

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Brief News

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### Milk Pasteurization Plant opens up in Agling

LEH: To make the Milk Pasteurization Plant functional in Agling, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by Avny Lavasa, DC, Leh and the Director, Airport Authority of India on January 25.

Airport Authority of India provided ₹50 Lakh under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the Milk Pasteurization Plant.

Avny Lavasa issued instruction to the concerned department to quickly devise a workable plan to make the plant functional.

### J&K Police Ice-Hockey tournament starts in Leh

LEH: With the participation of 8 men and 4 women teams, J&K Police Ice-Hockey Tournament, 2019 was started from January 28 at Ice hockey rink, Karzoo.

Rigzin Samphel, Secretary Tourism J&K in presence of Sargun Shukla, SSP, Leh inaugurated the five day long tournament.

In an opening match, women team of SECMOL defeated Heshut by 14-0 goals whereas in men team, Lalok defeated Chuchot by scoring 7-2 goals.

### Correction and clarification

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## REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Leh celebrates 70th Republic Day with solemnity

Dawa Dolma & Rigzin Wangmo

LEH: Celebration of 70th Republic day began with the hoisting of tricolor national flag by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC/ Chairman LAHDC, Leh on January 26 at Pologround.

Addressing the gathering at polo ground, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said that Republic day is a moment to remember the freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh who sacrificed their lives to free India from Britishers. Also, remember the first President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad who lead the free India and architect of India Constitution Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar who gave the precious gift of Indian Constitution on 26th January, 1950.

He highlighted the developmental and financial achievements of LAHDC; Leh resulted in the last five years under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. He mentioned that under Prime Minister Development Programme, ₹ 80,000 crores was released to the State and out of which about ₹ 25,000 crores was allotted for development of the twin district of Ladakh which includes ₹ 9,000 crores for Zojila Tunnel, ₹ 5,000 crore for Lachulung-La and Taglang La Tunnel, ₹ 1,700 crores for Nimoo-Padum-Darcha Road.

Talking about sanctioning of ₹ 480 Crore for the construction of airport terminal and bay extension, ₹ 323 Crore contract has already been awarded. He informed



Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC/ Chairman LAHDC, Leh addressing the public during 70th Republic day celebration at Pologround, Leh.

that Leh is planning to extend Leh airport terminal and also to increase the number of airplanes by 2021. The Northern Grid power transmission from Srinagar to Leh, 220 KV is expected to function from February 9, 2019, with the inauguration by PM Narendra Modi.

He said that ₹ 272 crores worth 19 MW Hydro Project of Durbuk-Shayok is in progress. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, project 'Tsangda' waste management and segregation is successfully implemented in rural and semi-rural areas of Leh district. Also, ₹12.62 crore has been sanctioned by Govt. of India for the Ice hockey stadium.

Talking about the health sector, he said that the capacity of SNM Hospital bed has been upgraded from 150 to 300 beds by the Governor of J&K State and

creation of 99 posts including doctors and paramedical staff are under process. He also talked about the recently established Dialysis Unit in SNM Hospital Leh under Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Program which is currently functioning benefitting a number of kidney patients.

He also informed about 1000 metric ton cold storage plant at a cost of ₹ 10.71 crore, 75 percent of the project was completed; ₹ 5.50 crore were sanctioned under 13th Finance and the remaining ₹ 6.18 crore is kept under the languishing project.

He also talked about the improvement of agriculture by introducing soil health card and so far 5,493 cards have already been distributed among the farmers. To encourage youths towards the agriculture

sector, 11170 Kisan Credit Cards with a huge subsidy issued among the youths of the district.

"Culturally, Ladakh has a unique and distinct culture that needs to preserve not only by the older generation but also younger generation. LAHDC Leh has achieved to put up Sowa Rigpa as recognized Ayush through legislation in the state Assembly and it honors the wisdom of more than 360 Amchis including 30 number of degree holder", he added.

In the education sector, he mentioned the sanction of Cluster University for Ladakh with headquarters in Leh to promote higher education in the region, and the appointment of separate Rector and delinking the examination schedule of Degree College Leh with Kashmir University.

To resolve the transfer problem of local police personnel, he said that the State Govt. has sanctioned a new Police battalion in Leh and hoped that with the efforts of present Hill Council more battalions are likely to sanction.

District Employment and counseling centre, Leh, Attaullah Khan, Naib Tehsildar, Global Himalayan, Safai walas of Municipal Committee; Alamder Health Services, NGO, Leh; Mohammad Issa Head Constable, JKP; Jigmet Desal, Orderly, DC office; Ghulam Mussa, Health and Dorje Angchuk, musician were presented district award for their dedication and bringing change.

## Kargil celebrates 70th Republic Day with zeal



Feroz Ahmed Khan, Chairman/CEC LAHDC, Kargil after hoisting the National tricolor flag during the 70th Republic Day celebration at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium, Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: With patriotism and great enthusiasm, the 70th Republic Day was celebrated on January 26 at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium.

Feroz Ahmed Khan, Chairman/CEC LAHDC, Kargil hoisted the national tricolor.

Congratulating people on the 70th Republic Day, Feroz Ahmed Khan recalled the contributions of the Constitution makers and supreme sacrifices of the national heroes who laid down their lives for the country. He hailed the services of the Army, paramilitary forces and police in guarding the frontiers of the country in harsh weather and for maintaining peace, order and internal security in the country.

Highlighting the achievements, devel-

opmental activities underway and plans in Kargil district, he said that the council is fully committed towards the overall development of the district in all sectors and several important initiatives are underway.

He spoke about various developmental work in Health, Public Works, Tourism, Youth Services, and Sports, Rural Development sectors. Under Prime Minister Development Package (PMDP), ₹47 crore sanctioned for the completion of remaining works of the 200 bedded hospital at Kurbathang. Out of the total amount of ₹7 crore have been released and work on the project is likely to be completed within the next two years.

In Public Works sector, he said that under Central Road Funds (CRF) work on the construction of various roads in the

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## IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship, 2019 concludes

J&K women team and All India Police Sports Control Board (ITBP) men team clinches championship trophy



J&K women team the winner of 6th IHAI National Ice Hockey championship.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: J&K women team and All India Police Sports Control Board (ITBP) men team won the IHAI National Ice hockey championship, 2019 on January 27 at new Ice hockey rink near NDS stadium.

The final women match was played between J&K and Delhi. J&K team scored 3 -1 goal. And in men's match, All India Police Sports Control Board (ITBP) scored 3 goals against 2 goals by Army Sports Control Board (Ladakh Scouts).

The championship was organised by Ice Hockey Association of India and Avny Lavasa, DC, Leh was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Avny Lavasa congratulated all the teams, organisers and supporters for making

the championship successful and also promoting the sports despite of many challenges. Talking about the importance of sports she assured the administration support in making the sport events successful.

Harjinder Singh, General Secretary, Ice Hockey Association of India said, "Though we are lacking in many other facilities but the rink is of international standard. It's good to see maximum participation every year for the championship and with the growing competition things will definitely improve in the future."

It is the 8th IHAI Men National Championship in which 10 teams representing

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## Hill Council, Leh felicitates State Awardees



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The state awardees in the field of literature and sports, Tsering Wangdus Lonpo, Writer/Translator and Women Ice Hockey team of Leh were given an official reception by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh on January 28 at Council Secretariat.

Hill Council, Leh also congratulated and appreciated veteran Physician Dr. Tsering Norboo Spituk for achieving Padma Shree award and Sherine Fatima,

Balti folk singer for State award.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal counted the remarkable contribution of Dr. Norboo in the field of medicine during in-service as well as after the retirement. He said that people of Ladakh are lucky to have such a great physician.

Highlighting the contribution of Tsering Wangdus in Ladakhi literature, he said that one of the uniqueness of his writings and poetry is the use of simple Ladakhi language with local flavor

which one can easily understand.

He also lauded the Women Ice Hockey team of Leh who despite many challenges represented India at the international level bringing name and fame for entire Ladakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Tsering Wangdus extended gratitude to the LAHDC, Leh for the honour. He appealed youths of Ladakh to come forward in the field of literary with knowledge in Bhoti.

## Former CEC, Dr. Sonam Dawa remembered on first death anniversary

Hill Council, Leh dedicates Housing Colony park in his honour



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Remembering Dr. Sonam Dawa, Former Chairman and CEC on his first death anniversary, Hill Council Leh dedicated the new park of Housing Colony in honour of him on January 26.

Addressing the gathering, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC

termed Late Dr. Sonam Dawa a dynamic administrator and a visionary leader.

He said that during Late Dr. Dawa 2-year term as CEC, Leh district has witnessed tremendous momentum in every sphere of development. Apart from upholding the dignity and sanctity of LAHDC, he gave prompt governance at all level accomplishing the developmental aspirations of the people and set an example for other leaders in the way of working.

“Dedicating the park in honour of Dr. Sonam Dawa is a small token of respect and people from all walks of life should follow the path of dedication, sincerity and hardworking shown by late CEC. This will be a true tribute

to our beloved leader”, he added.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal felt the need of making the day an annual feature to remember and highlight the life and deeds of Late Dr. Sonam Dawa, thus, inspiring the future generation.

A galaxy of personalities, relatives of departed leader, heads of various religious, political and social organisations paid rich tribute.

Dorjey Angchuk, BJP President, Leh, Advocate Naseer, Nominated Councillor, Rigzin Spalbar, Former CEC, Rinchen Namgyal, Vice President, LBA, Col. Lobzang Nima, representative of Anjuman Imamia and Councilor Turtuk recounted the dynamism, vitality, and heartiness of late Dr. Sonam Dawa.

## Leh observes National Voters Day

Voter's pledge to uphold the democratic traditions and dignity of the country through free, fair and peaceful elections



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 9th National Voters Day was observed with huge participation of young enthusiastic voters on January 25 at New Ice Hockey Stadium.

Highlighting the importance of the day, Avny Lavasa, DC/ District Election Officer, Leh said that the main objective is to encourage voters to take part enthusiastically in the democratic process. She appealed the voters to use their voting rights and also become ambassadors to mobilize their family members, relatives and neighbors to become an important part of our democratic system.

Aimed at facilitating the voters, the Election Commission of India has taken several initiatives including a helpline no. 1950. The voters can get any kind of information and clarification related to the election.

Talking about the Voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT), Avny Lavasa said that VV PAT is a new device attached to the EVM which will introduce during the upcoming Lok Sabha election. She emphasised upon the voters to make them fully educated in operating the voting machines.

She further added that every single vote is important to further strengthen the foundation of our democratic system and therefore everyone must exercise their voting franchise.

A demonstration on voter's pledge ceremony to uphold the democratic traditions and dignity of the country through free, fair and peaceful elections was also carried out.

Meanwhile, the programmes of National Voters' Day also conducted at Khaltsi, Nyoma, and Nubra Sub Divisions.

## Hill Council, Leh, gears up to implement constructive policies in education system

Common academic calendar for both Govt. and private schools to be introduced



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Department of Education, LAHDC, Leh all set to implement a number of innovative and constructive policies from the new academic session.

The decision was taken during the review meeting of the department convened by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC on January 22.

Konchok Angmo, Chief Education Officer, Leh informed that the common school academic calendar 2018-19 for both Govt. and private schools are all set to publish. Also, an expert committee for introducing supplementary textbook 'Heritage of Ladakh' is also constituted, and the department is trying to introduce gradually. The textbook will cover history, cultural heritage, politics, geography, flora and fauna of Ladakh to make students aware of Ladakh.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal also reviewed the ongoing computer training for the 30 ministerial staff of education department at NIELIT Leh. The training was conducted to upgrade the efficiency so that lecturers, masters, and teachers attached and compelled to do ministerial duties at the Education Department and DIET could be relieved.

He further added that after completion of the training, the ministerial staffs have to pass basic exam

including typing test failing to which they will be placed under the peripheral category.

While reviewing the 10th and 12th Board exam results, he said that an opportunity is given to all the concerned subject teachers to prepare students for a supplementary exam scheduled in February 2019. If the students do not perform well, strict action against the HODs, Principals, Headmasters and concerned subject teachers will be taken.

Regarding transfer policy of education department based on point system, he reiterated the Council will not tolerate politics over education at any cost. He assured that the transfer policy of teachers will be unbiased in every respect. To ensure transparency and accountability, the website of the Education Department Leh will also be launched shortly.

Konchok Angmo briefed about the 'Happiness Curriculum' and said a team of education department visited Delhi and had a fruitful interaction with Delhi Govt. recently. A power point presentation in this regard will be given to Council in a few days. Also, she informed that good quality furniture for the Govt schools has been purchased from the unspent plan fund.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said that the furniture will be given to far-flung schools of Changthang and Singey Lalok area first and other schools will be covered later.

The progress of ongoing free winter tuition in 13 schools of Leh district namely Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Leh, Govt. Middle School Leh, Diet Hostel Leh, Likir Kampten near Druk Auto Zone, Govt. Higher Secondary School, Nyoma, Sumoor, Diskit, Bogdang, Sakti, Govt. High School Domkhar Gongma, Domkhar Dho, Tayakshi, and Tia were also reviewed.

Exposure tour of topper students being organised by Education Dept. Leh, progress of Bridge Course for drop out students under State Open School (SOS), ongoing training for in-service teachers at DIET, Leh were also assessed.

## IHA National Ice Hockey Championship, 2019 concludes



All India Police Sports Control Board (ITBP) men team winner of the 8th IHA National Ice Hockey Championship.

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states of J&K, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Maharashtra, Telangana, Chandigarh and the teams of Army Sports Control Board (Ladakh Scouts) and All India Police Sports Control Board (ITBP)

participated.

For women, it is the 6th IHA National Championship in which 4 states including J&K, Delhi, Maharashtra and Chandigarh took part.

JP Yadav, DIG, ITBP expressed his joy over winning the champi-

onship. He said, “The boys have practiced hard to win the championship. They were also trained in Delhi for a month. Also, this year we have won the CEC trophy also.”

In the end, trophies and medals were distributed to the players.

## Administration gears up to start SVEEP awareness programme for 2019 elections in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To ensure better dissemination of information about voting in the upcoming Lok Sabha election, Avny Lavasa, District Election Officer, Leh asked to

activate the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme in the district on January 22.

To motivate the voters with more participation through SVEEP,

Avny Lavasa asked the officers for holding more and more awareness campaigns in Leh and other sub-divisional headquarters.

Several steps towards motivation and mobilization of voters in the election process have been curved out including, skit shows, radio & TV programs, and talks. The programs of National Voter's Day on January 25 were also finalised.

Moses Kunzang, ADC, Deputy District Election Officer, Leh, Chief Education Officer, Leh, and all other concerned officers were present.

## Gyal P Wangyal inspects footbridge work over Indus



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHOGLAMSAR: With the dismantling of Choglamsar bridge for a 60m span double line bridge, Gyal P Wangyal, Deputy Chairman inspected the construction work of a footbridge on January 24.

The footbridge is being constructed by Rural Dev. Dept. Leh.

Gyal P Wangyal directed Tsering Paldan, ACD Leh and concerned contractor to complete the foot-

bridge within a week time to ease the commuters.

Updating the work progress, Tsering Paldan and Executive Engineer REW Skalzang Dorje said that iron pipes are being drilled 10 foot from the base of river water into the earth using a submersible pump drilling machine truck to ensure a strong base for the bridge. When completed besides commuters, two-wheeler vehicles can also cross the bridge.

While inspecting the dismantling work of the old bridge, Gyal P Wangyal directed Xen. Construction to speed up the dismantling work so that construction of a new bridge could start at the earliest.

The dismantling work of the bridge was started in the second week of December 2018 and since then people of Choglamsar and Chuchot are complaining about the delay in launching of the new footbridge.

## CEC reviews progress on Leh Airport Terminal and milk pasteurisation plant

The new air terminal, extended over a 2000 sq km with five bays, will be completed by 2021, says Airport Authority Director, Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To review the work progress of milk pasteurization plant in Leh, Project Tsang-Da', Solid Waste Management Center in Diskit, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC convened meeting with the concern officials on January 22 at Council Secretariat.

Mumtaz Hussain, EC Cooperative, Sonam Norboo, Director Airport Authority, Leh Dr. Mohd Iqbal, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Sultan Tak, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Leh were present.

Taking serious note over the delay in execution of infrastructural work needed to set up milk pasteurization plant in Spituk Agling, Jamyang sets deadline to the concerned agencies for the completion of work so that milk pasteurization machine can be brought to Leh and operate at the earliest.

Dr. Mohd Iqbal, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer was directed to complete all the paper works for signing Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Airport Authority of India in the next

two days. Also, Rural Development and PHE Department for compound walling at the plant site within a month time and drilling of the submersible pump within 15 days respectively.

While reviewing Leh Airport Terminal work progress, Sonam Norboo, Director Airport Authority Leh informed that out of total ₹ 480 crore project, ₹ 323 crore works has been allotted so far. The new air terminal extended over a 2000 sq km with five bays will be completed by 2021.

## 10 dead in Khardongla avalanche incident



Stanzin Dasal

KHARDONGLA: Ten people died after an avalanche hit at Khardongla pass, the highest motorable road around 7 in the morning on January 18.

Rescuers pulled out nine dead bodies and the body parts of the last person so far.

Proceedings under 174 CrPC are initiated.

The rescue operation continued for eight days till January 25 by

the team of SDRF, Army, GREF, and volunteers.

The deceased hailing from Zanskar region was hired by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collect snow. According to the sources, HAL required snow for a helicopter trial landing for which 10 people, two tippers and a Scorpio was hired. The team left towards K-top area early morning to load snow to Leh. After loading one tipper with snow, the mishap occurred when they were loading another

vehicle. Digging work in the area triggered the avalanche, thus burying all ten people under snow.

To enquire about the accident a team of Assistant Labour Commissioner and Tehsildar, Leh was appointed by Avny Lavasa, DC, Leh.

Ghulam Nabi Tak, Assistant Labour Commissioner said, "We have taken the statements from HAL, drivers of the tippers and concern people. The report is already submitted to the Deputy Commissioner".

"We have also taken up with the Labour Department for the compensation under Labour Contract Act and Employees compensation act to the family of the deceased", he added.

Governor Satya Pal Malik announced an ex-gratia relief of ₹ 5 Lakh to the families of deceased.

## Kargil celebrates 70th Republic Day with zeal

...Continued from Page 1

district is going on at a total cost of ₹120 crore. 23 new schemes worth ₹ 220 crore have been sanctioned under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Feroz Khan informed that efforts are being made to execute work on the construction of Kargil Zanskar National Highway during the next financial year.

To provide residential facilities to the students of far-off villages studying in Kargil, he informed that work on the construction of Eklavya Model Residential School is going on at a cost of ₹16 crore. Also, ₹ 37 crores have been sanctioned for the completion of the pending construction work of International Ice Hockey Rink at Kurbathang.

Projects including the possession of land for construction of Kargil Bhawan at Dwarka New Delhi at the cost of ₹2 crore, construction of the first ever museum in the district worth ₹6 crore, construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Trespone and Girls Hostel through Tribal Affairs Department in Jammu was also highlighted.

Also, he expressed gratitude to the Governor Administration for sanctioning Cluster University for Ladakh region, filling up of the 52 vacant posts of doctors in Kargil district and the kick start of the Srinagar Leh Transmission Line.

Highlighting the unemployment issue, he said interviews for filling up of the vacant posts in different departments shall be conducted in near future. Also, a transparent recruitment process shall be put

in place so that the deserving candidates get their due rights.

He said that the Council is fully committed to augmenting the education sector in the district and is working on a roadmap to bring the most important changes in the sector.

Promotion of winter sports, provision of financial assistance to the students belonging to the BPL category who are preparing for competitive examinations, and progress of solar and hydel projects by Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) was also highlighted.

He also hailed the efforts of the media fraternity in the district for their role in highlighting the developmental activities and the issues and grievances of the public.

He urged the media persons to refrain from sensationalism and negative news reporting besides to strengthen the institution of media as the fourth pillar of democracy.

Contingents of Jammu and Kashmir Police, NCC, Army, civil band parties and government and private educational institutions participated in the march past. Colorful cultural programmes were also presented by the artists of Cultural Academy and students of various Government and private educational institutions.

Mementoes and certificates among the employees of various departments, meritorious students, members of NGOs, volunteers and individuals for their extraordinary work was presented.

## 17 boxers to represent Leh district in state championship

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 17 boxers including both boys and girls to represent Leh district in the state championship scheduled to be held from February 9 to 11 in Jammu.

One month boxing camp for both boys and girls by head coach Zia-Ul-Hassan was organised by J&K Sports Council at Indoor stadium Leh. The coaching camp started from December 25 till January 25.

In District open championship held on November 13 and 14, 120 players took part from Leh. Out of which 35 players were qualified for the state camp and based on the performance the final 11 were shortlisted.



Travelling expenditure of the players for the state championship was funded by Phuntsog Gyamdu, M.D, Taru Enterprises Leh and the boarding and lodging by Avny Lavasa, DC, Leh.

Based on their performance in

state-level championship the players will qualify for the national trials. The scanning of the players for S.R.O in Jammu And Kashmir Police Boxing team and B.S.F Boxing team will be held during the tournament by their coaches.

## EXPERT TALK

## Stray Dogs Menace and roles of SPCA in Leh

By Dawa Dolma



**Dr. Stanzin Thakchot, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Leh:** Society for Prevention of Cruelty against Animals (SPCA) is a worldwide organization that has branches all across the country. In Leh, it is recently formed.

The members of the society run day to day activities through the teams including media team, adoption of stray animals' team, education/awareness team and fundraising team. It has set up its own yearly target with monthly meetings to review day to day activities and targets.

Before SPCA, animal husbandry played an important role in the welfare of stray animals like dogs, bulls, donkeys, and cows. The department started the project of Animal Birth Control programme with the help of Municipal Committee Leh, Live to Rescue and Vets beyond Borders, Australia. Moreover, having SPCA in Leh would definitely boost the existing animal welfare activities and bring a wind of change in the community.

Stray dogs menace has been discussed a lot and animal husbandry department has taken an active part in checking the exploding population of dogs. One of the most important effects of the sterilization is reducing the number of puppies and over populating dogs. We catch, sterilize and release them in the same area as they have got a territorial behavior.

More than 3,500 dogs were sterilized in the last five years but the situation is grave if we go to the villages near army camps. Dogs produce 4-6 pups twice in a year with an average life span of 12 years. Army never took the issue as perilously as we find 90% of the dog in villages close to army camps. Reason being dogs surviving in the army camp is because they are feed with leftover foods. In contrast, they should sterilize and feed them.

The problem of stray dog menace mostly comes up during the winter due to the scarcity of food. Dog bitten cases are mainly witnessed in this season and are a concern since it is becoming a threat to human life.

There is a need for everyone to treat the problem as a community problem rather than playing blame games. Also, there is a need for more compassion towards the voiceless poor creatures.

### Solution

- There is no as such rapid or instant solution but the most widely adopted solution is the Animal Birth Control programme but it takes times.
- The ferocious street dogs can be shifted to shelter. "Adopt and don't shop" is a campaign slogan to promote adopting pets from shelters, rather than buying them from pet stores.
- One dog one household should be the policy if we want to see a visible change on the ground.
- People should inform the dog catchers or team if they see any kind of female animals giving birth in the streets. We will sterilize and release them in the same street.



**Rigzin Dorje, Project Coordinator, Live to Rescue:** Live to Rescue is a non-profit organization which was established in July 2014 with an initial idea to take care of the dogs that are injured, diseased and to control the menace in town. But presently along with the dogs, we are also taking care of other animals that are injured and sick. The animals are treated at the animal clinic in Changspa under the supervision of veterinary.

The animals are taken care well with food, shelter, and hygiene. In summers, we give them bath to keep away from communicable disease but unfortunately, it cannot be done in the winter.

Sterilization is also done to reduce the number of stray dogs in Leh. The animals are kept under doctor prescription and advice. Also, we come across many visitors who ask to keep their pets in the centre during winters as they go away. Such cases are not considered until and unless the pets are sick or injured. Many are very inhumane, they leave their pets on the riverbank and we end up providing shelter.

Ironically, many people complain against dog attacks but when we catch those dogs and keep them in the centre, they never tend to attack anybody. I think it is all about starvation and to prevent such incident we all should be generous enough to give them food.

Society for Prevention of Cruelty against Animals works for the welfare of animals and plays a significant role in town as we witness a number of animals being left out under hit and run cases which are usually ignored. The society will monitor and punish such people as per animal law. We have also witnessed drivers who bring injured

animal to the clinic which is worth appreciating.

24/7-helpline number of Live to Rescue is 9622252485. Feel free to call in need of help in case of injured animals and vet ambulance.

### Solution

- Adoption is the best solution to prevent stray dogs menace in town. We have a living example of Thiksey AmaTsogpa who took the initiative and people of Sku Markha for adopting dogs.
- Providing shelter during harsh winter to homeless and foodless animals.
- Donating food is another alternative to give them better food rather than eating trashes in the landfill and other areas.



**Dr. Shakil Ahmed, Livestock Development Officer, Chuchot:** Setting up of SPCA in town is extremely significant and vital need for animal welfare services. It is a voluntary body supported by the district government, which plays a major role in rescuing sick abandoned animals to home and rehabilitate.

During a meeting which was held in November, we have passed a resolution and decided to put forward some works that can be achieved within a year. I think the most important role is to raise awareness among the public through social media, airing radio programs and hosting TV talk shows and also educating students in various schools in the summer as how to be animal lovers and animal companion. Equally, distributing pamphlets and also people need to educate regarding SPCA Acts and provisions.

The future prospect of SPCA is to create awareness. Public awareness is important, we believe in changing humans into animal lovers and work towards their welfare. Being a human being, we should be compassionate about all sentient beings as stray animals and dogs are also living being. It is our responsibilities and duty.

### Solution

- Sterilization is important as it makes an animal docile due to hormonal changes.
- Adoption of dogs from shelter homes
- NGO can play a critical role in treating animals and preventing stray animals
- Imparting knowledge about animal welfare and SPCA acts or provisions is extremely crucial in solving the issue of the menace of stray dogs in town.

## Dog bite Scenario /Dog over-population a manmade disaster

Dr. Asif Hussain



Dog bites are a serious public health problem that inflicts considerable physical and emotional damage on the victims and incurs a huge hidden cost to the communities.

There is usually an outcry only when we face problems which involve a grave attack on humans although the number of injuries can never be reduced to zero, but with community approach and proper administrative help we can reduce them to some extent.

### Scope of the problem:

• Dogs have shared or rather lived along with humans since last around 12000 years but unfortunately, now the same dog has become a menace. The actual number of injured person is never known. In U.S.A alone, around 3, 34,000 patients have been admitted to emergency only because of dog bite and associated injuries.

• In a very recent report "Do India's stray dog kill more number of people than terror attacks" by BBC revealed some shocking insight.

• About 30 million stray dogs and more than 20,000 people are dying every year in India and are witnessing an unprecedented man and animal conflict.

• A recent surge in dog bite cases in Jammu and Kashmir in Srinagar city alone has reported more than 30,000 cases since last 6 years. Kargil district reported 11 cases while Leh has 797 registered cases and Srinagar with the highest of more than 4,000 cases in 2017-18.

• I would like to focus again on reported cases being known and we don't know how many cases which are not registered and unknown to us. For example: A jogger may trip and

break an arm while fleeing from a threatening dog. Many tourists have complained about the dog bite cases in Leh district alone arising every year, especially during the night.

### Which Dogs Bite

Any dog can bite. The dog bite statistics don't give much clear picture of the dog that specifically bites. The most common picture here is that the larger dogs are more capable of inflicting more serious injuries than that of small breeds of dogs but that doesn't mean that smaller dogs cannot bite.

### How to avoid dog bites:

Is a dog bite can be avoidable? Yes, dog bites are definitely avoidable. On 29 January, High Court of Kashmir expressed the dissatisfaction over the non-implementation of its direction over animal birth control measures and anti-rabies immunization

### Threats caused by dogs and dog bites/ dog bite issues:

#### Immediate threats

**Dog bite-related injuries cost a community**  
The costs of hospitalization, vaccine, Ig are not always high but the maintenance of cold chain has always been questionable which the administration should always keep a check.

Availability of ARV/Ig:  
1. Block level availability  
2. Tehsil Level  
3. Village level

Rabies is highly fatal: Rabies virus is a bullet-shaped virus and attacks nervous system. Vaccination is needed to be done in time.

#### Preservation of wildlife:

One of the major threats that wildlife is facing is stray dogs. There are lots of photographic and anecdotal information that dogs are a huge risk on the very existence of wildlife. All ranges of wildlife from birds, herbivorous etc are being killed by stray dogs hunting in groups.

Dogs are not only causing direct harm to the wildlife but can also transmit deadly diseases which can wipe out an entire population.

There are also some reports of wolves hybridization (cross) with dogs which can produce a much dangerous wolf dog kind of breed.

### Threat to the livestock industry

Stray/feral dogs have been indiscriminately killing the domestic animals especially sheep, goats, donkeys, calves, cattle etc. and the situation has grown monumentally that may have left livestock due to this kind of situation.

There are lot of other issues related to dogs related problems which not only need immediate attention but also a strong policy/road map with real people /experienced and skilled technical personnel's to address it with sufficient and generous findings. This is definitely a multidisciplinary issue and the Indian army being one the main rather most important player in controlling dogs population has to be on board.

### Controlling measures:

There is no single bullet, rather a simple solution to this complex problem. All the major stakeholders and departments need to work together with a strong, robust, time bound road map on these kinds of problem. The Jammu and Kashmir High Court also directed the health department to inform about the availability of the anti-rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin throughout the state.

The court has also directed to the municipalities to have wide publicity about waste management especially garbage (i.e., hospital waste, residential wastes, etc).

Time to time public awareness should be done through media like television, radio, and now a day's social media is playing an important role in spreading information/awareness to the general public.

## SoulSpeak

P. P. Wangchuk

### Look within and remind yourself of your final goal in life's long, arduous journey



Who are you, and what are you really doing? These are crucial questions that we must ask ourselves every morning before we start our day. The reason is that we get a chance to look into ourselves and know our own plus and minus points. That will surely lead us to course correction, if need be.

I recall the words of American author Mitch Albom, from his book, Tuesdays with Morrie: "Do what the Buddhists do. Every day, have a little bird on your shoulder that asks: Is today the day? Am I ready? Am I doing all I need to do? Am I being the person I want to be?"

Whatever we do now has to be done with a clear goal-post. And we have to check every day whether we are headed to what we were aiming at. Or else, it would be like labouring quite hard without realising what we are doing, and the result would be our good intentions gone haywire.

Knowing our real selves is as important as knowing our mission. If we know ourselves, we would be more practical, and hence there would be less confusion. That means we are sincere at our work to achieve what we aspire for. Any deviation from that will take us further away from your goal. Therefore, the need to be conscious of this crucial fact is very important; and each one of us should remind ourselves every day about where we stand and what are the meaningful and purposeful goals that we stand for.

And, ultimately, what we need to understand is: Be yourself, and the road to your destination will get clear.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

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

## In Conversation with Dr. Ishey Namgyal, President, Municipal Committee, Leh

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

**Q. Tell us about Municipal Committee, Leh. What are the role and responsibilities?**

Municipal Committee is a grass root governance structure which aims to look after the area falling under its jurisdiction. MC Leh has 13 wards from Gangles to Dambuchan and Kartse to Teyarirong.

As per the Municipal Act 2000, MC prepares plans for economic development and social justice. We are entrusted to work on 16 subjects including:

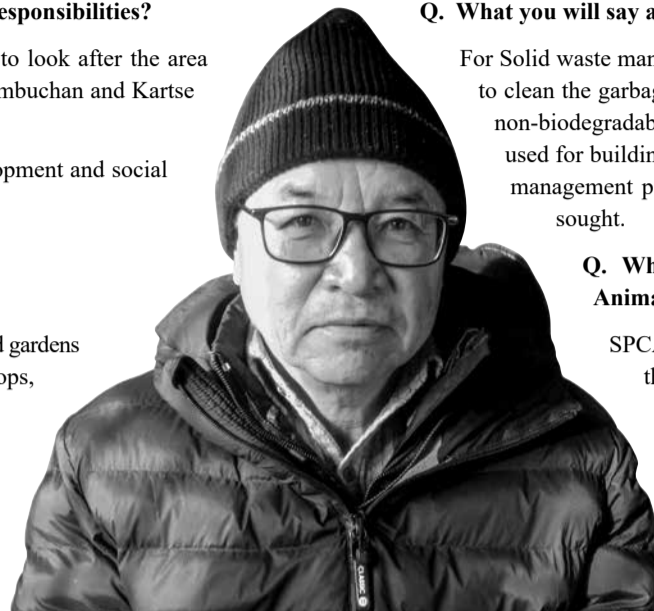
1. Urban Planning including town planning
2. Regulation of land use and construction of buildings
3. Public Health, Sanitation, Conservancy, and Solid Waste Management
4. Provisions of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, playgrounds, and gardens
5. Regulation of amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops, and public convenience
6. Vital statistics including registration of Births and Deaths
7. Urban Forestry, Protection of Environment and promotion of ecological aspects
8. Burials and cremation grounds
9. Regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries
10. Cattle ponds and prevention of cruelty to animals
11. Safeguarding interests of weaker sections of the society
12. Slum improvement and up-gradation
13. Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects
14. Urban poverty alleviation
15. Planning for economic and social development
16. Implementation of Food Adulteration Act

The committee comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The committee plans and utilises funds in various projects, generate income from the local sources such as parking fees, rents, and further use it for public welfare.

**Q. What are your short and long-term plans? Any priority set.**

The work already in progress is the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant near Bombgarh which collects and treat faecal sludge generated from hotels. Solarised public convenience conjoined with cafes in Zangsti and Bus-stand area established with the support of NGOs.

The work of multi-tier parking space under AMRUT scheme will start from April. We are also working to revive the old traditional system



### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Follow rules and regulation and keep your town neat and clean.”

of Churpon (elected water officials who ensure equitable water distribution) and Lorapa (appointed to protect crops). The restoration of headworks and training of the nallah is also in the plan.

Due to rapid urbanization, the newly settled areas need proper drainage system, roads, and footpath. Because of the incomplete Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) in Agling, the sewerage and drinking water system will take time to get fully functional. The work on STP will start from this year.

A concrete plan and regulation are also needed for water with the increase in consumption because of the growing tourist influx, local population and changing lifestyle.

Along with all plans, our priority is to work on waste management.

**Q. What you will say about the waste management system in Leh?**

For Solid waste management, we have procured a machine from Tesla company in Bombgarh to clean the garbage piled up. Also, we are trying to procure a machine which will turn the non-biodegradable waste into ceramic ash without causing any pollution. The ashes can be used for building roads which can be mixed while blacktopping the roads. Another waste management plant project is in progress and with all these the issue will somehow be sought.

**Q. What is the aim of establishing the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals?**

SPCA is a registered body who works for animal welfare. The aim is to ensure the safety of the animals against any cruelty, rehabilitate and find shelter for its wellbeing. It is needed in Leh because many people leave animals such as donkeys and bulls homeless when not in use and injures or kill because of rash driving.

Any animal lover can become a member of SPCA by paying ₹1200 annually. At present we have around 40 members. More members will help in effective functioning. Any person who is found harming animals will be fined and even imprisoned as per law.

**Q. How MC is going to curb the stray dog menace in Leh?**

Stray dogs are becoming a threat to human and wildlife and the foremost solution is to reduce the population. A team of MC, animal husbandry and NGO, Live to Rescue is carrying out the sterilization project from the past many years. In a day, around 7 to 10 dogs are sterilized. There is a need of mass sterilization for an effective result and for this, we are outsourcing a team in the coming days. Also, we need to sensitize people for adoption. If one house adopts one dog, the menace will get curb.

**Q. Tell us about the need of having a scientific abattoir house in Leh.**

The rules and regulations laid down for a disciplined functioning of the abattoirs are not being followed in Leh. Animals are slaughtered openly ignoring public health safeguards thus, the meat which we consume are not stamped and approved by the Animal husbandry. Scientific abattoir house is much needed; the project is ready but needs some further discussion as the administration is looking for land to construct it.

## IN FOCUS

### A place with a heart for animals

Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

In today's age when time is both precious and money, it is heartening to see someone trying to make a difference of a different kind. Tsering Dorje, 57, started an animal shelter in 2013 in his village Taru, out of sheer compassion for animals that had nowhere to go to except the streets. A mason by profession, he gave up his work six years ago to take care of animals in his village. As a mason, he had visited many villages and observed that oxen were not taken care of.

Dorje narrates an incident when he saw a mini-truck loaded with animals, headed to Kargil. The incident left him in shock and he decided to have an animal shelter in his village.

“I was waiting for a vehicle in Basgo village. I saw 5-6 mini-trucks carrying animals, headed somewhere. I asked a shopkeeper, and to my surprise I was told they were being taken to Kargil for slaughter. He mentioned about 8 to 12 such mini-trucks plying every day with full of animals. I asked myself how I can save them? We cannot advice or force people to take care of them but we need to be compassionate towards all the sentient beings.”

And thus he started his animal shelter in 2013. Today the shelter has 70 animals, including sheep, cows, donkeys, ‘dzos’, and ‘dzomos’.

He requested his villagers for a piece of land for building a shelter, which was given. Thereafter, he started giving shelter to animal not taken care of. The villagers also brought their animals to his shelter. He narrates an incident when one of the villagers sold a ‘dzo’ to a family in Phyang to be slaughtered. He bought it back and kept it in his shelter.



Tsering Dorje at the animal shelter in Taru village.

Later, villagers from Liker, Basgo, Spituk, Alchi, Choglamsar and Martselang also started bringing their animals to the shelter.

“Our ancestors were poor, and yet despite all the challenges they would take good care of their animals. Today Ladakh has developed in many ways, so people should take care of their animals. It is very important to put yourself in the shoes of animals and think over seriously.”

‘Life release’ (tsethar in Ladakhi) is a Buddhist

practice of saving lives. By buying animals that are destined to be killed and releasing them in their native environments, ‘tsethar’ puts compassion into action. Unfortunately, most of us hardly realise that as human beings we have this precious opportunity.

Realising the mounting challenges in the management of the shelter, he, along with the villagers of Taru, formed the ‘Taru Gayphel Tsogspa Animal Welfare Society’, last year, and also got it registered. The society consists of 15 members.

“We have been facing several issues including lack of funds and day-to-day operational issues. Last year, I hired one more staff and I am paying him ₹12,000 per month from my own pocket. Sometimes people forcibly keep their animals at the shelter and I cannot say no to them”, says Dorje.

He is inspired by the teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and believes that animals have as much right to live as we do. “Animals are considered in Buddhist thought as sentient beings. Moreover, the doctrine of rebirth holds that any human could be reborn as an animal, and any animal could be reborn as a human. There is a reason why we are born humans: Let us make it meaningful by standing up for the weaker species. We don't have the right to inflict pain or suffering on any living being, but we do have the right and means to stop it from happening,” Dorje adds.

It is not easy to run a shelter without the generous support of donors and the villagers, he admits. He recalls how he faced shortage of fodder in 2018 due to less snowfall. He had to take the animals to the upper reaches (Phu) of the village for about four months.

Asked about his future plans, he says, “It is difficult to say if it would sustain if more animals are accommodated in the future. We are planning to charge Rs 5,000 per animal in future. Our leaders who are at the helm of affairs should not only think about their position and power but also should think about the animals so that we can continue to save them. Our Hill Council has all the power and funds. It is difficult to run it singlehandedly.”

**Message:**

“It is very disheartening to see cruelty towards animals. The street animals have nowhere to go. People have stopped rearing animals in the adjoining areas of Leh. Many donkeys and oxen are seen abandoned in and around Leh town. If anyone is interested in volunteering, he/she is most welcome. Also, people can donate and bring feed for animals.”

## 11th CEC Ice Hockey Cup kick starts in Kargil



**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

KARGIL: The 11th CEC Ice Hockey Championship, Kargil commenced with the formal inauguration by Vikas Kundal, DC, Kargil on January 28 at Ice Hockey Rink, Bemathang.

The championship is jointly organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports,

Kargil and Kargil Ice and Snow Sports Club. Nine teams from Drass, Chiktan, Wakha Mulbekh and Pashkum besides ITBP team, Leh are participating.

Vinod Kumar, SSP Kargil, Muhammad Jaffar, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Kargil, Aman Ali, General Secretary, Kargil Ice, and Snow Club and other concerned officers were

present on the occasion.

Vikas Kundal congratulated the organisers for organising the ice hockey championship in the district every year. He expressed optimism that participation in the event will go a long way in bringing improvement in the overall personality development of the young players and prepare them to face the challenges in life.

He urged upon the players to participate with the spirit of team coordination and sportsmanship.

Vikas Kundal advised the players to strive for developing sportsman spirit which teaches them to accept victory or defeat in a graceful manner. Also, stressed upon regular practice in Ice Hockey to excel and bring laurels to the district and the state.

## Kargil celebrates Mamani -the traditional food festival



**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

WAKHA: With great enthusiasm, the annual Mamani (Traditional Food) festival was celebrated on January 28 in Wakha.

The festival was organised by Himalayan Heritage and Cultural Foundation (HHCF) in collaboration with Youth Educational and Sports Welfare Society Wakha.

People of Wakha and adjoining villages put up stalls of traditional dishes.

Feroz Ahmed Khan, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil said that festivals are a significant way to celebrate the glorious heritage, culture and traditions of an area. It plays an important role to connect people with their heritage and ancestral legacy and need to be observed with enthusiasm and fervor.

Appreciating the organisers for holding the food festival, he

said that the event will play an instrumental role in helping people to relate to their roots. It also serves the purpose of bringing happiness and strengthening the community.

Festivals like these were started by our ancestors to pass the legends, knowledge and tradition with the generation, he added.

He further added that the Hill Council is fully committed to boost activities related to the preservation and promotion of culture and traditions in the district. Also, efforts are being made to ensure cultural development.

Feroz Khan informed about the construction of first ever museum in the district at a cost of ₹ 6 crore and allotment of 3 kanal land for the same at Kurbathang area.

Prizes were distributed among the winners and consolation prizes among the prize winners.

He also announced ₹ 10,000 each for the Youth Educational and Sports Welfare Society Wakha and stall owners who participated in the food festival was announced.

Councillor Shargole also announced ₹ 10,000 in favor of the organisers of the event.

Feroz Khan also felicitated famous Muhammad Hussain Silmo, Folk Singer, Khadim Hussain Poyen, Registering Officer, Antiquities Ladakh, Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat, Writer and poet, Muhammad Amin Polo, Social and Cultural Activist and others for their services in the field of culture and literature.

Meanwhile, the locals demanded the construction of an ice hockey rink, up gradation of the existing Health Centre and Government High school Wakha, grant of financial assistance and other related demands.

## South India Ladakhi Cultural & Welfare Association celebrates Losar in Bangalore



**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

BANGALORE: Ladakhi students from various southern states participated in Losar celebration on January 26 at Tibetan Youth Hostel, Bangalore.

The celebration was themed, 'Igniting the Young Minds of Ladakh'. Special lectures and interactive session was conducted by eminent personalities in various fields like Naropa fellowship, opportunities in the field of science & technology, IT sector,

emerging technologies, management studies, competitive exams, entrepreneurship and start-ups courses.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Dr. Surendra Pal, Retd. Vice Chancellor, Defence Institute of Advanced Technology/ Distinguished Scientist, ISRO said, "In the race of touching the sky in one's career, one must not forget the root and should try to give something back to the society."

Ven. Ananda Bante, Mahabodhi

Society Bangalore and Geshes Lobzang Smonlam, Gadan Jangtse Monastery, Mungod also spoke on the occasion.

Rigzen Tsewang, Chairman, Losar organising committee thanked all the guests for their presence and showing up moral support to the students in the southern region.

Tsering Tashi briefly described the achievements of South India Ladakhi Cultural & Welfare Association (SILCWA) in the year 2018-19. He also presented the major activities planned in this year.

Meritorious students in academic and social work were awarded.

A variety of cultural program showcasing the different culture of Ladakh and Tibet were presented.

## Tsering Sandup, EC Health, meets Joint Sec., Civil Aviation and Home Affairs

*Requests for inclusion of Nubra valley in the next UDAN Scheme and funds increase under BADP*

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

NEW DELHI: Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry for Civil Aviation, Govt. of India assured to give due consideration for inclusion of Nubra valley in the next UDAN Scheme.

She said that a meeting regarding the inclusion of left out places of the nation in UDAN Scheme will be held.

This was stated when Tsering

Sandup, EC Health along with Rigzin Lundup, Councillor Tegar met Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry for Civil Aviation Govt. of India on January 24.

Tsering Sandup appraised Usha Padhee about the problems being faced by Nubra people due to Khardong La pass specially during winter months,

Meanwhile, both the delegation also met Nidhi Khare, Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs

GoI. They requested enhancement in allocation of funds under BADP in Nubra region and inclusion of left out villages of Nubra in BADP Scheme.

Tsering Sandup said that despite Nubra region falling under Indo-China border, no fund is allocated through ITBP for civil works till date. He requested her to allocate funds in this regard.

Nidhi Khare assured due consideration of the demand.

## Zanskar Ice Hockey Association trains 200 student in Ice Hockey

*Selected best 20 players and formed two teams*

**Stanzin Dasal**

ZANSKAR: The first ever, 15 days long ice hockey training for the children under 20 years concluded on January 25 at Ice hockey rink, Jungkhor Gyapak.

The day started by observing two-minute silence prayer for the departed souls in the Khardongla avalanche.

Around 200 children including 120 girls and 80 boys were trained by the Canadian coach, Alexis Daudelin, Canadian team leader & Former Ice Hockey coach of Indian Women team, Corey Adams, USA HF Representative and Lewis Fourny.

The coaching camp was organised by Zanskar Ice Hockey Association. In a day 5 batch with 40 students in each batch were trained.



On a concluding day, Sonam Wangchuk, SECMOL was the Chief Guest and Tundup Namgyal, SDM Zanskar was the Guest of Honour.

Stanzin Namsas, Founder, Zanskar Ice Hockey Association said that the aim of the coaching camp is to uplift girls of the Zanskar region in the Ice Hockey game and to enhance the talent and skills of the youths.

He said, "Most of the youths migrate and the girls are left with no further opportunity during the winter months in Zanskar. The ice hockey camp is to engage youths in an activity and develop the interest in sports."

Sonam Wangchuk donated ₹ 1 Lakh for further development.

Twenty best players of both boys and girls out of the 200 were selected and formed two teams.

## NHM employees demand regularisation of services, inclusion in 7th Pay Commission

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

KARGIL: A delegation of National Health Mission (NHM) employees who were on indefinite strike met Zakir Hussain, EC Health on January 20.

The delegation projected several demands including the regularization of services and inclusion in the 7th Pay Commission.

The members of the delegation

further stated that they have been serving in the Health Department over the last 10 to 11 years with a meagre honorarium and most of them are likely to exceed their upper age limit for Government employment.

Zakir Hussain assured to examine all their genuine issues and concerns which will be addressed in a phased manner. He said Hill Council Kargil is committed to

the welfare of the NHM employees working in the district and will take all necessary steps.

He urged the employees to suspend their strike and resume their routine work immediately so that the patients in District Hospital and other health centres of the district do not suffer. He also wrote a letter to the Governor strongly recommending fulfillment of all their genuine concerns.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that an application has been received from Tundup Namgail S/O Nawang Rigzin R/O Tia owner of vehicle no. JK 10 A 8462 for the transfer of vehicle.

It is for the general information that objection to any to the proposed of transfer of vehicle be filed in writing to the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Leh within a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.



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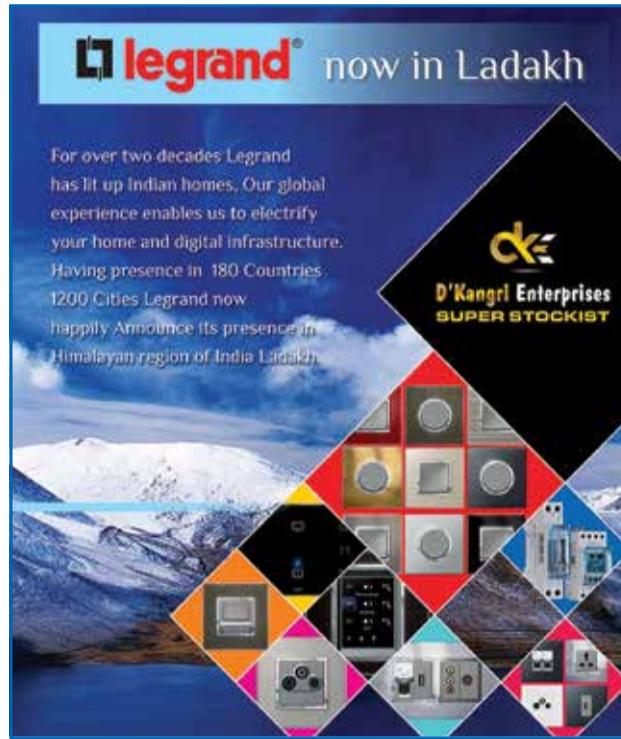
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