

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Brief News

### DISCLAIMER

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Dear Readers,

Reach Ladakh has successfully completed six years and entering into the seventh year with their hard work and dedication. If you have any feedback, message and suggestion mail us at editor@reachladakh.com or assteditor@reachladakh.com. We would greatly appreciate it if you kindly give us some feedback in order to help it make better. Your comments suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continuous love and support.

### SPCA gears up for animal welfare

LEH: A meeting of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to animals, Leh, was held on January 13 to take decision for the welfare of the animals.

The meeting decided to lift all stray animals such as donkeys and bulls at Animal care centre, Nang by Live to Rescue in collaboration with Society for Prevention of Cruelty to animals and Municipal committee, Leh from January 18 within the Municipal area. The owners of the animals are informed to take care of their animals.

Any motor vehicle drivers causing injury or death to the animals due to negligence or rash driving shall be liable for penalty as per offence under Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals law.

### 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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## Celebrating 7th anniversary of Reach Ladakh Bulletin

It's a celebration for all those who have been a part of the company through all these years



On our seventh anniversary, we would like to take the opportunity to extend our appreciation for the amazing work done by you all. The endless hours that you have spent working, and the professionalism that you have shown has impressed the entire team immensely. The successful completion of 6 years is the result of constant teamwork. Your diligence, self-motivation as well as dedication have been a source of inspiration for the rest of the team.

We sincerely appreciate the determination and effort that you have demonstrated during your time with us.

Throughout our journey, we have reinvented and re-vigourised our content to suit the palate of the changing times. We have been steadfast in offering our readers what they want to read. Our journey has been made memorable because of the love and encouragement of our readers, contributors, and well-wishers.



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## SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Sales Executive



Samsten Choephel  
Reporter



J & K Bank was conferred with SKOCH ORDER OF MERIT AWARD for its complete Financial Inclusion project of Leh district. Bank had completed its expansion and outreach plan in the month of October 2018 by opening 35 Ultra Small Branches in one go, in all remote locations of the district. This is in addition to 21 regular branches the Bank already had, thus making the total number of banking outlets in the district to 56.

SKOCH award instituted in 2003 by the SKOCH foundation, the highest independently instituted civilian honour, is given to people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation. It is a benchmark of excellence.

The award was received by the Chairman and CEO of the Bank Mr. Parvez Ahmad and Zonal Head Ladakh Mr. Chetan Paljore at the 55th SKOCH summit at constitution club in New Delhi.

### Milestones of Reach Ladakh

- 1999**
  - Reach Ladakh published its first guide book
  - Launched its website
- 2013**
  - Entered into print and published its fortnightly paper 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin'
  - We brought all the intellectuals on one platform in Reach Ladakh Conclave.
  - Introduced in Conversation page in which well-known personalities who have contributed towards society were interviewed. More than 140 interviews have been done so far.
- 2014**
  - Aired 18 episodes on Alcohol free movement sponsored radio programme on All India Radio, Leh.
- 2015**
  - Launched Reach Ladakh App for Goggle Play Store and Apple's App Store to reach more audience.
- 2016**
  - We introduced 'What do they say Column', a public opinion on various issues of the region.
  - First media house to cover constituency issues along with the interview of councilors
  - 'Expert Talk Column' interviewed more than 80 experts so far on various issues.
- 2018**
  - Introduced Campus diary, Know your culture and Fortnightly highlights.

Covers every region of Ladakh and have circulation in Leh, Nubra, Zaskar, Kargil, Jammu, Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana, Dehradun, Varanasi, Switzerland, France and many other states.

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# Vehicles increase almost five times within two decades in Leh



Before and after picture of Mani wall on the junction of Sabo and Choglamsar. Blackening of Mani wall indicates threat of air pollution in Leh

## Dawa Dolma

LEH: Leh has materialistically developed and changes have occurred in the traditional way of living that eventually deteriorates the environment. According to 2011 census, Leh has a population of 133,487. However, the total number of registered vehicles in Leh in the year of 2008-2018 is 17,232 that is equivalent to one vehicle for eight persons. The figures absolutely tell us how the area air has been gradually under the threat of pollution.

At the same time, brewing numbers of tourists is responsible for the increase in the number of vehicles which generates employment opportunities among unemployed youth. Vehicles are not entirely accountable to share of air pollution. Lack of equipped waste management in town and increasing use of plastics led to burning of trashes and garbage in landfills has also contributed to air contamination.

According to the data of Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Leh, the most drastic changes are seen in the registration of Light Vehicle Motors. In between 1998 to 2008, the number of registered light motor vehicles is 792 and has significantly increased to 7841 in the year from 2008 to 2018. The people of Ladakh should be more conscientious to the

environmental concerns rather than laying the blame on tourists.

Furthermore, there is no one to check the serious concern over increasing air pollution in Ladakh as three sanctioned monitoring stations for Leh, Zaskar and Nubra under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAQMP) several years ago has reduced to a defunct body.

Dr. Sonam Wangmo, Assistant Professor in Environmental Science, EJM College said, "It would be totally unfair to put the blame solely on the tourists, especially during the summer season. In Leh, more than 60% of the household owns more than two vehicles for their convenience. In addition to the commercial and non-commercial vehicles, the heavy vehicles like truck, buses and heavy army vehicles are adding oil to the flame. The vehicles' exhausts are considered as the primary source of air pollution".

Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer popularly known as the Glacier man emphasized that geographically Ladakh region being a high altitude area and cold desert, the emanation of Carbon Dioxide from vehicles is more excessive than in plains which affects adversely on environment and health.

Interestingly, the number of registered big buses for public transportation has decreased extensively (111 to 60) within the last twenty years. The administration has introduced public transportation in 2018 to curb the traffic menace and promote usage of buses in the town as public transportation is critical to the proper functioning of any towns, rural areas, and cities.

While our public transport system clearly needs improvement. The government has failed to promote reliable public transport in Leh that many passengers express their grievances. An everyday commuter Tsering Lhamo says, "Buses are time-consuming as it neither arrives on time nor leaves on time. Being a daily passenger, it is always an essential struggle to travel by bus from Choglamsar to Leh primarily because of lack of proper bus stops that allows the passenger to freely board and de-board at their convenience."

Moreover, the government should rather emphasize on executing better timing, proper bus stops and provides an accurate capacity (the more the crowded, the slower it gets).

Dr. Sonam Wangmo further adds, "In addition to the air pollution, the emissions from vehicles like acetaldehyde, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene is also carcinogenic in nature. These toxic emissions are said to be linked to many types of cancer in humans."

The Glacier man focused on the utilization of non-conventional resources such as solar energy. He believes that using solar energy would be the ultimate solution in Ladakh as it is exposed more to sunshine and would be effective to utilize them for cooking, building, and other alternative activities.

As Dr. Sonam Wangmo said, "It is not only the responsibility of the government but every individual has an equal role in conserving our environment."

The following are the duties or responsibilities of both the government and the people of Ladakh to conserve our environment:

What can the government do?	What should the people of Ladakh do?
Imposing tax to those who owns more than one vehicle would be an alternative choice to minimize the use of light motor vehicles.	Carpooling among staffs, peers and co-workers working in the same department instead of driving individual car would not only reduce the pollution emission but also money friendly and create more parking spaces.
Sustainably, the issue can be resolved by raising awareness programs on encouraging and using public transportation more often.	Commuting using public transport encourages our personal commitment towards environmental sustainability goals and makes Leh a better place to live.
Implementing proper bus stops within a radius of distance and introducing trustworthy bus timetable from Leh to sub-towns including Choglamsar, Skalzangling and many more.	Using public transport ensures you to walk more often which improves personal health and also aid in decongestion.

Data gathered from Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Leh			
Types of Vehicle	Year 1998 to 2008	Year 2008 to 2018	Total
Big Bus	111	60	171
School Bus	0	61	61
Mini Bus	125	139	264
L.M.V	792	7841	8633
Scotter/M.Cycle	536	2767	3303
Tractor	31	96	127
Truck/Tipper	435	810	1245
Mini Truck	58	250	308
Taxi	1238	3088	4326
Ambulance	12	43	55
Tanker	6	14	20
L.G.V Pick up	175	2061	2236
Others	11	2	13
In total	3530	17232	20762

\*Year 1998 to 2008 (01.04.1998 to 31.03.2018)  
\*Year 2008 to 2018 (01.04.2008 to 30.11.2018)

## Five disgruntled BJP Councillors withdraw resignations



## Tsewang Rigzin

LEH: Five BJP councillors of LAHDC Leh who resigned on January 3 from the party withdrew their resignations on the assurance of getting their demands fulfilled on January 7.

In this regard, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chering Dorjay, MLC Leh in presence of party leaders and all 17 BJP councillors. The meeting reportedly decided to accommodate Executive's Council seat for Changthang region.

Two Mandal Presidents of Nyoma and Durbuk have also withdrawn their resignations.

A press release issued by BJP Leh reads as "Differences arisen inside the party were amicably resolved in the meeting. It was also resolved in the meeting that from now onwards all Council-

commodate one councillor from Changthang region for Executive Councillor resulted protest from region alleging discrimination.

The resignation letter reads, "We submit our resignation from party membership on the grounds of the recent unfortunate political development in the party followed by undemocratic, indiscipline and non serious style of functioning. Despite the fact that BJP councilors and Mandal presidents endorsed protest over our supreme leader Thupstan Chhewang's diminishing role in the party owing to Intentional marginalization by state leadership and few local elements while making crucial decision related to Leh district from time to time, all fell onto deaf ears. Also councilors and Mandal presidents even unanimously signed a resolution pressurizing the state/district leadership not to accept Thupstan Chhewang's resignation from party and MP in the interest of the party but the state leadership paid zero heed in solving the issue".

The letter further reads that unfortunate development surfaced after the unceremonious removal of the previous CEC when Changthang region was denied of its representation in the Executive Council.

## To open new avenues in tourism sector birding guide training held in Leh



Participants of the Birding Guide Training Program during the inaugural day.

## Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: More than 95 wildlife enthusiastic local youths participated in the 15 days long Birding Guide Training Programme starting from January 7 at DC office conference hall.

The programme was organised by Hill Council, Leh financed by Tourism Department under the scheme 'Promotion of theme-based tourism program in collaboration with Wildlife Department, Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh (WCBCL) and ALTOA.

Inaugurating the training programme, Avny Lavsa, DC said that tourism has a huge opportunity in Ladakh and birding would be an important aspect of tourism itinerary. She said that

Birding would be an important activity to ensure responsible and sustainable tourism in Ladakh.

Also, she said that wildlife in Ladakh is unique and could benefit in providing a good career and income opportunity. But at the same time, she stressed to reciprocate care and respect towards our environment and nature.

She assured for some mechanism in place for birding tourism on lines of Chadar trek.

Addressing all the participants, she said that they are going to be the first official trained guides in bird watching and could become role models by setting good examples for the future.

Besides sensitizing them about wildlife in Ladakh, the training

will give them a holistic understanding of ecology, social issues like stray dog menace, pollution of water bodies, wildlife protection and role of humans that will help them go towards responsible and sustainable tourism.

Avny Lavasa appreciated the role of ALTOA in strict implementation of newly formed Chadar trek regulations. She urged WCBCL and ALTOA to collaborate in ensuring a tangible outcome of this training program for birding tourism.

Tsering Angmo, Assistant Director Tourism said that the objective of the training is to promote birding aspect to expand tourism sector and provide youth with more job opportunity.

Lobzang Vissudha, President WCBCL pointed out the need to have a well-framed regulation for birding tourism considering the deteriorating condition of wildlife in Ladakh.

President ALTOA, Tsetan Angchuk, and Pankaj Raina, Wildlife Warden, Leh also spoke on the occasion.

Experts from different fields imparted Guidelines/ Instructions Pertaining to Wildlife Law, Importance of Wildlife Conserves National Parks, Sanctuaries, RAMSAR and Reserves in Ladakh, various birds and mammals found, the importance of conservation and many more.

## Ladakh Scouts Red team win Stakna Running Archery Cup



also keep them away from bad habits.

He further said that organising tournament and participating in it will inculcate discipline, sportsmanship, and sense of responsibility among youths for welfare and development of society.

Skara Red was the first runner-up team with 348 points followed by LSRC Blue with 322 points as second runner-up.

Individually, Delex Angchuk of Skara Red with 115 points was declared first. Tsering Spalgon of LSRC Red scored 107 points and declared second position and Rigzin Chosgyal of Skara Blue with 97 points secured third positions.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

STAKNA: Scoring 364 points, Ladakh Scout Red team won the Stakna Running Archery competition on January 6.

The archery competition was organised by Sporting Club Stakna and a total of 16 archery team participated.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC was the chief guest on the occasion.

He appreciated Sporting Club Stakna for organising the archery tournament every year and said that engaging youths in such activities will not only give them chance to exhibit their talent but

## District Police Leh trains 67 children in Ice skating



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

AGLING: District Police, Leh organised a 12 days long Ice Skating training camp in which 67 students participated. The camp concluded on January 11 at Police Ice Hockey rink.

Gyal P Wangyal, Deputy Chairman, chief guest expressed happiness with District Police Leh in providing multifarious platforms to the children especially in Ice Skating which has a huge potential in the Ladakh region. He lauded the role of SSP Leh, Sargun Shukla for all the initiative in organising Ice Skating camps

for children since last one year.

Sargun Shukla, SSP Leh expressed her contentment that the 67 participants of the camp, majority of whom could not stand properly on the first day are now skating like professionals.

She said that the biggest investment is investing in our children to engage them in constructive activities.

She further added that District Police Leh will serve the public in the best possible ways, be it day to day policing or frequent youth engagement programmes.

Certificates were distributed among the position holders of Ice Hockey Race in different categories and participants.

Ishtyaq A Kacho-JKPS Dy.SP HQ Leh, Suraj Singh Dy.SP DAR, Leh, and Inspector Mohd Yousuf RI DPL, Abdul Khaliq, Dy.SP Anti Hijacking and Tsering Phuntsog, Senior Prosecuting Officer, Leh, were present.

Parents of the participants expressed gratitude to Sargun Shukla and her team for their efforts and commitment exhibited towards the children during the whole camp.

## CEC demands Divisional Status and constitutional recognition for Bhoti Language

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DELHI: While meeting Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC took up the inclusion of Bhoti language in the 8th schedule of Constitution on January 9.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State in Prime Minister Office and Phuntsok Stanzin, EC Agriculture was also present.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal apprised Home Minister about the significance of Bhoti language which is amongst the ancient Indian languages spoken and written throughout the Himalayan region. Bhoti is extensively used by people in day to day life as a medium of informal and formal communication like for regional broadcast and telecast besides print media etc.

He stressed upon the Home Minister for his personal intervention in fulfilling the demand of inclusion of Bhoti language in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Also, he took up the demand of Divisional Status to Ladakh region to achieve the developmental as-



pirations of the people. He also requested for a special relaxation for recruitment of Ladakhi youths in Central Forces and raised other important developmental issues.

Jamyang extended his heartfelt gratitude to Home Minister for the opening of new trekking routes and extension of existing routes for tourist movement in the region. Also, requested further inclusion of other places for tourist visit in Ladakh in future.

## 1 Ladakh Scouts lifts Inter-Battalion Ice Hockey Championship trophy

Team of best players from the regiment selected to participate in the forthcoming National Ice Hockey Championship



1 Ladakh Scouts lifting the Inter-Battalion Ice Hockey Championship trophy

### Stanzin Dasal

GUPUKS: Battling over to settle 2-2 tie, 1 Ladakh Scout won Inter-Battalion Ice Hockey Championship by scoring the most in the penalty shoot-out on January 13 at LSRC Ice Hockey rink.

All the 5 battalions of the regi-

ment participated in the tournament and the final match was played between 1 and 5 battalion of Ladakh Scouts.

Lt Gen Y K Joshi, GOC, 14 Corps, chief guest inaugurated the newly constructed Ice hockey rink at the Ladakh Scout Reg-

imental Centre.

Jigmet Kunzang of 1 Ladakh Scout titled the best player of the tournament.

He said, "We are very excited to win the championship after 6 years."

The regimental pipe band mesmerized the spectators by displaying their skills on skates.

Rinchen Haldu of 5 Ladakh scouts said that the inter battalion match enhances the player and best are selected to participate in the national championship.

A team of best players from the regiment were selected to participate in the forthcoming National Ice hockey championship scheduled to be held in this month.

## Results of JKBOSE Class 10, 12 exams announced

Leh district students score 72% in 12th and 65% in 10th

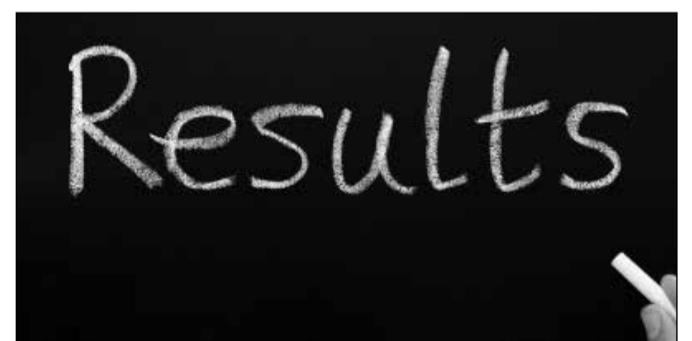
### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The pass percentage of class 12th and 10th in the Annual Board Examination 2018-19 remained 72% and 65% respectively in Leh district.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC appreciated and congratulated Joint Director School Education Ladakh, CEO, Leh, ZEOs, all the Principals, Headmasters, Lecturers, Teachers, Students and parents of both govt. and private schools for their tireless efforts on January 12.

A total of 400 students appeared in the 12th board examination from 14 Govt. Higher Secondary Schools of Leh District out of which 287 students passed. 40 students scored distinction. In 10th, a total of 599 students appeared in the exam from 47 Govt High Schools out of which 388 students passed.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said



that the credit of this year's result and overall improvement in the performance of schools in terms of education must go to the students and dedicated teachers. He expressed gratitude for the indispensable service of the teachers.

He further added that the 5th LAHDC Leh is dedicated to serve the people and education is the first priority.

Special appreciation and congratulation were given to the students and teachers of High

School Charasa, Chumathang, Domkhar, Druk Padma Shey, Gya, Lamayuru, Likir, Liksey, Matho, Partapur, St. Peter Choglamsar, Stok and Hr. Sec. School Saspol for achieving 100% result and other schools which performed well in 10th board exams.

Schools achieving more than 80 pass percentage are Higher Secondary School Tangtse Durbuk 97%, Diskit Nubra 88%, Skurbuchan 86%, Bogdang Nubra 86%, Temisgam 83% and Saspol 80%.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, J&K FUNDS ORGANISATION  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER, DISTRICT FUND OFFICE, LEH

Ph/Fax 01982252351

Email: gpfund@gmail.com

### CIRCULAR

As directed by Director Finance J&K Fund Organisation Kashmir the D.D.O's are kindly requested to approach the office of the undersigned with the following documents for settlement of unadjusted Pre 1986 AG's Transfer Advices (list of unadjusted AG's TE already forwarded to all the DDO's).

1. Forwarding letter to present DDO's.
2. Withdrawal certificate for the period of recorded in the said TE.
3. Credit state of missing credit if any.

No: DFO/Leh/Cir/01

Dated: 01-01-2019

STANZIN DONSAI (KAS)  
Chief Account Officer  
District Fund Office, Leh

## EXPERT TALK

## Winter Tourism in Ladakh

By Stanzin Dasal



**Tsetan Angchuk, President, All Ladakh Tour Operator Association (ALTOA):** Winter tourism in Ladakh was started in the late 80s with a major attraction of foreign tourists. During that time, tourists visited to witness monastic festivals like Stok Guru Tsechu and Matho Nagrang.

The trend has changed and today more than to experience and witness winter monastic festivals, tourists come for Chadar trek. From the year 2008-09, Chadar trek became more famous among the domestic tourists. The tourist influx in winters is increasing every year which definitely increases the economic growth of the region but also has a negative impact. Chadar trek has a limited carrying capacity and is not at all meant for mass tourism. Tourist intake for the trek with no regulation and measures causes casualties and also endangers the fragile eco-system.

Thus, to make the chadar trek sustainable, this year District Administration Leh in collaboration with ALTOA formed regulations and standard operating procedures focusing on safety and environmental protection. Only 100 people will be allowed per day for Chadar trek.

The regulations and standard operating procedures include:

- All the foreign and domestic tourists must have medical insurance when they apply for Chadar Trek.
- 3 nights stay in Leh on arrival for rest and acclimatization is mandatory
- Day 3—Get a pre-medical checkup, Insurance, Wildlife Permit, and ALTOA NOC
- Persons found medically unfit will not be issued clearance

A single window system facility is provided at Tourist Information Centre, Leh where the tourist can get their pre-medical checkup done, registration for insurance and rescue, permit from the Wildlife department and NOC from ALTOA will be obtained.

Chadar trek shall be allowed to do only through registered travel companies based in Leh or through experienced and trained porters registered with ALTOA. The porters will have I-Cards issued by ALTOA. This year, insurance of ₹50,000 to 1 Lakh for the local porters by ALTOA will be provided. Adventure Sports Cover 360 will provide medical assistance and insurance cover of ₹ 4 to 5 Lakh in case of casualties.

To keep the Chadar route clean, Wildlife Department will provide green bags to each group for garbage collection. At the checkpoint, the trek guide of the group has to deposit ₹ 500 as a security amount which will be reimbursed after getting all the garbage back.

These regulations and efforts are meant to promote safe and environment-friendly Chadar trek and also to emphasize on quality tourism.

Because of the extreme climatic condition, Ladakh has become a tourist destination in winters for the adventure seeker. And along with Chadar trek, Snow leopard spotting is also very famous in the region starting from December end till early March. The ratio of a domestic and foreign tourist is almost equal and for this, permit from the wildlife department is a must.

We do have scope for winter sports like Snow ski specially in Zaskar. With the opening of Chilling-Padum road, Ski can also be promoted in future.

The tourism industry in Ladakh is definitely a major source of economy in summer but with the promotion of winter tourism, it has engaged many unemployed youths, commercial vehicles, restaurant, hotels, home stays, guesthouses. The supporting staff such as guides porters, cooks and helpers from far-flung rural areas such as Lingshed and Zaskar will also be benefited.

Ladakh is a most sorted destination for tourist; the fragile ecosystem does not have a carrying capacity for mass tourism. We ought to have a concrete tourism policy for promoting quality tourism and to make the industry sustainable.

**Solution**

- Tourism policy needs to be framed and implemented for making the industry sustainable.
- Need both state and center government help for the promotion and marketing at the international arena.
- Promotion of responsible tourism.
- The safety measures and regulation needs to be taken seriously by both the locals and tourist



**Tsering Angmo, AD, Tourism Department, Leh:** Winter tourism in Ladakh specially for Chadar trek is becoming a trend. Every year the tourist influx for the trek is increasing with the rise in domestic tourist. Monastic festivals, ice hockey, snow leopard spotting are other famous activities which attract tourists in winters from all over the world.

The growing influx of tourists in winter for Chadar trek is a major concern for the protection of a fragile ecosystem and safety. Mass tourism deteriorates the environment. Earlier there was no regulation

and restriction for the Chadar trek. Due to less carrying capacity and facilities, environment issues and casualties were witnessed.

From the year 2019 strict regulation and measures have been taken by the administration in collaboration with All Ladakh Tour Operator Association to ensure safety and environment protection.

Only 100 people will be allowed for Chadar trek per day after the pre-medical checkup, registration for rescue and insurance, permit from wildlife and NOC from ALTOA. No trekkers will be allowed without completing all the procedures. The guides are also trained by the District Administration. Groups are allowed between 8 AM and 5 PM.

Our effort is to make the Chadar trek sustainable by regulating the tourist inflow, ensuring safety and protection of the environment.

Apart from the chadar trek, we have a plan to promote birding in Ladakh which also have a huge scope. In collaboration with Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh (WCBCL) Leh, we will be giving 15 days training for bird guiding and we are planning to engage the youth in it.

The stress is made to promote quality tourism which is seen declining over the years. We need to ensure and promote the rich culture, tradition and the scenic beauty of the region.

Tourism policy is definitely very important for sustainability, considering the fragile ecosystem and limited resources, we should work to promote quality tourism. A draft for the tourism policy has been sent but due to the fall of the government, it has been put on hold.

**Solution**

- Promotion of quality tourism is a must
- Tourism policy needs to be implemented

Domestic and foreign tourists in winter months 2017-18			
2017	Tourists		
	Foreign	Domestic	Total
Month			
November	382	1622	2004
December	243	1063	1306
January	382	2200	2582
February	330	573	903
2018	Tourists		
	Foreign	Domestic	Total
Month			
November	286	2130	2416
December	262	1095	1357
January	421	5244	5665
February	476	660	1136

## Artificial glacier resolves water crisis in Kukshow village



Khanpo K. Sherab

Water scarcity has been a big worry in the Himalayan region of Ladakh for decades, and is going from bad to worse. It has compelled villagers to leave their centuries-old

habitats like the Kumig village in Zaskar, about 7 km from Padum. Another such village I came across is Tsaraks, situated near Namkela in Kargil district. Less snowfall and global warming are causing many issues, and thus compelling the people to migrate to other places.

There have been many methodologies and technical solutions implemented to overcome the problem, such as building artificial glaciers as started by Aba Norphel, retired civil engineer from Leh and 'Ice Stupa' by Sonam Wangchuk, SECMOL, with the support of His Holiness Dri-kung Skyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche.

Inspired by the engineering skills of these legendary engineers, a team of monks geared up to put their spiritual thoughts and wisdom into practice, thus breaking the stereotype.



And, continuous efforts have been put to resolve the water crisis in Kukshow village. The artificial glacier is being built for the third consecutive year this winter. The great success of 2017-2018 brought great joy and relief to the people in the village when the water from glaciers helped the farmers until mid-June. As we witnessed, last winter went dry without snowfall which caused many villages suffer from water famine in Ladakh.

A project called Artificial Icefall Glacier (AIG) was started in Kukshow with financial support by HH Chetsang Rinpoche (Goodwill Ambassador to United Nations for Mountain Partnership). HH blessed and inaugurated the same

in April, 2017. After the great success of the eco-friendly experimental work to cope up with water crisis in Kukshow, in 2017, an AIG team extended its project in Henasku and Atitse villages near Lamayuru which too have faced the same problem for the last many years.

The AIG team is a mini-group comprising three volunteer monks who dedicate their part-time to run the project under the supervision of HH Dri-gung Skyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche. The projects are supported and funded by the Swedish Society for School and Culture.

Another village to be added to the list in 2018-2019 is Shanglang, situated near the Fotula pass.

## 'Metsay Tontaq' short film releases in Kargil

Anayat Shotopa

**KARGIL:** A short film 'Metsay Tontaq' directed by Kacho Ahmad Khan was released by Feroz Khan, CEC on 5 January at Syed Mehdi Memorial Hall. The film is based on the importance of parent's role in School management which is produced by Government High School Minjee and video graphed and edited by Ilyas Ansari and Mustafa Solihi (SAMA).

It was organised by the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Kargil in collaboration with High School Minjee and Ranthag Group.

Feroz Khan said, "Movies and plays are one of the best tools to disseminate information in a very effective manner." He appreciated the effort of the Principal High School Minjee and the team of Kacho Ahmad Khan and hoped that this film will motivate other villagers to come forward for the betterment of the government schools in their respective villages.

He said that the parents of some government schools in Kargil like Lankor, Biathang, Karith etc have come forward and are taking part in the proper functioning of the government schools on PPP mode.

Feroz Khan said that Education Department of LAHDC, Kargil is focused on encouraging the people and community of various villages to enroll their wards in government schools which will boost the motive of LAHDC Kargil to provide quality education at the doorstep.

Principal DIET Kargil, Mohammad Ali Bho-too mentioned that the programme was organised under Community Mobilization and SMDC Training of Samagra Shiksha.

Twenty school management committee members of Kargil zone were also present.

## SoulSpeak

P. P. Wangchuk

## My idea of a happy New Year is good reading, writing and travelling



As we have heralded yet another New Year, I believe most of us turn quite optimistic for greater chances of better things coming in life in the months to come. That is in our nature, and we also try to have a look-back at the year gone by.

Normally, one sees as many good things as bad ones coming one's way to deal with. But, a dogged optimist that I am, I let the bad ones

be given a deep burial in the innermost recesses of my mind. Only the good ones to cheer up one's life, and which make one hopeful of greater things to come in life, are welcomed.

Everyone has a different idea of a good life, but mine, foremost among others, is good reading, writing and travelling. This 'three-some' part of my life has been an essential routine for decades now, and this year I plan to go innovative and give it a big boost. A dear friend suggests I must make games also a part of my daily routine. I liked the idea and it may very well be added to the long 'must-do' list for the New Year. Something new and different is always exciting and a great addition to one's value of life. In fact, I must say additions and deletions in one's New Year resolutions should be a regular habit.

The whole idea is to make life meaningful and purposeful so that at the end of any day one goes to bed with a sense of satisfaction and happiness. That invariably gives one the surety of a perfect night. And when you get up the next morning, you feel that all is well with the world, and a perfect day is awaiting you with a clean slate to draw your New Year resolutions to make life better.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

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

## In Conversation with Dr. Tsering Samphel, Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital, Leh

Interviewed by Rigzin Wangmo

### Q. What is the carrying capacity and services provided in SNM hospital?

The District hospital SNM is also a second referral unit as patients from 5 blocks of Leh district is mostly referred here. In case of critical condition, the patients are referred to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and AIIMS.

The hospital meets all the service and facilities prescribed under Indian Public Health Service (IPHS). Facilities such as CT scan and Echo Cardiogram are available which are difficult to find in any other district hospital. Services and treatment are free of cost for pregnant women under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) and Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) schemes.

Under these schemes, pick and drop ambulance facilities are provided to the pregnant women. Unfortunately, we find very fewer locals who avail the benefits.

### Q. What are the challenges faced by the hospital and how to overcome it?

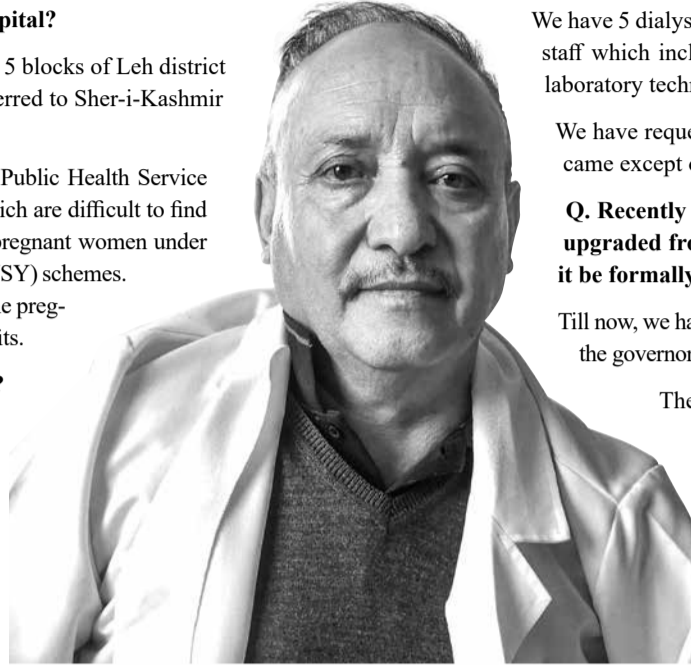
Initially, the hospital was sanctioned with only 150 beds and equivalent staff but at present, with the existing staff, we are catering to 284 beds. The hospital is facing a manpower shortage. There is a need of 14 doctors, along with 4 specialists, 'A' grade physician, one 'B' grade surgeon, one radiologist, psychiatrist, 21 medical officers, 4 nursing supervisor, and 8 nurses. The posts are sanctioned but remain vacant.

Secondly, we experience a lack of civic sense among the public. The leftover foods are thrown in the basin which blocks the sewage system and taps are often left open. People should be responsible while using public property.

### Q. How important is to have a Medical college here and what role it can play to improve the health system?

Medical college is very important as the infrastructure and facilities will be developed. All kinds of sophisticated equipment will be introduced and more post will be created. To establish a medical college at least 20 acres of land is required and 10 acres to build a hostel. It is a big project and a long pending demand but for now, 300 beds sanctioned for the hospital needs implementation. The hospital infrastructure is already designed to accommodate 300 beds.

₹ 3 crore has already been sanctioned for the infrastructure but as of now, we did not receive any notice. Also, there is an urgent need of staff for the proper functioning of the hospital.



### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ I would like to request all the patients who are suffering from Chronic Kidney Failure or Acute Renal Failure or the one who are not able to go for the kidney transplant to avail the services from the Dialysis unit, SNM hospital, Leh. ”

### Q. Recently, a separate unit for dialysis has been introduced. How difficult it is to maintain the unit? Do you have any plans to accommodate more beds for the unit?

The Dialysis unit is opened under Pradhan Mantri Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) and is sanctioned in all the district hospitals. 2 doctors and 6 staff were sent for training at Medical College, Srinagar.

We have 5 dialysis machines and all are functional. The unit is looked after by functional staff which includes a Doctor, a supervisor pharmacist, along with two nurses and a laboratory technician.

We have requested kidney patients to come for the dialysis but unfortunately nobody came except one patient. We hope more people would avail the facilities.

### Q. Recently in J&K budget session, it was announced that the hospital is to be upgraded from 150 bedded to 300 bedded at the cost of ₹ 3 crore. So when will it be formally functional?

Till now, we have not received any notice. The 300 bedded institutions were announced by the governor in the budget session but no formal announcement has been made so far.

There is a need for more surgeons, physicians, psychologist, and psychiatrist along with a requirement of oncologist cancer specialist, Cardiologist, gastrologist, and anthologist.

### Q. What are your future plans and the schemes that have been introduced recently?

The casualty department needs improvement. We are constructing an emergency ward and are planning to construct a trauma centre, Ancillary Medical Training School where paramedics will be trained and an auditorium where the old hospital is located.

According to Rogi Kalyan Samiti, the area under the hospital can also be used to generate income. We might plan to construct shops facing the roadside by forming a committee. The income generated can be used for further development of the hospital.

### Q. Tell us about the transfer policy of the health care department? How transparent and challenging is it?

We have a committee under the chairmanship of Chief Medical Officer where Medical Superintendent is also one of the members. There are categories called ABCD according to area wise and have a point system same as the education department. The employees are transferred according to the point system.

Earlier, many court cases were reported due to transfer policy and had complained of irregularities. Now the transfer policy is transparent.

## FORTNIGHT HIGHLIGHTS



Pipping ceremony of the newly promoted officers of the District Police, Leh on January 11.



Chadar Trek Avny Lavasa, DC, Leh interacting with the trekkers/guides ensuring all the mandatory formalities related to their safety and cleanliness of environment completed.



Karate team headed by Coach Abdul Aziz, after winning 8 gold, 15 silver and 21 bronze medals at national and state level Karate championship were given official reception by Gyal P Wangyal, Deputy Chairman.



Panel discussion on Media and its responsibility at Kashmir University satellite campus, Leh.



Anganwadi workers of Tai Suru in traditional attire during the cultural demonstration programme and awareness regarding various loan schemes of Social Welfare Department and Women Development Corporation.

## KNOW YOUR CULTURE

### School of thoughts

#### 1. Nyingma School of Thought

The founder of Nyingma school of thought was Guru Padmasambhava. Guru Padmasambhava visited in Ladakh and Baltistan in the eight century, he meditated near Kanika stupa where he suppressed the demons and blessed the country. From there he came to Central Ladakh and subduing the demons at Ladakh Kongka. He took refuge in a rock and left imprint of his body which is still preserved in its original form and can be found. The present Sikh Gurudwara, Pathar Sahib is believed to be the site. Padmasambhava is also known as Ugyan Rinpoche and a rock near Sakti bears another imprint of his body. He also left imprints of his sword, hand and footprints on rocks scattered throughout the area. The rock, on which the present Taktog Gonpa stands, is a brick like shaped stone and is said to have been cast there by him from a nearby mountain. Taktog Gonpa is the only Nyingma sect monastery in the whole of Ladakh.

#### 2. Kargyu School of Thought

Naropa, the teacher of Kargyu School was born in Kashmir and in early age entered the priesthood and became a pandita or scholar. He visited Ladakh and blessed Lamayuru Gonpa. In Zanskar, he lived in the caves of Zongkhul Gonpa where the imprint of his dagger and hand can be seen. He received religious instruction from Tilopa.

#### 3. Sakya School of Thought

Drungpa-rdo-rje came to Ladakh and founded the Sakya monastery in Matho. The present two oracles of Matho, popularly called Lha rong btsan also accompanied the lama from Rong- bstan-kha-wa-dkar- po in the Kham region of Tibet. The lama appointed them to be the guardian of religion in Matho. From that time on, the Sakya School was firmly established in Ladakh.

There are two Sakya monasteries, one at Matho and the second at Skidmang village in Rong, Changthang.

#### 4. Gelug School of Thought

The founder of Gelug school was Tsong-kha-pa. One of his six chief disciples was She-rab-bzang-po who was born in Stakmo near Thiksey. He founded the first Gelug monastery in Ladakh at Stakmo village. Later, he founded Diskit monastery in Nubra valley and built a shrine there by installing statues of the two chief disciples of Tsong-kha-pa. He also visited Zanskar and built Phuktal and Karsha monasteries.

Courtesy: A Cultural History of Ladakh by Nawang Tsering Shakspo

## Week-long basic course workshop on script 'E-Gey' held in Kargil



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A weeklong basic course workshop on the script 'E-Gey' was held in which more than 100 people including, students, teachers, officers and scholars participated in Kargil.

The programme was organised by Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (Deemed to be University) in collaboration with LAHDC Kargil to revive the long lost glory of Purig language, i.e. the Script E-Gey.

Punchok Tashi, Engineer thanked the Director CIBS, Prof Konchok Wangdu for promptly responding to the request and starting the course in the 1st week of the New Year, and termed it a good omen for flourishing the mother tongues lost glory.

Also, he informed that LAHDC, Kargil led by Feroz Khan, CEC has an agenda for reviving and promoting the traditional and cultural identity of Kargil for

which he sought suggestion from the society which will be welcomed at all stage.

Prof. Konchok Wangdu, Director, CIBS assured that after this class a batch of student will be selected for studying further Certified Course in CIBS Leh.

Dr. Konchok Rigzin, Course Coordinator/Instructor, Naseer Ud Din Khafi, Purgi Scholar also spoke on the occasion.

A voice message from famous E-Gay activist from Baltistan, Raza Ghalib was also played on this occasion. He appreciated the step taken and told that they have started the mission around 6 years ago and are still trying to do so.

Later, Konchok Wangdu, Director CIBS along with Anayat Ali Shotopa and Professor Nasir Shabani Secretary Suru Valley Public School visited and interacted with the students of E-Gay vocational course of the school.

## CEC's stress on preparing education policy



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To take stock of the physical and financial status of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme being implemented in Leh district, a meeting was convened on January 5.

Specific instructions to all the ZEOs was given out by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC for a timely expenditure of Samagra

Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme funds and achieving targeted physical achievements within the time period.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal took the status of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme zone wise.

Stressing on the importance of education, he directed Tashi Dolma, JD Education, and Konchok Angmo, CEO for preparing LAHDC

Education Policy, guidelines for coordination with VECs, holding in annual Ladakh Education Conference and early launching of education department website.

Also, a direction was given to exercise and prepare a proposal for providing transport facility to the Government School students wherever feasible.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal urged to further improve the quality of education in Leh district and assured all possible assistance from LAHDC, Leh.

Tsering Angdus, AD Planning Education Department Leh and all the ZEOs of Leh district were also present.

## Jamyang Tsering Namgyal tours Sku Markha constituency

*Development of backward and remote places to get priority, says CEC*

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SKU-MARKHA: During the visit to Sku Markha constituency, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC made people aware of various schemes launched by the Govt. of India for the welfare and development of the rural population.

Gyal P Wangyal, Deputy Chairman and other dignitaries also accompanied CEC during a one-day tour to the constituency on January 4.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said that the development of backward and remote places is the priority of Council.

He ensured to make various schemes launched under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi available for the welfare and development of the rural population.

Talking about Subhagya scheme, he informed that every village in the country will get electrified by end-of-year 2019. He urged people to be aware and take advantage of all such schemes.

He interacted with the people of Sumda Chun, Sumda Chenmo, Sumda Dho, Stogto. People of Sumda Chun demanded repair of irrigation khuls, culvert and road till Azang and trekking route from Achiri to Sumda Chun.

He gave direction to Rural Development Department to sub-



mit a report along with estimate within a week on repair of irrigation khuls and Ex-en Construction to submit the report to Deputy Chairman's office in a month's time regarding road and culvert. For trekking route, he assured the villagers to explore the area and look for favourable actions.

Villagers of Sumda Chenmo demanded road from Rongdo to Sumda, medical centre and electricity connection. People of Sumda-Do demanded telecommunication services, compensation from BRO and up gradation of road and repair of Wari bridge.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal informed that ₹ 7.88 crore has been sanctioned for a road from Rongdo to Sumda and tendering is under process. The paperwork with BRO is also under process for compensation. He assured to start the repair work of Wari Bridge by the beginning of the

season and to provide a temporary medical facility till medical centre get sanctioned from the state government.

At Sku, the villagers requested for drinking water facility, restoration of irrigation khuls, installation of mobile tower and DSPT, repair of the solar power plant, blacktopping of Sku road and extension of road till Hankar.

Jamyang said that the blacktopping will be done under PMGSY. PHE was directed to repair water taps and provide hand pumps. He instructed BDO, Nimoo to carry survey and submit a low-cost estimate for irrigation khuls and details for construction of a community hall in Sku. Rural Development Department was directed to do a survey for 10 km footpath from Sku to Shingo and submit the estimate. He assured to take the demand for the mobile tower with higher authorities at state and centre level.

## Workshop on safe and clean Chadar Trek held in Leh

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To ensure efficient implementation of the new regulation for Chadar trek focusing human safety and protection of the environment, a one-day workshop was organised for all the stakeholders on January 2 at Food Craft Institute.

The workshop was organised by District Administration, Leh in which over 50 guides and around 10 travel agents took part.

Assistant Director Tourism, Wildlife Warden, DySP SDRF, President ALTOA and representative of Adventure Sports Cover 360 Degree were also present.

Highlighting the objectives of framing new rules for Chadar trek from this season, Avny Lavasa, DC, Leh said that the safety of human life and protection of the environment is important considering the loss of life during Chadar trek and harm to the fragile environment of the region.

She stressed on the need to bring seriousness by implementing a streamlined mechanism to operate Chadar trek and also collective coordinated efforts from the concerned stakeholders to make this initiative a success. Also, with the success of this regulation, Leh could become a learning model for the rest of the world in such kind of adventure trekking.

She assured all kinds of administrative support and other facilities but urged the locals for their cooperation and initiative for the successful implementation of any plan or project.

Stressing upon the better regularization of Chadar trek for quality tourism, she urged all the trekking guides to be responsible and understand the operating



procedure.

She informed that waste collection and measurement will also be done on Chadar trek and also the insurance and medical facilities will be provided to trekkers from this year.

The guides and travel agents were asked to give their feedback and suggestion about the shortcoming and problems they face to further improve the facilities and better regulation of procedures.

Avny Lavasa appreciated ALTOA for taking their responsibility seriously and cooperation in the successful implementation of regulations in the tourism sector.

Pankaj Raina, Wildlife Warden apprised the participants about the regulations, facilities created and the steps to follow the procedures.

He informed that only 100 tourists will be allowed per day and timings will be from 8 am to 5 pm for the Chadar trek. He spoke about the garbage bags, a checklist of consumerables and security fees of Rs.500 to ensure proper collection of waste generated during the trek.

President ALTOA spoke about

the single window facility provided in Leh at Tourist Information Centre for a pre-medical check-up, insurance, wildlife permit, and ALTOA NOC.

He also informed about the 3 days mandatory stay in Leh with a pre-medical check-up on the 3rd day, smart rescue card for tourists and I-card for local guides, helper, porter, etc to avail any kind of free medical facility during the trek.

A private adventure sports company has been roped to provide adventure insurance that will cover cashless hospitalization in case of accident or AMS, medical evacuation, death, and disability. They will also provide a full-fledged state of art mobile hospital at medical base camp in Shingra Gongma stationed with a minimum of 3 doctors and base camp doctors including a surgeon, orthopedic and high altitude mountain medicine expert.

Headed by DSP, SDRF Sonam Dorjey a team of SDRF presented a demonstration on rescue in case of spinal injury, hypothermia, fracture, and cardiopulmonary research station. Also, the do's and don'ts in case of any kind of accident or illness.

## DC Kargil inspects Iqbal Mini Hydel Project



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Taking stock of power generation from Iqbal Mini Hydel Project during the winter season, Vikas Kundal, DC, Kargil inquired engineers about the present status of its functioning on January 7.

It was informed that out of the three turbines of 1.25 MW capacity, only one unit is presently functional which caters to the power requirements of District Hospital Kargil, BSNL Exchange, and Baroo main area.

The concerned engineers said that efforts are on to restore the

project machinery which stopped due to cold weather. Project tail pool and certain machines got jammed due to ice formation.

They said that 3 pumps of 90 HP each has been pressed into service for dewatering of the tail pool and effort are being made to restore power.

The concerned officers informed that the project could function better if the old governing system is replaced with a new one. Also, a DPR for modernization and up gradation of the project is in the final stages.

Vikas Kundal instructed the concerned officers to put in their best efforts to ensure the provision of hassle-free power supply to the consumers during the winter season.



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