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SEPTEMBER 01-15, 2025

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with
National Awardee Visual Artist, Skarma
Sonam Tashi

In Focus:
Jeevamrit: A Farmer's Recipe for Free Fertility

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Fortnightly News

36th Martyrs’ day observed in Leh: Tributes paid to Nawang Dorjay Stobdan



Photo Caption: His Eminence Liksey Khamtak Rinpoche lighting up the butter lamp and paying tribute to the martyrs.

By: Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The 36th death anniversary of martyrs Nawang Dorjay Stobdan was observed on August 27 at the Martyrs’ Memorial Park, Leh, where tributes were paid to them who laid down their lives for the cause of Ladakh.

The commemoration was organised by the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and began with a prayer ceremony led by His Eminence Liksey Khamtak Rinpoche, joined by other monks. Families of

the martyrs were felicitated on the occasion, as the gathering recalled the sacrifices made in the struggle for Ladakh’s rights and identity.

Addressing the gathering, LBA President Chering Dorje Lakruk reiterated the importance of the demands for statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. He said these demands were based on careful study of Ladakh’s needs and benefits, and urged people not to be swayed

by misinformation or rumours. Expressing concern over the delay in resuming talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs, he also questioned the government’s intent following the sudden deployment of CRPF personnel in Leh.

“Safeguards after UT status are imperative and non-negotiable. Ladakh needs statehood and constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule,” he stressed.

Recalling the 1989 agitation, he said the people of that time—men and women alike—were fearless and selfless in demanding their rights. Sharing personal memories, he recounted how Late Tashi Angchuk from Saspol and Late Ven. Lobzang Tsondus from Likir Monastery were shot during the agitation, and how he himself had rushed them to hospital. “The sacrifices of Nawang Dorjay Stobdan, Tashi Angchuk, and Ven. Lobzang Tsondus from Likir Monastery cannot be forgotten. They must inspire us to stand united and demand our rightful safeguards,”* he said.

Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, also

addressed the gathering, recalling the 1989 struggle and the sacrifices made for Ladakh’s future. He noted that the movement ultimately secured ST status, Hill Councils, and UT status for the region. “It is our duty to remember those who sacrificed their lives and to pass this history to the younger generation,” he said, adding that as a tribute, the family of the deceased has been allotted land at Dambuchan on LBA’s request.

On the current safeguard demand, Yakzee asserted that the BJP is not opposed to statehood or Sixth Schedule protections for Ladakh. “It is often projected that BJP works against Ladakh’s interests, but that is not true. The UT status itself was granted by the BJP government to ensure grassroots development and to give Ladakh its own identity. I strongly advocate safeguards for land, jobs, business, culture, and environment,” he said.

Prominent voices including Sonam Wangchuk (Founder, SECMOL), Ashraf Ali Barcha, Dr. Abdul Qayum, and Kunzes Dolma also shared their views on the occasion.

L-G Ladakh, first lady pay homage to Kargil war heroes at Drass war memorial



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta paying heartfelt homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation at the Drass War Memorial.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, paid heartfelt homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation at the Drass War Memorial on August 28. Accompanied by his wife, Bindu Gupta, the First Lady of Ladakh, he offered floral tributes at the memorial and observed a moment of silence in honour of the martyrs.

The couple turned emotional with moist eyes while witnessing the Soldiers’ Last Letters and photographs preserved in the Hut of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said the Drass War Memorial stands as a sacred site of remembrance

and a symbol of the indomitable spirit of the Indian Armed Forces. “The supreme sacrifices made by our bravehearts will forever inspire generations to uphold the ideals of duty, honour, and nation first,” he said.

Reiterating the UT administration’s unwavering commitment to the welfare of soldiers, veterans, and their families, Gupta stressed that it is the collective duty of the nation to honour their service and sacrifice.

The visit concluded with the Lt Governor and his wife interacting with Army personnel and expressing gratitude for their steadfast service in safeguarding the nation’s frontiers.

5th edition of ‘Ethical & Educational Exchange Programme’ inaugurated at Shachukul monastery

Focus on integrating traditional wisdom with modern pedagogy for Ladakh’s future curriculum



Photo Caption: Participants during the 5th edition of the Ethical & Educational Exchange Programme at Shachukul Monastery.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SHACHUKUL: The 5th edition of the Ethical & Educational Exchange Programme (August 25–31, 2025) was inaugurated at Shachukul Monastery on August 25. The initiative seeks to bridge the traditional aspects of monastic and Ladakhi culture with modern innovations in pedagogy and scientific education.

Earlier editions were hosted at Thiksay (2021, 2024), Shachukul (2022), and Diskit (2023). Over the past four years, the programme has explored various dimensions of monastic and modern curricula through structured modules. Insights and outcomes from these sessions have contributed to the foundation of a holistic new curriculum framework tailored to the specific needs and challenges of Ladakh.

This year’s week-long edition brings together over 40 young monastics and 15 resource persons from across India. Key focus areas include the integration of traditional wellness practices, revival of ancient cultural wisdom, creative and art-based learning approaches, and cultivating sensitivity towards Ladakh’s contemporary social and environmental challenges.

The event was inaugurat-

ed by Councillor Konchok Stanzin in the presence of eminent dignitaries including Venerable Konchok Gyltsen, Principal Architect of Shachukul Monastery; Geshe Kalsang Tashi of Thiksey Monastery; Kachen Lobzang Chamba of Diskit Monastery; and Jigmet Dorjay, Headmaster of Shachukul Gonpa School.

This edition draws deep inspiration from the environmental and ethical sensibilities of His Holiness Chetsang Rinpoche, the Nalanda tradition emphasis of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the commitment to monastic and modern education by His Eminence Thiksey Rinpoche.

Through a series of collaborative sessions, the programme aims to merge traditional wisdom with creative teaching methodologies and modern wellness practices. The ultimate objective is to generate meaningful content for a new Ladakhi school curriculum—one that reflects the region’s cultural heritage while addressing present-day realities.

Mehvish and Madiha also became the youngest girls from Ladakh to represent Team India in ice speed skating at this level, and the first to win multiple medals in every event they contested. Their combined haul

Global delegates gather in Leh for World Peace Conference

Event opens with dedication of Roku Jizō statues, focus on harmony and climate action



Photo Caption: Consecration of the Six Guardians of Peace—Roku Jizō statues—at the Buddha Park, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The World Peace Conference 2025 commenced with the consecration of the Six Guardians of Peace—Roku Jizō statues—at the Buddha Park, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Leh, on August 23.

The dedication ceremony was led by Rev. Koya Matsuoaka and Sachiko of Susono Komyoji Temple, Japan, in the presence of Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena; and other distinguished international delegates. The offering, facilitated by Jin Young Lim and Stanzin Gurmet from the Spawo Foundation, symbolised a gesture of peace from Japan to the Himalayas of Ladakh.

Following the consecration, delegates moved to the MIMC Cultural Hall where the dignitaries lit the Holy Lamp, formally inaugurating the three-day World Peace Conference 2025.

The conference is jointly organised by MIMC in collaboration with the Ladakh Shanti Stupa Committee, Thiksey Monastery, LAHDC Leh, UT Administration of Ladakh, Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP), International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP), Global Peace Foundation (GPF), and other interfaith and civil society organisations.

In his welcome address, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder-President of MIMC, reflected on the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, recalling the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki while urging humanity to transform such painful memories into compassion and solidarity. Delivering the keynote address, CEC Tashi Gyalson congratulated the recipients of the World Peace Award and other dignitaries. Stressing that peace demands meaningful and constructive action, he underlined that humanity’s real challenge today is not conflict with one another but the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. He called upon participants to practice the shared values of harmony, compassion, and responsibility in daily life, expressing hope that collective efforts will secure peace for future generations.

Dr. P.R. Trivedi, President of IAEWP, highlighted the role of education in nurturing compassionate world citizens and launched two publications: From Bombings to Brotherhood: From Memories to Mission, marking the 80th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Ladakh: Past, Present and Future. Both were presented to the CEC as symbols of Ladakh’s growing role in global peace dialogues.

Other speakers included Dr. Markanday Rai, Chairman of GPF India, who emphasised collective responsibility in addressing modern conflicts and environmental concerns; C. Phuntsog, Chairman of the Ladakh Shanti Stupa Management Committee, who spoke on Ladakh’s cultural heritage of coexistence; Ven. Ming Kuang, President of the Chinese Buddhist Association, Taiwan, who underlined compassion as the root of unity; and Rev. Koya Matsuoaka, Abbot of Komyoji Temple, Japan, who offered prayers of remembrance for Hiroshima and Nagasaki while reaffirming a commitment to non-violence. Abhijeet Halder, Director General of the International Buddhist Confederation, stressed dialogue as a key to bridging global divides.

A major highlight of the inaugural session was the presentation of the World Peace Awards 2025, conferred upon distinguished global personalities in recognition of their contributions to peace, human welfare, and interfaith harmony. Among the awardees was CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson, whose recognition stood as a symbol of Ladakh’s central role in the global mission for peace.

The conference continued till August 25 with interfaith prayers, panel discussions, commemorative rituals, workshops, and cultural performances, culminating in the adoption of the Ladakh Peace Declaration 2025.

Asoka Mission’s annual medical camps in Leh & Nubra set for Sept 14–21

30 AIIMS specialists to join the medical camp



Photo Caption: CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson with former MP and President of Asoka Mission, Thupstan Chhewang, along with the General Secretary, Tsering Motup.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, held a meeting with former Member of Parliament and President of Asoka Mission, Thupstan Chhewang, along with the General Secretary, Tsering Motup, on August 28.

The discussion focused on the upcoming

annual charitable medical camps organised by Asoka Mission in collaboration with specialist doctors from AIIMS, New Delhi.

The delegation informed the CEC that this year’s camps will be conducted from September 14 to 21, 2025—covering Leh from September 14–18 and Nubra from September 19–20. A team of nearly 30 doctors representing major medical departments will participate in the initiative.

They also expressed gratitude to the CEC for his continued support of the medical camps and conveyed special thanks for his recommendation of the late Venerable Lama Lobzang, the long-serving President of Asoka Mission, for the Padma Shri Award, which was conferred posthumously in recognition of his lifelong service to humanity.

While appreciating the sustained efforts of Asoka Mission in strengthening healthcare access in Ladakh, the CEC assured the delegation of his full support for the successful conduct of this year’s medical camps.

Civil-military fusion capsule: Kharu hosts joint conference for border development



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHARU: As part of the ongoing Civil-Military Fusion Capsule of the 3rd Infantry Division, a joint conference was convened at the BDO Conference Hall, Kharu on August 28 fostering closer cooperation between the Indian Army and local civil administration. The meeting was chaired by SDM Kharu, Sonam Dorjay.

The five-day program aims to strengthen collaboration in border areas by promoting a ‘whole of nation approach’—enhancing both developmental initiatives and operational efficiency of the armed forces. Senior Army officers, including Lt. Col. Varun and Lt. Col. A.P. Singh, attended the session.

During the conference, various departments of the Kharu Sub-Division presented updates on their work and ongoing projects. Key presentations included Khalida Parveen, Deputy CEO, on the Education Department; Dr. Padma Yangzom, Technical Officer, on the Sheep Husbandry Department; and the Block Development Officer/Agriculture Extension Officer on the Rural Development and Agriculture Departments.

Other participants—Tsering Sangrup (AEE, PDD), Sonam Nilza (CDPO), Stanzin Kunkhen (SHO), and Rafiq Bhat (TSO)—also highlighted progress and challenges within their respective sectors.

The conference concluded with an interactive discussion on future joint operations and integrated projects. Both the Army and civil representatives reaffirmed their shared commitment to creating a more coordinated framework for border area development, ensuring security and socio-economic progress go hand in hand.

Asian Ice Short Track Speed Skating Trophy: India bags 39 medals, finishes 2nd Overall

Ladakh’s Mehvish & Madiha become youngest multi-medal winners



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DEHRADUN: Young athletes from Ladakh created history with a remarkable performance at the Asian Ice Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025, held for the first time in India at the Himadri Ice Rink, Dehradun.

On the final day, 11-year-old Mehvish Fatima added a silver medal to the two bronze medals

she had won earlier, while 8-year-old Madiha Mustafa secured another bronze. Their teammate, 7-year-old Fahiem Mehdi, had already clinched a bronze medal on Day 1. Together, the trio brought Ladakh’s total to six medals (2 Silver, 4 Bronze)—a historic achievement for the region.

Mehvish and Madiha also became the youngest girls from Ladakh to represent Team India in ice speed skating at this level, and the first to win multiple medals in every event they contested. Their combined haul

of five medals marks the highest international medal tally in Ladakh’s sporting history.

The week-long championship concluded with a grand closing ceremony attended by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami as Chief Guest, and Mallika Nadra, President of Special Olympics Bharat, as Guest of Honour. Also present were Jildou Gemser, Chair of the ISU Development Commission, Myong Hi Chang, President of the Asian Skating Union (ASU), and other senior dignitaries.

Amitabh Sharma, President of ISAI, Vice President of ASU, and Executive Member of the Indian Olympic Association, was recognised for his vision and leadership in bringing the prestigious event to India.

The competition was conducted under the highest international standards, officiated by Olympic gold medalists Hyewon Park and Sangmi An from Korea, and ISU Starter Sonja Chang from Singapore, supported by a team of international judges and technical officials.

Medal Tally – Top 5 Nations

1st – Thailand: 15 Gold, 12 Silver, 3 Bronze (30 total)
2nd – India: 9 Gold, 12 Silver, 18 Bronze (39 total)
3rd – Japan: 8 Gold, 8 Silver, 7 Bronze (23 total)
4th – Chinese Taipei: 5 Gold, 5 Silver, 5 Bronze (15 total)
5th – Vietnam: 3 Gold, 3 Silver, 3 Bronze (9 total)

In all, over 180 skaters from 10 countries participated, marking a significant milestone for winter sports in India. Team Ladakh, comprising 10

skaters led by Manager Wasim and Coach Abbass Nordakh, returned to Leh on August 28 to a rousing reception at Leh Airport. They were welcomed by Anjuman Imamia Leh President Ashraf Ali Barcha, Women’s Wing President Sheema Nasreen Maryam, LISA General Secretary Tundop Namgial, along with parents, relatives, and supporters.

Representing Team India, the Ladakh contingent played a pivotal role in India’s second-place finish with 39 medals—outperforming countries

such as Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Coach Abbass Nordakh praised the skaters’ discipline and determination, calling the achievement “a proud moment not only for Ladakh but for the entire country.”

This landmark performance establishes Ladakh’s young skaters as rising stars in Asian ice sports and signals a new era for winter sports in the Union Territory.

Fortnightly News

Rumour mongering will be dealt with strictly, warns Chief Secretary Ladakh



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal addressing a press briefing via video conference from Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, addressed a press briefing via video conference from Delhi on August 24 to dispel ongoing rumours and reassure the public of the Administration’s commitment to transparency, security, and development. Senior officials including DGP Ladakh Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, DC Leh Romil Singh Donk, SSP Leh Shruti Arora, and others attended the session.

Dr. Kotwal warned against rumour-mongering, clarifying that the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) remain central to governance and will be further strengthened. He highlighted the ongoing recruitment drive, with over 1.06 lakh applications received for 1,385 non-gazetted posts, ensuring fair and transparent opportunities for Ladakhi youth.

On the tourism sector, he noted its revival after the May 2025 Indo-Pak conflict setback, emphasizing the Administration’s focus on promoting Ladakh as a

premier destination. He also urged Lam-bardars to counter misinformation and guide the public responsibly.

Addressing concerns over land issues, Dr. Kotwal explained that the cancellation of HIAL land allotment was a unique case under the “deemed to lapse” clause. The DC Leh clarified that no other land-related problems exist and that lands allotted by LAHDCs remain fully recognized. Additionally, estate holders may now receive up to 10 marlas of land under the Common Lands Regulations Act, an increase from the previous 4 marlas.

On the deployment of CRPF, the Chief Secretary explained it was necessitated by Ladakh’s vast geography, rising tourism, abolition of the Inner Line Permit regime, and the need to strengthen law and order alongside the limited manpower of Ladakh Police.

DGP Jamwal affirmed that despite resource constraints, Ladakh Police continue to perform multifaceted duties including crime prevention, tourism policing, VVIP security, and disaster response. He stressed community participation in tackling drug abuse among youth and reiterated the police’s achievements in crime detection, traffic management, and safeguarding public safety.

Both Dr. Kotwal and Dr. Jamwal assured the people that the Administration remains committed to transparency, security, and the overall development of Ladakh.

Strengthening foundational learning: Ladakh schools hold Vidya Pravesh test



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Vidya Pravesh Test was successfully conducted across schools in Ladakh on August 23, marking a significant step towards strengthening foundational learning among young students in the Union Territory. The initiative, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aims to ensure that every child achieves age-appropriate Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills.

As part of the review, Dr. Vijayan from NCERT, New Delhi visited Council Model School, Sabu, to assess the programme’s implementation. He praised the school’s systematic functioning, strong academic standards, and effective adoption of FLN practices as per pre-

scribed norms.

Dr. Vijayan commended the headmaster, teachers, and support staff for their dedication in creating a nurturing and effective learning environment. He emphasized that the success of the Vidya Pravesh programme in Ladakh reflects the deep commitment of educators in the region to laying a strong educational foundation for future generations.

The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Leh reaffirmed its commitment to continue such initiatives, aimed at empowering students with essential skills and ensuring holistic development in line with the vision of NEP 2020.

Leh gears up for 3rd Climate Cup Football Tournament in Sept 2025



Photo Caption: During the preparatory meeting for the upcoming 3rd edition of the Climate Cup Football Tournament 2025.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a preparatory meeting for the upcoming 3rd edition of the Climate Cup Football Tournament 2025 at the Council Secretariat, Leh.

The meeting reviewed key arrangements for the tournament—including team participation, logistics, branding, and preparations for the opening and closing ceremonies. Scheduled for the first week of September in Leh, the Climate Cup has evolved into one of the UT’s flagship events, combining sporting spirit with a strong message of sustainability and environmental awareness.

Speaking at the meeting, CEC Gyalson said the Climate Cup is a significant initiative for Ladakh, serving the dual purpose of promoting football and reinforcing environmental responsibility. Highlighting the vulnerability of Ladakh and the greater Himalayan region to climate change, he underscored the importance of such events in spreading awareness. “The Climate Cup is not just

a sports tournament but also a campaign for sustainability. Initiatives like promoting EVs to reduce carbon footprints must be expanded with greater vision and collective effort,” he stated, urging all stakeholders to support the event wholeheartedly.

The CEC also directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure ambulance services and medical facilities are on standby throughout the tournament. He further instructed ALHGHA, ALTOA, LTTA, and other associations, along with concerned departments, to extend full cooperation to ensure the success of the event.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Romil Singh; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora; ADDC Leh, Sonam Nurboo; Joint Director Finance UT Ladakh, Jigmet Namgail; Chief Planning Officer Leh, Tsewang Gyalson; SE PWD Circle Leh, Dorje Gyatso; CMO Leh, Dr. Dolma Chuskit; Dy. Secretary Cultural Academy Leh, Tsewang Paljor; Executive Engineers from Construction, PDD, R&B, and PHE divisions; EO MC Leh, Stanzin Rangais; AD Tourism Leh, Padma Angmo; AD Information Leh, Rigzin Yangdol; DYSSO Leh, Tashi Thinles; DySP Traffic, Sonam Dorje; Manager IOCL, Umar Mansoor; along with representatives of the Indian Army, ITBP, IOCL, PGCIL; Tsewang Motup (RIMO), organiser of Ladakh Marathon; and presidents of LTTA, ALTOA, ALHGHA, General Secretary of LFA, and other stakeholders.

Beautification, new sites on agenda to extend tourist stay in Kargil: LG Kavinder



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a review meeting with the Kargil Development Authority (KDA).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, has underscored the ambitious beautification plan for Kargil town, with a focus on transforming key public spaces into vibrant recreational hubs to attract more visitors and extend their stay.

Chairing a review meeting with the Kargil Development Authority (KDA) on August 26, the Lt Governor stressed the need to identify new tourist-friendly sites across the district. He said Kargil’s tourism potential extends well beyond its existing attractions and called for the development of riverbanks, hill viewpoints, cultural landmarks, and heritage sites to diversify visitor experiences.

Gupta noted that creating multiple recreational and leisure zones would not

only help disperse tourist footfall but also open up livelihood opportunities for the local population. He directed the KDA to prepare a comprehensive roadmap highlighting unexplored natural spots and integrating them into Ladakh’s wider tourism circuit.

He further called for expediting beautification works at Bul-Bul Bagh, Sher Bagh, and the Riverfront at the Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC). These sites are to be upgraded with landscaped parks, pedestrian walkways, gardens, and seating areas, blending modern amenities with the natural charm of the region.

“Tourists come to Kargil for its history and breathtaking landscapes, but we must also provide spaces where they can relax, un-

wind, and engage with local culture. Aesthetically appealing and functional spaces will not only enhance the town’s beauty but also encourage longer stays,” Gupta said.

Emphasising sustainability, the Lt Governor directed officials to ensure that the projects reflect Kargil’s cultural ethos while adhering to environmental standards. He underlined the importance of balancing development with the preservation of Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem.

By integrating urban aesthetics with adventure and heritage tourism, Gupta said the administration aims to position Kargil as a more vibrant, tourist-friendly destination in the coming years.

Officials present at the meeting included Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; SSP Kargil, Shree Raam R; and engineers from the KDA. They briefed the Lt Governor on key town projects, reporting the completion of the first phase of the River View Front at TFC, while the detailed project report for the second phase has been prepared.

CEC Leh felicitates Rinchen Youdol for winning gold at Asian Para Taekwondo championships



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, felicitated Rinchen Youdol for her historic achievement of winning a Gold Medal in the Para Poomsae Individual Female Senior P34 Category at the 2025 Junior, Cadet & Para Asian Taekwondo Championships held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

The championship witnessed participation from athletes representing 12 countries, making Rinchen’s victory a proud milestone for Ladakh.

During the felicitation ceremony, CEC Gyalson congratulated Rinchen for scripting history as the first athlete from Ladakh to win an international gold medal in Para Taekwondo. He praised her determination, courage, and perseverance, describing her as a “symbol of hope and strength for every young dreamer from the mountains of Ladakh.”

As a gesture of appreciation, the CEC presented financial assistance to Rinchen and assured her of the Council’s continued support in all her future sporting endeavours.

Expressing gratitude, Rinchen’s mother, Stanzin Angmo, accompanied by Councillor Padma Dorje, thanked the CEC and LAHDC Leh for their encouragement and support, noting that such recognition would further inspire Rinchen to achieve even greater success.

CEC Gyalson reaffirmed that LAHDC Leh remains committed to supporting and nurturing talented athletes who bring glory to Ladakh and the nation.

Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development and Tourism reviews ongoing projects in Kargil, Drass



Photo Caption: Sanjit Rodrigues, Administrative Secretary for Housing & Urban Development and Tourism, UT Ladakh inspecting the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plant at Kurbathang.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Sanjit Rodrigues, Administrative Secretary for Housing & Urban Development and Tourism, UT Ladakh, visited several ongoing project sites in Kargil and Drass on August 27. The inspection covered the under-construction Office Complex of the Municipal Committee (MC) Kargil, the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plant at Kurbathang, and the project site for Remediation and Management of Legacy Waste at Kurbathang. He also visited Latoo Bhim Pathar, the Kargil War Memorial, and Draupadi Kund in Drass.

Rodrigues was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Executive Officer MC Kargil, Executive Engineer Mechanical, Deputy Director Archaeology & Museums, and other

district officers.

At the MC Office Complex, the Administrative Secretary instructed officials to rework the interior layout to create additional workspaces, including separate offices for the sanitary wing and solid waste staff. He also directed the MC Administrator to prepare a comprehensive human resource strategy.

During his visit to the SWM Plant at Kurbathang, Rodrigues stressed the importance of segregating dry and wet waste before composting in line with CPCB guidelines. He instructed that waste from every truck be separated, an MC official be deployed on-site, and the 3R Management Agency ensure at least 20% friction picking at the plant. He also reviewed the functioning of

the compositor.

While reviewing the Legacy Waste Management Project at Kurbathang, he directed the contractor to expedite landfilling and Material Collection Point (MCP) works, ensure the use of compliant plant machinery, and establish a separate dry waste line. He further instructed MC Kargil to share detailed work schedules and deploy a supervisor for monitoring.

Later in Drass, Rodrigues visited Latoo Bhim Pathar, the War Memorial, and Draupadi Kund. He assessed the existing facilities and discussed measures for preservation, development, and improved visitor amenities. He directed officials to consider outsourcing completed assets for better upkeep and management.

L-G Kavinder calls for GIS, remote sensing tools to tackle climate change in Ladakh

Releases LAMA Web Portal at University of Ladakh



Photo Caption: L-G speaking virtually at the event—jointly organised by the University of Ladakh, LAHDC Leh, and the Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO Ahmedabad.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, stressed the critical role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing in addressing the region’s growing climate challenges while releasing the LAMA (Ladakh-Specific Modelling and Space Application) Web Portal at the University of Ladakh on August 25.

Speaking virtually at the event—jointly organised by the University of Ladakh, LAHDC Leh, and the Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO Ahmedabad—the Lt Governor warned that high-altitude regions like Ladakh face grave threats from climate change, including shifting agricultural patterns, rising temperatures, and increased disaster risks. He said the adoption of space-based technologies was vital for timely interventions, disaster preparedness, and sustainable resource management.

The launch also marked the release of the LAMA Project Report, a University publication, and the screening of a special documentary on the initiative. The portal aims to integrate space applications for Ladakh, enabling advanced environmental monitoring, scientific research, and data-driven decision-making. It is expected to position Ladakh on the global scientific map through ISRO’s upcoming space missions.

Gupta highlighted that the portal would prove invaluable during emergencies and natural disasters, while also providing real-time scientific data to manage Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem. He appreciated the establishment of the Centre for Space Science & Allied Subjects at

the University of Ladakh and referred to a recent statement by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who informed Parliament about the proposed “Geo-Ladakh” Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal. The platform, to be developed with IIRS, would harness space technology for mapping snow cover, assessing freshwater availability, identifying renewable energy potential, and monitoring alpine pastures and grazing lands.

The Lt Governor further underlined the importance of global academic collaborations, encouraging foreign institutions to contribute to Ladakh’s academic curriculum, which he said would strengthen the scientific base and open new career avenues for local youth.

Acknowledging the University’s progress under Vice-Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Gupta praised the three-fold increase in student enrolment, the introduction of new courses, and ongoing recruitment drives. He assured that steps would be taken to fill vacant Assistant Professor posts to bolster teaching and research capacities.

On behalf of LAHDC Kargil, Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi congratulated ISRO scientists and the University team, calling the LAMA initiative a milestone that would link Ladakh with cutting-edge space technology. Dr. Mehul R. Pandya, Principal Investigator of the project and Group Director at SAC-ISRO Ahmedabad, thanked the University, LAHDC Leh, and the UT Administration for their support. He described the portal as a knowledge-sharing platform with practical applications and urged departments to adopt its tools and provide feedback.

The event also featured remarks from Dr. Nilesh M. Desai, Director SAC-ISRO, and Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Deputy Director EPSA SAC-ISRO, who joined virtually as Guests of Honour. Both hailed the LAMA initiative as a model for region-specific space applications.

Students showcase sports skills on World Sports Day in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: World Sports Day was enthusiastically celebrated on August 29 at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Leh. The event was jointly organized by Government Boys Higher Secondary School Leh, Government Girls Higher Secondary School Leh, Government Higher Secondary School Housing Colony, and Government High School Skalzangling.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Deputy CEC Tsering Angchuk encouraged students to actively participate in sports and games, highlighting their importance in building a physically and mentally strong society. He also advised students to

use mobile phones judiciously, recalling that in earlier times, youth were more engaged in outdoor activities.

Councillor Tsering Namgail also emphasized the need for more physical activities and outdoor games, particularly for boys, noting the increasing engagement of students with mobile devices.

The audience witnessed impressive displays of sports skills by students from the participating schools, along with vibrant traditional songs and dances. The program concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from students and staff.

In Focus:

Jeevamrit: A Farmer’s Recipe for Free Fertility

By Dr. Jigmet Namgial, YP-II, MIDH, KVK-Leh and Dr. Kunzang Lamo, Scientist, SMS (Vegetable Science), KVK-Leh

Jeevamrit is a fermented organic liquid fertilizer which uses cow dung and urine, and some simple ingredients to create a powerful microbial culture that revitalizes soil health, eliminates the need for chemical inputs, and boosts crop resilience naturally. This traditional, fermented organic liquid fertilizer is the cornerstone of natural farming, designed not to feed the plant directly, but to rejuvenate the very life of the soil. By boosting the population of beneficial microbes, Jeevamrit unlocks nutrients for plants, suppresses soil-borne diseases, and creates a thriving ecosystem beneath our feet—all for a fraction of the cost of chemical alternatives.

Note: Jeevamrit is just one component of natural farming which is now being promoted by government of India under the flagship programme ‘National Mission on Natural Farming’ to encourage organic/traditional farming throughout India.

Table: Ingredients needed for preparation of Jeevamrit (the quantity presented in the table is in accordance with 200 L of water).

The Brewing Process: A Step-by-Step Guide

Creating Jeevamrit is a ritual of patience and care. Follow these steps precisely for the best results.

1. Base Preparation: Begin by filling 200-litre plastic barrel with approximately 180 litres of water. In a separate container, take some lukewarm water and thoroughly dissolve 2 kg of jaggery and 2 kg of besan into a smooth, lump-free slurry. Transfer this to the barrel and mix thoroughly.

2. Adding Key Components: To this 180 litres of water, add 10 kg of fresh cow dung and the 10 litres of cow urine. Cow urine should always be collected in a plastic container as it tends to react with metals.

3. The Final Ingredient: Add one fistful of undisturbed soil/soil from underneath a tree to this barrel. This ensures diversity in microbial population.

4. Thorough Mixing: Using a long, clean wooden pole, mix all the ingredients in the barrel vigorously. It is important to stir the solution in a clockwise direction. This action creates a vortex that pulls and settles the essential microbes towards the bottom of the barrel, ensuring they are well-integrated.

Crucial Tips for Success

• **Location:** Keep the barrel under a shade to protect it from direct sunlight and extreme temperature fluctuations.

• **Aeration:** Stir the solution three times a day—morning, afternoon, and evening—always in a clockwise direction. This aerates the mixture, which is vital for the aerobic fermentation process.

• **Covering:** The barrel should never be kept completely open, as flies and pests may lay eggs in it. Conversely, it should not be sealed airtight with a lid, as this would cut off the oxygen supply crucial for the beneficial microbes. A loose cover or a cloth preferably a gunny bag placed over the top is perfect.

• **Curing Time:** Depending on the environmental conditions, the Jeevamrit will be ready in 10 to 14 days. The tell-tale sign is a distinct, sweet-and-sour fermented smell and the disappearance of the foul odour of raw dung.

Importance of Jeevamrit

Unlike chemical fertilizers that degrade soil health, Jeevamrit rejuvenates it holistically. It introduces beneficial microbes that improve soil structure, water retention, and nutrient availability. This builds long-term fertility and resilience, eliminating dependency on costly external inputs and toxic residues, making it the true foundation of organic farming.

Jeevamrit and Ladakh’s Organic Ambition

The Government of Ladakh’s visionary goal to become a fully organic region makes Jeevamrit a fundamental pillar for success. For local farmers, it is a powerful solution that cuts dependency on expensive, imported chemical fertilizers, drastically reducing costs and boosting self-reliance. It builds healthy, water-retentive soil—a critical advantage in our cold desert—leading to more resilient crops. This practice allows farmers to produce premium, chemical-free organic produce for a growing market, ensuring the long-term health of our land and water for future generations.



Photo Caption: Demonstration on Jeevamrit preparation to the farmers of Ladakh.

The authors Dr. Jigmet Namgial is YP-II, MIDH, KVK-Leh and Dr. Kunzang Lamo is a Scientist, SMS (Vegetable Science), KVK-Le. You can mail your comment and feedback on Jigmetnamgial1@gmail.com and kunzanglamo@gmail.com

The World of Juniors

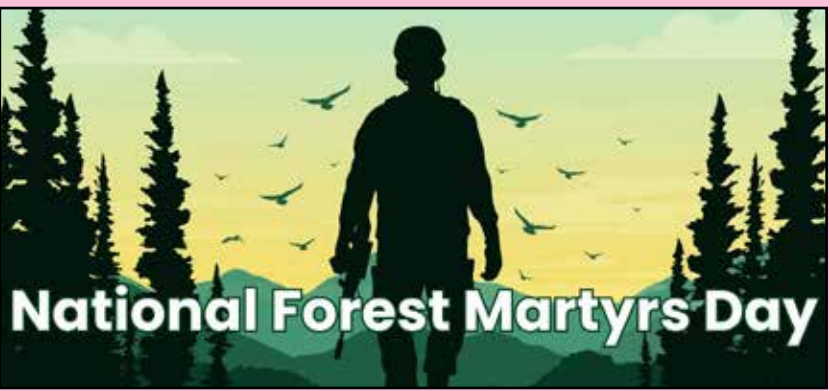
The day is observed annually on September 11th in India to honor the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives in defense of the country’s forests and wildlife. This date was chosen by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2013 to coincide with the historic Khejarli Massacre of 1730, where members of the Bishnoi community sacrificed their lives to protect trees in the Marwar Kingdom.

The day serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of preserving our natural resources and pays tribute to the forest guards, rangers, and officers who dedicate their lives to conserving India’s forests. On this day, various activities and events are organized nationwide by the Ministry, educational institutions, and organizations to raise awareness about the critical role of forests and the need to protect them.

History of National Forest Martyrs Day

Khejarli Massacre of 1730: The date was chosen to commemorate the Khejarli Massacre, a significant event in Indian history. In 1730,

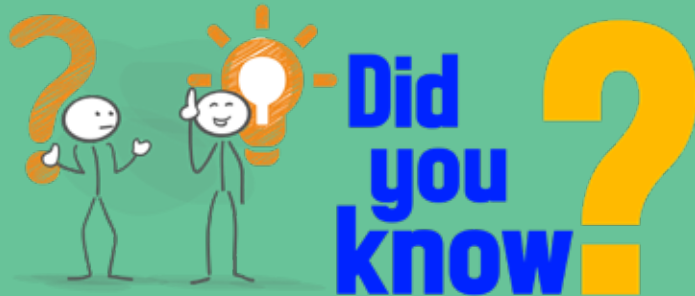
National Forest Martyrs Day



363 members of the Bishnoi community in the Marwar Kingdom sacrificed their lives to protect Khejri trees from being cut down by the orders of Maharaja Abhai Singh Rathore.

Role of the Bishnoi Community: The Bishnoi, a community deeply committed to environmental conservation, resisted the felling of trees in their village of Khejarli. Their sacrifice is remembered as a powerful symbol of environmental activism.

Establishment in 2013: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially declared September 11th as National Forest Martyrs Day in 2013 to honor the legacy of those who gave their lives for the protection of forests and wildlife.



Honey Never Spoils

Believe it or not, if stored correctly, honey can last indefinitely. Archaeologists have even found pots of honey in ancient Egyptian tombs that are over 3,000 years old and still perfectly edible!

Bananas are Berries, But Strawberries Aren’t

In the world of botany, a berry is a fleshy fruit without a stone produced from a single flower containing one ovary. So, bananas qualify, but strawberries, with their multiple seeds, do not!

The Shortest War in History

The Anglo-Zanzibar War, fought between Britain and Zanzibar on

27th August 1896, lasted just 38 minutes. Talk about a quick resolution!

A Leap Year Isn’t Always Every 4 Years

While most of us know a leap year as one that occurs every four years, there’s more to the story. To keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth’s revolutions around the Sun, a year that is evenly divisible by 100 is not a leap year unless it’s also divisible by 400. So, the year 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 was not.

Octopuses Have Three Hearts

Two pump blood to the gills, while the third pumps it to the rest of the body.

You Can’t Hum While Holding Your Nose

Go on, give it a try! It’s harder than it sounds.

There’s a Species of Jellyfish that is Immortal

The Turritopsis dohrnii jellyfish can revert back to its juvenile form after reaching maturity, and it can do this process over and over again.

The World’s Longest Straight Road is in Australia

The Eyre Highway across the Nullarbor Plain has a stretch known as the “90 Mile Straight” because it’s 146.6 kilometers without a single turn.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

The way to live your own self



To be you, your real self, could be one of the greatest difficulties one can face. And yet, rest assured, given willpower, one can quite well be in one’s own real form. The thing is that until you live your own self, you never get to realise the meaning of life and its fulfilment of purpose. And, it is only through being your own self that you can enjoy the journey of life’s self-discovery and empowerment.

We know it well that our world today has gone into too much of conformity, and there is too much stress on societal expectations, thereby you tend to lose your own individuality. We must remember that embracing our own individuality and authenticity alone can be a powerful means to live a life closest to yourself and far from ‘copy-images’.

The importance of self-acceptance is at the root of discovering your real self. Only by doing so, you start living because you really get to know yourself, in your own real strength and weaknesses in a way that you start loving yourself. And, as a result, you start being more confident, you start making choices that align with your beliefs and values, and develop a great sense of individuality and personality.

The beauty of embracing your own self has unique benefits: You are in a position to celebrate your own life with your true ‘colours’, and you also get a chance to express yourself authentically and truly without any regret or apology.

You also rise in your own self-esteem, thereby getting a good chance to improve your mental health and well-being in all aspects. In other words, being your own helps you live your own unique life, and that is worth more than anything else on this planet! You also get to develop greater and more meaningful relationships with the people around.

No wonder, being your own self becomes a beautiful journey of courage, self-awareness and proud feeling. The beauty of life comes into force when you act your own self. Being yourself is being brave, bold, unique, truthful and sincere. No life is a good life until it can give a unique perspective and possibilities.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with

National Awardee Visual Artist, Skarma Sonam Tashi

Q. Congratulations on receiving this recognition! Brief us about yourself and how your interest in art started.

Jullay! I am from Sapi village in the Kargil district. I completed my schooling at Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh, and later pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from the Institute of Music and Fine Arts, Jammu University in 2019. I went on to earn my Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from Kalabhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal in 2021.

My association with painting began in childhood—it was my hobby at first, though I never imagined it would one day become such a vital part of my life. Today, art is not only my passion but also my way of living and a medium through which I express my feelings and ideas. Even as a student, I would add creative drawings and images to every school assignment, making them incomplete without that artistic touch. My teachers noticed this potential and encouraged me with opportunities such as wall paintings and participation in art competitions. That early encouragement gave me a strong foundation.

A true turning point came when I was in the 9th standard and participated in a workshop organized by LAMO (Ladakh Arts and Media Organization). There, I met two contemporary Ladakhi sculptors, Acho Chemet Dorjay and Acho Tsering Gurmet Kungyam. They introduced me to the world of fine arts and its vast possibilities. That experience left a deep impression on me—it felt like discovering the calling of my life. From that moment, I decided to pursue Fine Arts as my path.

Q. Share with us your artistic journey—where have you exhibited your work so far, and how were the experiences?

After completing my Fine Arts studies, I found myself back at LAMO nine years later, selected for their third Winter Artist Residency. It felt like coming full circle, as LAMO was the place where my artistic journey truly began. I am deeply grateful to LAMO for this opportunity, especially to my mentor, Acho Tsering Mutup, whose guidance elevated my way of thinking and motivated me throughout the residency.

My artistic practice draws inspiration from the architectural structures of Leh Old Town and the sustainable, eco-friendly lifestyles that have thrived in Ladakh for centuries. These traditional structures—built with stone, sun-dried bricks, rammed earth, and wood—reflect a deep understanding of

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“The support of family plays a vital role in helping every child excel in whatever profession they choose to pursue, and the same is true for art. I would also like to urge the administration to establish a dedicated state gallery—similar to the Lalit Kala Akademi—to provide a platform for the promotion of art and artists in Ladakh. Such an initiative would not only nurture local talent but also help preserve and promote the region’s cultural identity on a larger stage.”

Q. Share with us about the medium you work with.

At the core of my practice lies the exploration of fragility—both in the natural environment and in humanity’s relationship with it. I metaphorically represent this fragility through the use of delicate and impermanent materials such as cardboard, paper-mâché, egg trays, and natural clay in varying shades. These humble materials, often sourced from everyday waste, are reimagined into artistic forms that symbolize the precarious balance of Ladakh’s ecological systems.

Cardboard, commonly used for roof insulation in Ladakhi homes, serves as a metaphor for both protection and vulnerability, reflecting the duality of shelter and exposure to change. Paper-mâché—crafted from old notebooks, discarded books, and cardboard—plays a central role in my process. I prepare

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



The Vidya Pravesh Test was successfully conducted across various schools of Ladakh, marking a significant step towards strengthening the foundational learning of young students in the Union Territory. The initiative, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aims to ensure that every child attains age-appropriate Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills.



His Holiness expressed his deep appreciation to the H'CEC and his colleagues for the warm hospitality extended to him during his six-week stay in Ladakh.



Renowned spiritual and motivational speaker, MAAs-terG (earlier known as Rajesh Kumar), captivated aspirants in Leh with a series of inspiring sessions held at Paras Hall, Rural Department Hall, and DIET Hall.



An evening mock drill was also conducted under the coordination of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with UT Disaster Management Authority (UTDMA) on August 21 night at various locations of Leh.



The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, in collaboration with Golden Mile Learning (GML), hosted the Final Report Presentation and MoU Extension Signing Ceremony of the Reinforced Teacher Training (RTT) Program at Zen Hotel, Leh.



Government Degree College Khaltse successfully conducted its first-ever Student Council Elections, with enthusiastic participation from students who cast their votes for the posts of President, General Secretary, and Cashier.



A comprehensive Mock Drill Exercise on Landslide Management was successfully conducted today in Nubra under the overall supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Nubra, Mr. Mukul Beniwal (IAS). The exercise aimed to test the preparedness, coordination and response mechanism of various departments and stakeholders in the event of a landslide in the region.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, convened a meeting with representatives of the All Ladakh Hotel & Guest House Association (ALH-GHA) and the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) to discuss challenges facing Ladakh's tourism sector and preparations for participation in ITB Berlin 2026.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with National Awardee Visual Artist, Skarma Sonam Tashi

...Continuity of page 5

the pulp by soaking and manually refining the material, then blending it with tamarind seed glue and local clay. This technique mirrors traditional Ladakhi architectural practices where sustainability and adaptability were vital to survival in a harsh environment. The varying hues of clay enrich the metaphor, representing Ladakh’s diverse terrains—from its stark, barren mountains to its fertile valleys.

The use of egg trays carries a more personal meaning. Their ridged, organic forms remind me of the majestic mountain ranges of Ladakh, my birthplace and the landscape that shaped my early life. Even after spending years away, the memory of these mountains has remained an integral connection to my homeland.

In my site-specific installations, I transform these fragile, impermanent materials into monumental forms that echo glaciers, mountains, and homes. Their transience aligns with the fleeting nature of both art and the landscapes they depict, emphasizing the urgency to protect what is vulnerable and disappearing.

By revisiting the traditional building techniques of Ladakh through a contemporary lens, my work seeks to align artistic practice with the region’s fragile ecology. Ladakhi architecture—with its inward-sloping walls and reliance on local resources—embodies both resilience and harmony with the environment. This duality of strength and fragility inspires my practice, inviting viewers to reflect on their own relationship with nature and the pressing need to address environmental degradation.

Through my art, I aim to evoke environmental consciousness—encouraging a deeper appreciation for the delicate balance that sustains life, not just in Ladakh but across the world. My works are both a tribute to Ladakh’s sustainable heritage and a reminder of the fragility of our ecosystems in the face of contemporary challenges.

Q. What is the status of art today, and why is it important in society?

A few years ago, contemporary art was not taken very seriously in our society, largely because there was little awareness or exposure. However, over time this perception has changed, thanks to the contributions of senior artists such as sculptors Chemat Dorje, Tsering Gurmet Kungyam, and Tashi Namgyal, whose pioneering works reshaped public opinion and inspired younger generations to pursue art.

Art holds a very important place in society. In Ladakh, it is considered one of the “Rīgnas Chu” (the ten sciences of knowledge), which are essential for the holistic development of individuals and communities. A society is always in the process of change and development, but along with modernization, it is equally important to preserve ancient wisdom, culture, and tradition. We do not have to accept modernization in its entirety—we can embrace the good aspects while letting go of the negative.

Art serves as a bridge between the old and the new. It not only preserves identity and culture but also provides new ways of understanding and adapting to change. For this reason, art is indispensable in society and cannot be overlooked.

Q. What challenges do artists face in Ladakh, and what could be the solutions?

For every artist, exhibiting their work is as important as creating it—exposure and opportunities are crucial for growth. In Ladakh, however, one of the biggest challenges is the lack of proper infrastructure. We do not yet have state-supported art galleries or dedicated spaces for exhibitions. At present, most platforms are provided by individual artists, studios, or NGOs, but government-backed facilities are missing.

The establishment of state art galleries and cultural platforms would give artists a much-needed space to showcase their work, engage with audiences, and develop the field collectively. Such spaces would not only support local artists but also encourage cultural exchange and help position Ladakh as an important center for contemporary art.

At the same time, many Ladakhi artists feel the need to connect with larger cities where established art markets exist. While it is important to root our practice in Ladakh, associating with metropolitan centers allows us to sell our works, sustain our careers, and gain wider visibility. Ideally, a balance of both—strengthening Ladakh’s local art ecosystem while building connections nationally and internationally—would be the best way forward.

Q. What is your advice to the youth who are interested in art and aspire to become artists?

Every field and profession comes with its own challenges and competition, and art is no exception. What truly matters is how you approach those challenges. For me, the most important qualities are interest, passion, and consistent hard work.

If you are genuinely dedicated to your practice, opportunities will eventually come your way. Art requires patience, perseverance, and belief in yourself. My advice to aspiring artists is to stay committed, keep learning, and never lose the curiosity that first drew you to art. With sincerity and dedication, your efforts will open doors and create pathways you may not have imagined.

5th LG Polo Cup: Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre lifts trophy in Drass



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: The 5th LG Polo Cup concluded at the Goshan Horse Polo Stadium in Drass on August 28, with the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre clinching the title by defeating D Meadows Drass 4-3 in a tense penalty shootout. A total of 17 teams, including 12 men’s and 5 women’s teams from across Ladakh, participated in the tournament, reflecting the region’s growing enthusiasm for polo.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, reaffirmed the UT administration’s vision of positioning Ladakh as a hub of cultural heritage, sporting excellence, and youth-driven growth. He said Ladakh will prioritise the revival of traditional games like horse polo, expand winter sports, and

build an ecosystem that blends culture, tourism, and modern infrastructure—creating new opportunities for youth while preserving Ladakh’s distinct identity for generations to come.

Gupta said polo, introduced in Ladakh in the 17th century, is not only a royal sport but also a symbol of the region’s rich cultural legacy. He announced that the administration would approach the Centre to recognise horse polo as Ladakh’s traditional game and extend dedicated support for its promotion at national and international levels.

Alongside polo, he said Ladakh would also focus on indigenous sports and winter games, with special emphasis on ice hockey and the Khelo India Winter Games, to

diversify opportunities for youth and position the UT as a premier sports tourism destination. “Our vision is to create world-class infrastructure while preserving Ladakh’s cultural roots. This will not only boost tourism but also generate employment and empower youth,” the Lt Governor said.

Paying homage to the martyrs of the Kargil War, Gupta saluted the bravery of the 542 soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation and urged youth to emulate their courage, discipline, and dedication in every field, including sports.

He praised veterans and local players for preserving Ladakh’s centuries-old polo tradition and highlighted the sport’s potential as a tourism attraction. Emphasising women’s participation, he said the presence of a large number of female polo players reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of women empowerment. He further assured adequate funds for sports promotion, proper coaching facilities, and the introduction of horse polo in schools to engage the younger generation.

Presenting the trophy, the Lt Governor congratulated the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre for their victory and lauded the discipline

and spirit of all teams, especially the girls. He said beyond winning or losing, the larger goal is to revive polo and nurture a culture of teamwork, resilience, and pride in the Union Territory.

On the occasion, Chairman and CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, urged the Lt Governor to provide adequate funds for polo and expressed hope that Drass would emerge as a winter sports hub after the completion of the Zoji La Tunnel. He called for tapping the region’s potential as a top winter sports destination.

Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohmad Hanifa Jan, stressed the need for financial and logistical support for promising players and urged the administration to expedite the implementation of the Sports Policy.

Administrative Secretary Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Councillors Abdul Wahid and Abdul Samad also addressed the gathering. The event was attended by Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Feroz Ahmed; Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi; Director, Rural Development Department; Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; and SSP Kargil, Shree Ram R.

Buddha Statue inaugurated at Eco Park Padum to promote peace, tourism



Photo Caption: Executive Councillor, Er. Punchok Tashi with His Eminence Lochen Tulku Rinpoche inaugurating the Buddha statue at the newly developed Eco Park at Padum.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: In a major step towards promoting pilgrimage tourism and spreading the message of peace, compassion, and universal harmony, the Zanskar Development Authority (ZDA) inaugurated a Buddha statue at the newly developed Eco Park near the Gonpa Association Complex/Forest Bagh, Padum, on August 27.

The statue was inaugurated by Executive Councillor for RDD/PRI and Zanskar Development Authority, LAHDC Kargil, Er. Punchok Tashi, in the presence and with the blessings of His Eminence Lochen Tulku Rinpoche.

The event was attended by the President and Executive Members of the

Zanskar Gonpa Association, the Executive Engineer ZDA, and several other dignitaries.

On the occasion, Er. Punchok Tashi lauded the efforts of the executing agency and the contractor for ensuring quality workmanship and adhering to proper specifications during construction.

His Eminence Lochen Tulku Rinpoche blessed the site and offered prayers for peace and harmony. He expressed hope that the installation of the Buddha statue will further strengthen universal brotherhood and give a significant boost to pilgrimage tourism in the Zanskar Valley.

Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani visits District Court Leh



Photo Caption: Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh during his visit to the District Court Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, visited the District Court Leh on August 25 during his official tour of the Union Territory.

He was warmly received by Manoj Parihar, Principal District & Sessions Judge Leh, along with judicial officers, prosecution officials, and the President

of the Bar Association, Leh.

During the visit, Justice Wani interacted with the judicial officers of the District Court, offering words of guidance and encouragement. He later met with the President and members of the Bar Association, Leh, and held discussions with them.

Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani visits new District court complex at Drass



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Judge of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Kargil, visited the newly constructed court complex at Drass on August 26.

He was accompanied by Spalzes Angmo, Principal District & Sessions Judge Kargil; Chemit Yurgyal, Secretary (DLSA) Kargil; Sadiq Ali Wazir, Munsiff Drass; and engineers from the PWD.

During the visit, Justice Wani suggest-

ed the need for additional courtrooms in the complex, noting that only one exists at present. He underlined the importance of this, especially in view of the proposal for Drass to be made a separate district. He also expressed satisfaction that Munsiff Courts of similar scale are being constructed at the sub-divisions of Sankoo and Zanskar.

Later, he inspected the existing court building at Drass, reviewing both civil and criminal case files. He directed the judicial officers to make every effort to dispose of old cases promptly, taking advantage of the comparatively low pendency in Kargil courts.

Justice Wani also paid a visit to the Kargil War Memorial at Drass, where he paid homage to the martyrs by showering flower petals at the Amar Jawan Jyoti. He interacted with Army personnel stationed there, lauding their dedication in harsh high-altitude conditions and conveying his best wishes for their service and future.

One-day farmers’ training camp held in Shara village



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SHARA: Agriculture Department organized a one-day training camp for farmers in Shara village, under the aegis of the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) ON August 25. The program, aimed at equipping local farmers with modern agricultural techniques and knowledge, was attended by 30 participants.

The training camp was headed by Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer, Leh, Mohd Ramzan. Key resource persons for the event included Agriculture Extension Officer, Kharu, Kunzang Dolma; Agriculture Extension Officer, Leh, Tsering Dolkar; and Jr. Agriculture Extension Officer, Leh, Stanzin Idong.

Farmers received training on a wide range of topics crucial for improving agricultural productivity and sustainability in the region. The sessions covered practical skills and knowledge on: package of practices for Ladakh Green House, preparation of vermicompost, integrated pest management, Seed production, Mushroom production, Millets production and natural farming.

In addition to the technical training, farmers were also briefed on various departmental schemes available to them, with the goal of encouraging them to leverage government support for their agricultural ventures.

Suru Summer Festival 2025: National Geographic lists Suru among ‘25 Best Destinations’



Photo Caption: Union Minister for Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju with CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Akhoon at Suru Summer Festival.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Union Minister for Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, attended the Suru Summer Festival on August 27.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Akhoon, highlighted the Suru Valley’s breathtaking landscapes and the unmatched hospitality of its people. He said that with the continued support and financial assistance of the Union Territory Administration, the festival will expand in scale and scope in the coming years, creating greater opportunities for tourism and local livelihoods.

Dr. Akhoon also placed key demands before the dignitaries, including the establishment of a Trekking and Mountaineering Institute in Suru, the opening of the Pahalgam–Panikhar road, and district status for the Sankoo Sub-Division. He expressed optimism that both the Central Government and the UT Administration will address these demands to unlock the full potential of Kargil.

CEC thanked the District Administration for making the necessary arrangements, social media influencers from outside Ladakh for promoting Suru as a tourist destination, and the visitors and local community members who participated in large numbers despite harsh weather conditions. He assured that the Suru Summer Festival

will be organised on an even larger scale in the future, reflecting the growing enthusiasm around the event.

Dr. Akhoon also noted the recent inclusion of Suru in National Geographic’s list of “25 Best Destinations,” calling it a proud achievement that will help position the valley as a premier destination at both national and international levels.

Concluding his address, he expressed gratitude to Union Minister Kiren Rijiju and LG Kavinder Gupta for their presence and support, reaffirming LAHDC Kargil’s commitment to sustainable development and tourism promotion in the region.

Fortnightly News

CEC Kargil reviews developmental work with Secretary Sanjit Rodrigues



Photo Caption: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoon chairing a review meeting with the Secretary and district officers.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoon, welcomed the newly appointed Administrative Secretary for Tourism & Culture, Housing & Urban Development, and Information & Public Relations, UT Ladakh, Sanjit Rodrigues, at his office chamber on August 25. The CEC also chaired a review meeting with the Secretary and district officers to assess the status and progress of ongoing developmental works in the district.

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor Ka-cho Mohd. Feroz, Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC Kargil Rakesh Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Imteaz Kacho, and senior officers from Urban Development, R&B, Municipal Committee, District Library, Tourism, and other line departments.

During the review, officers from the Urban Development Department briefed that several projects are under execution, including the construction of a slaughterhouse, multi-level parking facility, sewage treatment plant, truck terminal, and related infrastructure.

Secretary Rodrigues emphasized adopting scientific methods for waste management. He suggested separate collection of meat waste for proper disposal and proposed

installing a chicken feather treatment machine. He further directed that the operational responsibility of slaughter-house machinery be entrusted to the concerned agency for at least 10 years to ensure effective maintenance.

The Secretary instructed officers to incorporate these suggestions in the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), revise them accordingly, and submit presentations within 15 days.

On building laws, Secretary Rodrigues informed the CEC that while the J&K Act currently remains in force in Ladakh, new Ladakh-specific building laws are under consideration. He said the draft would soon be submitted to LAHDC Kargil for necessary feedback and incorporation before finalization.

Reviewing beautification projects at Sher Bagh and Bulbul Bagh, the Secretary said minor changes have been suggested in the DPRs. He also took stock of the Museum and Archives Department project, where land has been identified and tendering is under process, and urged officers to expedite the work.

Highlighting the tourism sector, Rodrigues informed that about 107 projects worth ₹2.251 crore are underway across the district. He directed concerned officers to ensure timely completion, finalize tendering of near-completion projects, and operationalize facilities on an outsourcing basis for efficient functioning.

The Secretary further stressed adherence to project timelines, personal follow-ups on files submitted for administrative approval, and sufficient time allocation for DPR preparation to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Meanwhile, CEC Dr. Jaffer Akhoon underlined the importance of close inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of developmental works. He directed engineers and officers to ensure strict monitoring on the ground to achieve timely and quality completion of projects.

CEC Kargil attends National Sports Day, highlights Kargil’s potential as hub for winter sports



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoon attended the National Sports Day celebrations on August 29, organized under the theme ‘Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main’. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched this nationwide movement from August 29 to 31 to encourage active participation in sports and fitness activities.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Akhoon stressed the importance of financial support for sportspersons and informed that a comprehensive sports policy for Ladakh is currently being framed. He said the UT administration is committed to creating provisions to support players representing Ladakh at both national and international levels.

Sharing outcomes of his recent meeting with the Union Sports Minister, Dr. Akhoon announced that approval has been given to set up a Winter Sports Academy in Kargil, recognizing the district’s natural potential for winter sports. He further informed that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has identified 500 kanal of land for developing sports infrastructure, which is expected to receive administrative sanction soon.

Highlighting the role of sports in overall development, Dr. Akhoon said, “Sports not only strengthen physical and mental well-being but should also be seen as a viable professional career option.”* He commended officials such as the recently appointed Secretary of Youth Services and Sports, Bhanu Prabha, and Joint Director Youth Services & Sports, Tahir Zubdavi, describing them as dedicated professionals committed to improving Ladakh’s sports infrastructure.

He also expressed confidence that young players from Ladakh—especially girls excelling in various fields—will continue to shine on national and international platforms. Despite limited funds, he assured that the Department of Youth Services and Sports will continue to organize more high-level sporting events. He further mentioned that the LG of Ladakh has assured support to promote traditional games such as Horse Polo at the national level.

Special guest of the occasion, Member Parliament from UT Ladakh, Haji Hanifa Jan, congratulated SAI and the Youth Department for successfully organizing the Sports Day in Kargil. He noted that sports activities in Ladakh have been steadily increasing in recent years, with several athletes earning recognition at national and international levels. He also emphasized that the forthcoming sports policy will provide much-needed financial assistance to athletes, enabling them to achieve greater success.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Imteaz Kacho; Joint Director Youth Services and Sports, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi; Colonel Aman Sali; DYSSO; athletes; and students from various institutions.

UT Ladakh reviews arrangements for Parliamentary standing committee visit



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary Rural Development and Nodal Officer UT Ladakh, Shashanka Ala, chaired a review meeting to finalise arrangements for the upcoming visit of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, scheduled from September 5 to 7.

The meeting focused on comprehensive planning for the Committee’s travel, accommodation, security, and protocol. As the delegation will be arriving by road, the Secretary stressed meticulous coordination to ensure comfort and convenience from the start of their journey. She directed officials to prepare suitable resting points along the route, including locations showcasing Ladakh’s monasteries and cultural heritage.

Special instructions were issued to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kargil, to ensure a smooth welcome and robust security during the Committee’s one-day stay in Kargil. The Secretary

emphasised that from Sonamarg onwards, Ladakh will assume full responsibility for the delegation’s safety and hospitality. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was tasked with preparing a detailed schedule for their jurisdiction and ensuring seamless arrangements.

Hotels and identified visit sites were instructed to maintain the highest standards of service, while coordination between the Army in Kargil and Ladakh Police was underscored to ensure security. The Secretary also reviewed all logistical and protocol requirements with the Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police of Leh and Kargil to avoid any lapses.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC Leh, Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC Kargil, Senior Superintendent of Police Security, SSP Leh and Kargil, Director Social Welfare Department UT Ladakh, Director Rural Development and Panchayati Raj UT Ladakh, Director Tourism UT Ladakh, Director Health and Medical Education UT Ladakh, Director Information UT Ladakh, Joint Director Hospitality and Protocol, Joint Director Food UT Ladakh, Regional Transport Officer UT Ladakh, Superintendent of Police Traffic UT Ladakh, Joint Director PD&MD UT Ladakh, and a representative from ITBP.

Over 1,500 aspirants enroll in LAHDC Leh’s free coaching programme



Photo Caption: CEC addressing the gathering during the inauguration of Council’s Free Coaching Classes for LAHD-SSRB and LSSSSB aspirants.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, inaugurated the Council’s Free Coaching Classes for LAHD-SSRB and LSSSSB aspirants at the Arya Nagarjuna Auditorium, CIBS Leh, on August 19 in the presence of a gathering of more than 1,500 students.

He was accompanied by Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillors, Stanzin Chosphele and Ghulam Mehdi; and senior district officials. The event was also attended by ADDC Leh, Sonam Nurboo; CPO Leh, Tsewang Gailson; DPO Leh, Tsering Dorjay; CCF LAHDC Leh, Zulfikar Ali; departmental officers; representatives from SAMKALP includ-

ing Nodal Officer, Devraj; and LEAF President among others.

DPO Leh, Tsering Dorjay, briefed the students on the initiative, which received an overwhelming response with 1,578 applications. He highlighted that coaching will be conducted across three centres in two shifts, ensuring quality learning through an improved teacher-student ratio.

The Nodal Officer from SAMKALP shared the academy’s vision, noting that its past coaching efforts have already enabled many Ladakhi youth to clear competitive exams and serve the region.

Drawing from his personal journey of success in competitive examinations, CPO Leh, Tsewang Gailson, inspired the aspirants to pursue their goals with determination and resilience. ADDC Leh, Sonam Nurboo, urged students to make the most of the 45-day intensive programme through consistent effort and effective time management.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk, congratulated the aspirants and assured that LAHDC Leh would continue its efforts to provide free coaching not only for SSRB and SSSB but also for higher-level competitive exams, including UPSC.

In his keynote address, CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for making this large-scale initiative possible. He noted that the programme marks LAHDC’s biggest free coaching drive so far, reflecting the Council’s strong commitment to empowering Ladakhi youth. Stressing the values of dedication, curiosity, and discipline, he reminded aspirants of the many opportunities available since the formation of the Union Territory.

Citing Ladakh’s achievements in sports, academics, and culture, the CEC encouraged students to aim high while upholding moral values and contributing positively to society.

Concluding the event, CCF LAHDC Leh, Zulfikar Ali, extended gratitude to the CEC and officials for their collective efforts in making the programme a success. ID cards were also distributed to all aspirants as part of the inaugural session.

Notice

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as ‘Educational and Cultural Welfare Society Urbis Gonpa’ Leh, UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name & Parentage	Residence	Profession	Designation
1	Thinles Angchok S/o Tsewang Nurboo	Urbis	Monk	President
2	Dorjay Gyalton S/o Tsering Phuntsog	Urbis	Monk	Vice-President
3	Stanzin Dorjay S/o Tashi Paldan	Urbis	Monk	Secretary
4	Konchok Paldan S/o Stanzin Norphel	Urbis	Monk	Cashier
5	Rinchen Namgail S/o Nawang Tsering	Urbis	Farmer	Member
6	Rinchen Dorjay S/o Punchok Samstan	Urbis	Farmer	Member
7	Thinlass Dorje S/o Tsewang Nurboo	Urbis	Farmer	Member

Objection if any, in this regard may kindly be submitted to Registrar of Societies, Ladakh within a period of 21 days from the publication of this notice.

President

Educational and Cultural Welfare Society Urbis Gonpa’ Leh, UT Ladakh

NOTICE



I, Lobzang Chhosdol W/o Phuntsog Namgyal, Date of Birth 21-04-1949 R/o Skara, District Leh UT Ladakh, claim that my name has been wrongly entered as Lobzang Chorol instead of actual and correct name which is Lobzang Chhosdol in my passport bearing Number L1916375 date of issue 11-06-2013 having validity upto 10-06-2023. Now I'm applying for the correction in the passport and objection, if any may be conveyed to Regional Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

I, Jigmet Tsomo D/o Sonam Chospel R/o Ney, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my Father's name has been wrongly recorded as Sonam Chosphele instead of correct and actual name Sonam Chospel in my ST Certificate duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 527/ ST-Leh/ 2015 and Dated on 01-01-2015. Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

I, Safia Banoo D/o Zakariya R/o Chuchot Gongma, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded as Safia Bano instead of correct and actual name Safia Banoo in my ST Certificate duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 262-66/ ST-Leh/ 2002 and Dated on 19-06-2002. Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

No 900233202 Rank Hav Tashi Tamphel Unit 22 Bn ITBP has claimed that his name Tashi Tamphel has been wrongly entered as Tashi Tamfail instead of Tashi Tamphel in the Service record of Unit 22 Bn ITBP and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA09652650866673X to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office Unit 22 Bn ITBP within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

I, Stanzin Tsering D/o Tashi Tundup & Tsering Dolker R/o Sriyoul District Leh, UT Ladakh lost my class 10th Marks Statement duly issued by Central Board of Secondary Education through The Tibetan SOS Children's Village School Leh Ladakh under Roll No. 2322226 & Registration No. 1334078 with Session Annual 2018. Now I have to apply for issuance of duplicate Marks statement. Objection if any may be sent to the CBSE Regional Office, Sector 5 Panchkula-134152 (Haryana) within 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

Service No 11211135 Rank ASI/GD Stanzin Thinless 18 BN SSB Raj Nagar Bihar C/o 56APO has claimed that his son namely Stanzin Thinless has been wrongly entered as Stanzin Thinles instead of Stanzin Thinless in the service document of, 18 BN SSB Raj Nagar Bihar C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA09655710147028X to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, 18 BN SSB Raj Nagar Bihar C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Dealer of HAVELS India LTD.



RINCHEN ENTERPRISES



Address: Tyare rong Road. Saboo gate, Leh: UT Ladakh.

Contact us: 9419826658 / 9622982719 / 6005246978

