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MAY 01-15, 2025

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



## In Conversation with

Ayesha Malo, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam, Women wing

## People's Voice:

From Hope to Frustration: Stories of Ladakh's Job-Seeking Youth

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## Unemployment Crisis Deepens in Ladakh: Youth Demand Urgent Action

By Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Six years after Ladakh attained Union Territory status, its youth continue to face a worsening unemployment crisis fueled by unclear recruitment policies, administrative silence, and infrastructural shortcomings. The frustration is growing, as young graduates and job seekers demand urgent action from the administration and their elected representatives.

"How long are we going to remain silent? It's been six years, yet we still don't have a recruitment policy," says Phuntsog Targais, a frustrated youth. "Our parents invested everything in our education, dreaming of a better life for us. But here we are—jobless, hopeless, and ignored."

The burden of unemployment extends beyond individuals—it weighs heavily on families who have sacrificed financially in hopes of securing a brighter future for their children. Now, many of those same youths find themselves slipping into depression, frustration, and isolation. A troubling rise in substance abuse among Ladakhi youth further reflects the growing social cost of prolonged joblessness.

Job seekers are also battling a lack of transparency and delayed processes from the government. Tashi Gyaltson, an-



Unemployed youths highlighting the unemployment issue during a press conference at Eco Park, Leh.

other young aspirant, pointed to broken promises by the administration. "We were told job notifications would come in January and exams in April. It's April 24th and not a single exam has been held. Students are completely in the dark."

He also criticized the ambiguity surrounding recruitment exams, particularly the provisional syllabus posted on the LAHSSRB website. "It's marked as tentative and 'for guidance purposes only,' meaning it can change at any time. How are we supposed to prepare when we don't even know what to study?"

"My question to the administration is: Are we expected to study everything, even if it's unrelated to the job? This isn't a fair opportunity."

Adding to the woes is the lack of infrastructure for examinations. According to Tsering Diskit, Leh currently has just one Computer-Based Test (CBT) centre with limited capacity. As a result, many students are forced to travel to cities like Jammu, Delhi, or Chandigarh to take exams—bearing high financial costs and increased mental stress.

"This is not just inconve-

nient—it's unjust," Diskit said. "We're already under pressure, and now we're being asked to spend beyond our means just to take an exam."

The issue of the Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC) has also re-emerged at the centre of the conversation. Many youth, like Sonam Dawa, argue that recruitment should be based on the LRC to prioritize local candidates and safeguard Ladakh's identity.

"We've been demanding a legal framework for the LRC for years. Back then, no one listened—it was dismissed

as an employment issue. But now, with growing outside investment, especially in tourism, even business stakeholders want the LRC made mandatory."

Dawa pointed out the double standards: "Why didn't they stand with us when we needed the LRC for jobs?"

He also backed the demand for a 1989 domicile cut-off, similar to Sikkim's model, to define who qualifies as a true Ladakhi.

"Domicile is not just paperwork—it's about identity. We were hopeful when the Apex

Body and KDA proposed it, but sadly, not a single political representative raised it in the General Council meeting of Hill Council Leh. Are they even thinking about us?"

Another concern is the growing gap between elected leaders and the realities on the ground. Stanzin Padma voiced strong criticism of "self-styled youth representatives" who speak without engaging with those most affected.

"Don't speak for us without meeting us. Visit the public spaces, listen to our stories, and understand our struggles before claiming to represent us."

### Looking Ahead: May 20 and the Hope for Change

As the High-Powered Committee prepares to meet on May 20, Ladakh's youth are not just asking for answers—they're demanding action especially around domicile protections and recruitment reforms.

"We don't want meeting summaries or vague statements," says Targais. "We want decisions. We've already sacrificed six years of our lives. Our leaders must stand with us now—before this frustration explodes into a larger movement."

## Leh observes half-day shutdown and candlelight vigil for Pahalgam terror attack victims



By Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Leh observed a half-day shutdown in a heartfelt show of solidarity with the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir on April 23. The attack, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent individuals, has sent ripples of grief and outrage throughout the nation, including the far reaches of Ladakh.

Hundreds of residents from all walks of life gathered at Leh Gate in the evening to participate in a peaceful candlelight vigil, reciting prayers and walking in silence to Eco Park. The gathering included religious leaders, civil society members, political representatives, students, and concerned citizens—all united by a shared sense of sorrow and a demand for justice.

At a press conference held earlier in the day, party leaders strongly condemned the terror attack. PT Kunzang, Spokesperson of BJP Ladakh, said, "We strongly condemn the need for peace, unity, and mutual respect across communities."

Phuntsog Stanzin, State President of BJP Ladakh, added, "BJP Ladakh condemns the targeted killing of innocent people in the name of religion. We pray for the swift recovery of the injured, for peace to the souls of the deceased, and we stand in solidarity with their grieving families. We appeal to the government to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice."

Addressing the gathering at the candlelight vigil, representatives from all major religious bodies in Leh echoed similar sentiments. They unanimously condemned the terror attack and stressed the need for peace, unity, and mutual respect across communities.

The day's events in Leh served as a poignant reminder of the region's deep-rooted values of peace, empathy, and interfaith harmony. Despite the distance from the site of the attack, the people of Ladakh stood shoulder to shoulder with the families affected by the tragedy, sending a clear message: terrorism will never break the spirit of unity and brotherhood in the country.

## Jal Jeevan Mission falters in Skurbuchan: High pressure, broken pipes, and no water

By Stanzin Dasal

SKURBUCHAN: Tsering Dolma, a woman in her 70s from Skurbuchan village—about 65.5 km from Leh in the Khaltse sub-division—has expressed deep concern over the excessive and uncontrollable water pressure from taps installed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). She fears that continuous flooding could eventually damage or even collapse her home.

While some households struggle with overflowing water, others receive little to no supply, highlighting serious imbalances and poor planning in the scheme's execution.

"I stay alone and live in fear of water overflow. The breakage of pipes is unpredictable because of the poor-quality materials used. You never know when or where the taps will break," said Tsering Dolma. "I urge the concerned authorities to either supply water only in the mornings or regulate the pressure so that we can live peacefully."

Traditional homes in Skurbuchan, built closely together using local materials, are particularly vulnerable to water damage. Instead of improving living standards, the uncoordinated execution of the mission has caused distress and disruption among residents.

Stanzin Paljor, another resident, added, "It's been a few years since JJM was implemented in our village, but the services are unsatisfactory. Some areas receive excessive water while others receive none. The pipes used are of poor quality, leading to frequent breakages."

He further noted, "I don't think JJM can be successful



in places like Ladakh without proper planning. In winter, water freezes due to the harsh weather, and the terrain here cannot be compared with other states."

Despite its goal of ensuring 100% tap water supply to rural households, the Jal Jeevan Mission appears to have fallen short of expectations in Skurbuchan. What was intended to raise living standards has instead become a source of anxiety.

In several areas, two to three taps have been installed within half a meter of each other, many of which are now covered and unused. Residents allege that such unplanned work wastes public funds and creates unnecessary chaos in the name of development. Reports of substandard pipes and fittings have led to frequent breakages, flooding homes, cattle sheds, and agricultural fields—posing serious risks to property, livestock, and human safety.

A resident from Khachethang echoed the frustrations, stating, "I live in that part of Skurbuchan where there is no water at all. Although pipelines have been laid, no

water facility has been provided. The aim of JJM to deliver water to every household has completely failed in our area."

Responding to the issue of high water pressure, Executive Engineer of the PHE Department, Kacho Mumtaz Ali, stated, "Yes, it is true that there is an issue of high water pressure, and we have visited the village. To control it, we will install a pressure-reducing valve and redistribute the water to other areas like Khachethang, where supply is lacking. The proposal for the valve is ready and will be implemented soon."

Addressing concerns over material quality, he clarified, "There might be some confusion. The pipes are not substandard; they are verified and quality assured. Our responsibility is to lay the pipeline up to the doorstep. After installation, the maintenance of tap accessories lies with the household."

Speaking on broader concerns, Councillor Lundup Dorjai said, "JJM is 100% a failure in my constituency.

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Correction and clarification: It is the policy of 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin' to correct significant errors as soon as possible.

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## Fortnightly News

### Jal Jeevan Mission falters in Skurbuchan: High pressure, broken pipes, and no water

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The project was executed without proper planning. In the name of Jal Jeevan, blacktopped roads were excavated, leaving them broken and dusty. We hoped to get a reliable water supply, but unfortunately, our dreams have been shattered."

He further added, "The people of my constituency have been raising these issues for a long time. Whenever they complain about a pipe breakage, the lineman tells them to contact the contractor, and the contractor sends them back to the lineman. There is no accountability at all."

He emphasized that pipes were laid without proper planning and in violation of standard specifications. "The problem of water supply can only be resolved if

everyone works collaboratively; otherwise, these issues will continue," he said.

As the people of Skurbuchan continue to struggle with erratic water supply, broken infrastructure, and mounting risks to their homes and livelihoods, their calls for accountability and urgent corrective measures grow louder. The Jal Jeevan Mission, once seen as a symbol of progress, now stands as a reminder that development without proper planning, local adaptation, and transparency can do more harm than good. For Skurbuchan and many such villages across Ladakh, the real hope lies not just in pipelines—but in solutions that genuinely understand and respect the land and its people.

### Nubra valley development, labour welfare discussed with Raksha Rajya Mantri



Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi; former MP, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; and Councillor for Panamik Constituency, Tsering Sandup with Sanjay Seth, Raksha Rajya Mantri, Government of India, in New Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi; former MP, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; and Councillor for Panamik Constituency, Tsering Sandup, called on Sanjay Seth, Raksha Rajya Mantri, Government of India, in New Delhi on April 28.

The delegation submitted a memorandum highlighting several pressing issues concerning the Nubra Valley region. They urged for an increase in the wages of porters and pony owners engaged by the Army in the Siachen sector, and

requested preference for hiring local porters and pony drivers, along with a separate wage structure for pony drivers. They also appealed for a hike in the daily wages of labourers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under GREF and sought relaxation in the age limit for employment of local labourers up to 60 years, with priority given to locals in BRO (GREF) projects.

The delegation further emphasized the urgent need for infrastructure development to promote tourism in the Siachen belt up to the Base Camp and in the Turtuk region up to Thang village. They requested the expansion of Defence Civics Action Programmes to cover the border villages of Nubra.

Additionally, they stressed the importance of completing key road construction projects, including the widening of the Khalsar-Siachen Base Camp road, realignment of the Warila road, and construction of the Handang Brok-Zangpal road through the BRO. The Raksha Rajya Mantri assured the delegation of timely action and necessary support to address the concerns raised.

### CEC invites Kiren Rijju for Kushok Bakula Rinpoche statue unveiling in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson met Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju, in New Delhi on April 25.

During the meeting, CEC Gyalson extended a formal invitation to the Minister for the unveiling ceremony of the statue of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (Padma Bhushan), scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025, at Bakula Rinpoche Shradhanjali Park, Leh. The event will be followed by a special conference commemorating the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia.

CEC Gyalson also discussed the proposal for establishing a Ladakh Development Finance Corporation and stressed the importance of ensuring equitable access to NMD-

FC schemes for the Union Territory of Ladakh. He urged the Ministry to earmark a separate allocation of NMDFC funds both loan and grant components through the J&K and Ladakh Finance Corporation (formerly JKSF), exclusively for Ladakh until a dedicated finance corporation is established. He further raised concerns regarding financial mismanagement within JKSF and called for a thorough review to safeguard Ladakh's financial interests.

Additionally, the CEC expressed gratitude to the Ministry for the Rs. 10 crore NMDFC Special Package and acknowledged the positive impact of on-going awareness camps, particularly in marginalized areas such as Zanskar, Changthang, Drass, Nubra, Kargil, and Leh.

### MP Ladakh reviews progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes at DISHA meeting in Kargil



Member of Parliament for Ladakh, Mohammad Haneefa Jan during the first meeting of the District Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Member of Parliament for Ladakh, Mohammad Haneefa Jan, chaired the first quarter (2025-26) meeting of the District Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) on April 28 at the Conference Hall, Kargil, to review the progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor for Social Welfare, LAHDC Kargil, Aga Saeed Mujtaba Mussavi; Executive Councillor for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, LAHDC Kargil, Er. Panchok Tashi; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Suse; LAHDC Councillors Feroz Ahmed Khan and Nasir Hussain Munshi; Director of School Education Ladakh, Tsering Paldan; ACR Kargil; ACD Kargil; CPO Kargil; CMO Kargil; heads of various departments; stakeholders; NGOs; and other concerned officials.

The MP conducted a detailed review of progress under various beneficiary-oriented schemes including the Central Road Fund (CRF), Samagra Shiksha, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban and Rural), National Health Mission (NHM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PM-

BY), and others. He directed Heads of Departments (HODs) to share the work lists under CSS with all DISHA Committee members and emphasized the need for maximum fund utilization to avoid lapses. He also sought updated physical and financial progress reports for each programme and scheme.

Issues related to the Samagra Shiksha scheme were thoroughly discussed, including the shortage of Hindi and Urdu teachers. The MP proposed the introduction of Arabic, along with Bhoiti and Urdu, under the three-language formula of the National Education Policy (NEP), and stressed the need for timely academic engagements without delays.

Discussions also focused on improving the quality of education, with members offering suggestions for better outcomes.

CMO Kargil credited the NHM scheme for reducing the district's infant mortality rate to a single digit. The MP directed the CMO to take further steps to reduce the caesarean section rates in the district.

He also instructed the Chief Agriculture Officer to expedite the implementation of PMFBY.

The Executive Engineer, PHE Kargil, informed that 95% saturation under the

Jal Jeevan Mission had been achieved and assured that 100% coverage would be completed by the end of September 2025.

The MP reviewed updates regarding CRF, MGNREGA, PMAY, PM Surya, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and newly sanctioned roads under PMGSY. He stressed that officials must ensure that the intended benefits reach the people.

Highlighting the importance of DISHA meetings, MP Haneefa Jan emphasized the effective redressal of public grievances and the need to complete centrally sponsored projects and schemes within stipulated timelines to avoid delays.

He directed all sectoral heads to conduct awareness camps in villages, in coordination with DISHA Committee members, to ensure greater public access to benefits under centrally sponsored schemes.

The MP urged all officials to implement the directions issued in the meeting sincerely and effectively, ensuring tangible outcomes for the people.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer of MP Mohammad Haneefa Jan, delivered a presentation highlighting the progress and achievements under various centrally sponsored schemes.

### CEC Leh leads delegation to minority affairs minister to push key development initiatives



A delegation from the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh with Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju, in New Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** A delegation from the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, led by Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor Tashi Gyalson, called on Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju, in New Delhi on April 28. The delegation included Councillor and BJP Leh District President Stanzin Chospel, Councillor Kungyam and BJP State President (Yuva Morcha) Thinles Nurboo, along with the Minister's Private Secretary, Sachin Jaswal, IAS.

During the meeting, the delegation raised several key issues concerning the implementation and strengthening of welfare schemes in the Union Territory of Ladakh. A central focus was the request to expedite the establishment of an independent Ladakh Development Finance

Corporation, through the formal bifurcation from the existing Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation.

The delegation also highlighted the need for increased allocation of minority welfare funds, particularly to benefit sectors such as education, handicrafts, and trade. They proposed additional Grants-in-Aid to support these sectors and suggested organizing a dedicated Exhibition and Loan Mela Awareness Camp in the upcoming season to promote Ladakhi artisan products at both regional and national levels. Emphasis was placed on the importance of marketing support and financial assistance for local entrepreneurs.

Further, the delegation

advocated for a special financial package for unemployed youth in Ladakh to encourage entrepreneurship, and recommended the introduction of concessional loan schemes aimed at fostering self-employment and sustainable livelihoods. They also expressed gratitude to Minister Kiren Rijju for his pivotal role in resolving long-standing issues related to the Ladakh State Cooperative Bank, through his intervention with the Ministry of Finance and NABARD.

In response, the Minister assured the delegation that their concerns and proposals would be given due consideration and reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to the welfare and empowerment of minority communities in Ladakh.

### LAHDC Leh, BJP leaders meet Home Minister, discusses Ladakh's key issues



A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders from Ladakh with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders from Ladakh, led by Advocate Tashi Gyalson, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC Leh, met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on April 26. The meeting was held in the presence of BJP National General Secretary and Ladakh Prabhari, Tarun Chugh.

The delegation included Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillors, BJP Ladakh President Phunchok Stanzin, former Member of Parliament Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, BJP-elected Councillors from both LAHDC Leh and Kargil, General Secretary P.T. Kunzang, and former CEC Gyal P. Wangyal.

The delegation began by expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Home Minister for his unwavering support to the Union Territory of Ladakh. They specifically appreciated the Centre's role in the formation of new districts—Zanskar, Drass, Changthang, Nubra, and Sham—which they hailed as a major step towards inclusive development. The Centre's consistent financial support, especially under the Vibrant Village Programme and the recent approval of its second phase, was also acknowledged. An invitation was extended to Amit Shah to visit Ladakh and witness the progress firsthand.

During the discussion, the delegation raised several critical issues:

**Strengthening Recruitment Processes:** They stressed the urgent need to streamline and fortify the gazetted recruitment process in Ladakh, seeking direct intervention to protect the rights and interests of local youth.

**Budget Restoration:** The importance of restoring budget allocations for LAHDC and the UT Administration was highlighted to ensure smooth governance and uninterrupted regional development.

**Tourism Facilitation:** Noting the challenges faced by foreign tourists, the leaders appealed for a simplified registration process to make Ladakh more accessible internationally.

**Ladakh Development Corporation:** They proposed the establishment of a dedicated Ladakh Development Corporation to manage regional growth more efficiently, especially in light of existing issues with the J&K Development Finance Corporation.

**International Representation:** The delegation requested updates to Indian embassy websites, particularly in the UK, USA, and Canada, to correctly reflect Ladakh's status as a Union Territory and avoid international confusion.

**Connectivity:** Concerns about the timely opening of the Leh-Manali road were shared, urging expedited clearance of Baralacha and Shingkula Passes to facilitate essential movement.

**Permit Reforms:** They suggested delegating verification powers for Protected Area Permits (PAP) and Restricted Area Permits (RAP) to the District Magistrate of Leh to speed up processes and boost VPN.

Special attention was given to administrative and developmental issues in the newly formed Zanskar district, Kargil, and adjoining areas, as highlighted by Councillors Stanzin Lakpa, Padma Dorje, and others. They emphasized the need for immediate administrative intervention.

Further, the delegation raised the need for support following recent heavy thunderstorms and snowfall that caused disruptions across Ladakh.

Councillors from Changthang and Nubra expressed their gratitude for the Vibrant Village Programme and urged rationalization of wildlife regulations in their regions. Additionally, the Councillor from Markha Constituency highlighted the need to rationalize the Hemis National Park boundaries to better serve local communities.

In response, Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured the delegation of the Central Government's full commitment to the development and welfare of Ladakh, promising necessary action to address all concerns raised.

### Triple gold for Ladakh at Federation Cup Taekwondo championship



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Ladakh opened its medal tally for the season with a historic performance at the 1st Federation Cup Taekwondo Championship held in Nashik, Maharashtra, from April 25-29, 2025. Team Ladakh clinched three gold medals, marking a proud and significant milestone for the Union Territory.

Shanaz Parveen, an international Taekwondo player and State Awardee, bagged gold in the Senior Under-30 Female Individual Poomsae category. Sonam Chospal, also an international player, secured gold in the Senior Under-30 Male Individual Poomsae event. Together, the duo displayed exceptional synergy and technical prowess to win a third gold in the Senior Under-30 Pair Poomsae category.

Both athletes are currently undergoing advanced training under renowned Taekwondo coach Master Atul Pangotra, whose expert mentorship has played a pivotal role in their continued success.

The players' families expressed heartfelt gratitude to Master Pangotra for

his dedication and urged the Government of India to honor him with the prestigious Dronacharya Award, the nation's highest accolade for sports coaching.

Tahir Hussain Zubdavi, Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, congratulated the athletes on their remarkable achievement. "This historic victory reflects the hard work, discipline, and unwavering commitment of our athletes, and the invaluable guidance of Master Pangotra," he said.

He added that the athletes' success will serve as a powerful inspiration for aspiring sportspersons across Ladakh. "The Department of Youth Services and Sports remains committed to nurturing our young talent and ensuring they have opportunities to shine on national and international platforms," Zubdavi stated.

Despite fielding just two athletes, Team Ladakh's impressive haul of three gold medals stands as a shining testament to the region's spirit of determination and excellence, bringing immense pride to the entire Ladakhi community.

## Fortnightly News

### Ladakh achieves flawless electoral roll revision with zero appeals



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has successfully completed the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Electoral Rolls across the country, with final rolls published on January 6 and 7, 2025. Covering nearly 10.5 lakh polling booths across 4,123 Assembly Constituencies, this large-scale exercise marks a significant milestone in enhancing the transparency and integrity of the electoral process.

Over 13.87 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs), appointed by various political parties, actively participated in the SSR, underscoring strong stakeholder engagement. Supporting this effort, more than 10.49 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were involved in

carrying out the revision process.

The SSR also included States and Union Territories that conducted Assembly elections following the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. As a result of the revision, the total number of registered electors in the country has reached 99.22 crore.

A major highlight of this revision is the exceptionally low number of appeals filed under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Across the nation, only 89 first-level appeals were submitted to District Magistrates and District Election Officers, while just one second-level appeal reached a Chief Electoral Officer. These figures reflect the high level

of accuracy and credibility achieved in the revision of the electoral rolls.

The ECI emphasized that the minimal use of the appeals process indicates broad acceptance, inclusiveness, and transparency in the SSR 2025 process. The active participation of political parties, election officials, and citizens contributed to the smooth finalization of electoral rolls with minimal disputes.

In the Union Territory of Ladakh, a total of 1,90,735 electors are currently registered. The region is served by 577 BLOs appointed by the UT Administration and 1,358 BLAs representing various political parties.

Remarkably, Ladakh reported zero appeals at both the district and UT levels, indicating a seamless and efficient SSR process in the region. The absence of appeals not only demonstrates administrative efficiency but also reflects the confidence of voters and stakeholders in the updated electoral rolls.

### 11th State Board for Wildlife meeting held under chairmanship of LG Brig (Dr) BD Mishra

Approves several defence projects, roads, and transmission line



During the 11th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The 11th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife was held on April 24 under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. The meeting was attended by members of the wildlife board.

The proceedings commenced with the LG and board members observing a minute's silence to pay tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, informed the board members about the request made by the LG to renowned wildlife expert Dr MK Ranjitsinh for assistance in drafting a detailed wildlife profile of Ladakh, a comprehensive wildlife policy for the region, and guidelines on the role of armed forces in the protection and conservation of wildlife in Ladakh. Dr Ranjitsinh has already completed the wildlife profiling, and

work is ongoing on the other two aspects.

Dr Kotwal also presented the assessment report on the status of the black-necked crane in the High Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) Wildlife Sanctuary for 2024-25. He informed the members that 25 wildlife stewards had been engaged by the Department of Wildlife Protection to monitor and protect the black-necked crane population. The stewards, trained for seven months, have been assigned to track data on the number of cranes, nest sites, eggs, and chicks in the sanctuary's 25 habitats. Currently, Ladakh is home to 69 adult cranes and 20 chicks.

Additionally, Dr Kotwal reported that a workshop had been held to train user agencies such as the Army and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) officials in handling wildlife diversion proposals through the Parivesh 2.0 portal with the help of NIC Delhi.

During the meeting, 23 infrastructure development proposals from the Indian Army and the Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), along with proposals for defence roads and transmission line clearances in Karakoram and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries, were presented. After detailed discussions, all proposals were approved by the board members.

Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsong, wildlife expert Dr MK Ranjitsinh, Dr RK Singh, and Director of Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust, Tsewang Namgail, contributed valuable suggestions during the meeting. These included holding consultations with local councilors on proposed defence projects to avoid confusion, minimizing land acquisition from villagers, and installing barricades and speed barriers to protect endangered species like the Pallas's Cat from speeding vehicles.

Former PCCF Jigmet Takpa, IFoS (Retd); DGP Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jambwal, IPS; Commissioner/Secretary, Dr Vasanthakumar N, IAS; CCF Ladakh, Sajad Mufti, IFoS; Secretary, IT, Shashanka Ala, IAS; officials from Army, Border Roads Organisation; PDD, Wildlife Department; Wildlife Institute of India and other wildlife experts were present in the meeting.

### MP Ladakh chairs review meeting to assess progress of developmental activities in Kargil



Member of Parliament (MP) for Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa, chaired a review meeting at the Council Secretariat, Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Member of Parliament (MP) for Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa, chaired a review meeting at the Council Secretariat, Kargil on April 26 to assess the progress of various developmental activities in Baroo village.

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor for Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Mohammad Feroz; Councillor for Baroo-Minjee Constituency, Advocate Khadim Hussain; Executive Engineers from PHE, R&B, Irrigation, Mechanical, and PDD departments; Tehsildar Kargil; representatives from the Municipality; and members of the village committees of Baroo and Titichumik.

Detailed discussions were

held on key sectors including

irrigation, revenue, Public Health Engineering (PHE), roads, municipal services, and other essential services. The MP reviewed the status of ongoing and proposed projects and issued necessary directions to the concerned departments for effective and timely execution of both major and minor works.

Emphasizing the importance of community involvement, the MP urged villagers to extend full cooperation during the execution of projects to ensure smooth and efficient completion. He also assured that a follow-up review meeting would be conducted within the next two months to monitor the progress and implementation of the directions given

en.

During the meeting, Advocate Khadim Hussain raised several pressing issues including the macadamization of the NHIDCL 0-6 stretch, installation of street lights, demand for a separate Patwari for Baroo, solar lift irrigation schemes, delimitation within MC Kargil, and the need for additional manpower in the Municipality.

The concerned departmental heads assured early and necessary action on the issues highlighted.

MP Ladakh also directed the concerned officers to maintain close coordination with villagers at every stage of developmental works to ensure transparency and active community participation.

### Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviews Aadhaar penetration, directs action for full coverage in Ladakh



Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a review meeting of the UID Implementation Committee (UIDIC) at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on April 28 to assess Aadhaar penetration and usage progress across Ladakh.

Assistant Manager, UIDAI Ladakh, Mohamad Taief, presented a detailed status report, highlighting achievements and challenges, particularly concerning the enrolment of children aged 0-5 years. The presentation covered key aspects, including the functioning of Aadhaar centers, department-wise Aadhaar penetration, use of Aadhaar in welfare schemes, status of enrolment kits, mandatory biometric updates (MBUs), and the resolution of Aadhaar-school record mismatches.

ing children and individuals requiring biometric updates.

Bhawna Garg, Director General, UIDAI Regional Office Chandigarh, stressed the importance of digital verifiable certificates, noting that QR code-based, digitally signed documents would significantly streamline the Aadhaar updation and enrolment process.

Furthermore, the Chief

Secretary directed officials to ensure the establishment of fixed Aadhaar enrolment locations at key government offices, including SDM and DC offices, with the availability of trained Aadhaar operators, aiming to achieve full Aadhaar saturation across UT Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Bhawna Garg, DG UIDAI RO Chandigarh; Administrative Secretaries of the Medical and Health Education, Information Technology, Agriculture, School Education, and General Administration Departments of UT Ladakh; District Magistrate Leh; Director of Health Services UT Ladakh; Director and Deputy Director, UIDAI; and other concerned officials.

### Green transformation: 8,000-sapling plantation drive held at Bombgarh



Officials planting trees during the plantation drive at the Bombgarh site in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** In celebration of World Earth Day, a significant plantation drive was carried out on April 22 at the Bombgarh site in Leh. The event was jointly organized by the Forest Department Leh in collaboration with the Municipal Committee Leh.

The Bombgarh site, which had served as a dumping ground for legacy waste for over 30 years, has recently been completely transformed through bio-mining—a process that has successfully cleared and reclaimed the land.

Sonam Nurbu (JKAS), Administrator of the Municipal Committee Leh and Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Leh, attended the event as the Chief Guest. He was joined by the Range Officer of the Forest Department Leh and other officials from the Municipal Committee.

Approximately one-third of the total reclaimed site is now being converted into green space. This initiative, in accordance with the directives of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), seeks to restore

ecological balance and mitigate the environmental and health impacts previously endured by residents living near the former dump site.

Under this afforestation effort—funded through CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority)—a total of 8,000 saplings are scheduled to be planted. As a beginning, 400 saplings were planted on World Earth Day.

A standout feature of the initiative is the sustainable use of treated wastewater from the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for irrigation. The water is being transported using dedicated tankers and suction machines, promoting an eco-friendly and resource-efficient model. In addition, a drip irrigation system is being implemented to ensure effective and judicious use of water resources, supporting long-term sustainability.

This plantation drive serves as a model for integrated waste management, environmental restoration, and sustainable resource utilization in the Leh region.

### Chief Secretary reviews preparations for 29th Sindhu Darshan Yatra



Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviewing the preparations for the upcoming 29th Sindhu Darshan Yatra.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal on April 22 reviewed the preparations for the upcoming 29th Sindhu Darshan Yatra.

The review meeting focused on key aspects such as venue setup, transportation, medical facilities, traffic management, power supply, availability of safe drinking water, sanitation, security arrangements, seating, Public Address System, and other related arrangements. The discussions aimed to ensure a smooth, safe, and enriching experience for all attendees.

Dr. Kotwal directed the construction of a permanent double-walled, plastic-insulated water tank with a capacity of over 10,000 liters, equipped with a pumping system and a steel framework, to provide drinking water facilities for tourists and pilgrims. He also instructed the Irrigation Department and Municipal Corporation (MC) to clean the water channel at Sindhu Ghat. Additionally, the PWD Department was tasked with preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of an arched steel bridge to facilitate the movement of devotees and tourists across the Sindhu Ghat, while enhancing the aes-

thetics of the area.

Emphasizing the importance of the Buddha Statue at Sindhu Ghat, Dr. Kotwal stressed that the construction should be carried out in consultation with religious organizations and under the supervision of reputed statue makers, preferably local Ladakhi sculptors.

Acknowledging the significant cultural and economic contribution of the Sindhu Darshan Yatra, which attracts hundreds of pilgrims and tourists each year, Dr. Kotwal urged all concerned departments to ensure seamless coordination and meticulous planning for the successful conduct of the event.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Tourism Vikram Singh Malik, SSP Security Piyush Fulzele, SSP Leh Shruti Arora, SSP Kargil Shree Raam R, Director of ULB Moses Kunzang, Director of Tourism Kunzes Angmo, Director of RDD Syed Sajjad Qadri, Director of Health Dr. Tashi Thines, ADDC Leh Sonam Nurboo, ADC Kargil Inteeaz Kacho, General Secretary of the Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti Bhupinder Kansil, and other concerned officers and officials.

### Officials discuss accessibility and support for persons with disabilities in Leh



During the meeting to address various issues concerning Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the region.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A meeting was convened in the VC Room of the DC Office, Leh, to address various issues concerning Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the region on April 28.

The meeting addressed a range of issues concerning the welfare of PwDs in Leh and Kargil districts. Key topics included im-

proving accessibility in public spaces, establishing Disability Resource Centres, incorporating Braille and sign language support in education, enhancing grant-in-aid schemes for NGOs, improving transport accessibility, providing reserved parking spaces, and conducting a UT-wide disability census.

Secretary Shashanka Ala highlighted the significance of digitally issuing UDID cards to streamline service delivery and scheduling for PwDs.

Secretary Bhupesh Chaudhary assured that the Transport Department would simplify the registration process for adapted vehicles and improve transport accessibility for PwDs, including issuing driving licenses.

Administrative Secretary Michael M. D'Souza informed that an accessibility audit would be conducted for existing buildings, beginning with government offices. He also announced plans to improve signage in government buildings to enhance accessibility.

Secretary Bhanu Prabha outlined plans to provide assistive devices for students, along with additional support such as home

tuition where needed. She also emphasized efforts to ensure admission opportunities for PwD students in higher education courses.

The President of PAGIR proposed the formation of a District Disability Committee to monitor and support the implementation of disability-related initiatives. The proposal was met with a positive response from the attendees.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to create an inclusive, accessible, and equitable environment for PwDs across Ladakh.

The meeting was attended virtually by key officials, including the Deputy Chairman of LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Secretary of the Social & Tribal Welfare Department, Shashanka Ala, IAS; Secretary of the

Transport Department, Bhupesh Chaudhary; Administrative Secretary of the Public Works Department (R&B), Michael M. D'Souza, IAS; and Secretary of the School, Technical, and Higher Education Department, Bhanu Prabha, IAS. Other attendees included DC/CEO of LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadev; Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, Shruti Arora, IPS; Additional Deputy Commissioner of Leh; Regional Transport Officer, Ladakh; Chief Engineer of PWD (R&B); Superintendent Engineer of PWD (R&B); Directors of Social Welfare and School Education Departments; Deputy Director of the Employment Department; Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Leh; Executive Officer of the Municipal Committee, Leh; Chief Master of Government Middle School, Chuchot; and Presidents of PAGIR, REWA Society, and Munsal Society.

## People's Voice:

## From Hope to Frustration: Stories of Ladakh's Job-Seeking Youth

By Stanzin Dasal

The voices compiled here represent the concerns, frustrations, and hopes of Ladakhi youth grappling with a growing unemployment crisis in the Union Territory. From policy delays and lack of recruitment transparency to inadequate examination infrastructure and emotional tolls, these testimonies reveal a collective struggle that has persisted for over six years. As Ladakh navigates its identity and future, it is crucial that these voices are heard—not only as complaints, but as calls for accountability, action, and inclusive development.

**Phuntsog Targais:** I want to ask every youth of Ladakh—how long are we going to remain silent and let things continue as they are? It has been six years since Ladakh became a Union Territory, and yet we still don't have a proper recruitment policy. The unemployment crisis won't be solved by playing the blame game or pointing fingers. It's high time we speak up for our rights. If we don't raise our voices, no one will take our issues seriously, and nothing will change.

Unemployment doesn't just affect us—it affects our families, especially our parents who have worked tirelessly to educate us with the hope that we would secure good jobs and build better lives. But today, we stand jobless, and we ask: who is accountable for this injustice?

The youth of Ladakh are in dire need of employment. We are exhausted from repeatedly meeting officials and raising our concerns, only to be met with silence and inaction. The sad reality is that after six years, we find ourselves stuck in the same place—disheartened and losing hope.

We are the youth who sacrificed six precious years of our lives for the future of Ladakh because we didn't want to accept a rushed domicile policy that could impact our region's delicate demography. In six years, a child is born, learns to walk, and even starts school—yet our struggle for justice remains stagnant. That is the painful truth of our situation.

This unemployment crisis is growing so severe that many youths are now afraid to socialize. Every time we step out, we are asked, "What are you doing these days?" This constant reminder pushes many into frustration, depression,

and isolation. Worse still, the rise in substance abuse among Ladakhi youth is alarming. If things continue this way, we fear that crime rates will also rise in the near future.

Even students currently in school and college are starting to lose interest in their studies. They see the reality around them—graduates struggling for years without jobs—and they wonder, "What's the point?"

We are placing high hopes on the upcoming **May 20th High-Powered Committee meeting**, especially regarding the domicile issue. We expect concrete outcomes, not vague summaries about the meeting's mood or atmosphere. We deserve to know the actual decisions and steps taken.

Meanwhile, our elected representatives are busy blaming each other, and some seem more focused on building their political careers. I urge all of them—please, come together and talk to us. Understand our pain and struggles. The frustration among youth is growing, and before it turns into mass agitation, I appeal to the leaders, the administration, and every stakeholder to act swiftly and responsibly.

**Sonom Dawa:** Recruitment is not a one-time event that opens once and reappears after two or three years. It's meant to be an ongoing process, with regular openings announced by the government. All of us who have been struggling for employment proposed that recruitment should be based on the Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC). We requested our leaders to give the LRC a legal foundation because it would benefit not only students but also many others across sectors.

Unfortunately, no one took it seriously. LRC was viewed solely through the lens of employment. But today, as we see increased outside investment, especially in the tourism industry, the same stakeholders are now demanding that LRC be made mandatory for tour-

ism-related businesses.

All this time, we've been trying to explain that LRC is not just about jobs—it can be a broader solution and beneficial to many aspects of life in Ladakh. But again, no one listened. People dismissed it as a narrow employment issue. Now that the need is emerging in other sectors, some have started realizing its importance.

We've seen all stakeholders come together on a common platform to demand LRC as a requirement in the tourism sector. But my question is—why didn't they come together on one platform to raise their voices for us, the unemployed youth?

Today, everything is stuck on the domicile issue. For years, we've demanded a cut-off date, similar to the Sikkim model, to ensure clarity and protection for genuine Ladakhi residents. Domicile isn't just another document—it's the one paper that defines and confirms who is truly a resident of Ladakh.

The 1989 cut-off date is crucial to differentiate genuine residents from outsiders. We cannot afford to accept a domicile policy like the one in Jammu & Kashmir. That would dilute the identity and rights of Ladakhis.

Recently, we saw Apex Body and KDA propose 1989 as the cut-off year for domicile eligibility, which is a welcome move. We were hopeful that, following this, the Hill Council Leh would pass a resolution supporting the cut-off date.

But to our disappointment, neither the ruling party nor the opposition raised this matter in the General Council Meeting. No public representative of Ladakh is taking this crucial issue se-

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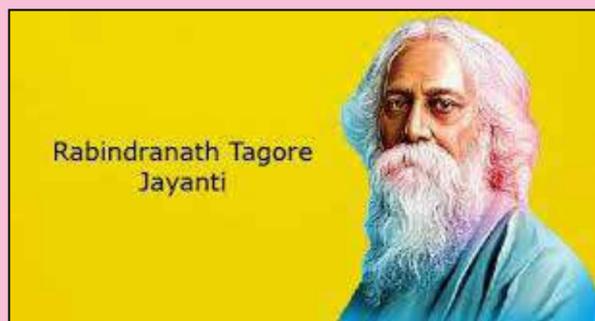
## The World of Juniors

Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti, also known as Rabindra Jayanti or Poncheeshe Boishakh in Kolkata, is a significant cultural observance commemorating the birth anniversary of the eminent Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, who has been revered with titles such as 'Gurudev', 'Kabiguru', and 'Biswakabi'.

Revered across the world for his remarkable contributions to literature, music, and art, the legendary Bengali poet, writer, painter, social reformer, and philosopher from West Bengal, Tagore has significantly influenced the cultural and political history of India.

According to the Gregorian calendar, Rabindranath Tagore was born in Kolkata on May 7, 1861, to parents Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Deviwas. He was a distinct personality from Bengal who had a significant impact on Bengali literature, music, and Indian art via modernism. In West Bengal, Rabindra Jayanti is usually celebrated on the 25th day of the Bengali month of Boishakh, following the traditional Bengali calendar. In 2024, we will commemorate the 163rd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore on Wednesday, May 8th.

## Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti



Rabindranath Tagore, a prominent figure in the Bengali Renaissance, was also a visionary educator who revolutionised traditional classroom teaching and founded Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal. His literary works, spanning poetry, novels, short stories, and essays, inspire writers and artists globally. 'Gitanjali', Tagore's renowned collection of poems, was recognised with the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. Notably, as per historical records, he holds the unique distinction of having penned the national anthems of two nations: Jana Gana Mana for India and Amar Sonar Bangla for Bangladesh.

Courtesy: Indian Express

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

### The 'Thank You' Magic



Saying 'please' and 'thank you' are the two magical words that are all-pleasing, and have the potential to change your life and its meaning. These are the basic and fundamental etiquettes that not only make you behave in a gentle and civilised manner but also are the ways that get you great 'returns'. We need to realise that nothing attracts as much as your polite and gentle behaviour.

And, these are also the words that give you a positive mindset for your daily and overall dealings with the rest of the world. With these words, you can pedal at a higher level that gives you the advantage of coming across many chances for your success.

American Author Frank Sonnenberg says: "It costs you nothing to say 'thank you', but forgetting those magic words can cost you everything."

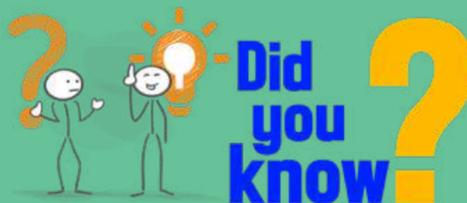
Can't be truer. Being indifferent and not being gentle and loving towards those around you does not go well, and sooner or later, you may face many problems like being left alone in circumstances when you need others the most because, after all, as Aristotle had said, we are all social animals. Nothing great of something of any substance can be achieved by being left alone with no one to side with you.

For any one of us, there is a need for a 'ladder of people' to go up and achieve great things. It is the 'thank you' and the 'please' gestures that get you going to the destination of your choice. I understand that there are plenty of people among us who strive hard to seek opportunities to get chances to say 'please' or 'thank you'. They know that but for becoming a good and a gentle person, no hard work or struggle can lead you anywhere!

Therefore, let us keep in mind that we should never under-estimate the power of saying 'please' and 'thank you'. Saying 'thank you' is being grateful and is an act of gratitude that helps you to grow and expand. And, as someone had said, gratitude brings you joy and laughter into your life and into the lives of all those around you.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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



### Did you know an astronaut was allergic to the moon?

Seems like someone had a tre-moon-dous allergy problem! During the Apollo 17 mission, astronaut Harrison Schmitt found out that he had a severe reaction to moon dust.

### Did you know there's a toilet museum?

In New Delhi, the Sulabh International Museum Of Toilets features a rare collection that details the historic evolution of toilets from 2500 BC all the way up to the present day. When you browse through the exhibit, you'll learn about the plumbing system of ancient societies, marvel at the elaborately decorated toilets of 18th and 19th-century Europe, and even get to sit upon one from Austria that is shaped like a lion!

### Did you know the official bird of Redondo Beach, California, is the Goodyear Blimp?

In 1983, the coastal city made the Goodyear Blimp their official

city bird in anticipation of the 1984 summer Olympics. They even presented a plaque to a team from Goodyear Airship Operations to help celebrate the decision!

### Did you know 3 U.S. Presidents have won Grammys?

Former President Jimmy Carter has won three Grammy Awards in the Best Spoken Word Album category. The first one was for Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis in 2007. Next came, A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety in 2016. Finally Faith: A Journey For All in 2019.

### Did you know the Eagles' stadium once had a courtroom?

Veterans Stadium, where the Philadelphia Eagles once played, had a stadium courtroom and jail to handle the team's notoriously rowdy fans. However, one of the judges for said courtroom reported that 95% of the "inmates" were actually not from the city itself!

### Did you know "Q" is the only letter that doesn't appear in any U.S. state name?

Go through the list of the fifty nifty states and we can guarantee you won't find any state that has the letter Q in its name!

### Did you know Winston Churchill was hit by a car and nearly killed during a New York visit?

Talk about an all-American welcome! During a lecture tour in the U.S. in Dec. 1931, Winston Churchill was struck by a car while crossing Fifth Avenue and nearly killed. Fortunately, he survived the accident.

## Fortnightly News

### In Conversation with Ayesha Malo, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam, Women wing

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

**Q. Please introduce yourself to the readers, briefly tell us about Anjuman Moin ul Islam (Women's Wing), and share your journey as the president of the organization.**

It has been nearly ten years since the Women's Wing of Anjuman Moin ul Islam was established. I was initially appointed as the acting president, and later elected to the position. This year, I have been re-elected to continue serving as the president.

The women's wing primarily focuses on promoting women's education, health, and overall well-being. I strongly believe that education is the key to success—a woman must be rightly and fully educated so that she can confidently represent herself in any space within society. Without education, it becomes difficult for women to express their views or participate meaningfully on any platform.

One issue we often see is that women, especially mothers, are the last to eat in a household, often prioritizing others over themselves. In some cases, even pregnant or breastfeeding mothers consume the least, compromising their own health and nutrition. I believe this is an unhealthy practice. A mother's well-being is just as important as that of any other family member. If her health suffers, it affects the entire family. That's why our organization places strong emphasis on raising awareness about maternal health and nutrition, alongside education.

**Q. Why is representation and women's inclusion crucial in politics? Ladakh, in particular, has experienced little to no women representation. However, LAHDC Leh recently passed a resolution for 33% reservation for women in the General Council. Kindly share your views on this.**

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to nominated Councillor Dr. Yangchan for proposing the resolution, and to the Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC Leh for fulfilling his promise and making it a reality. I also thank all the councillors and stakeholders who supported this important step. Women have long been advocating for inclusion and representation in decision-making bodies, and this resolution is a significant achievement.

It's important to note that Late Rani Parvati Devi was the first—and so far, the only—woman Member of Parliament from Ladakh. Since then, for over 40 years, Ladakh's polit-



#### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

**“First and foremost, I appeal to everyone to protect our religious harmony and stay united as Ladakhis. Unity is our strength. I also encourage women to prepare themselves to actively engage in politics and take full advantage of the 33% reservation once it is implemented. The future of Ladakh depends on the participation and leadership of its women.”**

ical landscape has lacked meaningful female representation. I have met many women who are confident, capable, and fully prepared to succeed in politics—women who are even qualified to represent Ladakh as a Member of Parliament.

Elected women representatives hold more authority than nominated members, which is why this resolution is so crucial. It brings real hope for change and a more inclusive future. I sincerely hope the resolution is implemented at the earliest.

Through this platform, I would like to encourage all women to seize this opportunity—prepare yourselves, come forward, and actively participate in the upcoming elections. Your voice matters, and your leadership is needed.

**Q. How does women's representation help women and organisations, whether political or religious, in society?**

It is often said that a society cannot progress on the path of development without the active participation of women. Women play a crucial role in understanding and addressing societal issues, and their presence is essential for any organisation to function effectively. An organisation—whether political, social, or religious—cannot truly thrive without equal representation of women.

The perspectives of men and women differ at various stages of life. Women are often recognised for their ability to think ahead and offer a broader vision compared to men. For a long time, decision-making bodies were dominated solely by men, and this tradition sidelined women's interests. As a result, issues faced by women were often overlooked or not properly acknowledged. A woman's experiences, needs, and opinions cannot be fully represented through a male perspective alone.

Behind every successful man, there is often a woman who has supported and strengthened his journey. Today, we see women not only supporting but also actively participating and leading in many organisations, contributing significantly to the service and betterment of society.

**Q. What role do family members and people around a woman play in helping her smoothly balance her personal life, household, and work outside the home?**

A woman working in any organisation—whether in decision-making bodies, social

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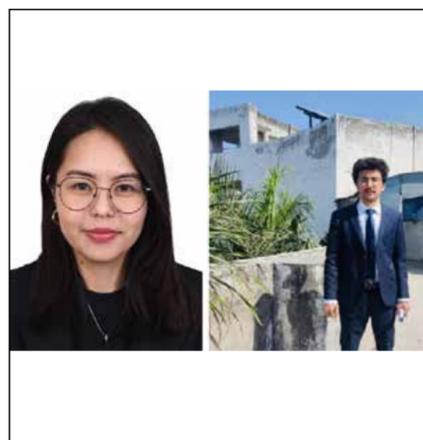
## Fortnight Highlights



The Animal Husbandry Department, Leh, conducted a five-day Animal Birth Control and Anti-Rabies camp in Kayray village from April 16 to 20. A total of 246 stray dogs were sterilized and vaccinated against rabies during the camp, held in the village's military area.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson felicitated the winners of the 1st Open Traditional Archery Championships. Sonam Motup emerged as the winner of the championship followed by Stanzin Wangpo as the first runner-up. Tundup Wangyal secured the second-highest individual score. The winner, Sonam Motup will represent in the Malaysia Selection Games, scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson on behalf of LAHDC and the people of Ladakh extend heartfelt congratulations to Rigzen Angmo (Rank 848), D/o Tsering Namgyal, resident of Nurla Thang Pa and Ghulam Haider (Rank 633), S/o Haji Ghulam Mehdi, resident of Panikhar, Kargil for their outstanding success in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2024.



A day-long awareness programme aimed at strengthening school education and preventing drug abuse was organized at the community hall in Temisgam on April 25. The initiative was a collaborative effort between the LBA Sham Education Committee, LAHDC Leh, Information Department, Health Department,



Nasreen Maryum re-appointment as President of Anjuman Imamia Women Wing for the term 2025–2027. The newly elected Executive Body members includes Zahra Bano (Vice President), Amina Chocho (General Secretary), Nissa Khatoon (Joint Secretary), and Shazia Band (Treasurer).



As part of the ongoing 7-day Tribal Painting Workshop organized by the Tribal Research Institute, University of Ladakh, Kargil Campus, a special heritage tour was conducted for 50 tribal students from various high and higher secondary schools of Kargil on April 27.



International Coach Mohd Abbass Nordakh from Ladakh, who recently led Team India in Ice Short Track Speed Skating at the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China, was felicitated by the CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson, for his historic achievement. He is the first Ladakhi to serve as national coach at the Asian Winter Games.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), along with First Lady Neelam Mishra, inaugurated the District Panchayat Resource Centre at Agling. The centre has been constructed by the Rural Development Department (RDD), UT Ladakh.

## Fortnightly News

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### People's Voice: From Hope to Frustration: Stories of Ladakh's Job-Seeking Youth

riously. It makes me question—are they truly thinking about Ladakh and its people? Are they even standing for Ladakhis?

**Tashi Gyalton:** I want to highlight two major issues that are seriously affecting the unemployed youth of Ladakh.

First, during an official meeting, the Administration of UT Ladakh announced that job notifications would be released in January and that examinations would be conducted in April. Today is 24th April, and so far, no exams have been held. There is no clear communication from the authorities about the delay, leaving thousands of aspirants confused and anxious.

Second, the syllabus issue. On the LAHSSRB website, a tentative syllabus is provided, but it comes with a disclaimer stating:

“The above information is tentative and for guidance purposes only.”

This means the syllabus can be changed at any time. This lack of clarity has left students in complete darkness. How are we supposed to prepare for an exam when we don't even know what to study?

Many students are now completely clueless—unsure about what is relevant and what isn't. My question to the administration is:

Are you expecting us to study everything, whether it's relevant to the post or not?

This is not a fair opportunity. And then later, when students don't qualify, we are the ones who get blamed.

Let me be clear—we want to serve our people. We want to contribute to the development of Ladakh. But the way things are being handled, it feels like the administration doesn't want to take us on board.

We demand that the administration explain the delay in conducting the exams that were supposed to take place this month, and more importantly, publish a clear, officially defined syllabus immediately, so students can prepare with direction and purpose.

**Stanzin Padma:** India is a democratic country, and in Ladakh, we have elected representatives in both LAHDC Leh and Kargil. However, these days, we're witnessing the rise of many self-proclaimed youth leaders who claim to speak for us—especially on issues like unemployment and youth concerns.

Let me be clear: we appreciate and support the youth who are genuinely raising important issues. But my point is—ask us, the ones directly facing these problems. Take our opinions into account before making public statements or decisions on our behalf.

I understand it may not be possible to visit every household to collect grievances, but at the very least, you can make an effort to visit public spaces like libraries, where many of us gather. You'll find the real voices, the real struggles, and the truth about what we're going through.

We strongly condemn those so-called youth leaders who take the stage and speak as if they represent us, without ever consulting or involving us. These decisions and declarations made without our consent only create confusion and further disconnect.

I sincerely urge all political parties and organizations—please do not support or promote individuals who claim to speak for the youth without actually engaging with us. This isn't just about visibility—it's about integrity and real representation.

Lastly, I want to reiterate one important truth:

Tomorrow, if Ladakh secures Sixth Schedule status, UT with legislature, or even statehood—the foundation of that achievement will be the six years of struggle and sacrifice by the youth of Ladakh.

**Tsering Diskit:** The unemployment crisis in Ladakh is deepening, and many of our youth are silently suffering. Amidst this ongoing struggle, I want to highlight a major yet often overlooked issue—the lack of proper Computer-Based Examination (CBT) centers in Ladakh.

Currently, Leh has only one CBT centre—'G Com'—which can accommodate around 100 students per shift. Even if it operates for three shifts a day, that's just 300 students in total. This is grossly insufficient considering the number of aspirants appearing for exams.

As a result, students are being forced to travel to other cities—Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, Chandigarh, and beyond—to appear for exams. For instance, in 2022, thousands of Ladakhi students had to travel outside the region to appear for SSC exams. More recently, the SBI examination once again saw students bearing the burden of extra expenses, accommodation, and travel just to appear for a test.

We must also understand that Ladakh's transportation infrastructure is not like other parts of India. In winter, roads are blocked due to snow, and air travel becomes the only option, which is costly and not always reliable. Add to this the stress of competitive exams, and you can imagine the mental and financial toll on the students and their families.

This situation is unfair to the youth of Ladakh. We are already battling limited opportunities, and on top of that, we are forced to spend extra just to appear for the few exams that do come our way.

I urge the administration and concerned authorities to immediately expand CBT infrastructure in Ladakh, so that students don't have to leave the region for exams. At the very least, there should be enough centers in Leh and Kargil to accommodate the growing number of aspirants locally.

### NOTICE

**An application has been received from Jamphel Dhondup S/o Sonam Thargyal R/o Choglamsar, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. LA 02 9867 for issuance of duplicate Fitness certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of the lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for the general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Leh within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.**

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### In Conversation with Ayesha Malo, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam, Women wing

groups, or religious institutions often finds it challenging to balance her household responsibilities and professional duties without strong support from her family and those around her. Without this support, it can even strain or disrupt family life. Thankfully, over the years, mindsets have evolved, and male family members are increasingly stepping up to share responsibilities, helping women manage both family and work more equally.

It is important for men in the family to understand that when a woman represents an organisation, she is not just representing herself, but an entire gender. While fulfilling her role in society, she also continues to carry out her duties at home—as a mother, sister, or daughter. She often works from dawn to dusk, being the first to rise and the last to rest. Supporting her is essential, not only for her personal well-being but also for the greater benefit of society.

**Q. What are the social issues women are victimized by, and what steps has the organization taken to address these issues?**

Although it is often believed that women in Ladakh are empowered and treated equally, I do not see this fully reflected in reality. On the ground, women are still viewed differently and often subjected to discrimination. Societal thinking still has a long way to go because the differences between men and women are not created by God; both have been equally gifted with unique capabilities.

In fact, women endure immense physical and emotional strength—carrying a child for nine months and nurturing a family—yet discrimination against them has somehow taken root and continued as a tradition over time. If this were not the case, we would have seen a far greater number of women represented in politics and leadership roles.

Our organization works actively to address these deep-rooted issues by raising awareness, conducting educational programs, and encouraging women to step forward and participate in all spheres of society. We emphasize the importance of equal rights, build platforms for women's voices to be heard, and advocate for policy changes that promote gender equality. True empowerment begins when societal attitudes change, and we are committed to being part of that transformation.

**Q. Ladakh is known for its religious harmony. What initiatives have been taken to further continue and secure this harmony?**

Religious harmony in Ladakh is a peaceful tradition passed down from our ancestors, and it is our responsibility to preserve it for future generations. Ladakh stands as an example for the entire country, showcasing how different communities can coexist with mutual respect and understanding.

All religious organizations in Ladakh actively work together to maintain and strengthen this harmony. It is this spirit of unity that has enabled Ladakh to collectively address its challenges and advocate for its needs.

Religious conflicts have the potential to destroy the very essence of Ladakh—the unique culture and peaceful environment that leave visitors from outside astonished. Many tourists are deeply impressed by the sense of harmony that defines Ladakh today, and we must continue to nurture and protect it through dialogue, collaboration, and shared values.

**Q. Can you highlight initiatives taken by the organization to protect Ladakh's environment?**

If every organization makes an effort to prevent environmental exploitation, the impact can be truly significant. Anjuman Moin ul Islam (Women's Wing), in collaboration with Zero Waste, initiated a project to collect fabric scraps from tailoring shops—waste that was previously either burned or dumped at waste yards. We trained women to creatively reuse and transform these fabric scraps into useful products like bags and pouches, promoting both environmental sustainability and women's skill development.

Additionally, our organization strictly avoids the use of plastic at all our events and gatherings, making a conscious effort to lead by example in promoting eco-friendly practices.

Our efforts were recognized when Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre awarded us for our contributions to securing religious harmony and promoting environmentally friendly initiatives.

### CEC Kargil Dr. Jaffer Akhooon meets Union Health Minister, seeks boost to healthcare in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, called on the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, J. P. Nadda, in New Delhi on April 23. The meeting focused on discussing the overall healthcare scenario in Kargil, including departmental operations and the challenges posed by the region's unique and harsh geographical conditions.

Dr. Akhooon submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting critical aspects of the health sector in Kargil and appealed for the Union Government's support in addressing the pressing issues.

An in-depth discussion followed in the presence of Dr. Manashvi Kumar, Joint Secretary (H&FW);

Aradhana Patnaik, Additional Secretary & MD NHM; V. Hekali Zhimomi, Additional Secretary (H&FW); and other senior officials of the Ministry.

The CEC raised key demands including, Upgradation of District Hospital Kargil, Sanctioning of posts for doctors, paramedical, and support staff, Establishment of a Super-Specialty Hospital (Mini AIIMS) in Kargil, Setting up of a Nursing College in the district, Upgradation of PHCs, NTPHCs, and AAMs and Sanctioning of new healthcare centres across Kargil.

Minister gave a patient hearing and assured that all the concerns raised would be given due consideration in the best interest of the region's healthcare development.



CEC of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon with Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, J. P. Nadda.

Dr. Akhooon expressed his sincere gratitude to the Union Minister for his time, attention, and assurance of support for strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in Kargil.

### B.Sc. students of GDC Drass gain hands-on training in animal breeding and poultry management

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The Department of Zoology, Government Degree College (GDC) Drass, organised a one-day educational tour for B.Sc. 6th Semester students to the Animal Breeding Centre and Poultry Farm, Kargil, on April 28.

The tour was part of the University of Ladakh's curriculum requirements under Applied Zoology and Animal Husbandry. It began with an orientation session at the Poultry Farm, where students received a comprehensive briefing on poultry breeding technology, hatchery operations, management practices, feeding, and disease control measures. A field demonstration showcased practical techniques in poultry rearing, broiler and layer bird management, and biosecurity protocols. The students then visited the Animal Breeding Centre, where Dr. Mohammad Anwar delivered an insightful lecture on animal breeding

techniques, focusing on Ladakh's cattle breeds, crossbreeds like Jersey and Holstein Friesian (HF), and modern breeding methods. Dr. Anwar also guided students through a live field demonstration, explaining the traits and advantages of various indigenous and crossbreed cattle.

The tour included a visit to the Liquid Nitrogen Plant, featuring a live demonstration on the handling and application of liquid nitrogen for semen preservation and artificial insemination. This hands-on exposure enriched students' understanding of reproductive biotechnology. Students were also briefed on cattle diseases, vaccination schedules, deworming practices, and livestock health management—critical aspects for enhancing animal productivity.

The educational tour was coordinated by Dr. Talib Hussain, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology,



Students during one-day educational tour to the Animal Breeding Centre and Poultry Farm, Kargil.

GDC Drass, with constant support and encouragement from Principal Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi. The field trip provided students with an important opportunity to bridge theoretical knowledge with real-world practices in poultry science, animal breeding, and livestock management.

## Fortnightly News

### DC Kargil Shrikant Suse receives PM's award for excellence in holistic development



Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse with Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for Holistic Development.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse has been honoured with the prestigious Prime Minister's

Award for Excellence in Public Administration for Holistic Development, presented during the 17th Civil Services Day celebration.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon extended heartfelt congratulations, recognizing the award as a moment of immense pride for the entire district.

He commended Shrikant Balasaheb Suse for his exemplary dedication, tireless efforts, and sincere commitment toward delivering effective public services and promoting good governance in the region.

On behalf of the people of Kargil and LAHDC Kargil, CEC Akhooon conveyed his best wishes and expressed hope that the DC will continue to serve with the same zeal and dedication in the future.

### Power Development Department launches PM Surya Ghar awareness and registration drive in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Ladakh Power Development Department (PDD) launched a significant campaign on April 21, 2025, to promote the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana among domestic consumers in Leh.

An awareness camp and on-the-spot registration drive commenced at the Main Market, Leh, with the goal of educating residents about the benefits of installing solar rooftop panels and encouraging their participation in the central government scheme. This ten-day initiative, starting from April 21, provides a platform for households to learn how they can benefit from free electricity through subsidized solar installations.

The PM Surya Ghar scheme offers attractive financial incentives, including combined Central and UT subsidies that cover up to 25% of the total cost of solar rooftop systems for domestic consumers. By adopting

this scheme, households can significantly reduce or eliminate their electricity bills and even earn income by selling surplus power back to the grid.

The ongoing camp in Leh's Main Market, supported by various vendors, provides detailed information on eligibility criteria, the installation process, and the potential savings and benefits associated with the scheme.

The Power Development Department encourages all interested domestic consumers in Leh to visit the awareness camp within the next ten days to learn more about this initiative. The department also invites applications through the online portal at [www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in](http://www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in).

This campaign is a crucial step in promoting sustainable energy adoption and empowering Leh residents with a cost-effective, environmentally friendly power solution.

### NCC convocation and career counselling session inspire future cadets at GDC Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The 2nd convocation ceremony of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) at Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil was celebrated with great enthusiasm and pride on April 26.

Alongside the convocation, a special counselling session was organized for upcoming +2 students from Kargil district, aimed at guiding and motivating them to join the NCC and pursue higher education.

Lieutenant Dr. Murtaza Ali, Associate NCC Officer submitted a memorandum requesting additional NCC vacancies for the college.

Colonel Sweer Seth, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Ladakh Battalion, graced the event as the Chief Guest. Pro-

fessor Disket Angmo, Principal of GDC Kargil, was the Guest of Honour, and Lieutenant Colonel Singram Singh attended as the Special Guest.

The event witnessed active participation from 40 NCC cadets and 30 bridge course students. Colonel Seth addressed the gathering, highlighting the formation of the newly established NCC Battalion in Ladakh. He interacted with the students, encouraging them to join the NCC and emphasizing the invaluable opportunities, discipline, and leadership skills that NCC imparts.

The program concluded with the distribution of certificates. 'B' and 'C' certificates were awarded to deserving cadets in recognition of their dedication and achievements.

### Vaccination drive for Hajj pilgrims successfully concludes in Kargil



Hajj pilgrims of 2025 from Kargil district getting vaccinated.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The vaccination drive for the selected Hajj pilgrims of 2025 from Kargil district was successfully completed on April 25, with vaccination camps conducted across various blocks. The drive culminated in a major camp held at the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) Office Complex in Kargil.

The event witnessed the presence of Chairperson of Haj Committee, UT Ladakh, Mohd. Ali Majaz; Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Imteez Kacho; Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Liyaqat Ali; District Immunization Officer (DIO) Dr. Rabia Banoo; Block Medical Officer (BMO) Dr. Jalil Wani; Chief Agriculture Officer Ashiq Hussain Basharat; and other dignitaries.

Chairperson of the Haj Committee, Mohd. Ali Majaz, expressed gratitude to all attendees and medical staff, appreciating the pilgrims' patience throughout the process. He informed the pilgrims that they must report to the Hajj House in Srinagar by May 8, 2025, with their departure scheduled for May 9, 2025.

Advising caution and safety, he also briefed them about the administrative procedures involved in the pilgrimage.

ADC Imteez Kacho extended heartfelt thanks to the Chairperson, the CMO, and the medical fraternity for their dedicated efforts in ensuring a smooth and efficient vaccination drive. Highlighting the importance of immunization as an essential health measure for the sacred journey, he noted that although the drive was initially scheduled earlier, it had to be postponed to April 25 due to adverse weather conditions. He congratulated all Hajj pilgrims, offering them best wishes for a safe, comfortable, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage, and advised them to travel with lightweight baggage.

CMO Dr. Liyaqat Ali also thanked the Chairperson of the Haj Committee, the ADC, and all healthcare professionals for their active involvement. He emphasized the importance of medical check-ups and vaccinations in safeguarding the health of Hajj pilgrims.

### CEC Kargil inspects ongoing infrastructure projects, addresses public concerns



Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, CEC LAHDC Kargil, conducting a comprehensive inspection of various infrastructure projects in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, conducted a comprehensive inspection of various infrastructure projects being carried out by multiple departments in Kargil on April 28.

The inspection was attended by key officials, including the Chief Engineer of Project Vijayak, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil (Administrator MC Kargil), Chief Project Engineer, PDC Kargil, Superintendent Engineer, PW (R&B) Kargil, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kargil, Executive Engineers from PHE, R&B, M&RE PDD, and CCD 1st PDC Kargil, as well as the Executive Engineer, I&FC Kargil, Tehsildar Kargil, and the Town Councillor.

At the Motorable Bridge near By-Pass Shilikchey, the CEC engaged in a detailed discussion with the Chief Engineer of Project Vijayak, emphasizing the need for a thorough assessment of the land affected by the project. He directed that the impacted land be duly evaluated for compensation. The visit also ad-

ressed various technical and execution-related matters.

At the JAME Kargil Bridge site, the CEC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure the timely completion of the project. He assured the team that if additional funds were needed, they would be provided from the LAHDC Capex Budget.

Furthermore, the CEC instructed the R&B Department to resolve the issue of the PHE canal alignment, which crosses the road stretch after the bridge, to prevent potential future obstructions.

Earlier in the day, the CEC visited Kabadi Nallah, where local residents raised concerns about stone fall hazards in the area. They requested the construction of a protective bund and the elevation of compound walls to safeguard the community. Acknowledging their concerns, the CEC directed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kargil to assess the site and determine whether compensation was necessary for the affected areas.

### GDC Kargil students gain practical skills at district water testing laboratory



Students from Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil at District Water Testing Laboratory.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Students from Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil, accompanied by faculty members, visited the District Water Testing Laboratory of PHED Kargil for a one-day hands-on training program on water quality testing on April 26.

More than 20 students from various semesters actively participated in the session. During the training, experts provided detailed demonstrations and practical insights into several key water testing parameters, including calcium, magnesium, chloride, total hard-

ness, alkalinity, total dissolved solids, conductivity, turbidity, pH, and fluoride levels.

Students also gained exposure to the testing of biological parameters, particularly for E. coli and coliform bacteria.

The session was highly interactive and informative, with experts guiding students through each testing technique, thereby enhancing their practical skills and deepening their understanding of water quality assessment.

### Empowering Farmers: Nubra hosts one-day capacity development program



Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Nubra, Mukul Beniwal (IAS) during one-day Sensitization-cum-Capacity Development Program.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NUBRA:** Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Nubra, Mukul Beniwal (IAS), inaugurated a one-day Sensitization-cum-Capacity Development Program at the SDM Conference Hall in Diskit on April 21. The program was organized by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Addressing the gathering, SDM Nubra appreciated the efforts of the organisers and directed the Horticulture and Agriculture Officers of Nubra to provide regular support to farmers, rather than limiting assistance to annual visits. He urged farmers to make full use of various government schemes and emphasized the potential of local produce—apples, apricots, and seabuckthorn—as key regional assets that can be developed to boost income and livelihood opportunities.

Dr. Sonam Dawa, Horticulture Officer, Nubra, briefed attendees about departmental schemes accessible through online platforms.

Chemet Lhamo, In-charge SDAO, Agriculture Department Nubra, also provided detailed insights into the schemes available through the agriculture office.

Dr. Rigzin Tsewang and Bhaskar, Director of Finance Compliance, highlighted the objectives of the program, stressing the importance of promoting agri-exports, organic farming, and the export potential of Ladakh's unique agricultural products.

The program saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of farmers from Hunder and Diskit, who actively engaged in the session.

### Disability rights protest ends as administration promises action



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A press briefing was held on April 20 in response to the ongoing protest by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), particularly wheelchair users, who have been raising concerns over inaccessibility, lack of representation, and the need for job reservations.

The briefing was addressed by Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; and SSP Leh Shruti Arora. Also present were LBA Youth President Jigmet Raftan, PAGIR President Tsewang Dorje, and PAGIR member Padma Stanzin.

The protestors have been advocating for a disability-inclusive policy, representation in governance, job reservations for wheelchair users, and improved accessibility in public spaces and government buildings.

During the briefing, the Deputy Chair-

man assured that a meeting will be convened within a week to deliberate on the issues raised. He stated that all executive members and concerned officers would be invited, and district-level initiatives would be explored to address the demands.

DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, stated that the administration will coordinate with the ARTO and the transport department to resolve pending license-related matters promptly. He emphasized that making government buildings and public spaces accessible will be a priority, and that upcoming projects will be planned with inclusivity in mind. He also mentioned that retrofitting existing structures would be considered.

At the conclusion of the briefing, the Deputy Chairman, DC, and SSP offered juice to the protestors, who ended their hunger strike following the assurances given by the officials.

#### NOTICE

#### HIRING OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR (FEMALE) AT HQ 72 SUB AREA

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(a) **Working Hours:** Three hours per day for three days in a week.

(b) Location of conducting sessions will be at HQ 72 Sub Area. Sessions will be conducted live / online as per requirement of the case.

(c) Remuneration will be around Rs 26000-28000 per month which will be finalised during the interview.

3. Last date of receipt of applications is 15 May 2025.

#### NOTICE

An application has been received from one Sonam Angchok S/o Late Sonam Tashi R/o Matho UT Ladakh to transfer the vehicle no. LA02A-1339 owned by Skalzang Dorje S/o Sonam Norbou R/o Choglamsar UT Ladakh. Now, it is therefore notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) within a period of 10 days from date of publication of this notice.

No: ARTO/ UT/L/2025/144-45  
Date: 26-04-2025

Asstt. Regional Transport Officer  
Leh Ladakh

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