services Examination Qualifier

#### Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

# Q. Haider, congratulations! Tell us a bit about yourself and your educational background.

Thank you! I'm from Choskore Panikhar, a small village in the Panikhar belt of Kargil district, Ladakh. I completed my schooling up to Class 10 at Noon Public School, after which I pursued a degree in Electrical Engineering from NIT Srinagar. Following graduation, I worked with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for three years before deciding to fully dedicate myself to preparing for the UPSC Civil Services Examination. I successfully cleared the prestigious UPSC Civil Services Examination with an All India Rank of 633.

# Q. What inspired you to pursue a career in the Civil Services?

Honestly, it was a combination of personal experiences and deep reflection. Growing up in a remote village, I witnessed firsthand the impact a dedicated and efficient officer can have on people's lives. That exposure stayed with me. I've always wanted to contribute meaningfully to society, and the Civil Services felt like the most direct and effective platform to influence policy and improve service delivery on the ground.

# Q. Was this your first attempt? If not, what kept you going through the setbacks?

No, this wasn't my first attempt. My journey through the UPSC preparation has been quite long and filled with its share of challenges. I faced setbacks at various stages, and there were definitely tough days when things felt uncertain. What kept me going was a strong support system—my family, friends, and the encouraging environment at Jamia's Residential Coaching Academy (RCA) made a big difference. Above all, I kept reminding myself of the purpose I started with. That sense of mission gave me the strength to push forward.

# Q. What was your preparation strategy like? Did it change over time?

Yes, my strategy definitely evolved over time. In the beginning, I tried to study everything, which only left me feeling overwhelmed. Gradually, I learned to streamline my sources, prioritize revision, and make answer writing a consistent part of my routine. I followed a simple principle:



# MESSAGE TO THE READERS

My journey has had its share of ups and downs, but every step was a learning experience. I'm deeply grateful to my family, Jamia RCA, and friends who supported me throughout. I hope my story inspires others to believe that even from the most remote corners, dreams can become reality. Stay hopeful, stay grounded, and keep moving forward.

consistency over intensity. Slow and steady really does win the race—holay holay padhna he. In the end, what truly comes to your rescue in this examination is what you've internalized and learned by heart.

#### Q: How did you manage preparation for all three stages— Prelims, Mains, and Interview?

Each stage of the exam requires a different mindset and approach. For Prelims, I focused heavily on mock tests and building strong factual clarity. For Mains, the priority shifted to answer writing and developing a deeper understanding of key topics. When it came to the Interview, it was more about self-awareness, refining my personality, and staying updated with current affairs. I ensured I transitioned my preparation strategy well in advance for each stage, keeping the unique demands of each in mind.

# Q. What were your go-to resources? Anything you'd strongly recommend?

I mainly stuck to the standard resources—NCERTs, Laxmikanth for Polity, Spectrum for Modern History, and The Hindu for current affairs. The guidance and mock tests at Jamia RCA also played a key role in my preparation. That said, I believe it's not just about what you read, but how well you revise and internalize the material. Depth and consistency matter more than quantity.

#### Q. What were the major challenges you faced?

Oh, plenty! The biggest challenge was dealing with self-doubt, especially after facing failures. There were moments of isolation and uncertainty when I questioned whether I was on the right path. But over time, I found my rhythm—thanks to a supportive peer group, the encouraging environment at Jamia RCA, and the unwavering support of my family. Their belief in me kept me grounded and motivated.

# Q. What should aspirants focus on, and what should they avoid?

Aspirants should focus on three key things: consis-

...continues on page 6

# **Fortnight Highlights**



CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson congratulated Ashish Sood on his appointment as Cabinet Minister for Home and for taking charge of several key departments in the Delhi Government. He also requested the Minister's support for the construction of a foot-over bridge near Buddha Vihara.



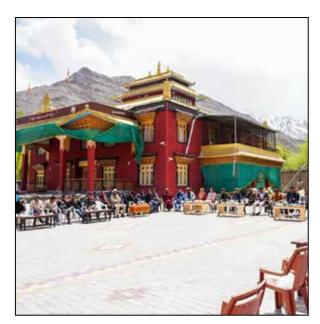
CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson,LAHDC Leh in the presence of His Eminence Thiksey Rinpoche and DC/CEO, Santosh Sukhadeve visited Jive-Tsal to review ongoing preparations for the upcoming visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to Ladakh. The dignitaries inaugurated the newly constructed boundary wall around the Photang, a project funded by the Hill



CEC Tashi Gyalson, EC Stanzin Chosphel and Former President LGA, Ven. Tsering Wangdus felicitated the newly elected President of the LGA, Ven. Dorje Stanzin of Hemis Gonpa.



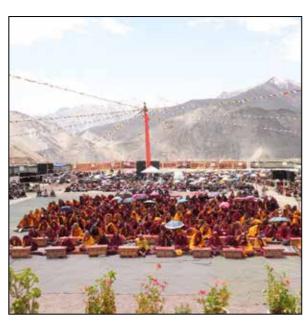
CEC,LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson inaugurated and flagged off the SIDCO transportation bus service for the Singay Lalok region, covering areas such as Lalok, Neyraks, Photoksar, Lingshed, and Yulchung. The bus service has been introduced in response to the transportation challenges faced by residents of these remote villages.



Preparations underway for the upcoming visit of His Holiness the 41st Sakya Trizin Rinpoche in July 2025 and the Yarchos Chenmo scheduled to be held in 2026.



Padma Namgail, a 21-year-old NCC cadet from Sumoor village in Nubra successfully summated Mount Everest on May 18, 2025. He was part of an all-India NCC expedition team and was selected through a rigorous national-level process.



His Holiness the 37th Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Thinley Lhundup commenced 5-day Drikung Snake Year Teachings on May 27 at Lamayuru Monastery Photang. The teaching saw devotees from all across Ladakh as well as across globe, for a spiritual experience



Government Higher Secondary School Tangtse hosted its first-ever Food Festival on May 26, showcasing the rich and diverse culinary heritage of Ladakh. The vibrant event brought together students, staff, and community members in a spirited celebration of traditional Ladakhi cuisine, with dishes representing all regions of Lalok.

...Continuity of page 4

# People's Voice: BUDDHISTS SEEK CONTROL OVER MAHABODHI TEM-PLE: ONGOING PROTEST TO REPEAL BODH GAYA TEMPLE ACT 1949



#### Rigzin Spalbar, Former CEC, LAHDC Leh:

To strengthen and sustain the demand for rightful Buddhist authority over the Mahabodhi Temple, it is essential for Buddhist leaders from across the world to unite and develop a well-strategized collective action plan. Through diplomatic and peaceful means, they must collectively engage with and pressure the Government of India, which holds the constitutional authority to intervene—even in matters governed by the state.

Disturbing content circulating on social media, showing Buddhist pilgrims being harassed or intimidated at pilgrimage sites, reflects the stark reality that the ongoing protests have not yet generated enough national or international pressure to warrant a decisive response.

It is time for the global Buddhist community to stand together in a spirit of solidarity and advocacy, to ensure that places of deep spiritual significance are protected, respected, and administered by those who uphold their sacred values.



#### Deldan Namgyal, Former MLA Nubra:

The Bodh Gaya Temple Act was passed even before the Indian Constitution came into force, during the British era under the Government of India Act of 1935, which introduced Provincial Autonomy. It is important to examine whether such an Act violates fundamental rights, particularly the right of individuals to freely practice and protect their religion.

It is a matter of relief that Bhante Arya Nagarjuna Shurai Sasai and Gajendra Mahanand Pantawane challenged the Bodh Gaya Temple Act of 1949 by filing a writ petition in the Supreme Court, seeking Buddhist control over the management of the Mahabodhi Temple. The petition, originally filed in 2012, calls for the repeal of the BTMC Act. The Supreme Court has now scheduled the final hearing for July 29 this year.

It is crucial for leaders and organizations to collectively advocate for such causes, as united efforts can influence decision-making bodies and bring about meaningful change.

# DC Kargil reviews preparations for 'Dharti Aaba Abhiyan' benefit camps



Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, convened a meeting with heads of key departments and officials to review the preparations for the uncoming Dharti Aaba Abhiyan -Awareness and Benefit Saturation

Camps, scheduled to be held across

the district from June 15 to 30.

The campaign is being launched under two national initiatives — Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan (PM JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA JGUA) — with the objective of empowering tribal communities by ensuring the saturation of individual entitlements and enhancing awareness of government schemes at the grassroots

During the meeting, DC Suse emphasized that this campaign will go beyond traditional awareness drives by ensuring the direct, on-ground delivery of essential services to eligible beneficiaries in tribal and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) habitations

He highlighted that the benefit saturation camps will function as single-window platforms, providing access to services such as Aadhaar and ration cards, Avushman Bharat cards, caste and domicile certificates, Kisan Credit Cards, financial inclusion schemes like Jan Dhan and PM-KISAN, insurance coverage under PMJJBY and PMSBY, social security pensions, employment and livelihood programs like MGNREGA, PM Vishwakarma, Mudra loans, and welfare benefits for women and children under schemes such as PMMVY and

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the campaign's success. He instructed officials to prepare detailed micro-plans and camp calendars at the district level, and stressed the need to involve Common Service Centres (CSCs) for Aadhaar enrolment, e-KYC, and related documentation services.

He further directed that special focus be placed on identifying villages and habitations with service delivery gaps, ensuring that no eligible tribal family is left behind. The DC also called for real-time reporting and the establishment of robust monitoring mechanisms to track the number of beneficiaries reached during the campaign.

Underscoring the importance of departmental convergence, Suse urged active coordination between departments such as Health, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Revenue, Agriculture, and Panchayati Raj. He reiterated that collective and focused efforts are essential for the campaign's success.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from all concerned departments, who expressed their commitment to ensuring last-mile delivery of services. The Dharti Aaba Abhiyan is set to become a landmark initiative in advancing the government's mission of creating a more inclusive and empowered trib-

# ICR-ER officer visits SEOC Leh to strengthen disaster response coordination



Bharat Singh Rawat at the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) in

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Bharat Singh Rawat, Control Room Officer of the Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER), recently visited the State Emergency Operations (SEOC) in Leh on May 21.

During his visit, he met with Shashanka Ala (IAS), the Relief Commissioner, to discuss enhancing co-

ordination in disaster mitigation and relief operations during crisis. The meeting aimed to foster collaboration between agencies and improve preparedness for effective emergency response in the region.

In addition, Bharat Singh Rawat briefed the SEOC staff on the National Database for Emergency

Management (NDEM), a unique geo-portal developed by ISRO. NDEM integrates space-based inputs with services from forecasting organizations, addressing all natural disasters across all phases at the PAN India level. It combines a multi-scale geospatial database with decision support system tools, facilitating effective disaster management.

Emphasizing the importance of real-time data sharing, Shri Bharat Singh Rawat urged the SEOC team to provide daily disaster-related data to ICR-ER.

This collaboration is expected to enhance situational awareness and improve decision-making during emergency situations.

This initiative underscores the commitment to strengthening disaster response mechanisms and fostering inter-agency collaboration for effective disaster management.

## NOTICE

I, Jigmet Rigdol S/o Sonam Rigzen R/o Hundri Nubra, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as Sonam Rigzin instead of correct and actual name Sonam Rigzen in my ST Certificate duly issued by Diskit Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 7DN/28-29(D) STC 2017 and Dated on 08-05-2017. Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Diskit Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

...Continuity of page 5

# In Conversation with Ghulam Haider, UPSC- Civil Services Examination Qualifier

tency in preparation, regular revision, and answer writing practice. These form the backbone of success in this exam.

On the flip side, avoid constantly switching study materials, comparing your progress with others, and most importantly, neglecting your mental health. This journey is long and demanding taking care of your well-being is just as crucial as studying.

#### Q. Now that you're in, how do you hope to contribute?

I genuinely want to serve in regions like Ladakh and other remote areas where governance gaps are still very real. My goal is to be a responsive and grounded officer—someone who listens to people, understands their challenges firsthand, and works to make public services more accessible and efficient. I believe that even small, consistent efforts can make a big difference in people's

#### Q. Lastly, what would you like to say to young students out there who want to prepare for **UPSC** or any big goal?

Dream big—but prepare smart. Don't let your background or limited resources hold you back. Make the most of what you have, build a strong support system, and seek guidance whenever possible. Believe in yourself, stay patient, and don't give up after a few setbacks. If someone from a small village like Choskore Panikhar can achieve this, so can you.

# Preparations begin for Suru Festival 2025: LAHDC Kargil reviews proposal



During the preparatory review meeting on the upcoming Suru Festival

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Acting Chief Executive of Tourism, UT Ladakh. Councillor and Executive Councillor for Tourism, LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Mohammad Feroz, chaired a preparatory review meeting on May 26 to discuss the upcoming Suru Festival 2025.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Director, Tourism Kargil, Mohammad Ali Tak, along with representatives from Ernst & Young (E&Y) on behalf of the Department

Extensive discussions were held to evaluate various ideas and objectives for the successful organisation of the festival. Abhijeet Singh, a representative from Ernst & Young, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining their proposal for the event.

EC Tourism, Kacho Mohd Feroz, stated that further deliberations will be held once the Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, reviews the proposal. He appreciated the ideas presented and emphasized the need to consult with concerned councillors and the All Kargil Travel and Trade Association (AKTTA) for broader consensus.

He expressed particular interest in the concept of a Tent City and the proposal to invite the National Geographic team, tour operators, and social media influencers, calling it "very interesting." He added that efforts should be made to finalise the proposal once the budgetary allocaions for the project are confirmed.

Kacho Mohd Feroz also stressed the importance of incorporating adventure tourism activities like paragliding and exploring the possibility of rafting as part of the festival to enhance its appeal.

#### **Notice**

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

#### <u>List of Executive members of the Society:</u>

S.NO	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation
1	Stanzin Gurmet	S/o Kunga Namgyal	Matho	President
2	Sonam Chosphel	S/o Tsering Wangial	Matho	Vice-President
3	Thinles Norboo	S/o Tsewang Dorjay	Matho	Secretary
4	Stanzin Tsanlex	S/o Sonam Stanzin	Matho	Joint Secretary
5	Rigzen Nurboo	S/o Sonam Tundup	Matho	Organiser
6	Stanzin Tamchos	S/o Tsering Tashi	Matho	General Secretary
7	Tsetan Namgyal	S/o Tsewang Nurboo	Matho	Treasurer

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

President

'Matho Youth Welfare Association' Leh UT Ladakh

## Scientific yak rearing highlighted at awareness program in Nubra



Participants during the awareness programme on scientific management of yaks in Nubra.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NUBRA:** A one-day awareness program on the scientific management of yaks was successfully organized on May 26 at the Yak Breeding Farm in Diskit, Nubra. The event was jointly conducted by the ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY), Arunachal Pradesh, and the Department of Animal Husbandry, Leh.

Around 125 yak breeders from the region participated in the program. Dr. Motup Angmo, Block Veterinary Officer Nubra, opened the session with a brief overview of its objectives. Dr. Stanzin Rabgais, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Leh, spoke about the importance of yak rearing and various government initiatives aimed at supporting and improving livestock development.

Dr. Mokhtar Hussain, Senior Scientist at ICAR-NRCY, provided insights into modern technologies for yak management, including scientific feeding practices and healthcare. Dr. Vijay Paul, Principal Scientist at ICAR-NRCY, encouraged breeders to explore value addition, product processing, and integrating yak-based livelihoods with eco-tourism opportunities.

The program concluded with the distribution of logistical support to the participating breeders. Îtems distributed included concentrated feed, gumboots, solar lights, tarpaulins, mineral mixtures, and basic veterinary medicines.

# Week-long awareness program on menstrual health and hygiene concludes in Zanskar



Students from various schools across Zanskar participating in the awareness program.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

strual Health, and Hygiene conmany asking questions and seek-cluded on May 24 in Padum, ing clarifications. following its successful implementation across multiple re-gions of Zanskar. The campaign closing session, including the laav Foundation.

Held from May 19 to 24, the program covered areas including Lungnak, Stoth, Sham, and Jungkhor, with the objective of As a token of appreciation, the reaching adolescents in remote locations and equipping them Zanskar presented Stanzin Dolwith essential health-related ma with a certificate of appreciaknowledge.

The final session in Padum saw to Dr. Thinles, Director of Health enthusiastic participation from Services, UT Ladakh, for facilistudents representing various tating and supporting the initiaschools across Zanskar.

importance of STI prevention, foundation for a healthier future. and maintaining proper menstru-

**ZANSKAR:** A week-long al hygiene. Her open and empaawareness program on Adoles- thetic approach to adolescent cent Reproductive and Sexual reproductive health prompted Health, STI Prevention, Men- active student participation, with

was organized by Choskul Tsog- President of the Youth Wing spa Zanskar in collaboration Zanskar, President of the Ex-Serwith the Directorate of Health vicemen Association, and the Services, UT Ladakh, and Bad- Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Padumdemonstrating strong commu-

> tion for her significant contribution. He also extended gratitude

Stanzin Dolma, Counsellor at The successful conclusion of this SNM Hospital Leh, delivered an awareness program marks an imengaging and informative sesportant step toward empowering sion, speaking at length on the the youth of Zanskar with vital dangers of substance abuse, the knowledge, confidence, and the

been allocated for its construc-

tion under new works. He fur-

of manpower to manage parking

hospital and reviewed the progress of the work. He also took

healthcare infrastructure and ser-

more efficiently.

# CEC Dr. Jaffer Akhoon visits District Hospital Kargil, addresses key issues



CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon at District Hospital Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kar- Addressing specific concerns gil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon on raised by hospital staff, the CEC May 23 visited District Hospital was informed of issues including Kargil to assess its overall func- the lack of a prayer room. He tioning and the healthcare facili- assured that funds have already ties being provided.

He was accompanied by the ther instructed officials to regu-Medical Superintendent, Res- late unauthorized parking in the ident Medical Officer (RMO), hospital premises and directed and other concerned officers them to initiate the outsourcing from the hospital.

During the visit, CEC Dr. Jaffer inspected various wards and de- Dr. Jaffer also assured the instalpartments, including the ICU, lation of high-power street lights and reviewed the ongoing con- in the hospital compound to enstruction work at the Blood hance safety and accessibility. Bank, directing officials to expedite the completion at the ear- er-construction new wing of the

He also interacted with patients stock of the availability of essento understand their experience tial medicines and met with paand the quality of services pro-tients injured in recent accidents. vided, and encouraged doctors and medical staff to work with a The visit reflected a proactive missionary spirit for the welfare approach towards improving of the people.

#### vices in the district. **NOTICE**

An application has been received from Phunchok Wangchuk S/o Nawang Khatup R/o Sheynam, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. JK10 7442 for issuance of duplicate Registration Certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of the lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for the general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer ARTO, Leh within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

#### NOTICE

An application has been received Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. LA02 3445 for issuance of duplicate Registration Certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of the lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for the general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer ARTO, Leh within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

# GDC Zanskar conducts historical and archaeological tour to Rangdum monastery



Students of Government Degree College (GDC) Zanskar during Historical and Archaeological Tour to Rangdum Monastery.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

gree College (GDC) Zanskar organized a Historical and Archaeological Tour to Rangdum Monastery on May 24 as part of its academic curriculum beyond the classroom. The aim was to help students understand the importance of conducting physical surveys of historical sites in the Zanskar subdivision and its surrounding areas.

Students from the History Department participated in the tour under the guidance of faculty member Dr. Mohd Hussain, who led the field Kangyur (Tibetan canon). survey and provided detailed instructions on the scientific methods of conducting fieldwork and data documentation.

Each student was given a question- and primary data collection.

KARGIL: The Government De- naire and tasked with engaging local residents from villages including Rangdum, Phey, Sani, Manda, and Rantag Shah to collect information. Through these interactions, they recorded and documented valuable insights into the historical background of the respective villages.

> During their visit to Padum Monastery, the students were introduced to significant cultural elements such as mural paintings, Thangka (canvas) paintings, dedicated deities, stupas, the mani wheel (mani skor), and the

> The purpose of the tour was to enhance students' understanding of local history while training them in the scientific approach to field surveys

# Fisheries sector in Kargil gets boost through outreach and equipment distribution



Fish farmers getting equipment. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Department of Fisheries, Kargil successfully conducted a one-day outreach program for fish farmers at the newly constructed of-fice of the Assistant Director, Fisheries in Kharool, Kargil on May 27. The event focused on the National

Executive Councilor for Tourism Councilor Ranbirpora, Abdul Wahid, Councilor Bhimbat, Abdul Samad, and Mohammad Amin Lone, Assistant Director of Fisheries, Kar-

In his address, EC Feroz highlighted sector in Kargil, calling it a "booming industry" that offers significant

opportunities for economic growth. He stressed the need to raise public awareness about fish farming and its benefits, noting its increasing popularity among locals.

Assistant Director Mohd Amin Lone provided an overview of the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP), explaining that it offers several key benefits to fish farmers, including registration, credit facilitation, aquaculture insurance, performance-based grants, traceability, training, and capacity building. "The NFDP is a game-changer for the fisheries sector," he said, urging all stakeholders to register and take advantage of the platform under PM-MKSSY.

The attending Councilors also addressed the gathering, reaffirming Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) their support for fish farmers and and was held under the Pradhan encouraging wider adoption of fish Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi farming practices.

During the program, the Councilors distributed essential fishing equipand Fisheries, Kacho Moham- ment, including trout pelleted feed, mad Feroz, attended the event as fish covering nets, digital dissolved the Chief Guest. He was joined by oxygen (DO) meters, fish handling nets, and rechargeable torches to the

The Department of Fisheries announced plans to continue such outreach programs and camps across the district to promote NFDP registhe growing potential of the fisheries trations and expand access to benefits under PMMKSSY.

# Govt. High School Minjee hosts drug abuse awareness program



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Government High School Minjee on

to combat the growing issue in the

The program commenced with a keynote address by the Manager of DDAC Kargil, who shed light on the Principal of Government High rising concerns of substance abuse students about the free treatment facilities available at the DDAC and encouraged anyone in need to come forward and seek help.

KARGIL: As part of the ongoing Sheikh Bashir Shakiri, representing Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (Drug- IKMT Kargil, addressed the gather-Free India Campaign), the District ing with a strong message about the De-addiction Centre (DDAC), Kar- causes and consequences of drug gil, in collaboration with IKMT, abuse. He emphasized the devastat-JUIAKL, and the Department of ing impact of addiction on individ-Education, Kargil, conducted an ed- uals, families, and society, urging ucational and awareness program at everyone to take moral and social responsibility in preventing the spread of this menace.

The event aimed to educate stu- Syed Raza Rizvi, representing dents on the dangers of drug abuse JUIAK, spoke about the importance and promote preventive measures of discipline, values, and community awareness. He highlighted how drug abuse undermines the fabric of society and called on students to uphold strong personal and social ethics.

School Minjee expressed heartin the district. He also informed the felt appreciation to DDAC, IKMT, JUIAK, and the Education Department for their proactive efforts in engaging with students and steering them towards a healthier, drug-free future.

# Bear-proof corral handed over to community in Azuri village, Pandrass



Handing over of bear-proof corral to the residents of Azuri Village, Pan-

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DRASS:** In a major step towards promoting human-wildlife coexistence, a bear-proof corral was formally handed over to the residents of Azuri Village, Pandrass, by Councillor Abdul Samad (Upper Constituency), Drass, on May

lavan Brown Bear Conservation Project, led by WWF-India in collaboration with local communities and the Wildlife Department, Kargil.

Specifically designed to protect livestock and property from bear attacks, the corral serves as a crucial component of the region's broader conflict mitigation strategy. In addition to the corral, WWF-India and the Wildlife Department have also distributed other deterrent tools such as ANIDERS and foxlights across various parts of the Drass Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, Councillor Abdul Samad lauded the efforts of WWF-India and the Wildlife Department for their ongoing commitment to conserving the Himalayan Brown Bear while ensuring the safety of local communities. He urged villagers to support the conservation mission and stressed the importance of cultivating a culture of peaceful coexistence with wildlife.

The handover ceremony was attended by the Lambardar of Pandrass, representatives from WWF-India Ladakh including Preet Sharma, Mohd Kazim, and Muzammil Lone — as well as lo-

The initiative falls under the Hima- The initiative marks a meaningful step forward in balancing ecological preservation with community well-being and serves as a model of collaborative conservation in the Kargil region.

# Al Hima-Laya Green Mission reaches Zanskar, over 500 trees planted



Planting of indigenous tree species at Government Degree College (GDC) Zanskar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** A major environmental initiative saw the successful plantation of over 500 saplings of indigenous tree species at Government Degree College (GDC) Zanskar on May 26. The drive was spearheaded by Anjuman-e-Jamiat-ul-Ulama Isna Asharia Kargil under its green initiative, Al Hima-Laya Green Mission and Research Centre.

Chief Guest Phuntsok Tashi commended the organisation for its leadership in environmental stewardship and oraised its continued efforts in promoting social welfare, interfaith harmony, and communal unity. He expressed hope that such impactful initiatives would be extended to other areas of

Liyaqat Hussain, Coordinator of Al Hima-Laya, briefed attendees on the broader vision of the "One Lakh Mega Plantation" campaign, outlining its phased implementation across Kargil

President of the Zanskar Buddhist Association, Pasang Lawang, also addressed the gathering, expressing gratitude to the organisers for bringing a large-scale afforestation effort to a remote region like Zanskar.

College Principal Mohd Ishaq thanked the team for selecting GDC Zanskar as a plantation site. He stressed the urgency of ecological restoration in the face of increasing environmental degradation, calling tree plantation "the

Sheikh Ibrahim Khalili acknowledged the support of all stakeholders and volunteers, announcing that the campaign had already exceeded its initial target, with over 1.25 lakh saplings planted across the district—marking a significant milestone in the region's environmental journey.

## 'Humour in Pathos': Poetry evening at **LAMO features Pramod Jain**



Pramod Jain, IAS (Retd.), noted poet and Chairman of the New Districts Committee, UT Ladakh at poetry recitation event.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A compelling poetry rec- collection of poems celebrating the was held on May 24 at the Ladakh Arts Ladakh. and Media Organisation (LAMO), Leh, drawing an enthusiastic gathering of literary enthusiasts, artists, and cultural figures.

The evening's highlight was an evocative reading by Pramod Jain, IAS al Academy; and Rigzin Samphel, IAS (Retd.), noted poet and Chairman of (Retd.). the New Districts Committee, UT Ladakh. Jain recited selected works from his acclaimed poetry collection "Lockdown and Other Poems", a body of Norbu) and Padma Angmo also took work shaped by the emotional toll of the global pandemic. His verses, exploring themes of isolation, fear, and resilience, struck a powerful chord The evening served not only as a poetic with the audience.

Adding to the literary excitement, Jain announced his forthcoming book—a

itation event titled 'Humour in Pathos' beauty, spirit, and cultural richness of

The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Tsewang Paljor, Head of the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages; Dr. Thupstan Norboo, Editor at the Cultur-

Celebrating local voices, budding Ladakhi poets Khayal Ladakhi (Jigmet part in the recitation, adding depth and diversity to the literary exchange.

reflection on shared human experiences but also as a testament to Ladakh's vibrant and growing literary culture.





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