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In Conversation with Reach Ladakh

Chotak Gyatso

Expert Talk

Child rights

December 16-31, 2018

Politicising tunnels and territories: Communal undertones hit demands in Ladakh



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Brief News

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Four resolutions demanding Central University for Ladakh in Leh, Government Degree College for women, Medical College for Leh and Divisional status for Ladakh were passed unanimously in the General Council Meeting, Hill Council, Leh on December 1 at DC Conference Hall, Leh.

Around 140 students took part in the five-day workshop 'Inspire Science Camp' from November 28 till December 2 at DIET, Leh. Tsering Omphel honoured with Dr. Abdul Kalam Ignite award 2018 for innovating a low-cost device for plucking of sea buckthorn.

16 karate players of under-18 Karate team of Leh will participate in national and state Kara te championship on December 9 and 21in Haryana and Jammu, respectively.

The dismantling work of Choglamsar Bridge started from December 11. Gyal P Wangyal, Deputy Chairman directed SE PWD and Executive Engineer Construction to speed up the work and to lay foot suspension bridge at a suitable nearby location so that people could cross the river smoothly.



Correction and clarification

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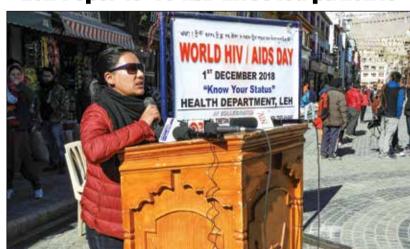
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Leh reports 49 HIV-infected patients



Stanzin Dolma, Counselor, ICTC while speaking on AIDS day.

Rigzin Wangmo

Leh: With 49 HIV-infected patients between 5 - 80 years old, Leh is witnessing an increasing number of HIV positive cases every year.

Out of the 49 HIV cases, 29 are locals including, 11 male and 18 females and remaining 20 are non-locals. 7 co-infected cases of HIV and Hepatitis-B is also

World Aids Day, 2018 themed 'Know your Status' was observed around the world with an effort to encourage people to get them tested as many people living with HIV are not even aware of it. The day was also organised by District Health Department Leh, Tibetan Primary Health Centre and Men-Tsee-Khang on 1 December at main market, Leh.

Stanzin Dolma, Counselor, Integrated Counseling & Testing Center (ICTC), SNM Hospital informed that the reason behind the growth of such disease in Leh is owing to lack of awareness, ignorance thinking their partner may not have the

"When the ICTC was instituted in Leh for the first time we believed such disease may not exist in Leh but in the year 2009, we found 6 cases. Every year we see the disease increasing like in 2010, 4 cases and in 2011 and 2012, 11 and 12 more cases respectively", she added.

She added, "Nobody can identify the disease by appearance and look of a person. There is no symptom or sign in HIV infection whereas; in AIDS patients they

...Continues on Page 3

First women police station set up in Leh



Dilbag Singh, Director-General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir alongwith SP Pani, IGP, Kashmir Zone inaugurating the women police station in Leh.

Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

LEH: Promising a better policing environment to make women feel secure in approaching police, the District Police here has launched a women police station. The first women police station was inaugurated by Dilbag Singh, Director-General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Dilbag Singh hailed the path-breaking initiative and said that women police stations would help to strengthen family relations and keep the ethos of the united family intact.

He said, "Our two officers, Avny and Sargun, are two visible examples of women empowerment in Leh."

He added, "The status of women has improved now but we still have a long way to go in women empowerment and women development. I congratulate all of you, even though this institution should have been here earlier, at least it is set up now. It will benefit the people. I request SHO Parveen to have a constructive approach to run the police station. Women are doing great in Leh, but there are some issues.'

SP Pani, IGP, Kashmir Zone, said that after the govt notification, this is the first women police station which has come across in Kashmir zone with such facilities. We must appreciate the police force

...Continues on Page 2

Govt. Higher Secondary School Principal Diskit suspended

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal compels Konchok Angmo, Chief Education Officer, to issue suspension order, alleges former MLA



Left to right: Deldan Namgyal Former MLA, Tsering Namgyal, President DCC, Leh and Nurboo Gyalson, Former MLC during the press conference at DCC Office, Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

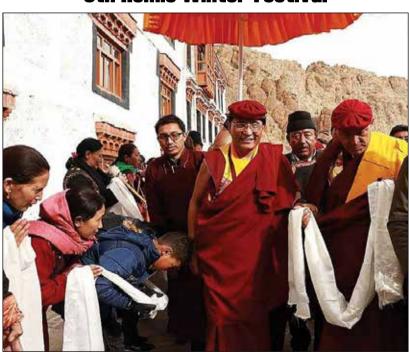
LEH: For inviting Ex MLA, Deldan Namgyal as a chief guest on a school parent's day cum farewell function, Konchok Angmo, CEO suspended Principal, Govt. Higher Secondary School, Diskit, Tsering Dorjay on December 1.

The invitation card for the school function chief guest showed Former MLA Deldan Namgyal as sitting MLA.

Criticizing the suspension order, during a press conference on December 6, Deldan Namgyal, Former MLA, Nubra said, "The reason cited for the principal suspension is unacceptable. The invitation card was forwarded before the assembly was dissolved and the reason behind inviting me as a chief guest is because of the financial assistance of ₹ 43 Lakh out of MLA Constituency Development Fund for the development of Govt. Higher Secondary school, Nubra. If this is the actual reason for making a huge fuss than it's very disheartening to see politics over education".

He said that CEO is responsible for ... Continues on Page 3

His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa blesses **5th Hemis Winter Festival**



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To confer the 5th Hemis Winter Festival, His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche reaches Leh on December 12. A warm reception was given by the people of Ladakh.

His Holiness visited Chowkhang Vihara and was greeted by His Eminence Togdan Rinpoche, dPalga Rinpoche and Khamtak Rinpoche along with religious and political leaders.

He stressed on restraining from con-

sumption of non-vegetarian food which he said is not only against Buddhism but also causes imbalances in nature.

Talking about the importance of environment, His Holiness appealed people to avoid polythene bags and polythene packed stuff, during the offerings for 'Deachen Jingdup' at Hemis Winter

The Hemis Winter Festival started from December 12 and will end on December

43 entrepreneurs completed 21 days of Entrepreneurship Development Programme

Dawa Dolma

LEH: 43 prospective entrepreneurs under Seed Capital Fund Scheme completed 21 days entrepreneurship development programme on December 10 at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute.

The entrepreneurship development programme of SCFS was imparted under Sher-e-Kashmir Employment and Welfare Programme for the Youth, SKEW-PY. It aims at promoting rural entrepreneurship, creating job opportunities, reducing youth unemployment, and generating sustainable development among enterprises.

Moses Kunzang, Additional Deputy Commissioner, chief guest congratulated the prospective entrepreneurs and expects them to move forward than dwelling in the past.

He said, "Entrepreneurs could bring changes by generating employment, advancing skills to unskilled people, promoting better scope of market and be limitless. Ultimately, these contributions would not only be at an individual level rather at the community and the regional level."

He further stressed thinking out of the box and bringing innovation with the help of technology and the internet.

Dr. Dorjay Namgyal, Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra focused



Moses Kunzang, ADC and others during Valedictory Function at JKEDI.

on Agro-based entrepreneurship in Ladakh as the need to secure access to an appropriately nutritious diet, comprising all essential nutrients rather than mere food security. He further added the importance of organic farming by advancing tools and methods in preference of Ladakh weather condition and topography.

He urged prospective entrepreneurs to engage more in ruraland agro-based entrepreneurship.

Briefing about the process of the entrepreneurship development programme, Dorjay Wangchuk, Executive Manager, JKEDI, Leh said that it is a single-window system where they prepare Detail Project Report and conduct the pre-sanction survey. After that, there are legal formalities, disbursal, and post-sanction survey to examine whether or not the unit is successfully established.

Rinchen Namgyal, a JKEDI alumnus, especially emphasized on maintaining business ethics, social and moral responsibilities besides making fast money. He stressed on quality business to promote sustainable development.

For being successful and creative entrepreneur, two entrepreneurs were felicitated.

Director- General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh, visits Ladakh



Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh-IPS welcomed by the District Police, Leh.

Rigzin Wangmo

CHOGLAMSAR: The Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh-IPS accompanied by Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, SP Pani was welcomed at District Police Line Choglamsar on December 12.

The Director-General interacted with the representatives of various religious, social and political organisations.

Dilbag Singh said, "The place, people, culture and administration of Ladakh are worth appreciating. The bond of administration and civil society is positive and the representatives of civil society stay in touch with the civil admin to discuss and solve the issues. With the cooperation of the people, there are fewer challenges on the policing front, the law and order are in control and hope it will remain the same".

"Women are given equal respect in the region and they also take part in all aspects of work. Also, it makes me feel proud to see two lady officers serving here in one district", he added.

Talking about the strategic importance of the Ladakh region, Dilbag Singh said that the location of both the twin district Leh and Kargil is sensitive and the

issues of national securities are more. But people of the region have a faithful approach and the nationalistic attitude addresses the strategic importance and sensitivities of the place.

SP Pani-IPS, IGP Kashmir said, "It is fortunate to see the kind of policing done here which is rarely seen in the valley and is an example in the rest other parts. We have come across the issue faced here and will try our best to improve it."

Sargun Shukla, SSP, Leh extended gratitude to DGP and IG for taking out time to visit Leh despite busy and pack schedule.

'Project Tsang-da' mission completes one year



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: With an effort to address the waste management issue, 'Project Tsang-da' under RUR-BAN mission celebrated the first anniversary on December 13 at Solid Waste Segregation Centre, Choglamsar.

So far 65,000kg waste collected from the Choglamsar, Nubra, Nimoo and Khaltsi Solid Waste Segregation Centre. Out of which 27,000 kg waste has been sold to rag pickers and 17,000 kg reused by Rural Development Department in making waste bricks for fuel purposes, waste glasses in construction, egg trays and thermocol for insulation, etc.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CE-C,chief guest expressed gratitude to Avny Lavasa, DC for her initiative in starting the project Tsang-da ensuring a long-term benefit, the staff of Rural Development Department headed by

ACD, Leh for their efforts and effective delivery mechanism in running the project and public for their active participation and cooperation in achieving the goal of this project.

He stressed on the implementation of reduce, reuse and recycle to address the issue of waste management at an individual household level. He said that along with keeping our houses clean, it is also our responsibility to ensure a clean environment. He emphasised on people's participation to strengthen the Tsang-da mission and its expansion in other parts of the district.

Avny Lavasa commemorated Late CEC, Dr. Sonam Dawa for his support on part of Hill Council in boosting this initiative since its beginning.

She said that the one-year completion of this project is an opportunity to count the benefits and shortcomings. It's an effort to increase awareness and look for better ways to improve and expand the project in other villages.

She stressed the role of Panchayat in running Tsang-da project more effectively in villages ensuring better coordination and motivation among the people.

She said that fee collection was challenging initially but with growing awareness and understanding among the public the project has also become a source of revenue generation for the department to run the project successfully.

Some beneficiaries also expressed their views about the challenges, shortcomings, benefit, and success of Tsang-da project in their areas. They expressed gratitude to Hill Council, Leh and DC, Leh for initiating the project to address the issue of waste management.

Phuntsog Dorjey, Councillor Phyang, ACD Tsering Paldan, Panchayat Officer, BDOs, other district officers, Panchayat members, village gobas and representatives from Choglamsar, Nubra, Nimoo, Khaltsi and residents and shopkeepers of Choglamsar were present on the occasion.

Momentos were presented to village representatives from Nubra, Nimoo, Khaltsi and Choglamsar and staff of RDD in recognition of their active participation and efforts in making Tsang-da project meaningful and successful.

Mohd. Iqbal, President, Pagir, receives Lifetime Achievement award

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Jammu: Mohd. Iqbal, President Pagir was awarded Life time achievement award for most Innovative support by SAHY-OG India on December 8 at Abhinav Theater.

The award was presented during a seminar on disability talent show of special angels and Person with Disabilities.

Mohd. Iqbal founded PAGIR (People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights) in 2007. The organization works for the rights of persons with disabilities.



First women police station set up in Leh

...Continued from Page 1

for this noble initiative. It is very interesting to find both the SSP and DC are lady officers and they are doing their work outstandingly."

"Leh has given a unique model of policing which is not anywhere in the country. Also, with time, we need to be equipped and well-prepared. I am sure that this women police station will come up with new hopes and aspirations. It will handle things better and this can be replicated in other parts of the country," he added.

Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner, congratulated the District Police, Leh.

She said, "The status of women in Ladakh is good but apart from that there are some problems. I have experienced that very few people sort out their problems through institutional mechanism. We try to sort them out at the community level. In a few cases, it is okay to sort it out at the community level but when it comes to crime against women, it is a criminal offence and should be sorted out through efficient mechanism and policing institution."

Sargun Shukla, SSP, said, "With this initiative, there will be a sense of security and the sense of approachability. Throughout the world, crime rates are increasing. It is not only women who face problems, but men are also equally harassed. Being responsible members of society, it is our moral, ethical and legal duty to ensure safety to them".

Women generally hesitate to report cases of crimes to the police. Since women could easily narrate an incident to woman cops, this women police station would go a long way in empowering them to report without any hesitation.

Tibetans in Leh celebrate 29th anniversary of Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHOGLAMSAR: Marking the 29th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in 1989, Tibetans in Leh celebrated the day with great enthusiasm on December 10 at Sonamling hall, Chief Representative Office, CRO.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC presided over as the chief Guest of the occasion and inaugurated a Garbage carrying truck at CRO under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Thank You India program.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal expressed his gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the endless blessing and guidance. He said His Holiness is a symbol of love and compassion and his life itself is a warranty for world peace and harmony.

Talking about the bonding of Tibetan and Ladakhi, he said Tibetans and Ladakhi shares a great affinity of culture and religion thus, live in a congenial relationship in Ladakh since their settlement here after 1959. He further extended gratitude to His Holiness and the SOS, TCV Ladakh for educating a big number of needy Ladakhi students since long time. He assured that LAH-DC would extend all out help and support for the welfare of Tibetan refugees in Ladakh.

Colorful costume parade representing a different region and provinces of Tibet was showcased.

Tsetan Wangchuk, Chief Representative Officer, Choglamsar highlighted the importance of the day for entire humanity.

Govt. Higher Secondary School Principal in Diskit suspended

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taking the decision without having a competing authority to suspend a Principal of Govt. Higher Secondary School.

When approached Tashi Dolma, Joint Director, Education and Konchok Angmo, Chief Education Officer, they refused to comment on the issue.

According to the letter issued from the CEO office, "Hon'ble CEC has taken a very serious note of it and has sought an explanation from me and desire to place you under suspension." The hasty decision without following the guidelines sparked much of the controversy.

Deldan Namgyal alleged Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC for directing and compelling Konchok Angmo, Chief Education Officer to issue a suspension order against the Principal. Talking about the disheartened family members of the Principal, teaching fraternity, villagers and students he appealed Jamyang Tsering Namgyal to keep aside politics over education and to get engage in constructive politics.

The suspension order issued by the CEO without seeking prior approval from the Deputy Commissioner /CEO, LAHDC, Leh is unauthorized as per Rules and Act. Therefore, the suspension order is kept on abeyance by Avny Lavasa, DC on December 3 and sought an explanation from Principal Tsering Dorjay.

According to Tsering Dorjay, Principal, "The planning for the celebration of the school function started from November 8 but the date for the celebration has been postponed due to examination and Panchayat election in between. Thus, we finalized the date on November 30 and distributed the card.

Deldan Namgyal was then sitting MLA and because of his support and contribution to the school, we invited him as a chief guest. After maximum card distribution, the assembly got dissolved but reprinted the leftover cards with Ex MLA designation".

"I have been serving in this department from the last 37 years and instead of an explanation, I receive a suspension order which is very sad."

Dorjay Namgyal, President, ALTA said that the CEO admitted that she has taken the decision without following the guidelines. He informed that the committee has been formed to find out the truth behind the case and urged that without any influence the committee should work and bring out the truth.

Tsering Namgyal, President, District Congress Committee said that the suspension order over the name of the chief guest is unacceptable. In a way, it is a discouragement for the entire government employee who has dedicated their life in service and gets suspended for such a minor issue.

He questioned CEC and CEO that why the principal was not given a time for the explanation? How and why CEO acted upon the direction when she was unauthorized to do so?

District Congress Committee seek apology from the Jamyang Tsering Namgyal to the principal.

Amidst all the issue, the allegation was also made to the family for being affiliated with the Congress party and politicizing the issue.

Responding to the issue, Smanla Dorje, son of the principal said, "I am not surprised by the allegation people are putting on my family because when somebody at fault is desperate, they do a lot of unimaginable things to divert the attention from the main issue. I have no interest in the party politics, my agenda is only to fight until my father gets his respect back."

Deldan Namgyal said, "I don't believe and neither want to politicize the issue but the way principal has been suspended compelled me to talk on this issue."

All Ladakh Teacher Association, Leh (ALTA) also condemned the suspension order and said that such steps is a discouragement for the entire teaching fraternity.

Hill Council, Leh, puts forward university and divisional status demand to Governor

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

JAMMU: The delegation of LAH-DC, Leh was assured due consideration of all their demands by Satya Pal Malik, Governor during their meet on December 3 at Raj Bhawan, Jammu.

The delegation includes Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC, Gyal P Wangyal, Dy. Chairman, Executive Councilors and Chering Dorjey, MLC Leh.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal apprised Governor about the 4 resolution passed in the General Council Meeting. The resolution includes demand of Central University, Women Degree College and Medical College in Leh and also the separate divisional status for Ladakh.

Stressing on the demand for a separate division for Ladakh comprising Leh and Kargil districts, he said that Ladakh occupies 69.9%



geographical area of the whole of the Jammu and Kashmir state with different and unique cultural heritage. He further said that the region remains cut off from each other for more than six months during the winter season.

He also demanded a grant of 10% SDA in favour of state government employees serving in Leh and earliest solution of RAMSA and SSA teachers regarding their salaries and issues of daily wagers.

The demand of Union Territory with Legislature for Ladakh,

opening of Kailash Mansarovar from Ladakh, inclusion of Bhoti language in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution, issue of skyrocketing airfare and exemption from GST ambit were also put forward.

The delegation requested for recommendation to centre govt.for fulfilling these demand. A copy of the memorandum justifying reasons for all the demands with facts and figures was also submitted.

The Governor assured to recommend all the demands to centre government.

Gyal P Wangyal reviews roads sanction work under PMGSY

10 % plastic wastes will be used in macadamization of Stok Circular road for the first time, says Tashi Chombel

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The status of 7 major roads worth ₹129.50 Cr along with all other roads sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was reviewed by Gyal P. Wangyal, Deputy Chairman on December 13.

The 7 major roads were sanctioned under PMGSY 12th Phase in the month of June 2018.

Tashi Chombel, SE PMGSY apprised Gyal P Wangyal that the contract has already been

allotted for the 36 km Maan Pangong-Khakted road worth ₹36 Cr and work will start in the month of April 2019. Likewise, the contract allotment for 28 km Likir –Hemis road (₹ 27 Cr), 30 km Mahey-Korzok road worth ₹ 26 Cr and 11 km Stok Circular road worth ₹ 12 Cr was also is—

He further added that work on 20 km Domkhar Dho to Domkhar Gongma for ₹ 16 Cr and 7 km Kungyam road for ₹ 5 Cr has already started. The 4 km Sharnos

to Shara road worth ₹3.61Cr is in the tendering process.

Tashi Chombel also informed that for the first time 10 % plastic waste will be used in macadamization of Stok circular road keeping in mind the multiple benefits of it. Also, Lingshed village is expected to connect with PMGSY road by June 2019.

Discussion about all the completed and pending old roads under PMGSY in Leh district was carried out.

Leh reports 49 HIV-infected patients

...Continued from Page 1

have the symptoms."

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that damages the immune system. The immune system helps the body fight off infections. HIV is difficult to identify as there are no specific symptoms and the immune system is too weak to fight off other diseases and infections. There are 90% chances of getting tuberculosis because the immune system continues to weaken and gets more prone to communicable diseases. AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), is a disease that can develop in people with HIV. It's the most advanced stage of HIV.

Stanzin Dolma said once the patient is diagnosed with the disease, we send the patient to the ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) centre. Antiretroviral Therapy is the use of HIV medicines to treat HIV infection. Patient on ART takes a combination of drugs to reduce the amount of virus to live longer and healthier.

How it is spread?

HIV is transmitted through an infected mother to a child. A child can also be infected when a mother is pregnant. Unprotected sexual relation with multiple partners, infected blood transfusion and reuse of unsterilized object leads to spread of the disease.

The disease is not spread by shaking hands or hugging a person who has HIV, contact with objects

such as dishes, toilet seats, or doorknobs used by a person with HIV. HIV is not spread through the air or in water.

Where to Diagnose?

ICTC (Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre) is opened in Leh in the year 2008. ICTC is a place where a person is counselled and tested for HIV. The screening is authentic and as per India, Nation Aids controls organization. They impart basic information on the modes of HIV transmission and promoting behavioral change to reduce vulnerability.

The HIV status of a person is kept 100% confidential, and no data is discussed outside.

Challenge

In other places under the theme getting to zero, positive changes are seen with less case. But in Ladakh because of the lack of awareness and knowledge, it becomes difficult to monitor whether the disease is being controlled.

Everybody should understand and aware about the disease to stop the infection. The need of the hour is to get oneself screened to live a healthy life along with promoting infection free society. Also, it becomes immensely important to support people who are suffering from the disease.

On World Aids Day, a skit show spreading awareness on HIV AIDS was presented. Also, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC flagged off HIV-AIDS awareness vehicle to spread awareness in every village.

EXPERT TALK

Child Rights

By Stanzin Dasal



Sarla Chhewang, Member, Child Welfare Committee, Leh: The Child welfare committee deals with cases of 'Child in need of care and protection'. The safety, care, and protection of the child are the ultimate goal of the department. If we compare Ladakh with the other parts of the state, very few cases are reported, but that doesn't mean there are no cases related

to child rights. Less awareness, reluctant society, and conservative nature make the cases go unreported.

Till now we have handled 86 sponsorship cases out of which 44 have been approved, 6 cases including sexual harassment, educational and hostel arrangements and 1 case of corporal punishment in a private school disposed off. Also, catered financial assistance to a child for treatment in AIIMS, restored a child with her mother, monitoring and ensuring medical and educational need of a child who had a pelvic injury due to an incident in one of the schools.

Also, we carried out an inspection in almost all the hostels of various schools and monastery within the Leh town periphery to check whether they are meeting the minimum requirement including proper bedding, clean, safe and hygienic environment, and nutritious food, etc. If anyone found violating, a time is given for improvement to meet the requirement before taking any major step. One or two such cases are found and has improved.

Awareness among children is very important to curb sexual abuse cases or any mishap. Good parenting is must. Children are vulnerable, they get easily influenced under the condition in which they live such as family situation, peer pressure and social condition. In many of the cases, the child goes through a bad situation or gets involved in anti-social activities because of the unstable family background, an alcoholic parent, illiteracy, etc.

Anyone including the child itself can come and report it to the CWC after which the social worker or outreach worker goes to the field to inquire about the case. After following all the procedures, counseling takes place and the final decision is taken by the CWC member to dispose off cases for the care, protection, treatment, development, and rehabilitation of the children.

Observation and shelter home is necessary for the temporary re-

ception of any juvenile during the pendency of any inquiry regarding them under the Act. But the major challenges is that we don't have a special home or children home to accommodate needy children in a safe and child-friendly environment. As for now, we keep them in Bal Ashram for a day or two which is not possible for a long run.

The need of such institute for the provision of basic care and protection is a must in the district.

A child policy is very much needed but due to lack of data, it becomes difficult. For this a concrete survey at the grassroots level is necessary. Secondly, a vocational training is must to train children who leave schools in between. As for now due to fund constraint, we are not able to carry out all the activities at mass level.

Most importantly the children should be well aware of the rights entitled to them by the law. Until and unless they are not aware of the rights, they will be reluctant to raise voice against any mishap.

Solutions:

- Awareness on parenting is must
- Child policy is needed to carry out the work effectively and efficiently
- Childcare institute is must to accommodate children in need of care and protection
- Cooperation and support is needed from everyone to care, protect, and rehabilitate.



Sonam Dorjey, Member, Juvenile Justice Board, Leh: Children below 18 years are more vulnerable to the condition under which they live. They are considered weak in decision making, to make a choice and express. And many a times life of children is decided by adults instead of guiding them.

Thus, the law guarantees certain rights for the children including, right to education, care, and protection, right to be protected from abuse, exploitation etc. Keeping the best interest of the child in mind, the rights entitled are framed for safety, care and protection and to develop them.

The J&K Legislative Assembly passed the J&K Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, in the year 2013 with a minor amendment. In Ladakh, three mechanism body District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) were notified to start the proceedings from August 2018.

Our society is changing and children are becoming more vulnerable to social evil activities. We come across theft cases, sexual abuse, influence of tobacco and substance abuse and many are left unreported.

The Juvenile Justice Board handles the cases of 'child in conflict with law' and till now three theft cases are being handled.

Juvenile Justice Board is necessary because earlier the cases of the minors which were handled in the court takes a lot of time to dispose off as there were lot of other cases to be handled. But with the establishment of JJB, minors related cases will be dealt separately and sensitively. The law states that the juvenile accused should be presented before a justice board within 24 hours and an inquiry into the case needs to be completed within four months. No child is born as criminal but the circumstances make them. Our effort is always to protect or reform them for a better future.

In case of a heinous crime committed by a minor, the child needs to be kept in the special home but such institutional structures are missing in Ladakh. An observation home and shelter home are the basic necessity to protect them from negative influences and absence of such home is the biggest challenge.

Many a time, child-related cases are handled by compromising or ignored. Since the establishment of board, we have come across cases of sexual abuse and theft. Besides, issue of child labour is also prevalent in Leh and most of them are non-local which is a challenge.

Secondly, the local children from poor family background are kept in other homes to work as a domestic helper which in turn provides them with education, food, and shelter. So, in that case, certain rights of the child are fulfilled. But in certain cases, taking back the child and handing over to the parents deprive them of the right to education and proper food.

The Juvenile Justice Board is newly established in Leh and there is a need of more awareness so that child-related cases can be reported not to harden the child but to treat, care, protect, rehabilitate and develop them in a law-abiding citizen.

Child right is very important to understand for a better future. And often people tend to neglect or forget the importance of it. Parents play an immense role in the life of a child and so do society.

Solutions:

- Awareness at mass level about child rights and mechanism body for child welfare is necessary.
- Institutional structures such as observation home and shelter home are needed.
- Proper guidance, constant monitoring, close bonding with the child is necessary to understand their problems and need.
- Child in conflict with law needs to be handled sensitively.

Ladakh Transport Society, Leh, raises several issues with Army

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: With an aim to resolve various issues with the army in terms of vintage vehicle clause, declining trend of contracts in transportation, vegetable, and milk supply, a meeting of Ladakh Transport Society, Leh was held on December 13 at DC office Conference hall.

The meeting was chaired by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC. Stanzin Phuntsog,EC Agriculture heads and representatives of all religious organisations, political parties, different transport unions, and cooperative unions were present.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said that civil-army relationship in this strategically important region needed to be remained congenial for all time adding that both are critically interdependent on each other for the security of the Nation

He said that there is a need of establishing a direct communication link with the higher army authority with suggestive solutions for all the technical errors and issues so that an



agreeable resolution could be put in place in the interest of both the Army and Civil.

He assured LAHDC full commitment for protecting the interest of local people, saying that no stone will be left unturned in addressing all the genuine issues with the Army.

All the speakers pointed out various problematic issues presently prevailing with Army

such as the vintage problem of vehicle, dwindling transportation contract of trucks, buses and taxis, knotty norms in vegetable and milk supply.

They expressed the need to initiate confidence-building measures between locals and army considering the coordinated contributions and sacrifices made by Ladakhis in safeguarding the borders all time.

Has the number of educated jobless reached an alarming stage in Leh?



Nawang Tsering Shakspo

Surprisingly 3,800 candidates turned out for the written test for eight vacant posts of Village Level Workers (VLW) conducted by the District Recruitment Board,

Leh on November 25, 2018.

Similarly, some vacant posts of Junior Assistant were advertised and a similar number of aspirants have applied for the posts, and the written test for the posts is due to be held both

in Leh and Jammu. The Jammu centre was created to facilitate the students studying in various universities of the plains.

Now the question arises why there are so many educated job seekers in this sparsely populated district? Are there no job opportunities in the district except in government departments or do the candidates see government jobs more secure?

The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, (LAHDC), Leh and Kargil, came into being in the year 1995. With the formation of the Councils, people expected that job

avenue in both the districts would expand. However, the Councils could not expand the number of job chances for youth because the power of creation of jobs was with the State Government.

It is also to be mentioned here that the Council itself is functioning by borrowing employees of other departments on deputation basis, and hence the functioning of these establishments are suffering. Besides the above—mentioned reasons, in a region like Ladakh, because of the emergence of money- based economy, the survival of the educated youths are at stake.

SoulSpeak

P. P. Wangchuk

Dreams do act as a catalyst to wake us up in realising our goals



Only dreams give mobility to purpose. Reality rarely makes dreams. These are the lines that impressed me a lot recently while reading Lyndon B Johnson's book, My Hope for America. I could not but read it again and again. And, every time I read it, my longing to read it again has never ceased. Today it stands well-placed among my most-loved books.

Dreams create hopes that make us stand up and struggle to achieve our dream-goals. It is like that ray in a tunnel that inspires us to have the willingness to carry on, come what may, and ultimately see a triumphant outcome. And, as French philosopher Paul Valery has said, "The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up."

Dreams are like seeds, ready to grow as soon as we nurture them. Likewise, you have to create a suitable environment for your dreams to take shape and convert them into reality.

For that to happen, what is needed is to carry on with your dream and never let it die. All great things take time, hard work and consistency. Given this, you are on the way to your dream-post. If you look back, you will see that every great person had begun with a dream and the resolve to give it a practical shape.

You have to inspire yourself by 'peeping into a great future' that your dreams are capable of letting you enjoy. Work hard today on your dreams and a bright future will be at your calling. And, mind you, you have to remind yourself again and again that you are your own master.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

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

In Conversation with

Chotak Gyatso, Programme Manager, LNP

Interviewed by Rigzin Wangmo

Q. When was the Civil Society Alliance formed and what is its role and reason behind the formation of the alliance?

Civil Society Alliance was formed in the year 2015 -2016 by a group of 6 to 7 people from various organizations like NGO's, media, legal and others. It started on a small scale and grew up with time to make the voice of the alliance stronger. Members from socio-religious organisation also joined and under their leadership, the alliance was formally established in 2016.

It aims to bridge the gap between civil society, state, and other stakeholders. The alliance reports issues of society to the government for further development. It acts as a watchdog against violation of human rights and advocates for the weaker sections of society and to educate citizen's rights, entitlement and responsibilities. To strengthen Civil Society is a common theme among contemporary thinkers, reformers and commentators.

A democratic state accepts the need of Civil Society for its accountabilities.

Q. What is the main aim of forming Civil Society Alliance? How many members are there?

Civil Society Alliance works on child rights and awareness. The alliance works towards a collective vision for children of Ladakh to nurture their present and future by providing them with a safe, secure and healthy environment. Following the framework of UN conventional of child rights, the alliance group discuss on problems related to children.

Around 39 members including 4 socio-religious organizations, Ngo's, business association, legal and health expert, educationist, media and public representative like Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh.

Q. How does it work in protecting child rights?

The role of the civil society alliance is to prevent and protect child through law and policy. The alliance is strongly voicing to promote child rights that enshrined in UN Convention on the rights of children, Constitution of India and also voicing to establish effective child protection system.

Workshops and training on capacity building, awareness program in schools is imparted to create a child-friendly environment in order to break silence and report abuse or violation of rights. It works on enhancing children access to support services for rehabilitation e.g. drug abuse rehabilitation programs, counseling for children in trauma, vocational training for school children or children in JJ institutions.

bring the issue on surface and later the cases are handled as per law.

District Administration instructed to check safety measures in all schools. Around 8 committees are formed at the block and subdivision level. To inspect safety measures in all perspectives.

Q. What kind of cases is seen related to child rights in Ladakh?

Substance abuse among children is an emerging issue due to tourism. The perception and lifestyle has also changed.

Child labour is a concern but no study has been done. There might be cases where non-local children are working in automobile repair, restaurant, and hotels. And also involved as a domestic helper, there is no figure till date, as the focus is more on general child protection.

As per District Need Assessment study report, in Nubra, Sham, Turtuk and Dha Hanu issues related to child marriage were found. Scientifically no study has been conducted so far.

Q. Do we have a child policy in our district and how important is it?

There is no such policy for the children. The alliance is planning to have a child protection policy in school and institutions. We need approval from the council and district administration to implement local policy and planning.

Q. What is the role of society in terms of Protection for children in conflict with the law?

As per the ICPS scheme, child protection at the village level must be introduced. There is child protection committee at both block and district level. Since, ICPS is a new scheme; many plans are in the queue. Ideally, we should have a counselor in schools to deal with children facing various problems like emotionally, psychologically or family disturbance. CSA has planned to train school teachers on counseling techniques to address various children problems.

Q. What are your plans and past activities?

In future, the alliance in collaboration with ICPS will study more on issue and work on introducing child protection policy in schools and institutions. We have plans to give capacity building training for special juvenile police.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

Every parents, teachers, village level institutions, block-level institutions and district institutions, must try to create a safe, secure, healthy and positive environment for children of our society.

District Child Protection Unit under ICPS scheme, Juvenile Justice Board for the children in conflict with the law, Child Welfare Committee for a child in need for the care and protection are also established in the district.

Q. What role does the Civil Society Alliance plays when incidents related to child takes place?

Civil society alliance reports issues and put forward to the concerned department. For e.g., if a child is sexually abused in a private school quick action is taken and pressurized the government. Our aim is to

IN FOCUS

Politicising Tunnels and Territories: Communal Undertones hit Demands in Ladakh



Stanzin Stamdin

Ladakh has always been projected as an abode of peace and harmony to the world. But, with the evolving modernity, politics of citizen-ry-cum-voting, and the emerging manufactured-needs for a comfortable life, this generalised picture is showing cracks. The underlying animosities and rifts are coming up in the open,

at times, but in disguised faces like 'community betterment issues', region-development projects, and religion-security duties, etc. Ladakh can't be separated from the project/condition of modernity/postmodernity where trust among people of different faiths is faltering with an unimaginable speed.

This weakening of trust among different faiths, communities, regions leads to a sharp binarization and creation of an 'Other' who is often looked upon as 'BAD', 'DANGEROUS', 'DOMINATING' and thus attempts are made to keep the 'Other' always at bay. This communal or divisive ideology is working at its best in the contemporary Ladakh and the rabble-rousers from both Leh and Kargil districts are pushing it vigorously for their own "power" and "fame".

The present politics over the Zojila tunnel and the demands of UT status for Ladakh can be read from this "divisive/communal angle". Let us first look at the politics of Zojila tunnel; this tunnel has been a long-pending demand of Ladakhi people in general and the people of Kargil district in particular. However, the intelligentsia from the Leh district has never been vocal and supportive of the same. The recent statement by the president of Ladakh Buddhist Association, in which he openly declares that "the people of Leh district don't want Zojila tunnel and we don't support the same", further add salt to the already widening gap between the two regions or communities. The statement made by the LBA president compels us to contemplate and unravel the communal politics of Zojila tunnel project as well. (Source: www. facebookLadakhInTheMedia, 26th November 2018).

As a matter of fact, most of the intelligentsia from Leh conceive or rather propagate the discourse that if Zojila tunnel becomes a reality, then the Kargil region, which is mainly dominated by Muslims, would be more 'developed' and most of the economic benefit will be taken by Kargilis (or the Muslim-dominated Kargil), and as a result, Leh (or Buddhist- dominated district) would become economically backward. Although the LBA President justifies his anti-Zojila tunnel statement by saying that Ladakh doesn't want to have any connection with Kashmir as Kashmir-centric Sarkars have always been discriminative against Ladakh, but it carries less weight as 'road connectivity' and 'Kashmir-centric governments' are an altogether different ball game. Remember the recent move of "Katarpur Corridor" between India and Pakistan despite both the countries having many issues. Coming back to the main issue of politicising the tunnel issue, the backlash from Kargil has further intensified the tension between the two regions. The Islamia School Kargil (ISK) President's reply to the LBA President's comments was quite unbecoming and absurd. He appeals that, "Kargilis should not allow the vehicles from Leh to travel via Zojila in the coming summer" (Source: www.facebookKhadimHussainSapu 29th November 2018). Such comments further proliferate the binarization between the two communities.

However, the reality is far from such claims; and if tomorrow Zojila tunnel becomes a reality, both the districts would be benefited. Moreover, the significant beneficiaries would be the common/poor people of both the districts. Furthermore, there are some wannabe 'environmentalists' from Ladakh who too oppose the project. They claim that the Zojila tunnel would be a 'great' threat to the fragile ecology of Ladakh as it would increase the tourists' and vehicles inflow into Ladakh. Yes, this could be a concern for us but there are ways to mitigate it as well. However, the enormous military presence in Ladakh is more unfriendly to the fragile ecology of Ladakh. What's more, the huge military presence has already been doing great damage to the environment, and sadly nobody is questioning.

Let's take the politics over the Union Territory issue. The demand has

been a long- pending one. The genesis of the UT demand arises from the alleged 'discrimination' policy of the Kashmir-centric successive governments towards Ladakh. This reason is justifiable to some extent as Ladakh has often been overshadowed by the successive state governments. And yes! UT may seem to be an impossible demand at present; however, most of the Kargilis just oppose UT demand for communal sake. (It must be confessed here that the demand for the "Greater Ladakh" by Kargilis is a mere 'utopian' project as it consists of many convoluted issues and its proponents from Kargil very well know it).

Just like most intelligentsias from Leh oppose Zojila tunnel for communal sake, intelligentsias from Kargil also oppose UT demand for communal sake by propagating the fictional discourse that if Ladakh is granted UT status, the Buddhist-dominated people of Leh will dominate Ladakh. The 'fear' of being eclipsed by the Buddhists is injected into the people of Kargil if Kargilis support UT for Ladakh. However, such fictional discourse is being created by some power-hungry people, from both the districts, to break Ladakh on communal lines. The fact is that if tomorrow UT becomes a reality, both the districts will get equal shares as Ladakh comprises of almost 50/50 populations of both Muslims and Buddhists. It will be the common people of Ladakh whose life will be better if UT becomes a reality. In fact, those who are propagating such fictional discourses are anti-Ladakh and they fear that if people of both the regions speak in one voice, their 'power' and 'fame' would be lost. So in order to keep their own 'business' alive, such people are out there to spread the discourse of xenophobia.

So, the people of Ladakh should never get into this kind of trap; instead they should deliberate over the real issues. Remember the saying that 'the more lamps, more will be the degree of illumination'. Politicising the issues of modernity, progress, and development on the basis of regions, faiths, and communities is dangerous for the very existence of Ladakhis as a whole. Much more important than consuming energy over such divisionary tactics is to ponder over the issue: 'Is Ladakh ready to embrace the machinations of *vikas*, development and capitalistic industries-cum-services? Or, do we need a stable policy to check the validity of specific projects to the ecology of Ladakh?

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Disclaimer: The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the article belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the organization.

SEMOK organises walkathon for separate University for Ladakh in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Demanding separate Central University for Ladakh region in Kargil, around 500 students joined 'Run for Ladakh University' walkathon organised by Students Educational Movement of Kargil (SEMOK) on December 10.

The walkathon was flagged off by Ghulam Mehdi Sheikh, Councillor Baroo Constitu-

ency of LAHDC from Tourist Facilitation Center Kargil. The rally after passing through the main road from Baroo and Main market culminated at Lal Chowk, Kargil.

Councillors of LAHDC Kargil from different constituencies, members of SEMOK and other speakers highlighted the establishment of a separate fullfledged university for Ladakh.

The speakers pointed out that setting up of a separate and full-fledged University in Ladakh region is of utmost importance as there is no single university in the region as of now while as there are 6 universities in Jammu region and 5 in Kashmir region.

They stressed on the need to give preference for the setting up of the University for Ladakh in Kargil keeping into consideration its central location and equidistant position from Srinagar, Leh and Zanskar.

As a second option, they said that the University campuses already established in the twin districts should be upgraded to the status of full-fledged universities keeping in view the sentiments of the people in both districts.

Digital lab inaugurated at Council Model School, Sakti

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SAKTI: A digital lab sponsored by 17,000 Ft foundation was inaugurated during the parent's day celebration at Council Model School, Sakti on December 7.

A photo exhibition by Skalzang Dorjey, a student was also displayed.

Reiterating the education being the priority sector for Hill Council, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said there will be no politics over education.

He said it's the prime duty and responsibility of Hill Council, Leh, politician, and Education Department to provide quality education with good facilities for the children. However, the role of parents and consciousness at an individual level can play a greater role in supporting and improving the education system in the district.

He appreciated Gyal P Wangyal who has been the area councillor for the last 13 years and his contribution in making Sakti Government Middle School a Council Model School by ensuring quality education.



He further added that Late CEC, Dr. Sonam Dawa has played a crucial role in framing a transparent teacher' transfer policy and expressed hope to follow it in action and spirit to address all transfer related issues.

"Teachers of the schools with better performance and results will be given special attention and consideration during their transfers," he informed.

Gyal P. Wangyal informed that with the tireless endeavour of the school management committee, and teachers headed by Headmaster Sonam Gyaltson the enrollment rate of students increased from 5 to 82 in the last couple of years.

He appealed the people of Sakti and Chemday villages to strengthen Higher Secondary School, Sakti in line with Council Model School, Sakti by increasing the enrollment of students and assured every support and facility from Hill Council. Also, requested newly elected three Sarpanches and the Panches to come forward in strengthening the education sector in Sakti area.

Tashi Dolma, Joint Director Education Ladakh, Sonam Gyaltson, Headmaster and Tashi Wangyal, Chairman School Management Committee also spoke on the occasion

Gyal P Wangyal stresses upon awareness programme for unemployed youths



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To review the achievement, future plans and strategies of Subordinate Services Recruitment Board (SSRB), a meeting was convened by Gyal P. Wangyal, Deputy Chairman LAHDC, Leh on December 12.

Tsering Paldan, Secretary, LAH-DC, SSRB updated Gyal P. Wang-

yal about the ongoing recruitment drive in various departments. He also talked about the plans of the department which includes organising mega employment fair in coming months for unemployed youths of Leh, loan providing agencies, revenue officials and loan sanctioning authorities.

Discussion about the draft capex budget 2019-20 and ideas to

improve the functioning and efficiency of the department was carried out.

Gyal P Wangyal emphasized on conducting awareness programme for unemployed youths and career counselling for students at the block level. He assured every possible intervention and supports from LAHDC, Leh to strengthen LAHDC-SSRB.

Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association demands Bhoti language recognition



Members of Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association during the press conference.

Rigzin Wangmo

LEH: Demanding an inclusion of Bhoti language in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution and opening of Kailash Mansarovar route via Ladakh, Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association of Ladakh called a press conference on December 1 at Press Club Leh.

Tashi Targais, President, HBCA said, "It has been 28 years long demanding Bhoti language in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution. People of the Himalayas stood with Indian Army during wars to protect motherland but sadly, the government turns deaf ears to all our genuine demands".

"Government claims that development has taken place in Ladakh but no actual development can be seen on the ground. The Zojila tunnel initiative is not for the people of Ladakh but for the defense purpose, actually. Several other projects have been launched where it is said crores of rupees have been invested but the outcome is nil", he alleged.

Talking about MP Thupstan Chhewang resignation, he said, "It is disheartening to learn that Thupstan Chhewang has resigned from the post of MP due to delay in fulfilling our demands by centre government."

Tsewang Dorje, Director, HBCA said, "Demand for Bhoti language recognition is not only for Ladakh but for the other Himalayan regions. In 2008 -2009, Central Institute of Indian Language conducted a survey on Bhoti language in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. The report was submitted to the central government with a clear recommendation to recognize Bhoti as a language but still, the government did not act upon it."

All the members of the Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association were present during the conference.

SAVE, Nyoma, organises Losar reception in Leh



Stanzin Dasal

LEH: On the auspicious day of Galdan Namchot, a student association of Changthang region, Nyoma block 'Student Association for Village Education (SAVE) organised a Losar reception for all the people of Changthang, supporters, and well-wishers on December 2 at Shenam Community Hall.

Tsewang Thinles, President, LBA was the chief guest of the occasion and Dorjay Motup, Former CEC was the guest of honour.

Giving a traditional and cultural importance, the day was celebrated with scrumptious traditional cuisine, folk songs, and dance. A booklet of Ladakhi folk song published by 'SARZHENGS' the media wing of SAVE, was launched on the day and was distributed among all the guest and participants as a gift for the New Year.

Tsewang Thinles, President LBA appreciated the SAVE's effort and initiative to preserve and

promote the rich culture and tradition of Ladakh. He said such initiative and concern is very important in today's changing time. He said that keeping intact the rich culture and tradition along with the development is a must.

He stressed upon the youths to understand the value and importance.

He further announced ₹1 Lakh to the association to help them in organising various activities in future as well.

Dorjay Motup said that the SAVE has created a common platform to all the students of Changthang region on the road to development.

Highlighting the importance of Losar celebration, Mipham Otsal, Director, Ladakh Theatre Organisation said that a New Year is more of a celebration if we plan and strive to make the year very productive and fruitful.

He appreciated the SAVE concern to preserve and promote the culture and heritage and also stressed upon moral principles and values.

Tashi Gyalson, President Save briefed about the association and various activities. He informed about the plan of 40 days Intensive Learning Winter Camp for the students of Changthang region in Nyoma from December 25.

Ice Hockey coaching, music class, art and craft workshop to convert waste into the craft, theatre workshop, Ladakhi history, English communication skill, screening of famous inspiring documentaries followed with discussion, essay and painting competition, and cultural workshop will also be provided to the students.

Gurmet Dorjey, Councilor, Korzok, Thupstan Angchuk, Councilor, Nyoma, Konchok Stanzin, Councilor, Chushul, Rinchen Wacher, President, Young Drukpa Association Dr. Sonam Angchok, President IALS/Founder Director Himalayan Culture and Heritage Foundation, Rinchen Lamo nominated Councillor and many other dignitaries and guest were present.

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