

JUNE 16-30, 2025



In Conversation with

Dr. Abdul Qayum, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam

#### **Expert Talk:**

A New Dawn for Ladakhi Women: One-Third Reservation in Hill Councils Becomes Reality



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A new era in Ladakh politics: One-third of LAHDC seats reserved for women

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### reach—Ladakh

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By Stanzin Dasal

LEH: After decades of being sidelined from electoral representation, women in Ladakh are finally stepping into the political spotlight. On June 2, the Government of India made a historic announcement one-third of all seats in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil will now be reserved for women. The decision, formalized through a Gazette notification, has been hailed as a groundbreaking step towards gender parity in the Union Territory's political landscape.

Ladakh's two Hill Councils-LAHDC Leh and LAHDC Kargil—comprise 30 members each, including 26 elected councillors and four nominated by the UT Administration. Despite being home to a population where women play crucial roles in families, communities, and the economy, no woman has ever been elected to either council since their inception. Until now, women's representation remained confined to a lone nominated seat.

Welcoming the announce-ment, Dr. Yangchan Dolma, Nominated Councillor for Women in LAHDC Leh, called the move "historic" and "long overdue."



33% women reservation in LAHDC's: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Ladakh unit celebrating the government's decision.

"This is a momentous step for the women of Ladakh. For the first time, they will have elected representation in our Hill Councils—a space from which they've long been excluded. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, former MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC Tashi Gyalson, and councillors across party lines who stood behind this important reform," she

The reservation policy will operate on a rotational basis, ensuring that over time, different constituencies across Ladakh will see women stepping into leadership roles. The notification amending the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997, states, "Not less than one-third of the total number of seats in the Councils shall be reserved for women, and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different territorial constituencies."

Ladakh's political history has had few milestones for women. While Queen Parvati Devi was elected as the first Member of Parliament from Ladakh in 1977, the region has since seen minimal female political participation. Societal norms, logistical challenges, and lack of policy-level encouragement have often stood in the way.

Kunzes Dolma, Vice President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association Women's Wing, noted that the struggle for representation has been long and arduous.

"Since the councils were formed, we had no elected woman councillor. That speaks volumes about the imbalance. But this decision gives us hope. Now, women will stand in elections, campaign, lead, and make decisions that affect all of Ladakh-not just women," she

Her words echo the sentiment of hundreds of women across the region, many of whom have actively worked within women's organizations, NGOs, and grassroots initiatives, but have rarely been granted official platforms of power.

Rinchen Lamo, former member of the National Commission for Minorities, sees the move as transformative.

"We are no longer asking for a token seat. With 33% reservation, we now have the opportunity to influence real change. Women bring unique perspectives on health, education, water, and livelihood issues—areas that have often been neglected in male-dominated policy spaces," she

Until now, crucial women-centric issues like maternal health care, gender-based violence, and women's economic empowerment often found limited traction in Hill Council deliberations. Activists and leaders believe that elected female representation will amplify these concerns.

The announcement has received support across party lines and religious affiliations. On June 10, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Ladakh unit celebrated the government's decision, calling it a progressive measure that aligns with the broader national goal of women's empowerment.

Community and religious including organizations, women's wings of Buddhist, Christian and Muslim associations, also came forward to

express their gratitude. They emphasized the importance of solidarity among women from all backgrounds to ensure that this opportunity is not just symbolic but translates into lasting impact.

"This is not just about individual success stories. It's about changing the entire ecosystem so that our daughters grow up seeing politics as a space they belong to," said one local community leader.

The reservation announcement comes at a time when Ladakh is witnessing major shifts in governance, identity, and development planning after becoming a Union Territory in 2019. Ensuring women's representation in the LAHDCs could significantly influence how Ladakh addresses these evolving challenges—through a lens that includes and prioritizes half its population.

As the next Hill Council elections approach, all eyes will be on Ladakh's women—as candidates, voters, leaders, and changemakers.

"This is just the beginning," said Dr. Yangchan. "Now it's up to the women of Ladakh to rise to the occasion."





Skara Yokma, Near Councillor's residence or

Contact us at 9858394403

#### Justice delivered: Leh court convicts in Charas trafficking and Minor Abuse cases



Representational Image

Yokma for the sexual abuse Reach Ladakh Correspondent of a minor, sentencing **LEH:** Principal Sessions Judge (Special Judge) Leh, Manoj Parihar, delivered him to 12 years under the J&K Protection of Children from Sexual Violence two landmark verdicts re-Act plus 5 years under the cently in cases involving major drug trafficking and RPC, with both sentences to run concurrently. The child sexual abuse, send-437-page verdict, delivered after nearly five years of relentless judicial effort, is ing a firm message of zero tolerance against serious crimes in Ladakh. being hailed as a landmark ruling in Ladakh's legal

In a significant NDPS case, Dhoni Chand, a resident of Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, was convicted for trafficking 8.19 kg of Charas. Acting on credible intelligence, a police team led by then-SHO Inspector advocacy of APP Nawang Stanzin Dorjey intercepted Nurbu is widely praised as the accused en route from a model of public service Manali to Leh. The court sentenced him to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment Together, these verdicts and imposed a ₹1 lakh reinforce public trust in fine, with an additional 6 the rule of law and demonmonths' imprisonment in strate Ladakh's uncompro-

This conviction result-

#### ed from a focused, evidence-based prosecution led by Assistant Public Prosecutor Nawang Nurbu, whose skill and diligence ensured a strong case. The accused was defended by Advocate Mohd Shafi.

These consecutive con-

victions underscore the

strength, integrity, and sen-

mising stance against grave

and legal excellence.

offenses.

Ladakh charts vision for eco-

logical restoration

Photo Caption: Participants during the Ladakh Resto-

LEH: The Ladakh Resto- tions, institutions, and

ration Visioning Exercise government departments.

2025 was held from June along with enthusiastic

2 to 4 at Hotel Deskitsal, youth from across Ladakh,

Leh, bringing together engaged in these sessions.

over 80 participants repre- The exercise not only re-

senting a diverse range of flected current issues but

stakeholders to co-create a also spurred innovative

shared and actionable vi- and forward-looking ideas

sion for the ecological res- to guide restoration efforts.

organised by the Nature a field visit to Changthang

Conservation Foundation, on the second day. The im-

in collaboration with the mersive experience offered

A key highlight was an in Ladakh—a guiding

interactive group mapping framework that will sup-

activity, where participants port policymakers and

identified core challenges stakeholders in shaping fu-

and future opportunities ture ecological restoration

in landscape restoration. interventions across the

Restoration insights into the intricate

To deepen understanding

of local ecological reali-

ties, participants undertook

relationship between Lada-

kh's communities and their

environment, reinforcing

the need for culturally in-

formed and ecologically

sound restoration practices.

The event concluded with

a strong consensus on the

need for sustained collab-

oration. It marked a sig-

nificant step toward the

development of a compre-

hensive Vision Document

for Landscape Restoration

ration Visioning Exercise 2025.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

toration of Ladakh's unique

The three-day event was

Alliance and the Ladakh

Autonomous Hill Develop-

ment Council (LAHDC),

Leh. Participants included

representatives from local

conservationists, policy-makers, youth leaders, and

The program featured a se-

ries of expert talks address-

ing the pressing ecological

challenges and restoration

opportunities in Ladakh.

More than 20 organisa- region.

eco-tourism stakeholders.

scientists,

and fragile landscapes.

Ecological

communities,

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A spectacular Pass-Earlier, on March 6, 2025, ing Out Parade was held the same court convicted at the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, Leh, to mark Muzzafar Ali of Chushot the induction of 194 welltrained Agniveer recruits into the Ladakh Scouts Regiment as Agniveer Soldiers on June 5.

> The ceremonial event, conducted in keeping with the finest traditions of the Indian Army, was reviewed by Major General Gurpal Singh, YSM, SM, General Officer Commanding, Uniform Force, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The parade was attended by a host of military and civil dignitaries, along with the proud families of the new

Agniveers.

The young soldiers, hailing from various regions of Ladakh, marched with precision and pride, ready to serve the Nation with dedication and honour. In his address, the Reviewing Officer congratulated the Agniveers on their exceptional turnout and urged them to dedicate their lives in service to the country as proud members of the Indian Army.

194 Agniveer recruits join Ladakh Scouts

**Regiment in impressive Passing Out Parade** 

He also commended the families for encouraging their sons to join the regiment and lauded the Ladakh Scouts for their distinguished service, out-

standing performance, and acts of valour in diverse operational scenarios. Major General Singh called upon the young soldiers to continue striving for excellence and to uphold the sovereignty of the Nation with unwavering commitment, in keeping with the ethos of the Indian Army.

As a mark of recognition, medals were awarded to Agniveers who excelled during training. The Gaurav Padak was also presented to parents who have served or are currently serving in the Army and whose children were inducted into the regiment as Agniveers—a proud and emotional moment for the families in attendance.

The event was a tribute to courage, discipline, and patriotism, symbolizing a new chapter for these young recruits in their journey of selfless service to the Na-

#### Border village Demjok celebrates Saga Dawa with Darchen Kujeng 2025



Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Former Member of Parliament during Darchen Kujeng at Demchok Lhari Karpo.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DEMJOK:** On the auspicious 15th day of Saga Dawa, observed as Buddha Purnima—marking the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha—and coinciding with the spiritually signifi-cant Wednesday (Lhaza or Lhakkar), a grand religious and cultural celebration, Darchen Kujeng, was held at Lhari Karpo (popularly known as Chota Kailash) on June 11 at Demjok, Changthang.

Organized jointly by LAH-DC Leh, Ladakh Ngari Tsogspa, local villagers, Tibetan residents of Demjok, Koyul, and Dungti, along with the Indian Army and ITBP, the event united hundreds of devotees, monks, dignitaries, and cultural groups in reverence for the shared Indo-Tibetan Buddhist heritage.

The event began with the ceremonial reception of the Chief Guest, His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, followed by the hoisting of the national flag and singing of the national anthem, symbolizing unity and national pride.

Spiritual proceedings included the offering of Skusum Mandal, Riwo Sangchod smoke purification prayers, and the erection of the central Darchen and prayer flags.

Key highlight was the erection of 90 Darchens (prayer poles) dedicated to the long life of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, who turns 90 on 6 July 2025. Additionally, 630 saplings were planted to commemorate the 63rd birth anniversary of His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche, symbol- Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Ex-

izing compassion and ecological balance.

His Eminence Skyabje Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, in his keynote address, highlighted the deep spiritual and historical ties between Ladakh and Tibet. He lauded the extraordinary contributions of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche in fostering peace, compassion, and spiritual growth in Ladakh. He also called upon the community to safeguard and sanctify the sacred land of Demjok, home to revered sites such as Dechok Khorlo Dompa (Chakrasamvara Mandala) and other divine

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Former Member of Parliament (17th Lok Sabha), emphasized the profound spiritual significance of Demjok, situated just 250 km by air from Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake. He highlighted the sacredness of Mount Kailash—revered in Buddhism as the abode of Avalokiteshvara (Chenrezig), in Hinduism as the seat of Lord Shiva, and in Jainism as the site of Rishabhdev's liberation.

He strongly advocated for opening the Bharat-Kailash pilgrimage route via Demjok to revive age-old spiritual ties and enhance India's cultural and strategic outreach. He also underscored the strategic importance of Demjok and the surrounding Changthang region in reinforcing border presence, advancing cultural diplomacy, and strengthening national security.

works.

ecutive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, emphasized the importance of institutionalizing this event as a grand annual celebration of Buddha Purnima in the Changthang region. He highlighted the transformative impact of the Vibrant Villages Programme, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on remote border villages like Demjok.

He outlined key developmental achievements in the region, including the expansion of mobile and digital connectivity, the introduction of solar energy initiatives in remote hamlets, the strengthening of border infrastructure and road networks, and enhanced support for nomadic communities and livestock-based livelihoods.

Ishey Spalzang, Councillor, LAHDC Leh; Kunga Thinley, President, Central Ngari Chithun Association; Shishar Bhardwaj, HQ 15th Sector, Rashtriya Rifles, Indian Army; Ven. Lama Acharya Ishey Phuntsok, Former President, Central Ngari Chithun Association; along with several other distinguished dignitaries, graced the occasion with their presence.

The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the local Komnyer (village representative), followed by a community lunch and the vibrant Lhakkar Thabston—a colorful celebration of Changthang's rich cultural heritage through traditional dance, music, and folk performances.

Darchen Kujeng 2025 emerged as a powerful expression of Ladakh's living Buddhist heritage—honoring sacred traditions, deepening Indo-Tibetan spiritual ties, and promoting the values of national unity, environmental consciousness, and inclusive border development. The celebration stood as a beacon of faith and commitment to preserving the unique identity and sanctity of the trans-Hima-layan region.

#### ADDC chairs key financial review meeting, urges awareness and monitoring of schemes



Photo Caption: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Leh, Sonam Nurboo.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Leh, Sonam Nurboo chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2025, held on June 9 at the DC Office Conference Hall, Leh.

The meeting, convened by Lead Bank Chief Manager Stanzin Dolkar, included a comprehensive review of the banking sector's performance. She presented the quarterly banking report, highlighting key indicators such as the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio, priority sector lending, and overall credit flow in the district.

As of March 2025, total bank deposits stood at ₹6687.78 crore, up from ₹6358.60 crore in December 2024. Total advances were ₹3086.94 crore, resulting in an improved CD ratio of 46.16%, a rise from 43.93% in the previous quarter. The credit growth for the quarter was ₹206.12 crore.

Expressing concern over the low CD ratio—below 40%—in banks such as BOB, BOM, J&K Bank, ICICI, HDFC, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, IndusInd Bank, Bandhan Bank, and JKSCB, the ADDC directed the respective institutions to provide reasons and concrete strategies for improvement in the upcoming quarter.

The meeting also reviewed bank-wise and sector-wise performance under both Priority and Non-Priority sectors, covering agriculture, education, housing, and social infrastructure. Detailed discussions were held on various government-sponsored schemes including, PMEGP, KCC, MUDRA, Stand-Up India, PM Vishwakarma,

PM SVANidhi, NULM, NRLM, PM-FME, Weaver Mudra Scheme, Vibrant Villages Programme and Social security schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY,

District officers provided updates on the progress and implementation challenges of these schemes. The ADDC stressed the need for regular monitoring and stronger coordination between banks and departments to ensure smoother access for beneficiaries. He also emphasized the importance of widespread public awareness on financial schemes and services.

Kifayat Hussain, Senior Manager of Crisil Foundation, presented the ongoing work under the RBI- and NAB-ARD-funded Moneywise CFL Project. He urged all banks and line departments to coordinate with CFL teams to conduct financial literacy camps and broaden the reach of financial inclu-

The ADDC instructed all concerned departments to submit detailed progress reports ahead of the next DLRC/ DCC meeting and directed stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of financial initiatives aimed at boosting economic growth and inclusion in

The meeting was attended by senior officials from RBI, NABARD, CRI-SIL, DIC, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments, Municipal Committee Leh, NRLM, and representatives from major banks including SBI, PNB, Canara Bank, Union Bank, J&K Bank, JK Grameen Bank, IDBI, HDFC, and oth-

#### **Tourism Ministry organises workshop in Durbuk-Tangtse to boost border village** tourism



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DURBUK:** The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in collaboration with the UT Administration of Ladakh, Department of Tourism, Defence, ITBP, tourism stakeholders, and local administration, conducted a hands-on workshop on June 9 at the Vibrant Villages of Durbuk and Tangtse in Leh

Organized under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), the workshop aimed to create livelihood opportunities through the promotion of tourism, preservation of cultural heritage, skill development, entrepreneurship, and awareness campaigns in border villag-

The workshop focused on three major components:

1. Homestay and Bed & Breakfast Registration: Detailed guidance was provided to local stakeholders on how to register and apply for approval under the Ministry of Tourism's "Incredible India Bed & Breakfast/Homestay Establishments" scheme.

2. Tourist Facilitator Training: Awareness was raised about the "Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification Programme (IITFC)" and "Incredible India Tourist Guide (IITG)"—digital initiatives that allow individuals to learn about tourism flexibly and become certified facilitators, opening alternative income avenues.

3.YUVA Tourism Club Formation: Information was shared on forming YUVA Tourism Clubs, aimed at engaging youth in promoting responsible and sustainable tourism while fostering a sense of ownership of India's cultural and natural heritage.

The workshop sought to promote local culture, build awareness, and connect residents with various schemes and programs of the Ministry of Tourism.

The workshop was graced by the dignitaries, Tashi Namgyal, Yakzee, Executive Councillor; Konchok Stanzin, Councillor, Chushul; Akun Sabharwal, IPS, IG, NW Frontier, ITBP, Leh; Brigadier M.R Jagadish, Station Commander, Tangste; Tsering Namgyal, Chairman, IATO Ladakh Chapter; Rigzin Wangmo Lachic, President, All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association, Leh; Nawang Namgyal, Nambardar, Durbuk; Tsewang Dorjey, President All Ladakh Tour Operator Association (ALTOA); Padma, Assistant Director Tourism, Leh, UT of Ladakh and Mohd. Hamza, Adventure Tour Operator Association.

The event witnessed the participation of over 150 locals from Durbuk, Tangtse, Man, Tharuk, Chushul, and Merak villages. Participants included approximately 40 homestay/B&B owners, 50 youths enrolled for IITFC/IITG, 40 handicraft artisans showcasing local products and woollens, 23 students from Government Middle School Durbuk, 14 students from Higher Secondary School Tharuk, tourism stakeholders, and media representatives from Leh.

Strategically located between key tourist destinations like Pangong and Nubra and near the emerging destination Galwan, Durbuk and Tangtse hold significant tourism potential. To highlight this, a Familiarization (FAM) Tour was organized for tourism stakeholders and media representatives.

A digital brochure on Durbuk and Tangtse was unveiled during the workshop. Members of the YUVA Tourism Club also performed cultural presentations, adding vibrancy to the event. Mementos were distributed to guests and participants.

The dignitaries appreciated the initiative and shared their support and commitment toward ensuring the success of these tourism-driven development efforts in Ladakh's border villages.

#### Ladakh Infra Developer Alliance calls on CEC to advocate local stakeholder empowerment



A delegation from the newly formed Ladakh Infra Developer Alliance (LIDA) with Adv. Tashi Gyalson, Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A delegation from the new- 12, to discuss key issues related to ly formed Ladakh Infra Developer Alliance (LIDA) called on Adv. Tashi Gyalson, Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh on June

local participation in infrastructure development across Ladakh.

The delegation comprised LIDA ment of a Ladakh Resident Cer- for appropriate consideration.

Chairman Tsering Angchuk Tsao, tificate (LRC) for works valued up Co-Chairman Sonam Angchuk to ₹10 crore. This, they said, would Chumkar, General Secretary Ge- ensure rightful access and empowerlek Phunchok D'Lonpo, and Joint ment of local stakeholders in public

al capacity through policy-level ister Narendra Modi, for continued interventions.

LIDA, a collective platform of They also lauded the CEC's leaderlocal contractors, transporters, ship in ushering reforms in Ladakh, engineers, and infrastructure particularly the historic decision stakeholders, shared its vision of to reserve 33% seats for women in creating equitable opportunities LAHDC Leh, and expressed gratfor local professionals, promoting itude to the Government of India, employment, and building region- under the leadership of Prime Min-

The delegation urged the CEC to CEC Gyalson reiterated the Counprioritize local contractors, engi- cil's commitment to empowering loneers, and transporters in govern- cal stakeholders and assured the delment infrastructure projects and egation that their concerns would be proposed the mandatory require- taken up with the UT Administration

support in the region's development.

**Fortnightly News** 

#### **Election Commission of India con**ducts training session for BLOs in Leh



Photo Caption: During the comprehensive training session for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office, Leh.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Election Commission of India (ECI), in coordination with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, UT Ladakh, conducted a comprehensive training session for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office, Leh, on June 6. The session aimed to enhance the efficiency, preparedness, and understanding of BLOs in their critical roles during field operations.

An eight-member team led by A.K. Pathak, Secretary, Election Commission of India, visited Leh for a series of field engagements and training programmes under the banner of the Election Commission India Adventure Sports Club (ECIASC).

The training featured a detailed presentation outlining the key responsibilities

of BLOs during on-site duties. It included instructions on accurately filling out voter-related forms, correcting errors, reporting lost voter cards, and addressing other related issues.

An open forum was also held, allowing BLOs to voice grievances and seek clarifications. Many shared the unique challenges they face in the field and exchanged strategies to effectively overcome them.

BLOs from various locations across the district attended the session.

This initiative reflects the ECI's commitment to strengthening its grassroots electoral machinery and ensuring a smooth, inclusive, and transparent electoral process.

#### President Droupadi Murmu interacts with Drass students on army-facilitated national tour



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

world—had the rare honour of meeting the President of India, Droupadi Murmu. The interaction was part of the prestigious National Integration Tour, organized by the Forever in Operations Division of the Fire & Fury Corps.

This remarkable event marked a milestone in the students' educational journey, symbolizing their hard work, resilience, and aspirations. During the meeting, the students expressed heartfelt gratitude and shared their dreams of excelling in academic and professional

In her inspiring address, President Murmu lauded the Indian Army for its role in organizing the tour and encouraged the students to pursue their goals with passion and perseverance. She urged them to draw motivation from visionary leaders who embody dedication, learning, and service to the nation.

As part of their enriching tour, the students visited several iconic institutions and landmarks, including IIT Jammu, Fish Aquarium Jammu, the National War Memorial, Nehru Planetarium, Dilli Haat, Select City Walk Mall, and India Gate in New Delhi. These experi-

DELHI: A group of 16 bright and am- ences offered them valuable exposure to bitious students from Drass-known as India's diverse cultural and educational the second coldest inhabited place in the landscape and deepened their sense of

> The delegation is now set to visit premier institutions in the next leg of their journey, including the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Forest Research Institute (FRI), Rashtriya Indian Military College (RÍMC), Graphic Era University in Dehradun, and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie. These visits will offer insights into India's academic, administrative, and defence

> The National Integration Tour, thoughtfully curated by the Forever in Operations Division, aims to foster unity, leadership, and a deep sense of patriotism among youth from remote regions. Through engagements with esteemed institutions and national leaders, the initiative seeks to inspire young minds to become future change-makers and nation-builders.

> On behalf of the people of Drass, Abdul Wahid, Councillor of Bhimbet, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Brigade Commander of the 56 Mountain Brigade for making this life-changing experience possible for the youth of the region.

#### 2nd National Lok Adalat disposes of 315 cases across Ladakh; ₹85.58 Lakh settled



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** During the 2nd National Lok Adalat held on May 31 at the District Court Complex, Leh, a total of 359 cases were taken up across various benches. Of these, 315 cases were successfully disposed of, with a total settlement amount of ₹85,58,020 (Rupees Eighty-Five Lakh Fifty-Eight Thousand and Twenty only).

The cases included bank and recovery matters, matrimonial disputes, criminal compoundable cases, civil cases, and labour disputes, reflecting a wide spectrum of legal issues addressed through this alternative dispute resolution mechanism.

The Lok Adalat was virtually inaugurated by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge of the High Court of J&K

and Ladakh and Executive Chairman of the Ladakh Legal Services Authority. In her address, she appreciated the peaceful nature of Ladakhi society, noting that the region sees relatively low litigation due to its tradition of amicable dispute resolution. She emphasized the importance of continuing this tradition by utilizing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms such as Lok Adalats, especially as development brings new legal challeng-

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Manoj Parihar, Member Secretary and Principal District & Sessions Judge Leh; Tsewang Phuntsog, Chief Judicial Magistrate Leh; Phuntsog Angmo, Secretary DLSA/Special Mo-

bile Magistrate Leh; senior prosecuting officers; legal aid defense counsels; panel lawyers; PLVs; executive members of the Bar; and several litigants. A total of six benches were constituted to conduct the Lok Adalat proceedings:

- Bench No. 1: Manoj Parihar (Principal District & Sessions Judge, Leh) and Advocate Namgail Wang-
- Bench No. 2: Tsewang Phuntsog (Chief Judicial Magistrate, Leh) and Advocate Mohd Ramzan
- Bench No. 3: Phuntsog Angmo (Special Mobile Magistrate, Leh) and Advocate Touseef Ahmad
- Bench No. 4: Assistant Commissioner Revenue, eh and Tehsildar Leh
- Bench No. 5 (Khaltse): Sayed Tayoub Bukhari (Munsiff, Khaltse)
- Bench No. 6 (Nubra): Lakshay Badyal (Munsiff, Nubra) and Advocate Zulikha Bano

The event marked a significant step in promoting speedy and amicable dispute resolution in Ladakh, aligned with the values and legal culture of the region.

#### **Boundary rationaliza**tion of Karakoram (Nubra) Sanctuary proposed; Changthang next in line



Photo Caption: During the submission of proposal aimed at rationalizing the boundaries of the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary to the Union Territory Administration of Ladakh.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

has been formally submit-ted to the Union Territory and LAHDC Councillors on June 3.

The move comes under the direction of the eas in the Nubra and concerns, and adminis-Changthang Sanctuary consultation.

The meeting was held in ical preservation and the the presence of Deputy socio-economic rights of Chairman, LAHDC Leh, local communities.

LEH: A key proposal Tsering Angchuk and ataimed at rationalizing the tended by Chief Wildlife boundaries of the Kara- Warden, Sajjad Hussain koram Wildlife Sanctuary Mufti, Regional Wildlife Administration of Ladakh Tsering Sandup, Kunzang Lotus, Ishey Spalz-ang, Karma Namdak, and Thinles Nurboo.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Extensive deliberations Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyal- focused on the need for son, following a meet- early rationalization of ing convened to address sanctuary boundaries to long-standing concerns address overlapping land related to wildlife ar- use issues, community Changthang regions and trative challenges. The Wildlife proposal, submitted af-Rationaliza- ter thorough discussions tion of Boundary will be with wildlife officials submitted soon after final and public representatives, seeks to strike a balance between ecolog-

#### L-G discusses arrangements for e-auction of minor mineral blocks/plots in **UT Ladakh**



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), chaired a meeting at Raj Niwas on June 4 to discuss arrangements for the e-auction of minor mineral blocks/plots in UT Ladakh with the concerned

At the outset, Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, informed the LG that minor minerals are defined under Section 3(e) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 as 'building stone, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand other than sand used for prescribed purposes, and any other mineral which the central government may, by notification in the official gazette, declare to be minor mineral.' He also informed that the state government is empowered to make rules in respect of minor minerals as per the MM (D&R) Act 1957. He apprised the LG of the committee constituted for preparing minor mineral blocks/plots on state land in 2021 and the identification of 67 minor mineral blocks/plots of state land in Leh and Kargil districts, out of which 25 blocks/ plots (13 from Leh and 12 from Kargil) have been approved by the stakeholder departments.

ances. He also informed extraction. the LG about the exercise conducted to determine Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan the reserve bid price. Kotwal, IAS; Principal the reserve bid price.

Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, ders who have signed with physically and virtually. MSTC and the prepara-

tion of a draft bid document for the e-portal by the concerned department. He also apprised the HLG of the observations made by both the LAHDCs. He also informed the HLG about the way forward, including going ahead with the e-auction of the minor mineral blocks; framing of the amendments to the DMFT rules to make them relevant to UT Ladakh and the issuance of the draft bid document after addressing the concerns/ observations raised by the Hill Councils, etc.

Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, LG appreciated the conapprised the LG of the re- cerned departments and quest made by the Chair- officials for initiating the man, LAHDC Kargil, for process of e-auction of mian additional nine new nor mineral blocks/plots, blocks/plots in and around keeping the concerns of Kargil district. He also local interest in mind. He apprised the LG of the also asked them to take important statutory pro- measures to address the visions related to the auc- observations/concerns tioning process, including raised by the Hill Counthe need for a District cils and discuss the matter Survey Report, the option with them. He also asked of levying land use fee the concerned officials to and the constitution of a ensure that the District UT-level Environment Im- Survey Report is strictly pact Assessment Authority followed for environmenand Committee for secur- tal protection, particularly ing environment clear- those related to riverbed

Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS; Administrative informed the LG about Secretary, Vikram Singh the e-auction portal, the Malik, IAS; Administraintroductory online VC tive Secretary, Bhupesh training session conduct- Chaudhary, IAS; Admined early this year for on- istrative Secretary, Bhanu boarding bidders/entities Prabha, IAS and officials on the MSTC portal, interest shown by 82 bidments joined the meeting

#### MP Ladakh Haji Mohd Hanifa Jan meets LG Mishra, highlights key regional issues



Photo Caption: Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Haji Mohd Hanifa Jan with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at Raj Niwas.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Member of Parlia- be included in Leh disment, Ladakh, Haji Mohd trict's list of local hol-Hanifa Jan met with the idays—on the lines of Lieutenant Governor of Kargil district—to respect Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) the sentiments of the Shia BD Mishra (Retd), at community in Leh. In re-Raj Niwas on June 3 to sponse, the LG stated that discuss several pressing the General Administraissues concerning the tion Department (GAD), Union Territory. Principal which finalizes the public Secretary, Sanjeev Khir- holiday list in line with war (IAS), and Secretary central norms, would Education, Bhanu Prabha examine the request and (IAS), were also present take an appropriate deciduring the meeting.

During the discussion, The MP also raised con-MP Hanifa Jan urged cern about limited adthe LG to seek a special mission opportunities compensation package for Ladakhi students at from the central govern- SKUAST-Kashmir, parment for apricot farmers ticularly under the Schedaffected by the recent uled Tribe (ST) reservaunseasonal snowfall. The tion quota. Many eligible LG assured that he would students, he said, were raise the issue with the left out. The LG advised concerned ministry and the MP to submit a forencouraged the MP to ac- mal draft proposal, which tively follow up.

The MP also highlighted authorities in Jammu and several other key con- Kashmir. cerns:

• Establishment of an Ag- the MP included: riculture and Horticulture Research Centre in Kar- • Early recruitment of

• Appointment of AYUSH Kendras (KVKs). rural healthcare needs.

payments for higher sec- kh. ondary school buildings • Resolution of wage-re-constructed under CBSE lated issues for school norms.

· Appointment of Arabic cooks. teachers in Kargil under Samagra Shiksha, for Regarding the wage conrequired.

hlum (Youm-e-Arbaeen) mitted soon.

Further points raised by

would be reviewed and taken up with the relevant

faculty for Krishi Vigyan Medical Officers to meet • Expedited transfer of

SKUAST units in Ladakh · Release of pending to the University of Lada-

education department

which central funding is cerns, the LG assured that a committee has already been formed to look into Additionally, MP Han- the cases of left-out daiifa Jan requested that ly-rated workers and that Eid-e-Ghadeer and Che- its report would be sub-

#### "One Household, One Cow" scheme launched in Leh to empower rural families

First phase of scheme sees 40 cross-bred cows handed over to beneficiaries.



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** In a significant push towards strengthening the rural economy and promoting sustainable dairy farming, the Animal Husbandry Department, Leh, launched the "One Household, One Cow - Empowering Sustainable Rural Livelihoods" scheme with the distribution of 40 cross-bred Jersey cows and heifers. The launch event was held at the Bull Mother Farm, Agling on June

The initiative offers a substantial 90% subsidy on each cow and aims to distribute a total of 150 cows in its initial phase. The first batch of 40 cows was handed over to selected beneficiaries from across Leh district.

Executive Councillor Tashi Namgyal

Yakzee highlighted the recent signing of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Gujarat, Dr. Rabgyas also informed beneficiafor their meticulous selection and health for their livestock. evaluation of the distributed cows.

nomic sustainability.

through dairy production and sales. He thrive economically and sustainably. noted that this financial independence

marking a collaborative effort to enries about the dedicated 1962 call center, hance dairy development in the region. which allows farmers to request doorstep He also appreciated the veterinary team veterinary services and health check-ups

The event witnessed participation from Dr. Mohd Ismail, Director, Animal key dignitaries including Councillor Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Phyang, Tundup Nurboo Cheeta, and UT Ladakh, emphasized that the core Councillor Basgo, Tsewang Nurboo, objective of the scheme is to empower alongside departmental officers, officials, farmers and ensure their long-term eco- and enthusiastic beneficiaries from various villages.

Dr. Stanzin Rabgyas, Chief Animal The "One Household, One Cow" scheme Husbandry Officer, elaborated on the is envisioned as a transformative step toscheme's potential to uplift rural house- ward building a resilient, self-reliant, and holds, particularly women homemak- prosperous dairy sector in Ladakh, offerers, by enabling them to earn an income ing new opportunities for rural families to

## **Expert Talk:**

#### A New Dawn for Ladakhi Women: One-Third Reservation in Hill **Councils Becomes Reality**

By Stanzin Dasal

In a groundbreaking move toward gender equality and inclusive governance, the Union Territory of Ladakh has announced 33 percent reservation for women in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) of Leh and Kargil. This long-awaited decision marks a historic moment in Ladakh's political landscape, opening the door for elected women representatives in the Hill Council's.

Celebrated across the region as a milestone for women's empowerment, the decision has sparked joy, pride, and renewed hope among women leaders, activists, and citizens. From years of advocacy to finally witnessing change, this moment is being hailed as the beginning of a new era—one where Ladakhi women will play a direct and decisive role in shaping policies, raising gender-specific concerns, and contributing meaningfully to the future of Ladakh.

Below, two senior women leaders reflect on the significance of this landmark achievement and what it means for the generations of women to come.



#### Rinchen Lamo, Former Member, **National Commission for Minorities:**

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to every Ladakhi woman on the historic achievement of securing 33 percent reservation in the Ladakh

Autonomous Hill Development Councils of Leh and Kargil. This is a landmark decision—one that women from all sections of society have long awaited. Today is a day of celebration for every woman in Ladakh who has strived for this right.

We express our deep gratitude to the Central Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for fulfilling this long-standing dream and aspiration.

Every woman leader in Ladakh who advocated for this cause over the years deserves recognition. Since the inception of the Hill Councils, they have consistently raised the demand for reservation, placing it before authorities at every level. I congratulate all of them and thank the visionary leaders who believed in gender equality and paved the way for women to participate in politics—something that has been lacking for far too long.

With this reservation, women in Ladakh will now actively

participate in politics and raise women-centric issues that have pre- Let's also change the narrative that politics is a "dirty game." viously gone unheard. For the first time, we will have elected women Let's lead with honesty, dedication, and moral values. Together, representatives in the Hill Councils. Until now, we didn't have even let us uplift each other and work for the welfare of all. a single woman elected to these bodies.

Although this is a significant step forward, challenges remain. Many still hold the belief that politics is not meant for women, or that it's a 'dirty game.' But let me say this: what truly matters is intention. If our intentions are honest and rooted in service, politics becomes a powerful tool for change. I urge all parents to encourage their daughters to consider a future in public life. Your support is vital—this is a moment of opportunity, and it's time for women to step forward with confidence.

addressed more seriously. Women leaders bring unique perspectives and understand the challenges women face in daily life. Unlike before, when only one nominated woman councillor represented half the population, we now have a platform for stronger, collective representation. This is the first time women will have a say in decision-making at such a level.

Yes, the journey ahead may be challenging—especially at the beginning—but we will learn and grow with every step. I am confident that our male colleagues in the council will support and guide the new women representatives. There's no turning back now—it's time to support one another and rise together.



#### Spalzes Angmo, Former Member, **National Commission for Minorities:**

This is a great achievement for the women of Ladakh. For all these years, we did not have even a single elected woman representative in the Hill Council. I served as

a nominated councillor for women in the Hill Council for 13 years, and I truly understand the importance of this moment.

With 33 percent reservation, issues concerning women will now be Now, with 33 percent reservation for women in the Hill Councils of Leh and Kargil, we will finally see many women being elected. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this landmark decision, and to the leaders who worked tirelessly to make it a reality.

> Having more women from diverse backgrounds entering politics will be revolutionary. Each of them will bring unique perspectives, raise critical issues related to women, work for collective upliftment, and support one another. Many women will now feel more comfortable and confident speaking up, because they will see someone who truly understands their experiences.

> This decision will not only bring positive change in our society,

...continues on page 6

## The World of

June 23 is observed globally as Olympic Day, a celebration that promotes the values of sports, fitness, and active living. The day commemorates the foundation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the revival of the modern Olympic Games in Paris on 23 June 1894.

The idea of Olympic Day was first proposed by Dr. Josef Gruss of Czechoslovakia at the 41st IOC session in Stockholm, Sweden in 1947. His vision was to dedicate a day to spreading the Olympic spirit worldwide. The proposal was officially adopted during the 42nd IOC session in St. Moritz, Switzerland, in 1948, and the first Olympic Day was celebrated on 23 June 1948 in countries including Portugal, Greece, Austria, Canada, Venezuela, and Belgium.

The revival of the modern Olympic Games is credited to Pierre de Coubertin of France, often regarded as the father of the modern Olympics. The first modern Olympics was held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.

Olympic Day is now celebrated by millions of people worldwide, including youth, adults, and athletes, through activities such as runs,

## World Olympic Day - Celebrating the Spirit of Sports



exhibitions, sports competitions, music, and educational seminars-all aimed at inspiring participation in sports.

A key symbol of the Olympics is the five interlinked rings, designed by Pierre de Coubertin in 1913. The rings—blue, yellow, black, green, and red on a white background—represent the five inhabited continents: Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Oceania. While the colors do not correspond to specific continents, the interlocking rings symbolize unity, inclusivity, and global participation in the Olympic movement.

Olympic Day continues to uphold its mission: to make sports a universal right and a celebrated part of everyday life.

Courtesy: utkarsh.com

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

#### Towards a spiritual way of life



I am not a spiritual guy in the sense of a Guru. But I do live or try to live, to a great extent, a life that has many things to do with spirituality. What I mean is that I try to go the spiritual way as far as possible in my ordinary ways of life. The result: I feel good, and the reasons for anger, tension and greed disappear altogether. Not that I don't aspire for the great things of life, I do. But not at the cost of my feelings and happiness, and of others'.

Happiness, mainly, comes by loving yourself that makes you a kind and a helpful

guy. And also by not making others feel hurt because of your words and actions. Won't you say that is a simple way of practising spirituality?

To get into a simple and meaning of spirituality, I would say that it means to practise something that is beyond the physical. And the great Guru, Sadhguru, says: "Right now, if you exist as a mere physical entity, as a body and as a mind, then whatever happens outside will also happen inside because both these things are accumulations from outside." And peace will elude you!

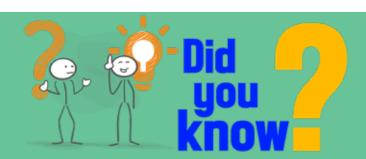
That is to say that those who are spiritual or partly-spiritual could very well be living unharmed by any of the outside and physical forces. That is to say, when you live a life of spirituality, you are, to a great extent, 'immune' to the outside forces of destruction.

Life's is a short journey for those who have so many things and commitments to do but very long for those who have dealings merely with the physical world. But, please note, I am not here to call someone with an offensive adjective or something if one lives only a physical life with no idea of living a spiritual life.

And, finally, let us go for a much simpler definition of a spiritual person: One who is or tries to be kind, loving and caring. This yardstick can be quite very easy and meaningful for any of us. Meaningful, because this is the first and the only step towards living a spiritual life.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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



A human heart beats nearly 115,000 times every day. It is an organ that continuously works throughout the lifespan of an individual and A dust storm can consume an entire city with dust.

The human eye has 2,000,000 working parts. All of them work in proper coordination.

When we are born, we have nearly 300 bones. As we grow up, some of them fuse to form a total of 206 bones.

The brain of a newborn increases three times in size within the first year of birth. The distance between a wrist and the elbow joint is similar to a human's foot size.

An earthworm is both male and female.

The tongue of a chameleon is as long as its body or more.

A male ostrich is capable of roaring like a lion.

The only bird that can fly backwards is a hummingbird.

There are 2000 thunderstorms occurring on the earth every minute.

You will be surprised to know that a bolt of lightning is at least five times hotter than the Sun.

Clouds look white as they reflect the sunlight from above.

The chirps a cricket makes can help us to determine the temperature.

The biggest continent in the world is Asia. The total population is 4.46

The largest canyon in the world is the Grand Canyon. It is located in Arizona and stretches up to 445 km.

The largest active volcano is Mauna Loa located in Hawaii.

The Indian subcontinent is the largest in the world comprising Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

India is the 7th largest country in area and second largest in population in the world.

#### In Conversation with

#### Dr. Abdul Qayum, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam

#### Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

#### Q. Brief us about the Sunni Community of Ladakh.

The Sunni community in Ladakh, popularly known as the Arghon community, has historically played a significant role in the region's development alongside other communities. Prior to Ladakh's merger with India, the Sunni community made notable contributions in areas such as finance, trade, and the overall economy. They also played a crucial mediating role during conflicts and wars with neighboring regions like Tibet and Baltistan.

Culturally, the community is known for its rich traditions. Their marriage ceremonies were particularly renowned, along with traditional archery and unique culinary practices, all of which added to Ladakh's cultural diversity.

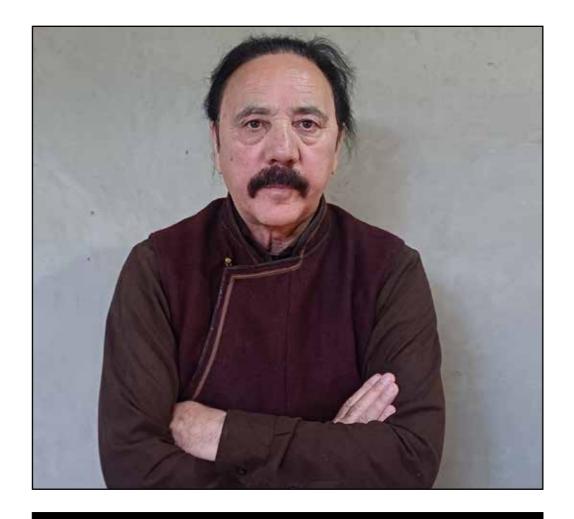
After Ladakh became a part of India, many prominent individuals from the Sunni community continued their contributions. Several of them worked closely with His Eminence Kushok Bakula Rinpoche to address and raise key issues concerning Ladakh. The community has consistently worked—and continues to work—for the progress and betterment of the region.

#### Q. Tell us about Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam—when it was formed and what its objectives are.

Anjuman Moin ul Islam has a long and rich history, making it one of the oldest socio-religious associations in Ladakh. It originated from the efforts of a few influential families, primarily those engaged in trade with Lhasa, who initially established a small Madrasa to provide Islamic education to children, including teachings from the Holy Quran. The original objective was to impart religious knowledge and ensure the welfare of the community.

Over time, this small initiative evolved into a formal organization—Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam. Education has remained its core objective. In 1932, the Islamia Public School was established, evolving from the madrasa. Today, the school functions like any other educational institution and also has branches across Leh. It plays a key role in providing education, especially to orphans.

Anjuman Moin ul Islam also plays an important role in collecting Zakaat—a charitable contribution of around 2.5% of an individual's unused wealth or assets. This amount is gathered annually from community members and is primar-



#### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

Ladakh is currently at a crucial juncture, and unity among all its people is more important than ever. Let us set aside our differences and come together to work collectively for the progress and well-being of Ladakh.

ily used to support the education of orphans. Additionally, the association provides financial assistance to widows and divorced women who have no source of income.

The organisation also oversees around 20 to 25 mosques in the region, providing salaries to individuals who lead Namaz (prayer) there.

In the health sector, the organization collaborates with the Voluntary Medical Society to work on early detection of health issues in specially-abled children. They assist in providing hearing aids, artificial limbs, and other medical support. Another significant contribution is the Central Asian Museum, an initiative aimed at educating the younger generation of Ladakh about their rich heritage. The museum showcases artifacts and history related to the Central Asian and Silk Routes, offering a visual narrative of Ladakh's historical connections and trade legacy.

## Q. The Sunni community in Leh has long been demanding representation in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh. Can you tell us more about this?

Yes, it is true that the Sunni community has faced political neglect in many ways. While there may have been some short-comings on our part, the community has also been unfairly targeted at times, which has contributed to its political marginalization.

The LAHDC Leh consists of 26 elected councillors and 4 nominated members. The Sunni community is spread across several areas including Turtuk, Hunder, Diskit, Saboo, Phyang, and Choglamsar, with a significant concentration in the town areas of Upper and Lower Leh. In fact, these two constituencies are largely influenced by the Sunni community, which holds a substantial share of the votes and often plays a decisive role during elections.

Despite this, the community remains without a single representative in the Hill Council. Every other community has found representation, yet we remain excluded. This raises serious concerns. It is unclear whether this exclusion is due to a lack of awareness or a deliberate oversight during the demarcation of constituencies. With the growing population in the town area, the allocation of just two councillors is inadequate. There is

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### **Fortnight Highlights**



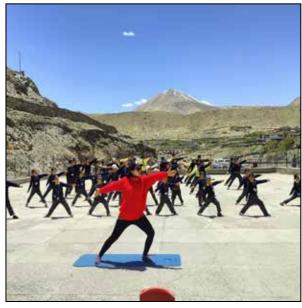
Delegation from the Sub Committee Language and Culture of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) extended heartfelt congratulations and expressed profound gratitude to CEC for the recent official recognition of Bhoti as an official language of the Union Territory of Ladakh.



Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk formally unveiled the school magazine Milam Ge Gyatso at Government High School Chumathang, an initiative aimed at fostering student creativity and encouraging local expression.



With great excitement and enthusiasm, the 19th edition of the Kailash Running Trophy Cricket Tournament 2025 kicked off at the picturesque Waste Naga Ground, Nyoma, bringing together 25 teams from across the Changthang region.



In the run-up to the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21, 2025, a series of yoga sessions were conducted across Ladakh—including at HWC Sumdha, Gya village, and Hemis Monastery—reaffirming the region's commitment to holistic health and well-being.



Dr. Jigmet Yangchan, School of Agriculture & Technology, University of Ladakh received the Best Extension Scientist Award under the NAAS-Dhanuka Awards for Excellence in Agricultural Extension 2025, conferred by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS).



In a major step towards preserving Ladakh's rich cultural and historical legacy, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Adv. Tashi Gyalson of LAHDC Leh officially launched the Ladags Norskal heritage documentation project and its dedicated web-

site.



The zonal-level inter-school tournament for middle schools in the Khaltse zone began on June 2 at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Khaltse. The event is being organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Leh.



As part of World Environment Week, a series of environmental initiatives kicked off in Nubra with a plantation drive held at Sumoor Samstanling Gonpa in the presence of SDM Nubra, IAS Mukul Beniwal.

**Fortnightly News** 

...Continuity of page 4

#### **Expert talk: A New Dawn for Ladakhi Women: One-Third** Reservation in Hill Councils Becomes Reality

but it will also stand as a true example of women empowerment. From my political experience, I've seen women actively participating in party work—be it rallies, campaigns, or meetingsbut when it came to leadership roles, men always stepped forward first.

Now, with this reservation, the landscape is set to change. Women will take responsibility, leadership roles, and contribute equally to the welfare of society. It is a new beginning—and a powerful one.

#### SDM Nubra reviews preparations for Dharti Aaba Abhiyan awareness and saturation camps

Officials directed to ensure outreach of government schemes across the sub-division



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NUBRA:** Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Nubra, Mukul Beniwal, chaired a review meeting at the SDM Office Complex, Diskit on June 13 to assess preparations for the upcoming Dharti Aaba Abhiyan - Awareness and Benefits Saturation Camps.

The meeting focused on ensuring that the benefits of various government schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries across the Nubra Sub-Division. SDM Beniwal emphasized coordinated efforts to maximize awareness and coverage during the

Key issues such as Aadhaar enrolment, Kisan Credit Card distribution, and PMJAY implementation were discussed. The SDM urged concerned departments to address these challenges proactively during the outreach events.

He further directed all sub-divisional officers to work in close coordination for smooth conduct of the awareness and benefit saturation

The meeting was attended by all sub-divisional officers of Nubra.

#### **Delegation from Biamathang Upper Colony meets CEC** over water scarcity concerns



Photo Caption: Delegation from Biamathang Upper Colony with CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, the problem, remarking that wa-Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon met with a delegation from Biamathang Upper Colony on June 11 to discuss ongoing water-related issues affecting

The delegation apprised the CEC of the persistent water crisis in their locality and urged him to take immediate steps, in coordination with the concerned departments, to resolve the issue.

Dr. Akhoon gave a patient hearing and acknowledged the gravity of ter scarcity is a global concern and that Kargil is also facing its share of challenges.

He assured the delegation that every possible measure would be taken to mitigate the problem. Emphasizing the commitment of both the Hill Council and District Administration, he reiterated their resolve to ensure water access at the doorstep of every citizen.

While noting that financial resources are now less of a constraint, Dr.

Akhoon pointed out that the primary obstacles lie in overcoming local and technical challenges. He stressed the importance of mutual cooperation and community support in developing sustainable solutions.

The CEC further informed the delegation that water is being supplied through various channels, including tankers, lift irrigation projects, and pipelines. However, he acknowledged the difficulty in reaching every household and reaffirmed that addressing water scarcity remains a top priority for LAHDC Kargil.

The delegation also submitted a memorandum outlining specific issues and demands relat d to the ongoing water crisis in Biamathang Upper Colony.

In a prompt response, Dr. Akhoon contacted the concerned officer during the meeting. The officer assured full cooperation and explained that certain technical and local challenges were affecting water distribution. He further assured the CEC that necessary actions would be taken at the earliest to resolve the

...Continuity of page 5

#### In Conversation with Dr. Abdul Qayum, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam

a clear need for decentralization and an increase in representation, particularly to reflect changing demographics.

Historically, the Sunni community has supported every major movement in Ladakh—be it the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, Union Territory (UT) status, or other regional causes. However, it feels deeply unjust that such a committed and vibrant community is left without any representation.

Previously, a nominated seat was always reserved for a Sunni representative in the Council, without any conditions. However, for the first time since the formation of LAHDC, Leh, that seat has not been allotted to us. The decision to withhold this representation appears deliberate and has caused a great deal of hurt within the community. Neglecting a vibrant and historically significant community in the political process is a clear injustice.

Q. Interfaith harmony in Ladakh is often cited as an example of peaceful coexistence. However, certain issues, such as interfaith marriages, continue to disrupt this harmony. Could you share your thoughts on this?

Yes, it is true that while Ladakh is known for its interfaith harmony, issues like interfaith marriages have sometimes caused tensions and led to communities pointing fingers at each other. Ladakh is a close-knit society, where every community holds deep cultural and religious sentiments. So, when interfaith marriages occur—especially those involving religious conversion—they often disturb the delicate balance of mutual respect.

During prayer gatherings at the mosque, we advise our youth—both boys and girls—to be mindful of the implications of interfaith marriages. Our emphasis is not on creating division, but on preserving the social fabric of our region, which has been built on mutual understanding and respect for traditions.

We believe that religious conversion solely for the purpose of marriage should be avoided. It's important that all communities engage in open conversations with their children about these matters from an early stage. While we cannot completely prevent interfaith marriages—since they involve personal emotions and choices—we can reduce misunderstandings and conflicts by raising awareness and fostering respectful dialogue.

Additionally, I would like to stress that reactions to such situations should be balanced. The response should not be harsh or targeted toward one religion alone; the same standards should apply to all, to ensure fairness and maintain communal harmony.

Q. After Union Territory status, Ladakh has been demanding safeguards for its land, culture, and identity. However, we often see locals selling land or engaging in business with outside investors. Doesn't this appear contradictory? What is your view?

The demand for safeguards for Ladakh's land, culture, and identity is not just for the present generation, but for the generations to come. Ladakh, despite its small population, has earned recognition around the world for its unique heritage and environment. It is therefore crucial that we collectively uphold and protect this identity.

While discussions on constitutional safeguards are ongoing between Ladakhi leaders and the Government of India, the responsibility, in the meantime, rests with each and every individual Ladakhi. Until legal protections are in place, it is up to us to act responsibly and avoid actions that could undermine our long-term interests.

Selling land or entering into business ventures with outside investors may seem financially beneficial in the short term, but we must ask ourselves—at what cost? Those who engage in such practices are not only risking their own future but are also compromising the collective future of Ladakh. It's akin to striking an axe against our own feet.

Considering our scattered population and delicate cultural fabric, it is essential that every Ladakhi takes personal responsibility to protect and sustain our unique identity for the future.

#### Awareness program on drug abuse held at GHSS Silmoo and GHS Lalung

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The District Drug Addiction Centre (DDAC) Kargil, in collaboration with IKMT, JUIAK, and the Department of Education Kargil, organized an awareness program on drug abuse and its prevention at Government Higher ondary School (GHSS) Silmoo and Government High School (GHS) Lalung on June 11.

The principals of both schools addressed the students and highlighted the serious and growing issue of drug abuse, stressing the collective social responsibility to raise awareness and protect society from this harmful menace.

The Manager of DDAC Kargil delivered the inaugural address, drawing attention to the rising concerns of drug addiction in the district. He

informed the audience about the free treatment and rehabilitation services available at the DDAC Centre and encouraged students and community members to seek timely help and avoid harmful substances.

Syed Raza Razvi from JUIAK delivered a compelling talk to the students, emphasizing the root causes and devastating consequences of drug abuse. He urged students to be vigilant, informed, and proactive in spreading awareness to curb the spread of addiction within the community.

Sheikh Bashir Shakiri, representing IKMT Kargil, underscored the importance of discipline and moral values in resisting harmful behaviors. He called on students to commit to a drug-free lifestyle and be-



Photo Caption: During the awareness program on drug abuse and its

come role models for their peers.

Principals of GHSS Silmoo and GHS Lalung, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to DDAC Kargil, IKMT, JUIAK, and the Department of Education for their collaborative efforts in guiding the younger generation toward a healthier, more responsible future.

#### 40-day tailoring training for unemployed women launched in Leh



Photo Caption: During 40-day tailoring training program for 35 unemployed women from Leh district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

erment of Women, in collaboration with the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), has launched a 40-day tailoring training program for 35 unemployed women from Leh district.

This initiative is part of the skill development component under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, aimed at empowering women through vocational training and en-

LEH: The District Hub for Empow- trepreneurship. The primary objectives of the program are to:

> • Equip women with tailoring skills to enhance their employability and entrepreneurial potential

• Promote economic independence and self-reliance among women

Support the goals of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme by advancing girls' education and em-

The training program, which commenced recently, will conclude on June 30, 2025. By the end of the course, participants will have learned to sew a variety of garments, including traditional dresses, suits, and salwars, thereby improving their chances of gaining employment or starting their own tailoring businesses.

#### NOTICE



I, Tashi Angmo D/o Tsewang Nurboo R/o Takmachik, Leh UT Ladakh claim that my father name has been wrongly recorded as Tsewang Nurbo instead of actual and correct name Tsewang Nurboo in my Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) marks card Batch 2018 duly issued by the University of Kashmir under Roll no. 21345170 with Registration No.1041-CCKR-2018. Now I am applying for the correction in B.Ed marks card and objection if any may be sent to the University of Kashmir within 7 days from date of publication of this

#### Director Sheep Husbandry UT Ladakh reviews training activities at SATI Camp Kargil port in addressing the shortfall.



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Director of Sheep Husbandry Department, UT Ladakh, visited the Stock Assistant Training Institute (SATI) Camp in Kargil on June 12 to review its functioning and interact with trainees. He was accompanied by the Incharge District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO), Kargil.

The visiting dignitaries were received with a traditional welcome by Dr. Gulzar Hussain, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Kargil, Dr. Ghulam Mohammad, Principal of SATI Camp Kargil, and other officials from the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments.

During the visit, Dr. Hussain engaged in detailed interactions with the trainees, assessed ongoing training activities, and chaired a meeting with doctors and staff to discuss key departmental issues.

One of the major points of discus-

sion was the proposal for mandatory service undertakings from newly recruited trainees, requiring them to serve the department for a minimum of three years. It was suggested that trainees should not exit the department even if selected elsewhere during this period. Dr. Hussain assured that the matter would be discussed with the Director of Animal Husbandry and forwarded to the Secretary UT Ladakh for appropriate policy formulation. Meanwhile, he advised officials to obtain written undertakings from the trainees as a provisional measure.

Another significant issue raised by the CAHO Kargil was the shortage of essential medicines for small animal treatments carried out through Livestock Development Centres (LDCs) and Mobile Veterinary Vans (1962 service). In response, the Director instructed the DSHO to ensure timely issuance of medicines and assured full departmental sup-

Dr. Hussain emphasized the importance of joint field visits by CAHO and DSHO to improve coordination and address ground-level challenges. He also stated that since SATI Camp Kargil operates under the administrative purview of SATI Leh, efforts would be made to allocate technical funds from SATI Leh to strengthen the Kargil camp, subject to procedural clearances.

He further added that both Directors-of Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry-would jointly pursue the recognition of SATI Camp Kargil, ensuring the process is expedited.

To enhance practical training, Dr. Hussain directed the DSHO to facilitate scheduled visits of trainees to Sheep Husbandry farms and, where necessary, to make arrangements for practical demonstrations involving animal sacrifice, as per training requirements.

He also noted the desire of Kargil trainees to visit SATI Leh and engage with their counterparts there, and assured that all possible support would be extended to improve the training environment in Kargil. Regarding the issue of honorarium for instructors, he promised to raise the matter with the Director of Animal Husbandry for early resolution.

**Fortnightly News** 

#### **Empowering farmers at Chushul:** 12th day of Viksit Krishi Sankalp **Abhiyaan**



Photo Caption: Participants of 12th day of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan at Chushul village.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ers participated in the 12th day of ture compensation mechanisms. the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiawareness and support.

ture, Animal Husbandry, and fect the local school. Sheep Husbandry Departments.

calves, for which farmers urged control measures. the administration to extend compensation—currently avail- Informational leaflets in the Bho-

Farmers requested the supply ganic and natural farming, and of quality vegetable seeds suit-horticulture-related schemes. able for greenhouse cultivation and raised alarm over persistent The initiative reflects a strong weed problems in crops, espetically wild oats locally known development and sustainable

CHUSHUL: A total of 86 farm- conditions, they appealed for fu-

yaan held at Chushul village on Additional demands included June 10, aimed at empowering complete fencing around the the farming community through winter pastureland at Rala Tingru to prevent livestock distur-bance, provision of need-based The event was led by officials farm implements, and the urgent from Krishi Vigyan Kendra replacement of a transferred (KVK) Nyoma, along with rep-schoolteacher from May 2024, resentatives from the Agricul- whose absence continues to af-

Environmental concerns were During the session, various also raised. Farmers observed a farmer-centric schemes and decline in biodiversity, noting interventions were discussed. that sparrows and eagles have A dynamic interaction session not been seen in the area for allowed farmers to voice local nearly 15 years. They linked this issues and challenges. One ma- to an unchecked rise in stray dog jor concern was the increasing populations and requested the menace of stray dogs attacking implementation of animal birth

able only for wildlife-related at- ti language on vegetable drying tacks. They also called for coral fencing to safeguard livestock. chures on Soil Health Cards, or-

as Kasam. Recalling past crop agricultural practices in the damage due to harsh climatic Changthang region.

#### Youth, Army, and Locals unite for Changthang's largest environment drive



Photo Caption: Participants during the cleanup drive in Nyoma.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

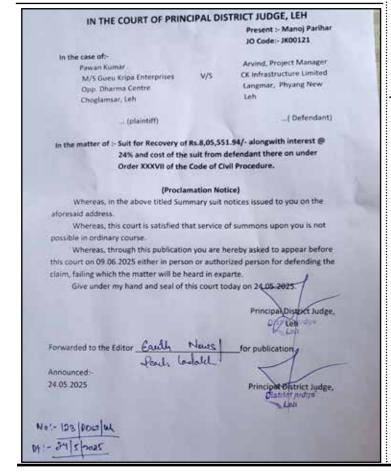
initiative, the Nyoma Youth As- ecologically sensitive zone. sociation, in collaboration with the Indian Army and 11 civil or- This high-altitude mission was stretch—44 km of roads and 40 Brahminy Duck. km of the Indus River, including midstream areas, from Mahe to The cleanup conveyed a strong

successfully removing an esti-

NYOMA: In a first-of-its-kind mated 14 tons of waste from this

ganisations, led the Changthang not just about waste removal, but region's largest-ever civil-mili- also about protecting the fragile tary cleanup drive to mark World habitat of endangered species Environment Day. The three-day such as the Black-necked Crane, campaign covered an extensive Kiang, Snow Partridge, and

message of unity, environmental stewardship, and youth-led con-A total of 56 students from servation action—with heartfelt Government Middle School, appreciation for the Indian Army, Government Higher Secondary whose commitment continues to School, and Kasturba Gandhi extend beyond national borders Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) ac- to the preservation of nature in tively participated in the drive, Ladakh's most remote frontiers.



#### Kargil hosts 'Cycle for Health, Sustainability' Cyclothon to encourage eco-friendly living



Photo Caption: Participants during the Cyclothon titled "Cycle for Health, Sustainability" in Kargil.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

"Cycle for Health, Sustainability" was held on June 2 in Kargil, orga-Ecology & Environment in collaboration with the Downhill Kargil Adventure Sports Club, Youth Services & Sports Department, and aimed to promote healthy lifestyles, eco-friendly practices, and environmental responsibility among the

The Cyclothon was flagged off at 7:00 a.m. by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Imteeaz Kacho, from the Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC) at Byamathang. Participants cycled through key town areas including New Bridge (Poyen), Fatima Chowk, and Lal Chowk, before concluding at Rgyal Khatoon Park. There, participants engaged in a cleanliness drive, reinforcing the message of environmental stewardship.

KARGIL: A Cyclothon titled ed the benefits of adopting cycling as a regular habit-not only for physical health but also for reducing carnized by the Department of Forest, bon emissions. He proposed distributing plant saplings as eco-friendly mementoes during events, underscoring the importance of green initiatives. He also urged citizens to other allied departments. The event minimize polythene use and carry forward the week-long message of environmental consciousness.

> ADC Kacho extended his gratitude to the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment and the Youth Services & Sports Department for their dedicated efforts in making the event a success. He especially commended the Downhill Kargil Adventure Sports Club for initiating the concept and executing the event with enthusiasm and purpose.

The event was also attended by the Joint Director (Planning), Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ), Wildlife Warden, Accounts Officer to the Deputy Commissioner, and Prior to the flag-off, ADC Kacho addressed the gathering and highlight-Sports Department.

#### Nam Suru: Emerging Adventure Tourism Destination in Kargil



Photo Caption: Paragliding at Nam Suru village in Suru Valley. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Nam Suru village in ty for adventure sports. Suru Valley is fast emerging as a nificant stride in Kargil's tourism development efforts. A series of suced by the Kargil Tourism Development Authority and the Department the region's vast potential for aerial region.

Recognizing the natural landscape and suitability of the area for paragliding, Deputy Commissioner Kargil visited the site on June 11 to assess its feasibility. Following a positive evaluation, resources were allocated to support the promotion of adventure tourism. As part of this initiative, local vouth were trained in paragliding, and essential equipment was procured to facilitate the

Acting on the DC's directive, Assistant Director Tourism, Kargil, Mohd Ali Tak, along with Accounts Officer experienced pilot Stanzin, the team assessed the site's topography and confirmed it to be safe and well-suitfifth successful trial flight, further

activity.

promising hub for paragliding and In fulfillment of a prior commitment adventure tourism, marking a sig- made by the Deputy Commissioner, paragliding equipment was formally handed over to local stakeholders by cessful trial flights, jointly conduct- the Tourism Development Authority. The initiative aims to empower the local community and build sustainof Tourism, Kargil, has showcased able tourism infrastructure in the

> 'The promotion of adventure tourism is expected to generate employment opportunities and position Suru Valley as a key attraction for visitors," said Accounts Officer Shamim Wazir.

> AD Tourism Mohd Ali Tak reiterated the department's vision to transform Suru Valley into a premier adventure tourism hub. He emphasized the importance of community participation in ensuring sustainability and urged locals to support eco-friendly practices that enhance the overall visitor experience.

Shamim Wazir, visited Nam Suru to Councillor Aga Ainul Huda weloversee the trials. Accompanied by comed the initiative and praised its timely implementation ahead of the upcoming Suru Festival, which is expected to host international paraed for paragliding. This marked the gliders. Paragliding is set to be one of the festival's main highlights, furstrengthening the location's viabili- ther boosting the region's tourism appeal.

#### **Central Administrative Tribunal Sri**nagar Bench concludes 3rd Circuit Sitting in Kargil, disposes 14 cases



Photo Caption: During the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, at the Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC), Kargil.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

a significant step toward delivering accessible and speedy justice to government employees in remote regions. Over the three-day session, a total of 63 cases were listed, with 14 cases disposed of. Additionally, seven new April to October, encouraging agcases were filed on the spot, with the Bench passing prompt and appropriate

cial Member M.S. Latif and Adminis-

Sudhir Kumar Jha, Head of Office, Development Authority, among others, CAT Srinagar, described the response as overwhelmingly positive, reinforc- ting. ing the impact of this "justice at the doorstep" initiative.

KARGIL: The Central Administra- appreciative of this initiative. The entive Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, couraging response and the disposal of successfully concluded its third Circuit 14 cases during the sitting reflect the Sitting at the Tourist Facilitation Cen- Tribunal's commitment to the timely tre (TFC), Kargil on June 12, marking redressal of service-related grievanc-

> Looking ahead, Jha announced that Circuit Sittings will now be held in Kargil every alternate month from grieved employees to utilize this platform for swift resolution of service matters.

The Division Bench, comprising Judi- He also extended heartfelt gratitude on behalf of CAT to the District Admintrative Member Prasant Kumar, conducted proceedings in hybrid mode, facilitating both physical and virtual appearances to enhance accessibility.

Solling Member Prasant Kumar, consistention Kargil, including the Chairman/CEC LAHDC Kargil, Secretary Law and Justice UT Ladakh, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, SP Kargil, Director Protocol Ladakh, and the Kargil for their exceptional cooperation and from Kargil's government employees support in organizing the Circuit Sit-

This initiative stands as a landmark effort in bridging the justice delivery "Aggrieved employees were highly gap for public servants in far-flung

#### **Child Welfare units mark International** Day against child labour with joint inspection



Photo Caption: Child Welfare units conducting joint inspection against child labour.

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Day Against Child Labour, the District term harm caused by child labour and Child Protection Unit (DCPU) Kar- were encouraged to uphold children's gil, in collaboration with the Special rights to education, safety, and devel-Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), Juvenile opment. Justice Board (JJB) Kargil, and Child Helpline 1098, conducted a joint inspection drive across various industrial and commercial sites in Kurbathang and adjoining areas on June 12.

The inspection team visited workshops, garages, eateries, and other awareness about existing child protection laws, including the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Juve-Children) Act, 2015.

During the drive, employers and local

KARGIL: : Marking the International residents were sensitized on the long-

Officials from DCPU Kargil emphasized the need for collective community responsibility in protecting children and urged the public to report any cases of child labour through the Child Helpline 1098 or the PENCIL Portal.

business establishments to detect The initiative reinforces the commitinstances of child labour and raise ment of child welfare authorities in Kargil to eradicate child labour and ensure a safe and nurturing environment for all children.

nile Justice (Care and Protection of areas and underlines CAT's role as a citizen-centric and service-oriented judicial body.

#### 3rd phase of tablet distribution under Yun-Tab scheme concludes successfully in Sankoo



Photo Caption: During the third phase of tablet distribution under the Yun-Tab Scheme of the School Education Department, UT Ladakh, at the Deputy CEO Office, Sankoo

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SANKOO: The third phase of tab- Scheme of the School Education let distribution under the Yun-Tab Department, UT Ladakh, concluded

at the Deputy CEO Office, Sankoo, on June 11. The initiative, aimed at strengthening digital learning infrastructure across the region, was executed with enthusiasm and efficiency.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kargil, Sonam Angchuk, handed over tablets to the in-charge teachers of various schools in the Sankoo Zone, ensuring that all eligible institutions were covered under this phase of the

The distribution ceremony witnessed the presence of several distinguished officials, including Tsering Wangdus, Deputy CEO Sankoo; Mohd Akbar Khan, Zonal Education Officer Sankoo; and Ahmad Ali, Coordinator of

the Yun-Tab Scheme, along with other officers from the education department. Their participation highlighted the administration's ongoing commitment to promoting digital literacy and modern education practices among students in Ladakh

The Yun-Tab Scheme continues to serve as a vital initiative in integrating digital tools into the classroom, bridging the digital divide, and providing students with access to interactive and technology-enabled learning platforms. The successful completion of this phase reflects the dedicated efforts of the education department and its forward-looking vision for a digitally empowered learning ecosystem in the region.





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