

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Brief News

### DISCLAIMER

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A 10-day ice hockey coaching camp for children kick-started on December 28 at Police Ice Hockey Rink, Agling. The coaching camp was organised by District Police Leh with an aim to engage children in a meaningful way during winter vacation and to promote sports. The department is scheduled to organise four such ice hockey training camps for children this winter.

Society for prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCA) was declared officially functional as a registered society under Animal Welfare Board of India on December 21 at DC office conference hall, Leh. Avny Lavasa DC, Leh also the Chairman of Executive Body SPCA discussed issues focusing on the welfare of animals and to bring into the implementation of the annual activity calendar of SPCA, Leh.

A 3-day training programme on different aspects of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) and other related aspects for the DDOs and Dealing Assistants of Government departments was imparted from December 26 at Conference Hall, Baroo, Kargil. The training programme was organised by State Taxes Department Kargil and inaugurated by Vikas Kundal, DC, Kargil.

### Correction and clarification

It is the policy of 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin' to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition, date, news item or the article. You can contact at 9858394403 or email at editor@reachladakh.com. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone numbers.

## REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Leh gets its first ever Dialysis unit at SNM, Hospital

83 years old patient gets dialysis treatment for the 2nd time



Tsering Lamo, a patient taking the dialysis for the second time.

### Rigzin Wangmo

LEH: The first ever dialysis machine unit under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) was started on December 27 at SNM Hospital.

Gyal P. Wangyal, Deputy Chairman inaugurated the five bedded Dialysis Unit in the SNM Hospital.

He said, "I would like to dedicate the ward to the indigent patients of Ladakh. The dialysis machine was very much necessary in the district as people have to travel to other cities for dialysis treatment bearing a huge sum of money for travelling and treatment".

He appreciated Chering Dorje, Former Minister for his endless support in setting up the dialysis unit in Ladakh, doctors and paramedic staff headed by Dr. Tsering Samphel, Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital Leh for their tremendous contribution and also the

engineers of Construction Division Leh headed by Nisar Hussain, Xen. Construction for making it functional in the shortest feasible time.

Dr. Tashi Thinles, Senior Physician said, "The absence of a dialysis machine in the SNM hospital compels many patients to go outside the state for dialysis treatment bearing huge expenditure. A patient suffering from both the kidney failures have to take the dialysis for a lifetime. Dialysis is highly expensive costing ₹ 3000 minimum. But now it has been set up in Leh, the charges are ₹ 950 and free of cost for the BPL beneficiaries."

Tsering Samphel, Supervisor Pharmacist, In charge Dialysis ward informed that 6 people including 1 physician, 1 medical officer, 2 nurses, 1 pharmacist and 1 laboratory technician were trained for six-month in dialysis from Medical College, Srinagar.

...Continues on Page 6

## People heave a sigh of relief as SAC approves Cluster University for Ladakh



### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The recent approval of Cluster University for Ladakh by State Administrative Council, headed by Governor Satya Pal Malik on December 10 is a step forward to strengthen the higher education in Ladakh. It was approved with an initial grant of ₹65 Crore from the Government of India.

Dr. Stanzin Namgail, Assistant Professor, J&K Higher Education Department said, "Though our demand for the Central University/ Full-fledged University has not been accomplished, but the approval of Cluster University will definitely provide equitable prospect to the students of the region to pursue various undergraduate, post-graduate and diploma courses in different streams and subject through regular mode in the region. Besides, this will empower the colleges of the region to enhance their capacities

to become more practical, dynamic, demand driven and quality acquainted".

He said that in the background of various factors like political, education and social scenario of the region, the establishment of Cluster University is more practical as it will strengthen the existing colleges and give opportunities to the downtrodden students to pursue higher education from the same institution without moving out of the region.

"Above all, it will pave way for a full-fledged University in Ladakh", he added.

People of Kargil district expressed unhappiness over the decision declaring Degree College Leh as the lead college. Strong protest triggered with the announcement, demanding full-fledged university for Kargil on December 17 and 18, observing complete shutdown.

...Continues on Page 6

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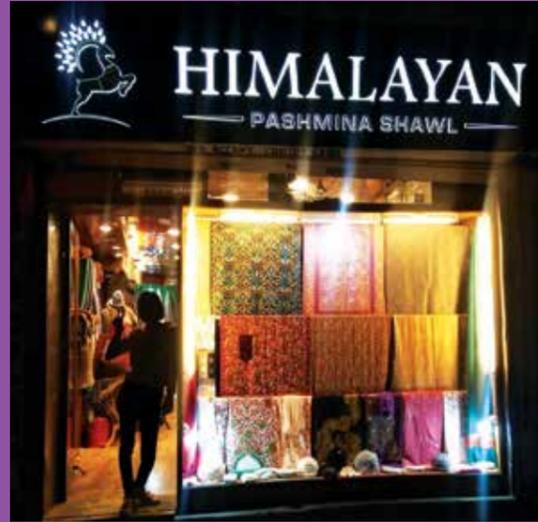
# Reach Ladakh and Overland Escape wishes you all a very Happy New Year

Wishing all our readers and well wishers a very prosperous and healthy New Year! Just as new bloom spreads fragrance and freshness around. May the New Year add new beauty and freshness into everyone's life.

Happy New Year 2019



# Himalayan Pashmina Shawl



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Address: Balkang Chowk, Main Market Leh.



## Sky Wok Ladakh Restaurant and Cafe

We wish all of our customers and the people of Ladakh a very Happy New Year and Losar

On this New Year, we thank all our valuable customers for their many visits over the past year and showing trust in us. It is always a pleasure to see many familiar faces time and again through our doors and also fantastic to see new faces visiting us every day. Wish all of you a very prosperous New Year and hope that 2019 brings you happiness and good times. We look forward to see you in 2019 and the years to come.



Address: Rupchand Complex, Near SBI Main Branch, Leh (Ladakh).

# PARSA'S-Food for all

With Faith, Courage and Hope, every dream is achievable. If you dream, dream to succeed. We would like to thank all our clients and guests for their support in 2018. Wish you all a very Happy New Year.



Address: Opposite Old Post Office, Main Market, Leh.

# Het Ram Vinay Kumar Pharmacy

We sincerely wish you a Happy New Year! Let this coming year be filled with stability, professional successes and great news. Wish you all a strong, healthy and endless spiritual vigour!



Address: Main Bazaar, Leh.



Team U.S. Pizza wishes you a very Happy New Year, 2019. Visit us and taste new food trends in the upcoming year. We will try our best not to disappoint you. Have a fantastic 2019.



Address: Mangon Complex, First Floor, Main Market, Leh.

## Tsetan Wangchuk, CRO, Choglamsar wishes a very Happy New Year



On behalf of Tibetan Sonamling Settlement, we wish all the great Rinpoche of Ladakh, political leaders, bureaucrats, friends and families of Ladakh a very happy 2019. We wish in coming year, Ladakh would prosper and develop further.

**Happy New Year once again to all!!**

## Leh Pashmina

**We wish you all a happy and mesmerizing New Year.**

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Address: Shop No. 7, Himalayan Complex, Main Bazaar, Leh.



## Ladakh Theatre Organisation wishes you a Happy New Year!!

Wishing everyone the best for this New Year. Let all the troubles melt in the flame of candles, and all the good things come into your life. Happy New Year 2019. Wishing you a year full of happiness and prosperity.

Also, we thank all of you for your continued support and we look forward to entertaining all in 2019. May you have a creative successful New Year!

## Dragon Collection Ladakh wishes you a Happy New Year



Thank you for the wonderful support that you all have given us throughout the past year! Wishing all the customers a wonderful new year! We look forward to make 2019 a successful year together. Count the blessings and nothing else. Making this year a great one. Happy New Year 2019!

Address: Nowshar, Main Market, Leh

## MONTE CARLO



**Wishing you all a prosperous and wonderful New Year**

Thank you for opportunities you have given to our company. We hope to give you a better service in the coming year.

Address: Balkhang Chowk, Main Market Leh.

## Singay General Store wishes you a Happy New Year



Our thoughts turn grateful to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we sincerely say thank you and best wishes for the coming year. Happy 2019!!

Address: Main market, Leh.

## District Police, Leh, organises career counseling

**Stanzin Dasal**

LEH: Guiding the students about different opportunities in Paramilitary, Airforce, Army and Police, District Police Leh organised one-day career guidance on December 20 at Lotsava Auditorium Cultural Academy, Leh.

Experts from the various forces such as Kunga Dorje, Dy.CO ITBP, Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Verma and Flight Lieutenant Ravi Verma from Indian Airforce, Captain Himanshu Gupta from 5 Ladakh Scouts, Sargun Shukla, SSP, Ishtyaq A Kacho-JKPS, Dy.SP HQs Leh and SI James Dechan imparted various career-related information in different forces.

Sargun Shukla, SSP, Leh said, "The purpose behind conducting this career counseling camp is that the J&K Police is endeavoured to have a constructive and purposeful engagement for the youth. The youths of today have lots of potentials but due to lack of information and guidance, the talent and skill remain untapped. So, we are putting our effort to bridge the gap of information and guidance so that the students can choose the best as per their capabilities".



Experts from the various forces during the one-day career guidance organised by District Police, Leh.

She further added that such initiative will be continued in coming days with more focus keeping in mind the feedback from today's event to make it more resourceful and better.

The students were informed with career choices. Along with entry schemes at officers level in different forces, eligibility criteria, how to prepare for the examination, physical test, examination level, the students were also motivated to dream, work and achieve it.

Farooq Khan, Rector, Satellite Campus Leh appreciated SSP Leh for such initiative which will prove beneficial to all the students. He said that the students are the future of the nation and all their energies and capacities should be utilized for the betterment of society.

Ibtisam Iqbal a student said that the day was very productive as all information related to career opportunities in armed forces were made aware. She expressed gratitude to the District Police Leh for organising the career counseling which is in need.

The students expressed the need of such guidance and career counselling at all levels so that they can opt and pursue easily. Such initiative at all levels would play a key role in transforming the destiny of the students and ensure that they leave an indelible imprint in any field they go.

## EXPERT TALK

## Divisional status for Ladakh

By Rigzin Wangmo



**Nurboo Gyalsan, Former MLC:** Divisional status is an administrative role in the state for the internal reporting. The state of J&K state is split into two divisions i.e. Kashmir and Jammu division. The twin district Leh and Kargil falls under Kashmir division and the Kashmir Division Commissioner does all the function of Ladakh.

The Divisional Commissioner is the controlling and supervisory officer guiding and facilitating the work of all the Deputy Commissioners. He is the head of the Revenue Department at the divisional level. It coordinates the working of all the departments at the divisional level to effect synergy and sort out inter-department problems. Also, keeps State Government authorities informed of all developments and problems to seek assistance and guidance from those quarters.

Ladakh including the two districts is larger than some other states in the country area wise, thus it needs a separate divisional commissioner. Both Leh and Kargil people suffer a lot for all the documentation and work formalities. Employees under divisional cadre are from Srinagar. Ladakhi's are not even notified and appointed for the same. Job advertisement is made within Srinagar.

It will not make any difference to the government to bring Ladakhi staff working under the division commissioner Srinagar to Ladakh to work solely for the region. The government will not have to bear huge expenses and challenges. It might include slight changes like appointing new staff and a Division Commissioner.

## Union Territory and Divisional status

The UT and Divisional status are two distinct aspects. The divisional status is administration work and has nothing to do with the constitution. UT demand is for obtaining a special status. If UT is granted then Ladakh will be separated from the state.

Divisional Status is important because the place will have its own importance. The demand for it was never made on a larger scale. From the beginning, people have always demanded UT but not divisional status. If Ladakh will get UT, there are possibilities where two divisions can be made for both Kargil and Leh separately. But since Ladakh is not getting UT status, the divisional status will help to increase the status of the place.

The resolution for a divisional status was passed when I was MLC seeing the number of challenges and issues faced by the people of Ladakh being with Kashmir division. Many objected the same including the present CEC Jamyang Tsering Namgyal stating that the demand of UT status will get diluted.

Divisional status has nothing to do with the dilution of UT demand because the divisional status is simply the separate administrative setup. And today paradoxically, the one who opposes himself is demanding the divisional status for Ladakh.

There is a huge difference when demanding UT for a state and UT for a division. Previously Leh and Kargil was one district now it has become two districts. So when it became two districts the discussion was to demand UT for both the district. Kargil is demanding separate division because the area is big that includes places like Zaskar, Drass and others. But for now, even if we get one division it will be enough so later it can be mapped accordingly.



Total area of Leh, Kargil, Srinagar &amp; Jammu

Region	Total Area
Leh	45110 sq kms
Kargil	14036 sq kms
Srinagar	16351 sq kms
Jammu	26294 sq kms

As per the data the total area of entire Ladakh is 59,416 sq kms, whereas total area of Srinagar and Jammu 42644 sq kms.



**Nawang Tsering Shaksपो, Former Director Centre for Research on Ladakh:** In the context of J&K what the J&K politician say that the State is a composition of three regions or parts, i.e. Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh but in reality at present, the J&K is on administrative sphere only has two division and Ladakh at present only counted as the two districts of

Kashmir division.

If Ladakh gets the status of division, it immensely benefits particularly from the administrative point of view. As per the rule, the

government must create divisional level posts. For instance, at the moment the head of various departments only carry the status of Chief or Deputy Director Level. If we ever get the divisional status, there will be Director level posts with jobs of Divisional Cadre staff in the departments.

Only in the year 1970's, real political awakening came. Around that time Kushok Bakula Rinpoche was for the first time elected as the member of Lok Sabha and under his stewardship demand for NEFA type of administration raised. With that under the stewardship of Lama Lobzang and Thupstan Chhewang demand for UT status got momentum.

Till the 1980s in Ladakh, only one political party existed in Ladakh i.e. Congress headed by Kushok Bakula Rinpoche.

Divisional Status and UT are two completely different setups. With granting of Divisional Status, there will be the only augmentation of the status of the posts of the officer and their financial powers.

Getting Divisional status will not dilute the demand of UT status. If the people of Ladakh has guts, that will be a step forward towards getting UT. For instance, at present Jammu has Divisional status and since they are not satisfied with the setup, they are now demanding for Statehood for Jammu. Similarly, Ladakhi also can cry for UT Status or Statehood.

With this unprecedented step of the sorts, depicting the administrative will and the capabilities of taking critical but most desirable decisions, people shall have now not to travel long and tedious journey to reach summer and winter capitals respectively to resolve their routine day to day problems. Not only that, life in Ladakh is made more challenging by the six-month winter during which time the residents of Ladakh carry on their lives in a severe cold when the mercury drops to minus 40 degrees.

With this step, the administration shall be deemed to be reaching people over there right in their places. There will be a hassle-free resolution of their problems and the pace of economic development will get accelerated. And this is not even to speak about the far-flung villages of the region and their problem.

Ladakh definitely deserves divisional status. The absence of this is one of the root causes of its backwardness. After the long struggle of the people of Ladakh, the government finally created two Autonomous Hill Development Councils for the two districts of the Ladakh region, but it seems that the two Councils are not fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of their people. This is because the state government's allocation of funds to the two district development does not adequately reflect Ladakh's size and its geographical and strategic importance.

## The changing dynamics of Ladakh politics



Jegmet Sangyas

The recent developments in the politics of Ladakh need to be keenly examined and analysed. The second half of 2018 unfolded a series of interesting political events. The Kargil Hill Council election, municipal elections, shuffling of portfolios in Hill Council Leh, resignation of Ladakh MP, demand for a university and resolutions passed by the Hill Councils demanding Divisional status for Ladakh are the major political happenings needing attention. The climax of the entire sequel of political changes was the resignation by the Ladakh MP, over the "failure" to deliver the promises made by the BJP during the 2014 parliamentary election campaign, and also over the interference of Jammu BJP in the internal affairs of the Ladakh BJP as well as the Hill Councils.

Though the BJP didn't accept the resignation of Thupstan Chhewang at first, his decision of resigning from both MP and BJP primary membership clearly reflected the stark differences developed between him and the BJP, and the rift that seems to have grown within BJP, Leh. His allegations against the BJP state High Command regarding interventions in the politics of Leh and in the unceremonious deposing of the former CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Dorjey Motup, have raised questions on the competence of the BJP Leh in further strengthening its foothold in the region. The resignation of Thupstan Chhewang and the conspicuous absence of the explicit endorsement of his stand by any member of the BJP, Leh, makes it clear that he literally got himself isolated from the main domain of the politics of Ladakh. Because the stand he claimed to have taken for the bigger cause of UT for Ladakh was explicitly or implicitly disowned

by the BJP, the party he has started and built in Ladakh, as well as LBA, the very religious organisation which he led during the high times of Ladakh politics in the later part of the 80s. However, he has been able to gain the sympathy of opposition as well as the general public at large, if nothing substantial.

Moreover, the resignation may enhance his public image as one of the most followed leaders of Ladakh and put a respectful end to his active political career.

And, the meteoric rise of Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, a young politician, within the BJP party in Leh, before the episode of the resignation of the MP, Ladakh, is important to be recalled here. First, he became the district president of BJP, Leh, with high appreciation and expectations. Then he became the youngest-ever CEC, LAHDC, Leh, following the resignation of the former CEC, Motup Dorjey, citing health reasons. But allegations that appeared in the resignation letter of the MP reflected a different story. This confusion resulted in the emergence of a general political perception among the people of Ladakh that the new CEC is getting political favour from the party high command and is more interested in advancing his personal ambitions at the cost of unanimity within the BJP party in Ladakh. This may be disapproved as baseless by the CEC, but it seems to have penetrated the public domain quite effectively.

Moreover, the alleged mishandling of the students' issue and the case of suspension of the Principal of a Higher Secondary School in Nubra by the CEC, became the cause of resentment among students and government servants in the education department. Despite all these negative impressions in the public mind, the young CEC has been trying his best to prove his credentials. Some of the resolutions passed by the LAHDC, Leh, in

the recent past demanding Divisional status and Central University for Ladakh as well as Women College and Medical College for Leh have been claimed as major political strides taken by the current Council under his chairmanship. Among these demands, the one for Divisional status for Ladakh has got the lime-light because of the positive response from the Governor. The reports that the govt is contemplating accordance of Divisional status for Ladakh have been doing the rounds, of late. The vicissitudes in the political atmosphere of Ladakh within a short span of time has driven things towards uncertainty where it is hard to predict the future course of Ladakh politics.

Amidst all this, an interesting and encouraging development in the politics of regionalism, mainly between the two districts of Leh and Kargil, cannot go unnoticed. Ever since 1979, Ladakh politics was never free of challenges of regional politics and conflicting interests. Kargil leaders of political and religious organisations always have had an uneasiness with the UT demand which has been strongly advocated by the leaders of political and religious organisations from Leh. There may be a separate debate later on over the logic behind supporting and not supporting the UT demand.

The recent exchange of allegations pertaining to Zojila Tunnel between religious organisations from both the districts reflects the persisting lack of confidence and mutual understanding between the two. However, the on-going demand for Divisional status and Central University for Ladakh, vehemently raised by both the Councils, is likely to augment a sense of bonhomie between two districts and create a way forward for concerted endeavour necessary for certain genuine

...Continues on page 6

## SoulSpeak

P. P. Wangchuk

## Sharing is giving that makes one fulfil the mission of one's life



Sharing is giving and can be said to be the greatest investment one can do for one's welfare and happiness. No other investment gives one as good a return as sharing does. It brings you a sense of joy, fulfilment and a feeling that you are on the right track in the journey of life.

As Argentinian poet Antonio Porchia says, "I know what I have given you, I don't know what you have received." That makes it clear that our role is to give and share and not to expect anything in return. Only such an idea works to make us good enough to be worthy of living for a cause.

Sharing, in brief, means helping the needy with whatever you can do comfortably without messing up your own life and its resources. It means doing an act of kindness that makes others feel better and hopeful. It can be done not only in material terms. Sharing love, sympathy, empathy and even a smile go to make a great difference in spreading peace and happiness.

Therefore, the word SHARE can be taken to mean, apart from Sharing, Helping, Aiding, Respecting and Empathising. Given this, one can be sure that one's life's mission is fully taken care of, and that all that one needs is to go steady towards achieving one's ultimate mission of having a fulfilled life.

And let's remember Mother Teresa's words of wisdom, "If you have no peace, it is because you have forgotten that we belong to each other." That could mean many of us are slowly "decaying" and worthy of nothing. If we can't take our other fellow human beings along in the journey of life, we are surely and sadly failing in our mission.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

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

## In Conversation with Tsetan Wangchuk, Chief Representative Officer, Sonamling Settlement, Leh

Interviewed by Dawa Dolma

### Q. Briefly tell us about the history of the establishment of Chief Representative Office, Leh Ladakh?

The establishment of Chief Representative Office was dated back in 1960 under the Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamsala. Earlier, the Chief Representative Officer of Sonamling settlement was directly appointed by Central Tibetan Administration for one or two consecutive terms. But, it has been almost nine years that people of the settlement elect their representative. The settlement is commonly known as "Lhaji" which constitutes twelve refugee camps in Leh and nine nomadic areas in Changthang. It is one of the biggest Tibetan settlements in India.

The settlement possesses an elected Local Tibetan Assembly which holds the term for five years. The Local Tibetan Assembly holds session twice in a year and can raise the question and decide on any issues related to the settlement during the session.

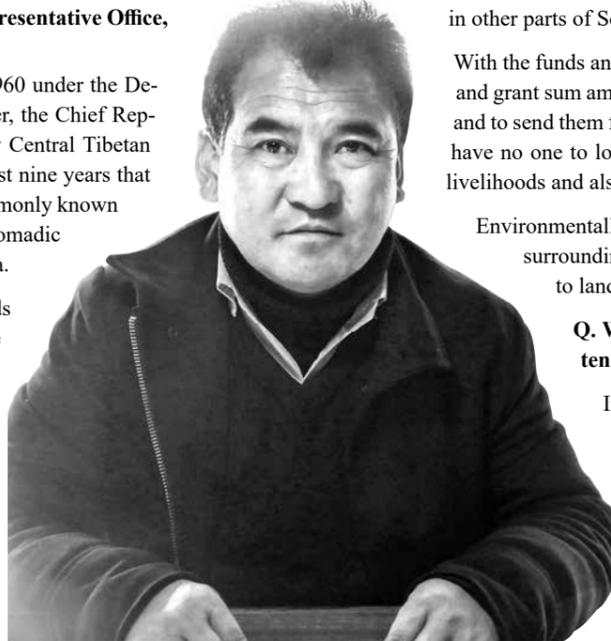
Settlement officer is in charge of overall control of running of affairs of the settlements. The Chief Representative acts as the liaison officer between the settlement and the Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration and is the main source of information for the people in the settlement.

### Q. Since you are re-elected as Chief Representative Officer of Sonamling Settlement, what are the major goals to achieve within your term?

Chief Representative Office is running successfully with the blessing and guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Our main objective is to work for the welfare of people such as providing financial support, medical care, education and other miscellaneous. In case of education, the settlement children attend SOS Tibetan Children Village School run under the leadership of His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso and Ama Jestun Pema.

Tibetan children do not have to pay a single penny for their education and accommodation. Despite the existence of TCV, CRO is also responsible to promote and look after the education of the children of Changthang and Leh.

I was re-elected by the people for another term and there are certain



in other parts of Sonamling settlement which is my first priority.

With the funds and aids from various international organisations, I am further planning to get and grant sum amount of money to avail loan for unemployed youths to start a small business and to send them for entrepreneurship workshop. We also take care of the elderly people who have no one to look after, nomads in Changthang who do not own animals to sustain their livelihoods and also maintaining the traditional mode of living.

Environmentally, we have been engaging for a long time in sustaining clean and healthy surrounding. The procurement of the garbage truck to collect wastes and moving it to landfills will be a great initiative of this year to keep our environment clean.

### Q. What are the key issues or challenges that you faced while you were in tenure? What more challenges do you see and how will you work on them?

In CRO we deal with different aspect of issues at individual, community, governmental and non-governmental level.

Administratively, we have to work along with various institutions and organisations and many times fail to complete tasks due to appointment or transfer of new staffs. Furthermore, we face a major problem of putting into action while having a number of deliberations.

### Q. Now that you are re-elected, what will be your main agenda to bring more development in Tibetan society? Is there any particular issue that you think that needs more attention?

Well, there are many issues that need more attention but I have been focusing on stimulating quality education among Tibetan children in Sonamling settlement. Preserving Tibetan culture is on the list as well since there has been a drastic decline in conserving culture. Hence it is critically important to revive those cultures by establishing a cultural society to maintain our cultural identity. Additionally, mass support is obligatory in retaining Tibetan culture.

### Q. What are takeaways from the previous term and how will you improve in this term?

One of the biggest takeaways from the previous term is definitely developing interpersonal skills and abilities to interact with other people adeptly as you attend to people from all walks of life.

### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Journalistic interviews are one of the primary approaches to collect information that contains elicit facts or statements, and present opinions to readers, listeners or viewers.”

goals that I want to achieve. However, most of the task is assigned by the Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration and has to work accordingly. In my last tenure, we have worked on the issue of access to drinking water and sanitation in areas of Changthang and Leh. Similarly, we are planning to continue to resolve the same issue

## FORTNIGHT HIGHLIGHTS



Stray dogs menace might have led to the death of a Snow Leopard (an indigenous endangered animal) at Kharu.



The 5th Winter Hemis Festival concluded on December 20 at Hemis Monastery. More than 10,000 devotees gathered at the courtyard to participate and complete thousands of Ganachakra and 300 million chanting of Avalokiteshvara Mantra.



Zanskar has its first ever Ice Hockey Rink along with Ice Hockey Training program at Muski Chumik.



Prime Minister met newly elected Sarpanch of J&K in New Delhi on December 20.



Christmas celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy in Leh.

## KNOW YOUR CULTURE

### Chorten

Chorten is equivalent of the Buddhist Stupa. Chorten is one of the most prolific buildings in the region of Ladakh and the presence of numerous chorten is widely seen in both the monastery and non-monastery area of every Buddhist village.

Generally, located along the path leading to a temple, monastery, at a junction, along with a village path or at a village entrance. These Chortens are circumambulated in a clockwise direction as an act of merit. The purpose of building a Chorten varied; traditionally it was seen as funerary structures containing relics or ashes of enlightened lamas, it is also erected to commemorate a special event, built for the well being of all sentient being and sometime to atonement for sins committed.

The most significant element in the Chorten is its content "Zungs", which is placed inside it with prescribed rituals and prayers. In Tibetan Buddhism there are plenty of Chorten, the most prominent are Rigsum Gonpo and Chorten Gyath (the eight great Stupas represents the most significant events of Buddha's life).

Rigsum Gonpo means the "Protectors of the three realms" and refers to Avalokiteshvara, Manujshri and Vajrapani, who symbolically represent the body, speech and mind aspects of the Buddha's of all times- past, present, and future.

Chorten Gyath represents eight important events in the life and works of Buddha Shakyamuni. The Eight Great Buddhist Stupas are symbols of enlightened mind and the path to its realization.

The Chorten Gyath are:

- Dheshey Chorten (Lotus Blossom Stupa)
- Changchub Chorten (Enlightenment Stupa)
- Chokhor Chorten (Stupa of turning the wheel of Dharma)
- Chotrul Chorten (Stupa of Great Miracles)
- Lhabab Chorten (Stupa of Descent from the God Realm)
- Yidam Chorten (Stupa of Reconciliation)
- Namgyal Chorten (Stupa of Complete Victory)
- Nyangde Chorten (Stupa of Nirvana)

Source: Legacy of a mountain people –Inventory of cultural resources of Ladakh book Vol 1.



Chorten Gyath (Eight Stupas) at Jevetsal, Shey.



Rigsum Gonpo at the entrance of Thiksey Monastery, it always comes in tri colors.

## Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Leh, gets functional



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Society for prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCA) was declared officially functional as a registered society under Animal Welfare Board of India on December 21 at DC office conference hall.

The society was handed over by Avny Lavasa DC, Leh also the Chairman of Executive Body SPCA to the elected society represented by its Vice President, Dr. Ishey Namgial, President MC, Leh.

Discussing issues focusing on

the welfare of animals, they discussed to bring into the implementation of the annual activity calendar of SPCA, Leh.

Avny Lavasa suggested prioritising awareness camps on animal welfare, celebration of animal occasions and fund-raising events for the society for effective results. The SPCA, Leh was asked to highlight the society's activities and work on its shortcomings to ensure improvement and benefit.

She also stressed the need for drastic steps to reduce the dog

population due to the threat of stray dogs to human life and wildlife. She informed that a DPR of ₹ 64 Lakh project for mass dog sterilization in the district has been submitted to Council and expressed hope that the approval of the project will help address dog menace.

She urged President MC, Animal Husbandry and all the members of the society to collaborate in reducing cruelty against animals, to ensure their welfare and sensitise people about it.

Dr. Stanzin Takshos, MCBF, Changspa of Animal Husbandry Department gave a power point presentation on the welfare of animals, animal act and laws and activities of SPCA, Leh.

Discussion on the activities to be carried out by the society in the coming days and other animal-related issues in Leh was also carried out.

## Hill Council Leh visits organic state Sikkim

Aims to strengthen the ties between LAHDC, Leh and Sikkim in promoting organic farming in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SIKKIM: The first organic farming state of India, Sikkim exchanged expertise, technologies, and know how to promote organic farming in Leh.

The exchange of ideas was made during the exposure tour to Sikkim by the teams from Leh district on December 23.

The delegation team of LAHDC, Leh was led by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC. Phunchok Stanzin, EC Agriculture, Moses

Kunzang, ADC, Leh, Tashi Tsetan, Chief Agriculture Officer, Tsewang Panchok, Chief Horticulture Officer, Sonam Angchok, District Agriculture Officer and Thinles Dawa, Assistant Soil Chemist were present.

The purpose of the visit to Sikkim is to further strengthen the ties between LAHDC, Leh and Sikkim in promoting organic farming in Leh in line with the model of Sikkim.

The delegation had a meeting with Minister for Agriculture,

Govt of Sikkim Somnath Poudyal and high-level officers of Sikkim govt.

Somnath Poudyal assured every possible help and support from Sikkim Govt. in converting Leh into an organic farming district.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal expressed gratitude to the Sikkim Govt. for inviting the delegation of Leh for an exposure tour of Sikkim and apprised the meeting about the small step being taken by LAHDC, Leh in propagating organic farming in Leh.

He said that such tour is an eye-opener for the visiting team and will help a lot in replicating the model of Sikkim in Leh. Also, he requested for continuous support of Sikkim in guiding Leh towards sustainable and organic farming.

A field visit to South Sikkim and Namcho district was also done.

## The changing dynamics of Ladakh politics

...Continued from page 4

demands of the entire region of Ladakh. So, there are signs of developing a kind of understanding between the two districts upon those demands which require an indispensable collective assertion of the region as one, but tensions and conflicts regarding priorities, interests, political stands and claims can't be overlooked. To find a common ground

and a concentrated political assertion of Ladakh region as one vis-a-vis Jammu and Kashmir, confidence-building measures between the two districts at Council level are needed to be taken.

Against such a backdrop of the changing political dynamics of Ladakh, it will be interesting to keenly observe the 2019 Assembly and parliamentary elections.

## People heave a sigh of relief as SAC approves Cluster University for Ladakh

...Continued from Page 1

Zakir Hussain Sharah, Former President, SEMOK, Kargil said, "We are not against the grant of Cluster University but the decision to make Degree College, Leh as the lead college ignoring Kargil. More than 3000 students are studying in Degree College, Kargil and the satellite campus of Kashmir University is also functioning better than Leh. Thus we deserve a University. Both the district should come on one platform to discuss all the issues for holistic development."

He said that the announcement has been made by

the Governor without seeing the ground reality and feasibility.

Jegmet Sangyas, Assistant Professor, J&K Higher Education Department said, "From the feasibility point of view, Cluster University may prove an immediate solution for several problems. The experience from running the university for a year or two can make us more efficient and capable enough to run a full-fledged University (Central or State). Moreover, our students in general and existing colleges, in particular, will get the benefits directly from the colleges becoming constituents of Cluster University."

### WHAT IS CLUSTER UNIVERSITY?

According to the University Grant Commission (UGC), India has more than 800 universities and more than 30,000 colleges. Cluster University is to delink a few smaller colleges from the State University, combine them into a composite one for a greater effect. With the conversion of smaller colleges into cluster, work becomes more flexible and quality is enhanced. In Cluster University, one major institute will lead three to five institutions in its vicinity.

The state of Jammu And Kashmir State has two cluster universities functional in both Srinagar and Jammu. The Jammu and Kashmir University of Ladakh Bill, 2018 aims at setting up a University for entire Ladakh, as a Cluster University. There are five Degree Colleges functioning in Ladakh region, one each at Leh, Nubra, Kargil, Zaskar, and Drass. All the colleges of both the district will be affiliated to the Cluster University of Ladakh with Degree College Leh constituting the lead college. The new colleges to be set up in Ladakh region in near future are envisaged to be constituents of/affiliated with the Cluster University of Ladakh.

## Wanla revives ancient Losar festival celebration

Losar festival details of different regions of Ladakh to be included in tourist map, says CEC



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

WANLA: To preserve the age-old traditional and cultural values, people of Wanla revived Losar festival which was abandoned 9 years back. Featuring the performances of Baba, Meymey, Karok, Patimo and rChaspa Losar was celebrated with great enthusiasm on December 14.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal,

CEC, LAHDC, Leh, chief guest appreciated the people of Wanla for reviving their Losar festival and said that this important step taken by the people of Wanla would set an example for many other villages to follow and revive their Losar celebration.

He said Ladakh has a distinct cultural identity because of such fairs and festivals passed on from generation to generation

carrying the custom and ritual of our glorious past. He felt the need to preserve such hereditary legacy. He appealed the younger generations to learn and inculcate the ancestral values in them and become true Ladakhis.

He also talked about bringing the Losar festivals of different regions of Ladakh on the tourist map in the coming days. The initiative will not merely help to preserve the significance of Losar in all the villages but would further promote the winter tourism in Ladakh.

Padmashree awardee Morup Namgyal, gave a detail recounting of the modes and movements of Wanla Losar. Many locals, monks and enthusiastic youngsters attended the festival and contributed to the richness of the festival.

## Cover up all uneven pits on roads: Gyal P Wangyal



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: All the uneven pit holes on main roads in Leh town to get rectified and covered at the earliest possible time.

Gyal P Wangyal, Deputy Chairman gave the direction to the

concerned officials during a meeting on December 21 at Council Secretariat.

Exn. R&B, PHE, and Construction and concerned AEEs and Engineers headed by SE PWD, Leh S.K. Pandita were present.

Gyal P Wangyal directed SE PWD and all the Executive Engineers to ensure coordination among them while executing works on the ground. Regarding left out roads of Leh town for macadamization, he directed Executive Engineer R&B and Executive Engineer PHE to exchange list of roads in Leh town ready for blacktopping and complete the tendering process accordingly.

The Deputy Chairman will inspect all the roads of Leh in a week time to assess the ground reality.

## Leh gets its first ever Dialysis unit at SNM Hospital

...Continued from page 1

He said that in the coming days all those patients who are suffering from Chronic Kidney diseases (CKD) and are residing outside for dialysis can be moved back in Leh and easily get their dialysis done.

Tsering Tundup a kidney patient attendant said, "It has become very easy for the patient in need of dialysis. We can do the treatment here in Leh without

having to travel outside and spending so much. My mother-in-law is going through the dialysis treatment for the second time in SNM Hospital and is showing improvement."

Others present on the occasion were Rinchen Lhamo, Nominated Councillor, Xen. Construction, doctors, paramedic staff and Councillors from Temisgam, Upper Leh, Phyang, Igoo, Khaltsi, Diskit, Sku-Markha, and Chushul.

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As per Directorate General: DD letter no.3 (2) 1/ATT Rationalization/2018/ E-II/5/6.522dt:30.11.2018, LPT, Leh (DD news) is to be closed with effect from December 29, 2018.

P.M. Bhankhodia  
Asstt. Director (ENGG.)



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