

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with

Phuntsog Angchuk: A lifesaver through 89 blood donations

Expert Talk:

Understanding HIV in Ladakh: Facts, Challenges, and the Path Forward

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HIV in Ladakh: Breaking the silence, fighting the stigma

84 cases since 2009; surge in drug use and co-infections sparks growing alarm

By Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The growing number of HIV-positive cases in Leh district has emerged as a serious public health concern...



Photo caption: Representational Image

This year alone, by the end of June 2025, six new cases have already been confirmed.

"We are seeing a rising number of patients with dual or even triple infections," said Stanzin Dolma...

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) primarily weakens the body's immune system...

tem by targeting CD4 cells, which are crucial for fighting infections.

Stanzin Dolma explained, "One of the most important indicators of HIV progression is the CD4 count.

Another alarming trend is the increasing use of injectable drugs in Leh. Drug users are highly vulnerable to contracting HIV and Hepatitis B or C...

preventive education and strong community engagement," Dolma stressed.

However, persistent stigma and lack of awareness remain the biggest barriers.

Despite the challenges, Leh's ICTC center is equipped with reliable diagnostic facilities and provides free antiretroviral treatment (ART).

Under the Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme, all pregnant women are screened for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and syphilis...

itive cases in children have been detected—four are stable, while one involves an unborn child whose mother is currently pregnant.

She also highlighted that many avoid getting tested due to fears over privacy.

Dolma emphasized that sex education is one of the strongest tools in combating such ignorance.

Stigma continues to prevent many from speaking out or seeking treatment. HIV is not spread through casual contact—not through touch, sharing food, or hugging.

transfusions, mother-to-child transmission, and shared needles.

"Education is the strongest tool we have," Dolma said.

All HIV testing and treatment at SNM Hospital are free and confidential.

The rising HIV numbers in Leh are a wake-up call for the region. As Ladakh undergoes rapid social and cultural changes, the health system and community awareness must keep pace.

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

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorjey Editor: Stanzin Dasal

First Ladakh Astro festival: Spotlight on astronomy and sustainable tourism



Photo Caption: Participants of the First Ladakh Astro Festival 2025.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The First Ladakh Astro Festival 2025 officially commenced on June 27 with a grand inaugural ceremony...

The inaugural event was graced by Tsering Angchok, Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, as the Chief Guest, and Romil Singh Donk (IAS), Deputy Commissioner Leh...

Students from Government School Skalzangling participated enthusiastically, reflecting the festival's strong educational focus.

Assistant Director, Tourism, Leh, and Dorje Angchuk, Engineer-in-Charge, Indian Astronomical Observatory, IIA.

A major highlight of the inaugural session was an expert talk by Dr. V. Girish, Deputy Director, Science Program Office, ISRO.

In his address, Chief Guest Tsering Angchok expressed pride that Leh was selected as the host of this pioneering event.

ism in Ladakh and extended gratitude to the Department of Tourism for conceptualizing and organizing the initiative.

The afternoon session featured a public talk by Dorje Angchuk, who shared his personal journey and passion for astrophotography.

The day culminated with an open Star Gazing session held at the University of Ladakh's Leh campus in Taru from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM.

The festival hold series of public talks by noted experts including Phunchok Dorjey from TIFR, Tsewang Stanzin from the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IIA), and Prof. Manzoor Malik from the Physics Department, Kashmir University.

One-time age relaxation announced for Group 'A' & 'B' posts in Ladakh

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA लद्दाख का राजपत्र The Ladakh Gazette

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson extended heartfelt congratulations to the youth and job aspirants of Ladakh...

The special relaxation was issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) under Order No. 280-LA(GAD) of 2025, dated June 30, 2025.

This relief addresses concerns

raised by many aspirants who missed previous opportunities due to administrative delays following the formation of the Union Territory in October 2019.

With this provision, aspirants from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Areas Adjoining the Line of Control (ALC), and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) can now avail up to 20 years of total age relaxation...

Importantly, the inclusion of the ALC category—which is typically excluded under standard DoPT guidelines—acknowledges the unique

challenges faced by residents of remote and border areas in Ladakh. All candidates must hold valid domicile and category certificates issued by competent authorities in Ladakh.

CEC Tashi Gyalson expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lieutenant Governor Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd), and the GAD Ladakh for addressing this long-standing demand and ensuring inclusive, equitable opportunities for Ladakh youth.

He urged all eligible aspirants to take full advantage of the opportunity and begin preparing for upcoming recruitment processes.

Fortnightly News

Leh marks International Day against Drug Abuse with youth-led art and awareness



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was marked in Leh on June 26 through a collaborative awareness event organized by the District De-addiction Centre (DDAC) in partnership with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Leh, under the banner of the Yato Club.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from diverse community groups, including religious leaders, women and youth organisations, the Leh Merchant Association, school teachers, and most importantly, students from various schools across Leh.

Participating schools included Delhi Public

School, Islamia Public School, Government School Skalzangling, Boys Higher Secondary School Leh, Government School Housing Colony, Siddhartha School, and Stok Leh. Students from these institutions—also members of the Yato Club—showcased creative and thought-provoking artworks illustrating the harmful effects of drug abuse on physical and mental health.

Adding depth to the programme, officials from the Narcotics Wing, Leh and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Leh delivered informative presentations on drug-related laws, preventive strategies, and the legal consequences of drug abuse. Their sessions aimed to educate and empower the youth with knowledge and awareness.

The event served as a powerful platform to foster community dialogue, raise awareness, and reaffirm Leh's collective commitment to a drug-free future.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pays tribute to 1962 War Heroes at Rezang La Memorial



Photo Caption: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman paying tribute to the brave Indian soldiers at the Rezang La War Memorial.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman paid heartfelt tribute to the brave Indian soldiers at the Rezang La War Memorial in Chushul on June 17. The memorial commemorates the soldiers of the 13 Kumaon Regiment who heroically laid down their lives during the 1962 war, led by the gallant Major Shaitan Singh, MVC.

During her visit, the Minister explored the museum and watched a short documentary film showcasing the unmatched courage and sacrifice of the Rezang La heroes.

Later, she visited Merak village near Pangong Lake to review the proposed site for the National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)—envisioned to be India's

largest ground-based solar telescope. The project aims to advance solar research and monitor space weather phenomena.

Prof. Ravindra B., Project Manager from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), briefed the Minister on the technical aspects and long-term benefits of the NLST project. Dr. Anapurni Subramaniam, Director of IIA, also participated in the visit.

At Merak, the Finance Minister interacted with local representatives including the Councillor of Chushul constituency, Konchok Stanzin, Nambardars of Phobrang and Man-Merak villages, and members of local Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The delegations submitted memorandums highlighting their concerns and development-related demands.

The Minister was accompanied by Secretary Tourism Vikram Singh Malik, Secretary S&TW Department Shashanka Ala, Chief Conservator of Wildlife Sajjad Mufti, DC Leh Santosh Sukhadave, SSP Leh Shruti Arora, and technical staff from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Hanle, along with other concerned officials.

DC Leh reviews Jal Jeevan Mission, stresses timely completion and water quality

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: DC Leh, Romil Singh Donk, chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) at the VC room of the DC office on June 28. The session focused on assessing ongoing projects, addressing implementation challenges, and ensuring the timely provision of safe drinking water to all households in the district.

The meeting began with a detailed presentation highlighting the current status of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) and progress across various components of the mission. DC Leh conducted a meticulous review of pending works, field methodologies, and techniques being employed in the execution of JJM projects.

A key area of discussion was the resolution of public grievances. DC Leh reviewed the performance of the grievance redressal portal, stressing the importance of efficient and

timely handling of public complaints. The status of NABL-accredited water testing laboratories in the district was also examined. As part of the review, officials were directed to carry out a sampling and testing exercise in Leh city to assess current contamination levels.

Other areas of focus included the financial status of the mission, assessment of physical assets, storage capacity, and the functionality of springs and borewells. Issues related to the operation and maintenance of infrastructure were thoroughly discussed, with an emphasis on ensuring long-term sustainability of the district's water supply systems.

Reaffirming his commitment to the mission, he announced upcoming site visits to personally oversee progress and expedite the completion of all pending projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Chushul Councillor submits special development package proposal for eastern Ladakh to Finance Minister



Photo Caption: Konchok Stanzin, Councillor of Chushul with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Konchok Stanzin, Councillor of Chushul, met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and submitted a memorandum requesting a Special Development Package for Eastern Ladakh, a strategically vital yet underdeveloped region.

The memorandum highlights the following key issues and proposals: development of pasturelands to support nomadic herders, restructuring of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) to prioritize frontline border villages, establishment

of banking facilities in Pangong-Phobrang, and a monthly honorarium for registered shepherds to protect the declining Pashmina economy. He also sought the establishment of skill development centres for artisans, a dedicated winter sports package, and financial assistance for youth-led tourism initiatives. Emphasizing the success of LAHDC's "Back to Village" land allotment model, he urged for its national replication to prevent youth migration.

The memorandum further called for the completion of nomad housing under the Changthang Development Package and 100% saturation of polycarbonate greenhouses to boost food security.

Konchok Stanzin underlined that these initiatives are crucial not only for regional development but also for strengthening national presence and resilience along the frontier.

Eastern Ladakh holds immense geopolitical and cultural significance. A Special Development Package, tailored to its unique challenges, is vital to ensure equitable growth, prevent migration, promote strategic resilience, and safeguard national heritage.

Councillor Konchok Stanzin expressed hope that the Finance Minister would consider these pressing demands and extend continued support for the development of India's border communities.

India's first hydrogen-powered buses launched at high-altitude station in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a landmark stride towards clean and sustainable transport, NTPC Limited formally handed over five hydrogen fuel cell-based buses to the State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO), UT Ladakh, during a ceremony held on June 18 at the NTPC Green Hydrogen Mobility Station, Palam, Leh.

This initiative marks India's first-ever commercial deployment of hydrogen-powered buses, and notably, at the highest altitude in the world—making it a globally significant achievement in the field of green mobility.

istration's vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

Later, the NTPC team called on Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal to brief him on the project's successful implementation. The Chief Secretary applauded NTPC's pioneering efforts and noted that the successful operation of hydrogen buses in extreme conditions could pave the way for similar initiatives across the country. He also directed the NTPC team to document the project's operational learnings to serve as a model for future hydrogen-based mobility projects.

This ambitious initiative, driven by the collaborative efforts of the UT Administration and NTPC, reaffirms India's leadership in renewable energy innovation and marks a major leap forward in sustainable public transportation—especially in ecologically sensitive and strategically significant regions like Ladakh.

Mission Indus clean-up launched: Stakeholders unite against pollution in river



Photo Caption: CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, chairing a high-level stakeholders' meeting to kickstart a mission-mode clean-up campaign of Indus River.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a strong and urgent call for action, Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, chaired a high-level stakeholders' meeting on June 18 to kickstart a mission-mode clean-up campaign and enforce zero tolerance for waste dumping in and around the sacred Indus River.

Held at the Conference Hall of the DC Office, the meeting saw participation from EC Ghulam Mehdi, LoP Tsering Namgyal, and Councillors Lobzang Sherab, Stanzin Chosfai, Tundup Norbu, Dr. Morup Dorje, Ishey Spalzang, Thinles Nurboo, and Sonam Thardos. Key officials present included Chief Wildlife Warden Sajjad Hussain Mufti and ADC Leh Ghulam Mohammad.

Representatives from the Indian Army, BRO, and paramilitary forces—including Lt. Col. P.S. Bisht (SM), Lt. Col. Dhawal, Col. C. Paul, and Col. S. S. Aulakh—also attended, along with ITBP DIG K.S. Rawat. Civil administration officials such as the SDMs of Likir and Kharu, Dy.SP

cerning and unacceptable," urging immediate and collective intervention.

To ensure vigilance and enforcement, the CEC directed the ADC Leh to constitute Flying Squads at the sub-divisional level to monitor and curb illegal dumping activities. A District-Level Committee—to be chaired by the CEC and comprising representatives from the army, paramilitary forces, BRO, Nambardars, Ex-Sarpanch/Panch, and government departments—will be formed to oversee the clean-up mission, track progress, and recommend long-term strategies.

Civil society leaders and representatives from prominent associations including the Christian Association, Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam, ALGHA, ALTA, ALTOA, LTTA, and merchant groups participated in the discussions.

Highlighting the cultural, ecological, and religious significance of the Indus River, CEC Gyalsen expressed grave concern over increasing pollution levels due to garbage dumping and untreated sewage discharge. "The Indus is not merely a water source—it is sacred, revered, and life-giving. We cannot allow it to be reduced to a dumping ground," he asserted.

Citing recent water tests that alarmingly showed arsenic levels in the Indus exceeding those found in treated sewage, he described the situation as "deeply con-

Changthang leaders, Govt, and Civil Society unite for Rangeland sustainability



Photo Caption: Participants of the Changthang Rangeland Visioning Multi-Stakeholder meeting.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Changthang Rangeland Visioning Multi-Stakeholder Meeting was successfully held on June 25 at Hotel Grand Dragon, Leh. This one-day consultation brought together a diverse cross-section of community leaders, government officials, civil society organisations, and conservation experts to collectively envision a sustainable future for Ladakh's high-altitude rangelands.

The meeting was graced by the Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC-Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsen, as Chief Guest, and Executive Councillor Tashi Yakzee as Guest of Honour. Their presence and leadership reaffirmed LAHDC-Leh's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development in the Changthang region.

Strong representation from elected Councillors of the Changthang area—including Chushul, Nyoma, Korzok, and surrounding regions—enriched the day's deliberations. Senior officials from key departments of the UT Administration, including Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Wildlife, Rural Development, Tourism, and Culture, were also in attendance. Prominent NGOs, religious institutions, civil society representatives, and media personnel actively participated in the discussions.

The consultation was organised

by WWF-India's Western Himalayas Conservation Programme under the Biodiversity portfolio. The WWF-India delegation included, Dr. Sejal Worah—Programme Director, WWF-India; Vishesh Uppal—Director, Law, Governance and Policy and Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma—Lead, Himalayas, WWF-India

A key highlight of the event was the presentation of the Community Vision for Changthang—a roadmap co-created with pastoralist communities through months of field engagement. This Vision captures aspirations related to biodiversity conservation, rangeland stewardship, cultural heritage, and sustainable livelihoods.

The meeting culminated in the unanimous endorsement of the Visioning Exercise by all stakeholders. Importantly, the gathering expressed enthusiastic support for the upcoming formation of the Rangeland Management Council—a locally driven, multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to participatory governance of Changthang's rangelands.

This endorsement marks a milestone in Ladakh's conservation and development journey, offering a replicable model for aligning community voices, ecological priorities, and policy frameworks.

Ladakh celebrates 11th International Day of Yoga with enthusiasm and unity



Photo Caption: Leh celebrating 11th International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm and widespread public participation at Astro turf Open Stadium, Spituk.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) with great enthusiasm and widespread public participation at two iconic venues—Leh Palace and Astro turf Open Stadium, Spituk—on June 21.

The celebration also marked the grand culmination of the week-long International Festival of Yoga and Meditation, jointly organized by the UT Administration of Ladakh and the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Leh, in collaboration with LAHDC Leh, the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, the University of Ladakh, the Ministry of Ayush, and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.

This year's global theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," emphasized the unifying power of yoga in promoting sustainability, planetary well-being, and holistic health.

A special feature of the event was the live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. His message inspired audiences across Ladakh, underscoring yoga's transformative role in healing, connection, and unity.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal, graced the occasion as Chief Guest at both venues. In his address, he hailed the International Day of Yoga as a historic milestone for India and a global acknowledgment of its ancient heritage.

"Yoga is not merely a physical discipline, but a holistic path to physical, mental, and spiritual well-being," the Minister stated. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for successfully proposing the IDY to the United Nations General Assembly, leading to its global recognition in 2015.

"Yoga will not only benefit the present generation but also lay the foundation

for a healthier, more harmonious future," he added.

Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder and President of MIMC, highlighted yoga, meditation, ahimsa (non-violence), karuna (compassion), and maitri (loving-kindness) as India's timeless gifts to humanity.

"Yoga is not just exercise; it is a path of transformation that rejuvenates body, mind, and soul," he said. He also shared that the International Festival of Yoga and Meditation was successfully conducted at several breathtaking locations in Ladakh, including Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley, the University of Ladakh, MIMC Leh, SNM Hospital, and the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, providing participants with a unique blend of spiritual practice and natural serenity.

The celebration was further elevated by the presence of several dignitaries, including Chairman LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen; Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillors Ghulam Mehdi and Stanzin Chosfai; Chief Secretary UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal; former Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Kiran Bedi; Secretary Tourism Vikram Singh Malik; Secretary RDD Shashanka Ala; and former MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, along with senior officials and other prominent guests.

The event also witnessed active participation from religious leaders from across India, such as His Holiness Swami Gyananand Tirth Jagadguru Shankaracharya, Swami Vachananda Guru, as well as numerous political representatives, departmental secretaries, heads of departments, and students from various educational institutions.

The celebration concluded with a mass yoga demonstration, where hundreds of participants performed asanas under the guidance of trained instructors—reaffirming the message of unity, health, and peace through the timeless and transformative practice of yoga.

Fortnightly News

Flash Flood Alert: DC Leh directs identification of hotspot zones



Photo Caption: Romil Singh Donk, DC, Leh, assessing disaster preparedness and emergency response mechanisms.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In view of the high likelihood of flash floods during the ongoing season, Romil Singh Donk (IAS), Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and Deputy Commissioner, Leh, convened a high-level review meeting on June 26 at the VC Room of the DC Office to assess disaster preparedness and emergency response mechanisms.

DC Leh directed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to identify potential flash flood hotspots within their jurisdictions and submit comprehensive reports, including the exact GPS coordinates of helpads to aid in emergency evacuation and relief operations.

During the review of medical preparedness, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) assured that Rapid Response Teams

(RRTs) are active in every block and that all toll-free emergency helplines are functional.

The meeting also covered the operational readiness of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The DC was briefed on the current strength and equipment inventory of the NDRF to evaluate their response capability in the event of an emergency.

Further instructions were issued to SDMs to hold awareness meetings with Nambardars and assess the status and functionality of Incident Response Teams (IRTs) to ensure their effectiveness during crises.

The meeting concluded with a strong emphasis on urgency, preparedness, and inter-departmental coordination. DC Leh reiterated that all departments must stay on high alert and maintain their safety equipment in a state of immediate readiness.

Key officials in attendance included the Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh; Superintendent Engineer, PW(R&B), Leh; Commandant, NDRF 13 Bn.; Chief Medical Officer, Leh; Deputy Superintendent of Police, UTDRF, Ladakh; Executive Engineer, I&FC, Leh; Executive Officer, MC Leh; and the Nodal Officer, Air Maintenance, Leh. All SDMs and Tehsildars participated via video conferencing.

Nirmala Sitharaman lays foundation stone for Mini Planetarium & Astro Globe at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve



Photo Caption: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laying the foundation stone for a Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe at the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in Changthang.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

HANLE: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for a Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe at the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in Changthang on June 16. The project, sanctioned under the Special Development Package (SDP) at an estimated cost of ₹276.65 lakh, aims to promote scientific education, astro-tourism, stargazing, night sky programs, and generate local employment in the high-altitude region.

At the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) telescope facility under the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Hanle, Prof. Annapurna Subramaniam, Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), and Dr. K.K. Yadav from the Astrophysical Sciences Division, BARC, presented the current achievements and future vision of the observatory.

Praising the efforts of both scientists and the local

community, Sitharaman remarked, "This project symbolizes the spirit of collaboration between science and society—a true matter of national pride." She encouraged the development of interactive public programs to spark interest in astrophysics through hands-on learning, and emphasized sharing scientific content widely with the public.

During her visit to Hanle, the Finance Minister interacted with delegations of Anganwadi workers, contractor associations, and BJP members from Nyoma, attentively listening to their concerns. At Rongo, she visited an animal husbandry site and met with female pashmina goat and yak herders, distributing goat-shearing machines to support their traditional livelihoods.

As part of the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, Sitharaman interacted with local beneficiaries and handed over a ₹50 lakh cheque to Nyoma no-

made under SBI's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative. The fund will support the construction of 16 community tents, each with the capacity to accommodate 30 nomadic herders, improving conditions during seasonal migrations.

The Departments of Sheep and Animal Husbandry organized a live demonstration of the nomadic lifestyle, while the Department of Social & Tribal Welfare (S&TW) showcased a mobile Anganwadi centre and millet-based dishes prepared by nomadic children and caregivers.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Secretary of Tourism, Vikram Singh Malik; Secretary S&TW, Shashanka Ala; Chief Conservator of Wildlife, Sajjad Mufti; DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora, along with scientists from the Indian Astronomical Observatory and officials from relevant departments.

New DC Kargil Rakesh Kumar holds introductory meeting with sectoral heads and officers



Photo Caption: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, chairing an introductory meeting with sectoral heads and district officers.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The newly appointed Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, chaired an introductory meeting with sectoral heads and district officers at the Conference Hall, Baroo on June 20.

Addressing the officers for the first time since assuming charge, DC Rakesh

responded to the public, encouraging prompt action in resolving grievances. Stressing the importance of punctuality, accountability, and coordination, he called on all departments to uphold a high standard of service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the need for strict adherence to deadlines and proactive decision-making to improve governance outcomes on the ground.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Finance/CCF Kargil, Joint Director Planning, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Superintendent Engineers of R&B and Hydraulics, among other sectoral heads and senior district officers.

He further directed officers to be accessible and

DC Leh chairs review meeting on special summary revision of photo electoral rolls



Photo Caption: District Election Officer/Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Election Officer/Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk, chaired an important review meeting on the Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls at the VC Room of the DC Office, Leh, on July 23.

A central agenda item was the submission of Booth Level Agent (BLA) lists by all political parties. DC Leh directed all parties to submit their respective BLA lists by July 27, emphasizing the critical role BLAs play in verifying and streamlining voter registration at polling stations. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and reinforce the structured participation of BLAs in the electoral process.

The meeting also focused on a range of other issues, including a detailed discussion on the six electoral sub-divisions, deletion of duplicate voter entries, and the rationalization of polling stations. The DC stressed the importance of identifying and eliminating duplicate entries to ensure an accurate and credible electoral roll.

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), and other essential infrastructure to ensure inclusive and voter-friendly environments.

To boost electoral participation, especially among underrepresented groups, DC Leh directed SVEEP Nodal Officer Tajamul Ara to prepare a detailed outreach schedule for all six sub-divisions. A notable directive included identifying and appointing community icons from marginalized sections such as PwDs, transgenders, women, and youth to serve as electoral ambassadors.

Political party representatives also raised several concerns. Prominent among them were issues related to the bifurcation of polling stations with high voter loads and the relocation of closely situated polling stations to minimize confusion and ensure smooth conduct on polling day. The DC assured that these concerns would be duly addressed during the ongoing revision process and urged timely finalization and verification of new polling sites.

Further instructions were issued for preparing a comprehensive proforma to assess basic facilities (AEROs)/Tehsildars, and at polling stations—covering access to drinking water, toilets, ramps for

The meeting was attended by all Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs)/Tehsildars, and representatives of major political parties including the BJP and INC.

DC Leh Romil Singh Donk holds introductory meeting with district officers



Photo Caption: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk convening an introductory meeting with all District Officers of Leh district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk convened an introductory meeting with all District Officers of Leh district at the Conference Hall of the DC Office on June 23.

The meeting began with self-introductions by all officers, followed by comprehensive presentations on the functions, ongoing projects, and achievements of their respective departments. DC Leh took detailed updates from various departments, with particular focus on key sectors such as Pashmina, Seabuckthorn, Mining, ration card distribution, immunization programs, and both conventional and solar energy initiatives.

To enhance inter-departmental coordination and reporting, DC Leh directed key departments—including Education,

Health, Handicrafts/Handloom, Transport (with emphasis on the issue of outside vehicles), PHE, and PWD—to prepare detailed summaries and PowerPoint presentations of their operations.

He also announced that a dedicated meeting on the District Capex Budget would be held in the coming week, with the objective of achieving expenditure targets by the end of August. The DC further encouraged officers to share suggestions and constructive feedback for better governance and service delivery. The meeting witnessed full participation from all Heads of Departments and District Officers, reflecting a unified commitment towards the district's developmental goals.

Pilgrims from across India join 29th Sindhu Darshan Utsav in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 29th Sindhu Darshan Utsav commenced with spiritual fervour and patriotic zeal at Sindhu Ghat, Leh, celebrating India's civilisational roots, cultural diversity, and national unity. Organised by the Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti, the three-day festival (June 23-26) has attracted pilgrims and cultural troupes from across the country.

A spiritually significant highlight of the festival took place on June 24, when His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche inaugurated the construction of a Buddha statue at Shey Manla, near Sindhu Ghat. The ceremony was attended by His Eminence Chokyang Palga Rinpoche; CEC LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsong; Chief Secretary UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal; DGP Ladakh S.D. Singh Jamwal; Chief Patron of the Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti, Indresh Kumar, and DC/CEO Leh, Romil Singh Donk.

Also present were Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh; Dr. Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa Rigpa; the CRO Leh; Murlu Das, President of the Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti; MLA & Vice President Vikram Randhawa, esteemed monks, district officials, and other dignitaries.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation by pilgrims and cultural groups from various Indian states, adding a vibrant and inclusive spirit to the occasion.

In his welcome address, CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalsong expressed gratitude to the

guests and pilgrims who had come from across the country. He emphasized the spiritual and cultural significance of the Sindhu (Indus) River, calling it a powerful symbol of Indian civilisation and unity.

"Ladakh is not only the geographic crown of India but also a spiritual one," he remarked, stressing the importance of preserving the sanctity and ecological health of the Sindhu River.

He further highlighted the government's focus on border area development, citing Demjok as a model for sustainable tourism with improved connectivity. "I invite all citizens to visit remote regions of Ladakh, where the Sindhu flows with sacred energy, carrying the message of peace and unity," he said. Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, in his address, praised the efforts to promote Ladakh as a destination of spiritual and cultural significance. He called for a balanced approach between tourism and environmental preservation, reiterating the Administration's commitment to protecting sacred sites and natural ecosystems.

Indresh Kumar, Chief Patron of the Yatra Samiti, delivered an impassioned speech rooted in patriotism and spiritual unity. He described the Sindhu River as a living embodiment of India's oneness and strength, commending Ladakh for its continued role in hosting this national gathering.

The day concluded with colourful cultural performances, showcasing traditional music, folk dances, and rituals from diverse Indian states. Artists in vibrant regional attire performed on the banks of the Sindhu, celebrating the country's unity in diversity.

Mementos were presented to dignitaries and special guests in appreciation of their contributions. The atmosphere throughout was both reverent and festive, as pilgrims offered prayers to the Sindhu River and participated in rituals with deep devotion.

The 29th Sindhu Darshan Utsav continues to stand as a powerful tribute to India's timeless civilisational spirit and to Ladakh's role in preserving and promoting the country's spiritual, cultural, and ecological identity.

NCST member Dr. Asha Lakra reviews tribal welfare schemes in Leh district



Photo Caption: Dr. Asha Lakra, Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr. Asha Lakra, Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), chaired a high-level review meeting at the DC Office Conference Hall in Leh on June 28 to assess the implementation of welfare schemes and centrally

sponsored programs aimed at benefiting Scheduled Tribes in the district.

The meeting was attended by key officials including Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk; Senior Superin-

tendent of Police, Shruti Arora; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ghulam Mohammad; Chief Planning Officer, Tsewang Gyalsong; and Assistant Commissioner Development, A.G. Zargar, among others.

Heads of various departments gave detailed presentations on the status and progress of key welfare initiatives such as the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mission Shakti, Jal Jeevan Mission, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Mission, MGNREGA, and the functioning of Self Help Groups (SHGs). Updates were also shared by departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, and Cooperatives.

Dr. Lakra appreciated the efforts of the district administration and

urged enhanced interdepartmental coordination to improve delivery and impact on the ground. She particularly emphasized the importance of active women's participation in institutions such as the Police Women's Cell, SHGs, and ICDS.

She underscored the significant role SHGs play in women's empowerment and economic stability and recommended the creation of an NSP (National Scholarship Portal) for students pursuing higher education outside Ladakh. She also advised the district to facilitate strong market linkages for SHG products and suggested setting up a food processing unit to help SHGs add value and boost income generation.

Recognizing the cultural and

educational role of nunneries in Leh, Dr. Lakra urged the administration to address their funding concerns. She also stressed the need for timely and adequate funding for ICDS and Mid-Day Meal schemes.

Dr. Lakra directed all departments to submit any outstanding issues in writing, assuring that her office would forward them to the relevant Union ministries for further action.

Concluding the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Romil Singh Donk thanked Dr. Lakra for her visit and valuable suggestions. He instructed all departments to coordinate with the Chief Planning Officer and submit their reports within seven days.

Expert Talk:

Understanding HIV in Ladakh: Facts, Challenges, and the Path Forward

By Stanzin Dasal



Stanzin Dolma, Counsellor, ICTC, SNM Hospital, Leh:

The rising number of HIV positive cases in Leh district is a growing public health concern. Since 2009, we have recorded 84 confirmed cases of HIV in the district. Among these, some cases are co-infected with Hepatitis B, and some are also battling tuberculosis, showing a pattern of co-infections that further complicates treatment and health outcomes.

HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, is a virus that attacks and weakens the immune system, specifically targeting the CD4 cells, which are essential for fighting infections. When untreated, HIV can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), a stage where the immune system becomes severely compromised and the patient becomes vulnerable to a range of opportunistic infections. One of the most important indicators of HIV progression is the CD4 count—a healthy individual typically has a CD4 count between 500 and 1500. However, in HIV-infected individuals, this count begins to drop. When it falls below 350, the immune system is significantly weakened, and patients often begin to show symptoms like rapid weight loss, persistent fungal infections in the mouth, and loss of appetite.

In Ladakh, a growing health concern is the rising number of syphilis-positive cases. Syphilis, a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*, is now being reported more frequently, often in conjunction with Hepatitis B and HIV, indicating an increasing trend of co-infections in the region.

Many of these cases are being diagnosed and managed successfully at the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC), SNM Hospital Leh, where I serve as a counsellor. Fortunately, we have access to reliable diagnostic facilities and antiretroviral treatment (ART), which makes early intervention both possible and effective. One of the most encouraging aspects is that the majority of cases are being detected in the early stages, enabling timely and successful treatment.

Under the Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme, all antenatal mothers undergo screening for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and syphilis (VDRL test). This approach has greatly improved early detection and prevention strategies.

To date, we have diagnosed five HIV-positive cases in children, of which four are currently safe, and one is in utero, as the mother is pregnant and yet to deliver. Thanks to early diagnosis and medical support, there is a strong possibility that these children will be saved from infection, reinforcing the importance of continuous awareness, routine testing, and community outreach. A cornerstone of our success has been pre-test and post-test counselling, which builds trust between patients and counsellors. Many individuals who test positive continue their treatment here with confidence, largely because of the non-judgmental and supportive environment we provide. It's crucial that patients feel respected, safe, and heard—only then can treatment be effective.

The Government of India, through the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), has adopted the global “U=U” campaign—Undetectable = Untransmittable. This means that individuals living with HIV who consistently take ART and achieve an undetectable viral load (i.e., so low it cannot be detected by standard tests) cannot transmit HIV to their sexual partners. This goal is not only achievable, but also essential for breaking the chain of transmission and combating stigma. However, reaching this point requires strict adherence to treatment, regular counselling, good nutrition, and hygienic living conditions.

There is no permanent cure for HIV yet, but with the U=U model, transmission can be prevented, and individuals can live long, healthy, and productive lives. The main barrier to this, however, is lack of awareness and persistent stigma, especially in tightly-knit societies like Ladakh.

One common misconception in our community is that such diseases do not exist here, and that they are only problems of larger urban areas. This belief is dangerous. Drug abuse, unsafe sexual practices, and social stigma are real issues in Ladakh. Many people prefer to get tested or treated outside Ladakh, especially due to the fear of being recognised and judged locally. During the COVID-19 lockdown, we received calls from ICTC centres in other states requesting ART medications for Ladakhi patients who were stranded due to travel restrictions. In some cases, individuals even approached us personally, asking for medicine discreetly.

This highlights a serious issue: the absence of pre-test counselling and confidentiality assurance deters many from accessing services in their hometown. I want to reiterate that all information is kept strictly confidential, and people should not hesitate to approach our centre for testing and support.

HIV can be transmitted in four main ways:

1. Unprotected sex with multiple partners
2. Re-use of infected needles or personal items
3. Mother-to-child transmission during childbirth or breastfeeding

4. Transfusion of infected blood

What is deeply concerning is that many well-educated individuals remain unaware of the modes of transmission of HIV and related infections. Denial, ignorance, and stigma continue to be major barriers, often leading to devastating consequences.

I recall a particularly tragic case in which an infected individual, unaware of their status, unknowingly transmitted the disease to nine others, including close family members. Heartbreakingly, several of them died without ever being diagnosed.

One of the biggest challenges we face is delayed diagnosis. In many cases, people do not seek testing until it is too late. So far, we have lost approximately 13 patients, all under the age of 40 to 45 years, to HIV-related complications—deaths that could potentially have been prevented with early detection and treatment.

This underscores the urgent need for awareness campaigns and community outreach, extending far beyond hospital walls. It is essential to create safe spaces for discussion, encourage voluntary testing, and dismantle the taboos surrounding HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Only through education, openness, and compassion can we break this cycle and save lives.

To address this, we are soon launching a Mobile ICTC Unit, which will enable us to reach remote areas for screening, early diagnosis, and counselling. This mobile unit will be instrumental in reaching people who cannot travel to Leh and will help us detect infections early, especially in underserved populations.

Another rising concern is the increase in substance abuse and the use of injectable drugs in Leh. Injecting drug users are at high risk of HIV, Hepatitis B and C due to shared needles. This again calls for strong preventive education and community involvement.

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SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Good friends, and bad friends



One can describe friends and friendship in many different and beautiful ways, but the one a good friend has sent is really good: “We never lose friends, we have only good and bad friends!” That is to say, I presume, good friends are never bad friends and bad friends are never good friends! It is this kind of ‘argumentative statements’ that go to take the proportion of ‘losing a friend’!

We need not go into the details of a bad friend except to say that they are no more our friends and we are quite good without them. Our focus here is to see what a good friend is, and how come you call someone a good or a great friend!

One of the basic and good definitions of a friend is given by the English poet, S T Coleridge: “A friend is a sheltering tree”. That is all because the poet had the point in mind, while defining friends and friendship, that a true friend is one who stands by you when you are being tested by the vagaries of time and you are badly in need of help.

Therefore, by and large, one can say that a friend is one who accepts you as you are, with all your good and bad points, and understands and remains with you in all kinds of situation. In other words, a good friend very well knows about all your failings and yet accepts you. That is why, as someone had said, love is beautiful, but friendship is much better!

It is not that we do not get to have good friends. The point is what do you do to understand that you have been a good friend with your so-called bad friends? Are you sure that your ‘bad friends’ were there all because of their faults? What about your own failings that could have made them your bad friends?

I, for one, never blame if someone good for years turns ‘bad’ all of a sudden. Even if I get to understand his faults, I blame myself for not really understanding him.

And that gives me great peace of mind and a feeling of regret over my own possible lapses!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Proud and Anxious: The Outcomes of War through the Eyes of an Army Brat

By Sonam Dewang Wangmo



Families destroyed, children orphaned, wives widowed, and mothers left alone—these are the true consequences of war. Beyond the battlefield, war leaves behind lives shattered and hearts broken. It's easy to sit in the comfort of our homes, unaware of the sacrifices made by those in olive green—our brave soldiers who fight for their people and their motherland, ready to lay down their lives so we can live in peace.

War is cruel. As an army brat, I've seen this, felt this, and lived this reality firsthand. Every time news of conflict or border tensions surfaces, a deep fear grips me. The “what ifs” begin to swirl in my mind. What if it was my parent who lost their life that day? What if I never got to see them again?

These thoughts make me hold my parents a little tighter and breathe a sigh—of relief and of regret. Relief that my loved ones are still with me. Regret that another child, just like me, is praying for their parent to return home—only to never see them again.

It weighs heavily on my heart. I feel sorrow and guilt in knowing that while my world remained intact, someone else's world collapsed in seconds.

People living safely in their homes may never fully grasp the constant fear that shadows the families of army personnel. Yes, our parents chose this life, knowing the risks it brings—but that doesn't make it any easier. I cannot help but feel both proud and anxious.

Proud—that I am an army child, connected to the strength and discipline of the olive green. Anxious—because with that pride comes the looming fear of loss and the unknown.

This duality lives within every heartbeat of a soldier's child: the honor of belonging to something bigger, and the quiet dread of what the next news alert might bring.

Sonam Dewang Wangmo (Thagang) is a Class 12 student at Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi. A keen reader, prolific writer, and eloquent orator, she has a deep interest in international relations, Model United Nations, and painting. Growing up as an army kid has profoundly shaped her perspective on resilience, gratitude, and service. She has actively supported crowdfunding and awareness campaigns focused on children's welfare and education and aspires to use her creativity and experiences to drive positive social changes.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Phuntsog Angchuk: A lifesaver through 89 blood donations

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. What inspired you to start donating blood, and what motivates you to continue even after 89 donations?

I donated blood for the first time in 1992, after helping a rickshaw puller take his critically ill wife to AIIMS, Delhi. When he couldn't afford the blood she needed, I stepped in and donated. That moment left a lasting impact on me. Seeing how my blood could save a life gave me a deep sense of purpose. Since then, I've been motivated by the fact that one unit of blood can help save up to three lives. That thought continues to inspire me, even after 89 donations.

Q. You are a member of 11 Friends, popularly known as "Zago 11." What does the group do?

Zago 11 is a close-knit welfare group formed by 11 friends from Basgo village, driven by a shared sense of social responsibility and compassion for others. Our core objective is to support individuals and families in need—especially the poor, underprivileged, and those facing hardship due to financial or social challenges.

Over the years, we have taken up various humanitarian initiatives. One of our key efforts has been helping the needy build houses—ensuring they have a safe and secure shelter. We helped to build 11 houses for the underprivileged. We also actively participate in preserving our cultural heritage, such as restoring centuries-old stupas in Basgo village, which hold immense spiritual and historical significance for our community.

What sets Zago 11 apart is our hands-on approach. We don't just raise funds—we physically involve ourselves in the work. For example, there was an instance when we walked an entire day to reach a remote location called Doltokling to help someone build a house. Moments like these reaffirm our purpose and strengthen our bond as a group.

To sustain our activities, we often initiate fundraising drives and seek donations from generous individuals and well-wishers. Interestingly, people also reach out to us directly, trusting that we will step in and support those in distress.

At its heart, Zago 11 is not just a group of friends—it's a movement of kindness, community spirit, and shared responsibility. Through small but consistent efforts, we aim to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“One small act of kindness—like donating blood—can save a life. Let's rise above fear and myths, and choose to help others. Be the reason someone gets a second chance. Your compassion matters.”

inspire more people to come forward in service of society.

Q. What do you think is the biggest misconception about blood donation in the region?

One of the biggest misconceptions I've observed in our region is the belief that donating blood causes weakness, weight gain, fatigue, or other health problems. As someone who has donated blood 89 times, I can confidently say these fears are baseless. I continue to feel perfectly healthy and fit, and have never experienced any negative health effects from donating blood.

What keeps me motivated is the knowledge that a single unit of donated blood can save up to three lives. This is because it's separated into three components—platelets, white blood cells, and red blood cells—each used to treat different medical conditions. That powerful fact drives me to continue donating.

In fact, I believe regular blood donation contributes to good health and may even help prevent certain diseases. It's not just a service to others—it can benefit the donor too.

I appeal to everyone in the community to rise above these misconceptions and understand the real impact of blood donation. Your small act could give someone a second chance at life. Let's come forward together and build a healthier, more compassionate society.

Q. What changes have you seen in society as a result of your voluntary service?

I'm very happy to share that our voluntary work has inspired many individuals and groups in the community to step forward and help others. Today, several societies and organizations are actively engaged in supporting people in need, and that gives me a deep sense of satisfaction.

One memorable experience I'd like to share is about an elderly couple who had no one to care for them. The old man was hospitalized and needed to undergo major surgery, but there was no one to sign his consent form. I stepped in and signed it, believing that with sincere intentions, everything would go well—and thankfully, it did. Today, he's doing fine, and seeing him healthy brings me immense happiness.

Voluntary work like this not only uplifts individuals but also

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Fortnight Highlights



In a formal handover ceremony held at the DC Office, Romil Singh Donk (IAS) officially assumed charge as the new Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh, succeeding Santosh Sukhadeve.



Rakesh Kumar, IAS (2021 batch, AGMUT cadre), formally assumed charge as the new Deputy Commissioner/CEO of LAHDC, Kargil on June 19, succeeding outgoing DC Shrikant Balasaheb Suse.



As part of the week-long celebrations for International Yoga Day 2025, the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) organized a special high-altitude yoga session at the iconic Pangong Lake.



The UT-Ladakh Ice Speed and Figure Skating Team was ceremoniously flagged off by the CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, for the 20th National Ice Speed & Figure Skating Championship to be held from June 25 to 29 at the Himadri Ice Rink in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.



His Holiness Chetsang Rinpoche laid the foundation stone for the Himalayan Botanical Garden at Shayok. Sanctioned under the District CAPEX Budget with an allocation of ₹1 crore, the project is envisioned as a pioneering centre for the conservation and promotion of Ladakh's unique botanical heritage.



CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Wipro Foundation, Bengaluru to strengthen the education sector in Kargil.



A two-day health checkup and awareness camp for camels and camel herders of Hunder village concluded at the Camel Safari site, Hunder Sand Dunes. The camp was organised by the Animal Husbandry Department, under the Block Veterinary Officer (BVO), Nubra.



The jersey of 1 Ladakh FC launched as the First Professional Football Club UT has earned a prestigious invitation to participate in the historic Durand Cup—one of Asia's oldest and most celebrated football tournaments.

Fortnightly News

...Continuity of page 4

Expert talk: Understanding HIV in Ladakh: Facts, Challenges, and the Path Forward

One of the most powerful tools to prevent such diseases is Sex Education. Unfortunately, many still misunderstand this term. Sex education is not about promoting sexual activity; it is about understanding physical and emotional changes during adolescence, learning about menstrual hygiene, safe practices, and respecting boundaries. I conduct awareness sessions in schools, colleges, and villages. One of my most inspiring experiences was in Zanskar, where students openly asked questions during our sessions—without fear or shame. I also ensure that boys and girls attend these sessions together, because understanding each other's biology and emotional experiences is crucial for building mutual respect.

Stigma remains one of the biggest barriers. Many people infected with HIV remain silent due to the fear of being judged or ostracized. As a result, others around them unknowingly remain at risk. It is vital that we break these myths, speak openly, and normalize testing and treatment. HIV does not spread through touch, sharing food, or casual contact—it spreads through the four defined routes only. We must treat infected individuals with compassion, dignity, and respect.

The good news is that testing and treatment are completely free, and there is financial support available for maintaining a nutritious diet during treatment and psychological support also. With timely diagnosis, adherence to ART, and community support, we can manage HIV effectively and prevent its spread.

In conclusion, we need to educate, empathize, and empower. HIV is not a curse; it is a manageable medical condition. What matters most is awareness, early detection, and consistent care. It's time for the people of Ladakh to break the silence, shed the stigma, and support one another in creating a healthier and more informed society.

Delegation from Biamathang Upper Colony meets CEC over water scarcity concerns



Photo Caption: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo at the Professional Development Conference for Educators.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, attended the Professional Development Conference for Educators organized by the Al-Kisa Foundation and Literacy International Charitable Trust at Syed Mehdi Memorial Auditorium Hall, Kargil, on June 20.

ation to the organizers, educators, scholars, and participants for their dedication to the theme "Under the Cloak of Guidance and Mercy." He praised the conference for promoting educational excellence, nurturing moral values, and strengthening community bonds.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Akhoo expressed heartfelt appreci-

Highlighting the importance of such platforms, Dr. Akhoo commended

the interactive sessions and collaborative spirit of the event. "Education is a sacred responsibility," he stated, "one that shapes not only intellect but also character."

During the event, Dr. Akhoo also visited the book exhibition and lauded the displayed curriculum, innovative teaching materials, and scholarly contributions of Professor Shabani.

Reaffirming LAHDC Kargil's commitment to educational progress, he remarked, "Together with institutions like the Al-Kisa Foundation, we can build a compassionate and knowledge-driven ecosystem in Kargil and beyond."

He concluded by calling educators the "true architects of the future" and urged continued collaboration to uplift students and society at large.

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In Conversation with Phuntsog Angchuk: A lifesaver through 89 blood donations

eases the burden on government departments and other organizations by complementing their efforts in reaching those in need. It truly shows how collective compassion can bring about real change in society.

Q. Have you ever faced any physical or social challenges while doing voluntary service?

The joy I find in helping others is limitless, and I'm deeply grateful to my family—especially my wife and children—for always supporting me and standing by my side. That kind of support is so important when you're involved in social work, which often comes with significant responsibilities and challenges.

Social work is not always easy. One incident that really tested me was when a patient urgently needed surgery and required a rare blood type—A-negative. I managed to arrange a donor, and everything was set. The patient was already in the operation theatre, but at the last moment, the donor didn't show up and his phone was switched off.

It was an incredibly stressful and helpless situation, especially because people had placed their trust in me. Moments like these are tough, but they also push you to be stronger, more prepared, and more committed to the cause.

Q. What would you say to young people or those who are hesitant about donating blood?

Blood donation is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to save a life—and there is nothing more meaningful than that. I sincerely urge all young people to come forward and donate blood without fear.

There are many myths and misconceptions around blood donation, such as it causing weakness or weight gain, but none of them are true. I've donated blood 89 times and continue to feel perfectly healthy.

Your small act can give someone a second chance at life. So let's break the myths and build a culture of compassion and responsibility.

Karpo Khar embraces wellness on International Yoga day

Tourism department Kargil organizes yoga session to mark IDY 2025

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: As part of the International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations under the theme "One Earth, One Health," the Tourism Department Kargil organized a yoga session at the scenic Karpo Khar Meadows in Suru Valley, promoting wellness, balance, and harmony in the lap of nature.

collective yoga practice, embracing its physical, mental, and spiritual benefits.

Physical Master and Yoga Instructor, Javed Iqbal, led the session, guiding participants through a series of asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing exercises), and meditation techniques. He emphasized that yoga is not just a physical exercise but a complete lifestyle practice that helps individuals realize and strengthen both body and mind.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Chairman, Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) and Munsif Sankoo, Deldan Angmo; Assistant Director, Tourism Department Kargil, Muhammad Ali Tak; Headmaster of Government Model High School Sangrah, Hamid Khan; Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Sankoo; students, teachers, and staff of High School Sangrah, along with officials from the Tourism and Forest Departments of Kargil.

In her address, Chairman TLSC Deldan Angmo described International Yoga Day as a powerful reminder of the importance of health and harmony. She highlighted yoga's ability to foster inner peace, mental clarity, and improved concentration, calling it a timeless and universally relevant practice essential for both individual and collective well-being.

Gathering in the early morning calm of Karpo Khar Meadows, participants marked the occasion with

Earlier, while welcoming the partic-



ipants, Assistant Director Tourism, Muhammad Ali Tak underscored the significance of incorporating yoga into daily life, noting that it promotes a sense of calm, energy, and overall balance. He encouraged attendees to make yoga a regular part of their routine to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Participants expressed their joy and gratitude for the opportunity to engage in yoga in such a tranquil and picturesque setting, noting that Karpo Khar's serene natural environment elevated the experience, making the celebration even more meaningful.

Yoga meets Sowa-Rigpa: 'Sam Yoga' celebrates healing science in Leh



Photo Caption: Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder of MIMC addressing during the ongoing week-long celebrations for the 11th International Day of Yoga.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: As part of the ongoing week-long celebrations for the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), in collaboration with the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) and LAHDC Leh, organized a special event titled "Sam Yoga – Fusion of Healing Science" on June 16 at the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, Leh.

and Naturopathy.

Dr. Raghavendra Rao, Director of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour included Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder of MIMC; Dr. Tashi Thinlas, Director, Health UT Ladakh; and Dr. Satya Lakshmi, Director, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune.

Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director of NISR, welcomed the participants and shared an overview of the institute's initiatives to promote yoga

and integrative healthcare.

Experts from ten states across India participated. The event featured presentations on the scientific evidence behind yoga's benefits. Key speakers included Dr. Amit Kanthi from Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthan, Bengaluru; Ms. Nityatara Raina, Yoga Therapist from Mumbai; Lt. Col. Rahul Manral from High Altitude Medical Research Centre, Leh; and Dr. Phuntsog Angchok, President of Arogya Bharati Ladakh.

Lectures on Sowa-Rigpa were delivered by Dr. (Prof.) Nawang Tangais, Dr. (Prof.) Tsering Thakchoe, and Dr. Pasang Dolma from NISR.

Aligned with the IDY 2025 theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," the event emphasized the importance of integrating yoga into holistic health frameworks to promote physical, mental, and environmental well-being. The collaboration between MIMC and NISR highlighted Ladakh's ongoing efforts to preserve and promote traditional healing sciences in contemporary contexts

Capacity building on Rooftop solar held for Kargil power officials



Photo Caption: Officials during the two-day capacity-building programme on grid-connected rooftop solar systems.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The National Power Training Institute (NPTI), Nangal, Punjab, under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, conducted a two-day capacity-building programme on grid-connected rooftop solar systems under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) on June 27 in Kargil.

garding rooftop solar initiatives. The programme was inaugurated by Rakesh Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, who highlighted the multiple benefits of rooftop solar systems in his address. He discussed the region's current power challenges and emphasized the potential of renewable energy to improve energy access and sustainability in Kargil.

Held at the Conference Hall, the training was specifically designed for officials of the Power Development Department (PDD), Kargil, to enhance their technical understanding and implementation capacity re-

garding rooftop solar initiatives. The programme was inaugurated by Rakesh Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, who highlighted the multiple benefits of rooftop solar systems in his address. He discussed the region's current power challenges and emphasized the potential of renewable energy to improve energy access and sustainability in Kargil.

Dr. M. Ravichandra Babu, Director, NPTI, welcomed participants and underlined the significance of the

PMSGMBY scheme, especially the special subsidy provisions designed for the Union Territory of Ladakh. He stressed the need for skilled implementation to make the scheme a success in remote and high-altitude regions like Kargil.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director, NPTI, while the event was compered by Sh. Balwinder Kumar, training expert, NPTI.

The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana aims to provide free electricity to households by facilitating subsidized rooftop solar panel installations. The scheme supports reduction in electricity bills, promotes clean energy, reduces dependency on power subsidies, and contributes to lowering carbon emissions.

Key attendees included Executive Engineers, Er. Wahab Ali (In-charge, PMSGMBY); Er. Feroz Ahmed Bani and Er. Vijahat Ali Mir

CEC Kargil flags off water tankers to boost drinking water supply

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, flagged off three water tankers to strengthen the drinking water supply across the district. The vehicles were procured under the SDP and Water Tax Revenue sector through the PHE Department, Kargil Division.

haram. He stated that clean drinking water is a fundamental necessity and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to improving essential public services.

He appreciated the PHE Department for the timely procurement and deployment of the tankers, calling it a step toward public welfare. The tankers will be deployed in water-scarce areas to ensure equitable access to safe drinking water. This



initiative aligns with LAHDC Kargil's broader strategy to upgrade infrastructure and deliver timely, people-focused welfare services.

DC Leh Romil Singh Donk holds introductory meeting with revenue officers



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: DC Leh, Romil Singh Donk (IAS) convened an introductory meeting with all Revenue Officers of Leh district on June 22 at the VC Room of the DC Office, Leh.

availability of healthcare facilities (including PHCs and NTPHCs). He also asked officers to highlight the key challenges and pressing issues in their respective areas.

Following brief introductions, the DC requested comprehensive block-wise data from each officer. The data included total population, revenue population, number of households, educational infrastructure (such as high schools and higher secondary schools), and the

In response, all SDMs and Tehsildars shared insights into the specific issues affecting their jurisdictions.

Announcing plans for field visits starting next week, DC Donk said he would personally tour all sub-divisions to assess on-ground con-

ditions and monitor the progress of development works. He further assured that such coordination meetings would be held regularly to strengthen administrative responsiveness and inter-departmental communication.

During the meeting, ACR Leh, Shabir Hussain, delivered a detailed presentation on the Ladakh Land Report, with a special focus on the Category Status Certificate (CST) portal. He outlined the application process for the certificate and demonstrated how students and applicants can efficiently utilize the online system for faster, transparent service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Leh, Ghulam Mohd; ACR Shabir Hussain; SDMs; Tehsildars; and Naib-Tehsildars from across the district.

NOTICE

Whereas Tsering Phunchok F/o Mipham Lawang R/o Chuchot Yokma, Leh UT Ladakh has lost the Birth Certificate of his son which is issued by Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh with Registration No. 3697 and Date of Birth 26-09-2015. Now he has applied for issuance of duplicate Birth Certificate in lieu of lost documents. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office of Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh within 7 days from date of publication falling which new Birth Certificate will be issued accordingly.

Registrar Birth & Death,
Municipal Committee Leh

Fortnightly News

International Yoga Day celebrated at Pangong with locals, tourists, and students



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

PANGONG: To commemorate International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, the Directorate of AYUSH, under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), UT Ladakh, in collaboration with the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), UT Ladakh, organized a rejuvenating yoga session at the scenic Pangong Lake in Merak Village on June 21. The event aimed to promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being through the ancient practice of yoga.

Over 100 participants took part enthusiastically, including more than 20 tourists, local residents of Merak, and students from nearby schools.

The session was inaugurated by Dr. Tashi Thinles, Director of Health Services, UT Ladakh, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The yoga session was led by trained instructor Stanzin Youdon, who guided participants through a series of yoga asanas and breathing techniques in alignment with the

Common Yoga Protocol. Dr. Tashi Thinles, along with officials from the Directorate of Health Services, National AYUSH Mission, and SMPB, visited the Health Sub-Centre in Merak village, reinforcing their dedication to strengthening community health through outreach and wellness initiatives.

The event brought together tourists, locals, students, and health officials in a shared celebration of mindfulness and well-being, resonating with the global theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health." It highlighted the unifying power of yoga and underscored Ladakh's commitment to preserving and promoting traditional health systems.

The National AYUSH Mission, UT Ladakh, extended heartfelt gratitude to all participants and supporters and looks forward to continued collaboration in advancing wellness across the region.

Awareness rally held in Khaltse to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse



Photo Caption: Awareness rally on drugs at Khaltse.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: To mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse, the Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Khaltse, organised an awareness rally on June 26. The rally began at the Munsiff Court Office, passed through the Khaltse Market, and concluded at the Khaltse Bus Stand. The initiative aimed to raise public awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

Addressing the participants, Munsiff Judge, Khaltse, Syed Tayoub Bukhari, highlighted the significance of observing this international day and emphasized the serious health risks associated with drug use. He urged youth to avoid such substances and contribute to building a healthy society.

Lecturer Tashi Sangdup also addressed the gathering, focusing on the detrimental health impacts of drug abuse and underlining the importance of early awareness and prevention.

The rally saw active participation from Munsiff Judge Syed Tayoub Bukhari; Station House Officer, Khaltse, Jamyang Namgail; Sub-Inspector Sonam Angdus; Lecturer Tashi Sangdup; staff and students of Government Higher Secondary School, Khaltse; and the staff of Munsiff Court Office, Khaltse.

Police personnel were deployed to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the rally.

Over 130 patients benefit from medical camp in Youlchung and Nyeraks



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: The Block Medical Officer (BMO), Khaltse, Dr. Shamim Ahmad, successfully conducted a Multi-Speciality Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) camp at Youlchung and Nyeraks villages in the Singayl-Block on June 25. The initiative aimed to bring quality healthcare services to remote and underserved communities of Ladakh.

The camp offered a wide range of healthcare services including general medical consultations, gynecological and pediatric care, dental and ophthalmic services, non-communicable disease (NCD) counseling, laboratory testing, Adolescent-Friendly Health Clinic (AFHC) counseling, physiotherapy, RBSK screening, and CBNAAT testing for tuberculosis.

A total of 137 patients availed ser-

vices during the camp, including 40 general medical consultations, 28 dental checkups, 27 gynecological consultations, 42 pediatric cases, and 66 ophthalmic examinations. Additionally, 7 adolescents received counseling under the AFHC, 128 individuals underwent non-communicable disease (NCD) screenings, 16 patients received physiotherapy, 38 children were screened under the RBSK programme, and 18 CBNAAT tests were conducted. The medical team also performed 124 laboratory tests to support diagnosis and treatment.

In addition, yoga sessions were organized in both villages, with 44 participants actively taking part—emphasizing the importance of holistic health and well-being.

The camp was effectively implemented by a dedicated team of healthcare professionals, including, Dr. Spalchen Gonbo – Pediatrician; Dr. Shamima Haque – Gynecologist; Dr. Stanzin Yangdol – Physician; Dr. Shaista Iqbal – Dental Surgeon and along with supporting paramedical staff

This initiative is part of the Health Department's ongoing commitment to delivering accessible, multi-speciality healthcare services to the remotest corners of Ladakh.

State-level Pencak Silat championship-cum-trial held in Leh ahead of 9th Federation Cup 2025



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Ladakh Pencak Silat Association, in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports Department, successfully organized the State-Level Pencak Silat Championship-cum-Trial in Leh, as part of the selection process for the upcoming 9th Federation Cup 2025, scheduled to be held in Leh from August 2 to 4. The national-level event is expected to witness the participation of over 500 athletes from across India.

The state championship saw the participation of around 90 students from various schools and institutes across Leh, all competing with exceptional spirit and sportsmanship. The event served as a critical platform to identify and shortlist skilled athletes who will represent Team Ladakh in the upcoming Federation Cup.

As per the organisers and coaches, an intensive training camp will soon be conducted for the selected athletes. Around 50 players—including senior and junior men and women—from both Leh and Kargil will undergo rigorous preparation for the national competition.

Following the final results, Druk Padma Karpo School emerged as the overall winner, securing an impressive 20 medals, while Islamia Public School claimed the runner-up position with 12 medals.

The championship was graced by Tsering Tashi, Youth Services and Sports Officer, as Chief Guest. The presence of principals and representatives from prominent institutions, including Delhi Public School Leh, Druk Padma Karpo School, and Islamic Public School, added to the significance and success of the event.

In addition to this championship, the Ladakh Pencak Silat Association announced two major upcoming events:

- The Khelo India Women's League, scheduled for July 2025, aimed at empowering and encouraging female athletes in the region.
- A second selection trial for the 9th Federation Cup, also to be held in July 2025, offering more students a chance to compete for the national stage.

The Association expressed its heartfelt gratitude to all participants, schools, coaches, and dignitaries for their support in making the event a grand success. With growing enthusiasm and talent, Ladakh is poised to emerge as a strong contender in India's martial arts landscape.

areas and underlines CAT's role as a citizen-centric and service-oriented judicial body.

Kargil marks Yoga day with mass participation and cultural showcase



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The District Administration Kargil celebrated the 11th International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm and participation at the Khri Sultan Cho Sports Stadium, Bimathang on June 21. The event highlighted the importance of yoga as a practice for physical health, mental peace, and spiritual well-being, drawing attendees from all sections of society.

The celebration saw active participation from senior officials, school children, yoga enthusiasts, and the general public. Notable dignitaries present included Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; MLA Bahu Jammu, Vikram Singh Randhawa; SSP Ram R.; Directors of Tourism, Social Welfare, and School Education; Joint Director Youth Services and Sports; ASP Kargil Nitin Yadav; and various sectoral officers.

In his address, CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun underlined the profound impact of yoga on mind, body, and soul. Drawing parallels between prayer and yoga, he described both as tools for

inner balance and well-being. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for elevating yoga to an international platform, now recognized in over 150 countries.

Dr. Akhoun also lauded the efforts of the District Administration and allied departments for the successful conduct of the event and warmly welcomed dignitaries from other states.

Speaking to the media, Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar emphasized the importance of making yoga a daily habit rather than a once-a-year practice. He shared plans to introduce regular yoga sessions in schools across Kargil in coordination with the Chief Education Officer.

Adding cultural depth to the occasion, the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (LAACL) presented a special cultural programme reflecting the region's rich heritage.

The event concluded with a yoga pledge administered by Master of Ceremony, Ibrahim Shooqi, encouraging all attendees to incorporate yoga into their daily lives.

Empowering futures: Kargil workshop equips children with career and life skills



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) Kargil, in collaboration with the All Kargil Students Association Delhi (AKSAD), successfully concluded a five-day workshop on career guidance and life skills for children residing in Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The workshop was held from June 24 to 29 and focused on equipping young participants with essential skills and knowledge for their future.

Throughout the workshop, volunteers

from AKSAD engaged children from Bal Ashram and Sweet Home Kargil in a variety of activities including poster-making, painting, science experiments, sports, and other interactive sessions designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork.

Chief Guest Manzoor Hussain, Councillor of Soth; Anwar Ali, Assistant Information Officer; and Hassan, Assistant Professor. All speakers lauded the collaborative effort to empower children and strengthen capacity-building initiatives in the district. Protection Officer (Institutional Care) emphasized the importance of such programs in shaping the aspirations of children, particularly those in CCIs. He highlighted the need to foster safe, supportive, and enriching environments where children can gain the skills and confidence needed to pursue meaningful and successful lives.

Sarhad Shauryathon held in Drass to honour Kargil war heroes



Photo Caption: During the Sarhad Shauryathon, a marathon celebrating the courage and sacrifice of Kargil War heroes at Drass.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: The Sarhad Shauryathon, a marathon celebrating the courage and sacrifice of Kargil War heroes, was held on July 22 at the iconic Kargil War Memorial in Drass. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from across Ladakh and various parts of the country, uniting people in a tribute to India's brave hearts.

The event was graced by the CEC, LAHDC-Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, who lauded the initiative and extended heartfelt gratitude to the armed forces for their sacrifices. He congratulated the organisers for the successful execution of the marathon and remarked, "Sarhad Shauryathon is a reminder of our soldiers' courage and our people's unity."

On the sidelines of the event, the CEC met Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde, and discussed various developmental issues concerning Kargil.

The Deputy CM assured the provision of a CT Scan machine for Sub-District Hospital Drass, as well as ambulances for the district. He also pledged support to boost tourism in Drass.

Organised in the lead-up to Kargil Vijay Diwas (July 26), the Shauryathon blended patriotism, fitness, and remembrance in the very mountains that bore witness to the 1999 Kargil War. Jointly organised by the Indian Army and Sarhad Pune, the event featured race categories of 5 km, 10 km, and 21 km, drawing participation from youth, school students, civilians, and armed forces personnel.

Participants ran through the rugged terrain of Drass, symbolically retracing the footsteps of the brave soldiers who defended the nation. The Shauryathon marked the beginning of a series of events commemorating India's victory and the valour of its soldiers during the Kargil conflict.

GDC Drass celebrates Sanskritik Yatra-Sindhu Darshan with vibrant cultural showcase



Photo Caption: Authentic presentations of regional folklore and music.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: The Government Degree College (GDC), Drass, hosted a vibrant cultural programme on its campus on June 19 celebrating the Sanskritik Yatra-Sindhu Darshan Festival from June 13 to 29, 2025. The event was organized by the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kargil, in collaboration with the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala, to showcase the rich artistic heritage and diverse traditions of India's northern region. The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and the local community, with performances that highlighted the unique cultural fabric of Kargil, Leh, and other northern states.

Ravinder Sharma (Assistant Director, NZCC), Jagjit Singh (Office Secretary, NZCC), and the Principal of GDC Drass and Tsewang Rigzin, Programme Coordinator at the Ladakh Culture Academy, Kargil were present.

A major highlight was the series of stunning performances by invited artists from Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. Their authentic presentations of regional folklore and music—blending both traditional and contemporary styles—captivated the audience and drew loud appreciation.

This cultural showcase was part of a broader initiative to promote cultural education, preserve regional heritage, and encourage student engagement in the performing arts. The NZCC, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has been instrumental in supporting such initiatives across academic institutions to foster creative growth and cultural continuity among youth.

The overwhelming response from attendees emphasized the importance of such cultural exchanges and reaffirmed the role of educational institutions as vital centers for cultural revival and unity.

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