

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

VOL. 7 ISSUE 3 PAGES 8

February 16-28, 2019



In Conversation with Reach Ladakh

Mohammad Ali

5

Expert Talk

Power supply

4

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Brief News

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Awareness meet on alcohol menace held in Leh

LEH: With the growing menace of alcohol among the young generation, anti alcohol campaign was organised by Chos ki Donmay society in collaboration with Ladakh Gonpa Association, LBA Women's Wing and Medical Social Service Association organised on February 13 at Main market.

All the speakers strongly urged upon for a complete ban on sale of liquor and cancellation of licenses of liquor vending shops in Leh district.

Demonstration on EVM and VVPAT held

LEH: Training cum demonstration on the use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) was organised by District Election Authority on February 13 in Leh.

Trainers explained about how voters can verify their votes in seven seconds on the machine's screen thus, minimizing hacking or hampering of EVMs. The demonstration was also carried out in Nubra Diskit and Khaltse.



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

Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorje

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Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup

Published at: Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter Contact: 9858394403

Printed at: Kaizen Offset Pvt Ltd, 3 DISDC Complex, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - I, New Delhi - 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Leh

Launches several developmental projects to improve connectivity, tourism, employment, higher education and power supply

Rigzin Wangmo & Dawa Dolma

LEH: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated development projects including 220 KV Single Circuit, Srinagar-Alusteng-Drass-Kargil-Khaltse-Leh transmission system, cluster University for Ladakh, new trekking routes. Besides that, he laid the foundation stone of New Terminal Building of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport on February 3 at Nagarjuna Auditorium, CIBS.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC in his welcome speech thanked Narendra Modi for visiting Leh and briefed about the developmental projects. He also appealed for the divisional status, UT status and the inclusion of Bhoti Language in the 8th schedule of the constitution.

Satya Pal Malik, Governor, J&K welcomed Prime Minister by presenting traditional Thanka (wall banner of deities) and shawl.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister said, "The culture of delaying the developmental works needs to be stopped and should focus on timely completion. I feel happy to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate the completed same projects."

Recalling Kushok Bakula Rinpoche and the dream to connect Ladakh with mainstream India, he expressed the government's commitment to the development of Ladakh region.

He said that the mega projects which are



Prime Minister while addressing about the development projects.

launched today in Ladakh aim to improve the connectivity, growth in tourism, employment opportunities, higher education facility, and power connectivity.

Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of New Terminal Building of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport at Leh. Spread across 18, 985 sq meter area, the new Terminal Building of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport worth ₹ 480 crores will have 18 check-in-counters, 3 aerobridges, and peak hour handling capacity of 800 passengers.

Also, all essential passenger-friendly amenities and conveniences like elevators, escalators, public address system, fire alarm system, flight information display system and passenger boarding bridges along with a spacious car parking space will be made available. The project is expected to complete by September 2021.

The 220 KV Single Circuit, Srinagar-Alusteng-Drass-Kargil-Khaltse-Leh transmission system completed by the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. was also inaugurated. The system will provide grid connectivity and reliable round-the-clock power supply to Ladakh region.

The transmission system project worth ₹ 2300 crore foundation stone was first laid by Prime Minister in August 2014.

Also, 9 MW Dha Hydro-electric project was also launched.

The long-pending demand of university for Ladakh was also addressed with the commencement of University of Ladakh Act 2018. The Cluster University will include Degree Colleges of both Kargil and Leh district. The administrative offices of Cluster University will be set up in both the district.

Tourism being the key source of income in Ladakh, the government of India officially declared 4 new trekking routes and 5 tourist routes. The Protected Area Permit validity has been extended from 7 to 15 days in the region.

Rigzin Spalbar, Former CEC expressed dissatisfaction for being silent on the core issues and demand of the people of Ladakh.

He said that the expectations of people on Modi's visit to address on UT status, Divisional status, Bhoti language, the opening of Kargil-Skardu road, Damchok road, status of Zojila tunnel, opening of medical college, funding for a cultural university were all ignored.

He said, "It is high time that the people of Ladakh should not fall under the trap of Modi fake promises and stay united to stop their evil design of divide and rule policy."

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in PMO, Haji Anayat Ali, Chairman Legislative Council Feroz Ahmad Khan, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan, Chering Dorje, MLC, Leh, BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary, His Eminence Togdan Rinpoche, Former Minister Union Secretaries, Administrative Secretaries, and senior officers from civil, police administration and the army were also present on the occasion.

Modi inaugurates Northern Grid line of 220-KW power transmission from Srinagar to Leh

To ensure round-the-clock power supply in all-weather conditions in Ladakh



Ladakh connected to Northern Grid.

Rigzin Wangmo & Dawa Dolma

LEH: Ladakh gets connected with Northern Grid power transmission line of 220 KV Srinagar-Drass-Kargil-Khaltse-Leh with an inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 3.

On inaugural day, addressing the gathering PM Modi said "I got the opportunity of laying the foundation stone of this project and today again I have got the opportunity to dedicate this project. With this more than ₹ 2000 Crore project, the problem of electricity in Leh Ladakh is going to be minimized."

This transmission system is a step towards powering Ladakh and connecting

country's most northern part to the National Grid. It is built at height of around 3000- 4000 meters, in snow-bound difficulty hilly terrains stretches approx. 335 km long transmission line has been constructed by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, a Navratna Company of Government of India, under ministry of power.

Ravi Prasad Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid mentioned "In this project, the four new state of the art 220/66 KV gas insulated sub-stations built at Drass, Kargil, Khaltse and Leh will help to ensure 24/7 quality power in all weather conditions".

...Continues on Page 2

Ladakh gets divisional status; welcomes divisional commissioner Saugat Biswas

Kargil protests over the decision of divisional headquarters in Leh



BJP party leaders during the grand celebration for Divisional status for Ladakh at Pologround, Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The state of Jammu and Kashmir gets three administrative units with the grant of divisional status to Ladakh by the Governor, Satya Pal Malik on February 8.

As per Govt. order, separate administrative and revenue set up is approved for Ladakh which comprises both Leh and Kargil district with its headquarter stationed in Leh. Spread out with an area of 86,909 sq km, Ladakh becomes the largest division as compared to Kashmir and Jammu division.

Earlier, Ladakh was a part of Kashmir division, the identity and distinct culture of the region was overshadowed. The remoteness and inaccessibility of the area made people face problems regarding the delivery of a developmental scheme, redressal of grievances and the conduct of administrative affairs and governance. The only concern of the people of Ladakh was to get free from the Kashmir controlled administration.

With the announcement of a separate administrative unit for Ladakh, people are now relieved from the hardship faced as both the administrative and revenue problems will get redressed in the region itself. More job avenues will be created with the availability of divisional cadre post for Ladakh. Separate directorates of all departments will be created and also the police personnel of Ladakh need not have to go to the valley.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC/Chairman Hill Council, Leh marked the decision as a historic step towards fulfillment of developmental and political aspirations of the people of Ladakh.

He said, "Divisional status will ensure financial as well as administrative autonomy for the region. Ladakh will witness an added momentum in every field of development in the coming days besides the Govt. officials working under divisional cadre would also immensely benefit out of it."

...Continues on Page 3

Leh celebrates Dosmoche festival



Monks of Lamayuru monastery performing mask dance in Leh.

Dawa Dolma & Rigzin Wangmo

LEH: Eradicating evil spirits and praying for peace and prosperity, the two-day Dosmoche festival was celebrated with religious fervor on February 2 and 3.

The festival was organised by Leh Phudo (Cultural and Welfare Society).

This year, sacred mask dances (Cham) of Palden Yeshe Gonpo (Mahakala), Gonpo Khor, Achi Chokyi Dolma (Drikung

Kargyu Oracle) and many more were performed by the monks of Lamayuru monastery. 'Storma' ritual effigy was prepared by the monks of Korzok monastery while 'Dhos' thread crosses to trap evil spirits was prepared by the monks of Taktok monastery.

Nawang Samstan, General Secretary, Leh Phudo said, "People should not only consider Dosmoche as a source of entertainment, rather as a religious ceremony."

Thousands of spectators and devotees gathered at the courtyard of monastery below Leh palace to seek blessing.

On the last day, 'Storma' effigy was burnt which symbolizes driving away of evil spirits to bring peace and prosperity.

Dosmoche festival falls on 28th and 29th day of the 12th month of Tibetan lunar calendar. The day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Likir village as well.

Week-long road safety programme concludes in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 30th road safety week themed 'Sadak Suraksha Jeewan Raksha' concluded on February 10.

It was organised by the Motor Vehicle Department, Leh in collaboration of All Ladakh Transporters Union, Leh, All Motors Vehicle Dealers of Leh and Mars Pollution.

The week-long road safety programme conducted vehicle rally, awareness campaigns, street drama, painting competition at the school level, culture programme etc.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC, on behalf of the people extended gratitude to the people who have actively participated in the week-long awareness programme and made it beneficial in terms of safety and security for all.

He also appealed to wear helmet, use of seat belt and prevent over-speeding and drunken driving and to avoid the use of mobile phone while driving. He advised motor drivers to drive cautiously following the

standing rules and regulations of road safety, saying that a huge responsibility lies on them to take every possible deterrent measures to protect human life on the roads.

Also, he urged upon the drivers to check their vehicle on a regular basis so that eventuality of road accidents can be minimized.

Spalzes Angmo, Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, Leh, Deputy SP, Ishtyaq Kacho, Sonam Dorjey, Dy. SP, SDRF and the resource persons highlighted the road safety measures and traffic rules and regulations.

Abdul Hamid, Inspector, Motor Vehicle Department gave a detail summary about the objective of National Road Safety Week and highlighted the traffic rules and regulations. A skit was also presented on road safety.

Prizes were distributed to the winner of painting competition, professional drivers under different categories of vehicles, students and artists who took part in the skit.

Modi inaugurates Northern Grid; 220 KV power transmission from Srinagar-Drass-Kargil-Khaltse-Leh

...Continued from Page 1

More importantly, the project will meet the power demand of Ladakh region at economical rates. It will not only ensure quality power supply, but will also give huge boost to the tourism sector and will enhance socio-economic development of Ladakh, as quality power will be distributed to homes and business establishments of the region in all weathers.

J.P Singh, Executive Director, Northern Region Transmission System-II, Power Grid "The implementation of this project was also aimed to supply power to the people of Ladakh in harsh winters and evacuation of surplus power to Kargil and Leh Hydel stations of NHPC in summers".

It is also believed that Northern Grid will not only help evacuate power in summers, but will also supply power to the region in winters when temperatures dip and hydro electricity generation do not match up.

In addition, it will give boost to the tourism sector, especially hospitality industry in Ladakh, as quality electricity at reasonable rates will be accessible due to non-reliance on diesel. This will also attract tourists looking for affordable stay in all weathers.

Rajeev Kumar Chauhan, Director Project, Power Grid informed that this transmission project of approx. ₹ 2266 Crores will result in minimizing the massive use of diesel generating sets during winters, and thus will not only help in protection of beautiful environment, of pristine Ladakh, but will also save import expenditure in foreign currency incurred on crude oil, thereby benefiting the state exchequer.

Despite above positive comments, will Northern Grid light up the town or will it be another shattered dream of Ladakh? A decade ago, with the establishment of NHPC Project people were informed that there will be no power crisis and yet

we face immense power shortage in this region.

Definitely the question poses whether Northern Grid will provide grid connectivity and reliable power supply to the strategically important Ladakh region including defense establishments in the area?

Clarifying the doubts, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Superintending Engineer EM & RE, PDD said, "National Grid is already connected with many parts of the country in the past few years but we got connected this year and will be a success. By becoming part of Northern Grid, electricity will be provided at larger scale. For instance, if power gets disrupted for any reason with NHPC project, the entire area will plunk into darkness. Since we have Power Grid connectivity we will not be dependent only on the powerhouses. We will have the availability of other power provisions".

He also informed that the 45 MV project of NHPC remains under-utilized in summer season and is losing the energy. The utilization of power is not more than 15 to 16 MV in summer because there is no major industry in Ladakh. Thus, the surplus power is unable to supply outside the power crisis area. So, with the coming of Northern Grid it will be properly utilized.

Prit Pal Singh Wilkh, General Manager, NHPC Limited said, "Basically it is for balancing the power requirement. In winters there is a requirement of 24 MV, so during the evening hours power is supplied whereas in the morning there is load shedding. With the power grid connection the load shedding problem will be solved".

"NHPC is a connecting company, the transmission and the load distribution will be done by the power grid. So we simply feed the state", he added.

Power Grid Cooperation of India Limited has done its job building one of the world highest transmission lines in unforeseen weather conditions. Now it's the distributor (JKPDD) task to generate power supply to Ladakh.

Anjuman Imamia Youth Wing Leh initiates 'Wall of Kindness' movement

Individuals can keep unused clothes on walls, and the needy can take them



Dr. Tsering Angchuk, Incharge Medical Superintendent and other dignitaries during the occasion.

Rigzin Wangmo

LEH: To donate unused or second-hand clothes for the needy a 'Wall of Kindness' was initiated outside the SNM hospital gate by the Alamdar Health Service a health unit of Anjuman Imamia Youth Wing Leh on February 11.

The wall themed, "If you need it, take it. If you don't need it, leave it" where an individual can keep the unused clothes at the wall and the needy can take it.

Dr. Tsering Angchuk, Incharge, Medical Superintendent said, "The initiative is worth appreciating and is a living example of humanity. Likewise, the organisation has also helped in blood bank; there are indeed more areas where we need such initiatives".

He also emphasized on including women of their community in the

activities and requested to build Sarai where patient from Kargil and Zaskar can accommodate themselves with no hurdles.

Haji Mehboob Ali, Vice president, Anjuman Imamia Leh said, "Alamdar Health service endeavors to work for the society. It also aims to donate blood to the people in need. The work that the organisation has started by donating clothes is a remarkable job".

He further requested the doctors to expand blood bank so that during Muharram many people can reach out and donate blood and the same can be kept reserved to use in case of emergency.

Tousif Hussain, Chairman, Alamdar Health Service said, "Our main purpose to start this wall of kindness is to serve the

needy people of Ladakh. People having extra clothes can donate and the person in need can take clothes as per their size and choice from the wall without any hesitation. In the future, we are also proposing to keep books."

Zulfikar Ali, Treasurer, Anjuman Imamia said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran started the World of kindness board which is practiced worldwide. We are glad to introduce the concept here and would like to appeal people of Ladakh to donate the unused or second-hand clothes to the wall so that people in need can take."

Zahida Bano, Vice President, Women wing, Anjuman Imamia Leh, Dr. Norzin Angmo, District Tuberculosis Officer, Leh, President Medical Employment Federation Leh and Executive members of Anjuman Imamia youth wing Leh were also present.

Hill Council convenes meeting with Chairman, Airport Authority of India

Seeks intervention of AAI to address issues at KBR Airport, Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To address issues concerning Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, a meeting was chaired by CEC with Guru Prasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI on February 4.

In the meeting, CEC sought the intervention of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to address the same. He talked about the need of enhancing Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) storage capacity in Leh. The present ATF depot is not capable to cater the requirement of both Army and Civil aircraft due to which civil aircrafts operating in Leh are compelled to carry reserve ATF. Thus resulting in reduced carrying seats for passengers coupled with high airfares.

He requested construction of additional ATF depot in Leh for

which land will be allotted by the Hill Council.

To enhance the flight frequency in Leh, he requested the extension of two additional bays till the completion of the new air terminal as the present two bays are not big enough to operate extra flights.

Guru Prasad Mohapatra said that the work of upcoming two additional bays has already been allotted to the contractor and assured for speedy progress in this regard.

Regarding recruitment of local C class employees in AAI Leh, the posts will be advertised through LAHD-SSRB Leh shortly and the recruitment process will start soon.

Jamyang thanked Chairman AAI for the two major projects being implemented in Leh under Corporate Social Responsibilities

Projects of AAI worth ₹60 lakh Milk Pasteurization Plant in Leh and ₹ 50 lakh Project Tsang-Da', (Solid Waste Management Center at Diskit Nubra). He requested for more such projects under CSR.

Guru Prasad Mohapatra assured to sanction two more projects in the year 2019-20 and asked LAHDC, Leh, to submit the projects. On the request of Tsering Sandup, EC Health he also assured to sanction one more project for Nubra under CSR.

Highlighting the importance of Nubra-Thoise Airport for Army, local passengers and tourists and availability of large chunk of land for its expansion proposed to device a future plan for Nubra Airport, Tsering Sandup requested Chairman AAI for the inclusion of Nubra Airport in UDAN Scheme.

Chairman AAI assured to put all his efforts to bring Nubra Airport under the ambit of UDAN scheme for the overall interest of the Nubra region.

While discussing about the heating, toilet and other basic facilities at Leh Airport, he assured to solve all the issues promptly till the new Leh Airport Terminal is completed.

Legal awareness program held in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHOGLAMSAR: Awareness program on various Central and State Government schemes and free legal services provided by District Legal Services Authority was convened on February 8 in Tashi Gatsal, Choglamsar

The day was organised by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Leh in collaboration with Social Welfare Office and ICDS Department Leh.

Spalzes Angmo, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority,

Leh emphasized the activities of DLSA with regard to Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Lok Adalat.

She further requested the participants to take advantages of free legal services provided under Legal Services Authority Act.

Tashi Chosdol, District Social Officer and Shakela Bano, CDPO, Leh highlighted the benefits provided by the respective offices under different welfare schemes of State and Central government. They mentioned schemes such as Indira Gandhi National wid-

ow pension scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability pension scheme (IGNDPS), Indira Gandhi National old age pension scheme (IGNOAPS) and Integrated Social Security scheme (ISSS).

Large numbers of participants from surrounding neighbors of Tashi Gatsal, Solar Colony and Sonam Burmaling of Choglamsar took part. Many women actively participated in the interaction

Earlier, the same awareness program was also carried out in Ram-birpur Thiksey on February 4.

happening and effort should be made in promoting and developing Ladakh as a whole."

Kavinder Gupta, Former Deputy CM, J&K said, "We are not differentiating people of Kargil, putting forward the issue through protest and agitation is not a solution. With the grant of divisional status, the headquarter has to be stationed in one of the districts. But, the demand they have raised will be also put forward for due consideration."

Is the controversy and anguish over the administrative arrangement arose because of the lack of dialogue and healthy discussion on one platform?

On February 11, the first Divisional Commissioner of Ladakh Saugat Biswas, IAS was also welcomed in Leh. He served Leh district before as Deputy Commissioner/ CEO LAHDC, Leh in the year 2015.

Welcoming divisional status for Ladakh, Tsering Samphel, Former President, District Congress Committee, Leh said, "Such a decision is possible during president rule only because we can't expect it from any of the popular government time. Also, we can't ignore that the decision has been made as a damage control exercise of the BJP party which is needed".

Leaders of the BJP addressed the gathering during the grand celebration for divisional status at polo ground on February 13.

Mechanism underway for easy access to justice for those in inaccessible areas

People can file cases in the post offices of their area

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A training programme to the Retainer lawyers, Bar members of District Bar Association, paralegal volunteers, Leh and officials of the Department of Post Office Ladakh Division was held on February 7 at District Court complex.

The training was conducted by the District Legal Services Authority, Leh in pursuance to the direction of the State Legal Services Authority to ensure justice to the people at the doorstep.

J&K State Legal Services Authority under the patronage of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and the Chairmanship of Justice Rajesh Bindal conceived the idea of providing facility for justice at doorsteps to the remotest areas of the state which remain cut off from the court due to vagaries of weather and initiated a Pilot Project in the districts of Kisthwar, Baramulla and Leh.



Through the project, people living in remote areas may file petition, writs, suits, complaints etc at Post Office situated in these areas, which will be transmitted by the Post Office to the court concerned. The Project also foresees filing of cases through usual means of transportation and E-filing through Public Service Centres.

Spalzes Angmo, Secretary, DLSA highlighted the participants about the objective and importance of the Project in filing cases in inaccessible areas and procedures related to the same.

Tsewang Phuntsog, Munsiff Nubra informed about the basic concepts of Constitution as well as Civil and Criminal laws in brief.

Zahoor Ahmed Mir, Superintendent Post Office Ladakh Division imparted basic training on the role of Post Masters in such cases.

Likewise, Advocate Namgyal Angchuk, Sonam Paljor and Kunzang Chorol spoke about the procedure for filing cases in Court, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act and Maintenance u/s 488 CrPC.

45 prospective entrepreneurs trained at JKEDI



Dawa Dolma

LEH: In the valedictory function of JKEDI, 45 prospective entrepreneurs were trained under the Seed Capital Fund Scheme on February 11 at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC, chief guest focuses on the need for passion, vision, and spirit among youths of Ladakh despite living a monotonous life. He emphasized youths to explore and discover things in Ladakh and work out of the box.

He said, "Even though we are likely to encounter social stigmas in our society like labeling job as dignified, decent or undignified". He urged youths not to rely only on government jobs rather create a job by yourself in doing something you are passionate about.

He further added that being passionate and hard-working is the key to establish your path and stay motivated even when you fail.

Jamyang advised youths of Ladakh to brush up

their skills regarding their capabilities.

Konchok Stanzin, Councillor Chushul constituency congratulated potential entrepreneurs and thanked JKEDI for not only producing entrepreneurs in Leh but also turning job-seeker to job-giver which is significant in job crisis.

He encouraged youths to have patience in achieving a dream and never expect an instant result, especially in business and startup. Also, he requested potential entrepreneurs to be socially responsible entrepreneurs to cogitate future generations and a sustainable environment.

Dorjay Wangchuk, Executive Manager, JKEDI deliberated on the importance of rural entrepreneurship in far-flung areas of Leh including Changthang and Lungnak. He also shared the importance of carrying out an awareness program on becoming entrepreneurs and setting up micro business in those regions. He expressed gratitude towards the role of media in promoting entrepreneur development training and workshops in Leh.

Sharing the experiences, Omyer Lassu a promising entrepreneur said JKEDI in Ladakh is a highly essential and wonderful platform to those wishing to set up micro business. The best take away from this institution is the availability of various sectors within Ladakh that opens further doors of opportunity and idea to us.

Gyatso Rangjung another budding entrepreneur appreciated the curriculum that was designed and taught during 21-day intensive training at JKEDI.

J&K Police first Ice Hockey Championship 2019 concludes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In the first J&K Police Ice Hockey Championship 2019, SECMOL team in women category and Lalok team in the men category won the championship. With an exhibition match between DHC and Lalok team, the tournament was concluded on February 6 at Ice Hockey rink Karzoo.

The tournament was organised by District Police Leh supported by HDFC Bank Ltd. and Ladakh Winter Sports Club. Eight men and three women teams took part in the tournament.

During the final match, Skara team failed to turn up thus making Lalok team lift the trophy. Councillors from Tangste and Chushul constituencies alleged that name of the team 'Skara' was changed to 'DHC' (Devil's Hockey Club) to play the final match against team Lalok. The protest made Lalok and DHC team play an exhibition match and by 2-1 DHC won the match.

In women final, Secmol team won the match by 6-0 from Siachen Angels.

Sargun Shukla, SSP, Leh said that the main aim of



the tournament is to encourage youths towards winter sports. She expressed happiness to see so many young girls participating in the tournament making it more exciting and thrill. She congratulated the winning teams and also extended appreciation to all those who have taken part in the tournament.

A cash prize of ₹15,000 each was presented to the winner teams and ₹10,000 to the runner-up teams besides mementos and trophies.

Samiullah Lassu, Senior Manager HDFC Bank, Stanzin Losal, SP CID, Namgyal Angchuk Gyalpo, President, Ladakh Winter Sports Club, Tsering Tashi, Youth Services Sports Officer were also present on the occasion.

Ladakh gets divisional status; welcomes divisional commissioner Saugat Biswas

...Continued from Page 1

Talking about the Union Territory status as committed by the BJP party, he said that the approval of divisional status is a step forward towards Union Territory status.

In the year 2014, a resolution for a separate division was passed by Nurboo Gyalson, Former MLC in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council.

Congratulating people and welcoming the divisional status announcement, Rigzin Spalbar, Former CEC said, "We are happy for the announcement as the Congress party is always in favor of the status for the larger interest."

While the celebration is all around the Leh district, the decision has also garnered a protest in Kargil district against announcing the divisional headquarter in Leh. People of Kargil alleged that they have been denied of their rightful share.

Cutting across the party differences, leaders of the Kargil district demanded a review of the government decision in announcing headquarter in Leh. They demanded rotational basis headquarter in both the district.

Commenting on the protest, Rigzin Spalbar said, "It is the government responsibility to clear the confusion and issue. The divide and rule policy in Ladakh which many intended to play shouldn't be

EXPERT TALK

Power supply

By Rigzin Wangmo



Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Superintending Engineer EM&RE CIRCLE, PDD: The primary responsibility of the Power Development Department of the J&K is transmission and distribution of power received from different sources. The department arranges the supply, transmits and forwards down to the last consumer, arranges power from various sources, thus, and recovers electricity charges.

Earlier, we were entirely dependent on diesel generating set for power supply in almost every area for a few hours in the evening. Later, PDD and JKSPDC came up with some small hydroelectric projects like 4MW Stakna HEP, 3 MW Igoo-Martselang HEP and also some small projects Like Sumur, Hunder, and Basgo. With all these projects, some areas got power supply during summers but in winters we again had to shift to diesel generators.

NHPC constructed Nimoo-Bazgo power project of 45 MW and 6 No, 66/11 KV Substations coupled with 66KV, 11KV and LT network came up under a centrally sponsored scheme (RGGVY) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana and Leh and adjoining areas were connected to this Hydel project. From the project, we are supplying power to this limited area but again in winter, the available power from hydel project is not sufficient owing to harsh weather.

On February 3, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the 220 KV Srinagar-Leh transmission systems. With this, there will be sufficient power available from the northern grid, mainly when the requirement is more in winter and less in summer, so after commissioning of the system, we will be able to address this problem. After commissioning of the 220 KV line we are drawing some power, but the amount of power being drawn is not adequate. So the general public is requested to cooperate with the department. Despite the reduction in discharge in the river, peak hour demand of electricity met during winter is of the order of 26 MW while the peak demand during summer is only 16 to 17 MW. We hope that by next year the technical issues related to the allocation of power will be sorted out and the gap between the demand and supply shall be met from the grid.

Power is generated from somewhere and it is transmitted accordingly

at a different level of voltages and finally supplied to the consumers. So everything is designed for a certain amount of usage. If a consumer requirement is more than the agreement load, whether it is domestic or commercial, one must declare the amount of power required to the department. The department will then accordingly arrange for that quantity of load. There has to be a balance between both parties. The electrical network is designed for a certain amount of power and cannot be overloaded beyond its capacity.

There are two types of consumers, metered consumers, and unmetered consumers. Both have different tariff. Suppose a domestic consumer has an unmetered agreement of 1 KW than he has to pay a fixed amount of ₹ 460 Plus ED per month, but consumer having the same agreement and has a meter, he has to pay only a fixed amount of ₹ 5.50 per KW plus actual charges plus ED.

There might be people who are using electricity illegally. To check on it, our inspection teams conduct surprise checking and impose fine and disconnect lines. Such people are penalized as per the law and confiscate the appliances.

There are several centrally sponsored schemes for the improvement of electrical infrastructures in rural and urban areas such as Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Restructured- Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (RAPDRP), Prime Minister Development Plan (PMDP) Rural/Urban. These works stand allotted to the contractors last years and the work will resume as soon as the National highway opens.

The department also intends to install prepaid energy meters soon. It is like recharging the prepaid mobile. We have a floating population who stays for 3 to 4 months so in that case, they can recharge for that much time only. Besides that, the department may also, have the benefit. Generally, the consumer has to wait for the electricity bill to reach their place many times the consumers do not get their bills on time because we have a shortage of manpower. So such problems will be addressed with these meters.

The consumer in case of any problem regarding electricity bills can approach the Assistant Executive Engineer and if it does not resolve the problem then the consumer can approach senior officers as well.

Since the financial year is approaching, I would request everybody to clear their electricity dues and help the department in serving better.

Solution

- Use electricity judiciously it is not free.
- All category of the consumer must declare their power demand so that adequate infrastructure can be developed.
- Consumers must use the energy as per the sanctioned load.



Prit Pal Singh Wilkh, General Manager, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, Leh: Nimoo Bazgo Power Station, Alchi was conceived by Government of India and funded under Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan for J&K in 2004 to improve acute power shortage and dependency on polluting DG sets.

The foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on 11 June 2015. Nimoo Bazgo Power Station, Alchi is a Run of the River Scheme with a small load to harness the hydropower potential of river Indus in Leh District of Jammu & Kashmir.

The power station has an installed Capacity of 45 megawatts (3X15MW). The state of Jammu & Kashmir is the sole beneficiary of this power station. The power station was inaugurated by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on 12 August 2014. Power Station has been synchronized with the Northern Grid successfully on 1 February 2019.

During summer the power station can run at its full capacity throughout the day. However, due to favourable climatic conditions, the demand for power in summers is less and hence generation is done as per the demand and excess water is spilled from the dam. During winter, due to very low river discharge, the power station runs as per water availability. However, the demand of power exceeds the generation in winter.

Nimoo Bazgo Power Station, Alchi faces the same technical challenges that are being faced by all the Hydroelectric Power Station in the country. Run of the River Hydroelectric Power Station are generally more or less seasonal in nature. The availability of water varies throughout the year. Shortage of water specifically during winter limits generating capacity of the power station.

The requirement of power varies between 4 to 16 MW in the summer while it shoots up to 10 to 27 MW in the winter. With the availability of the Grid now instead of spilling the excess water, the same shall be utilized for producing electricity.

The Nimoo Bazgo Power Station will supply the electricity to the Grid which will be further distributed to various locations. However, any shortage of power can be met by drawing power through Grid. The fact is that whenever the load abnormally increases or decreases on a particular feeder, the whole system gets destabilized and tripped. The 24X7 availability will depend upon the power demand pattern of the region and grid stability.

Power Station will be able to fully utilize the discharge of river Indus for generation of power. Nimoo Bazgo Power Station was

...Continues on Page 6

FORTNIGHT HIGHLIGHTS



'Storma' ritual effigy was prepared by the monks of Korzok monastery while 'Dhos' thread crosses to trap evil spirits was prepared by the monks of Takthog monastery.



PM Modi addressing the audience during his visit to Leh



Kargil protests against the setting up of Divisional headquarters in Leh.



Training cum demonstration held on the use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in Leh.



World radio day was celebrated on the theme 'Dialogue, Tolerance, and Peace' on February 13.

SoulSpeak

P. P. Wangchuk

A smiling face can be a wonderful 'weapon' of peace and happiness



The other day, at a preaching session, the guru asked his audience: What is the most charming and beautiful 5-lettered word? The answer was swift and unanimous: Money! A kind of shock appearance marked the guru's face. He was in the midst of saying that money was the most 'dangerous' thing when a young lady shouted: 'Smile'. There was an immediate change of expression on the guru's face, and he expressed his joy with an "oceanic smile."

Yes, 'smile' is the 'greatest weapon' that can work wonders and can unarm even the most hardened criminal. It costs nothing but its gains come in multiple dimensions. A hearty smile is capable of making everybody smile back and create an atmosphere of goodwill and positivity. It can befriend, ease anger and sorrow to bring an agitated mind to tranquillity. As British naturalist John Ray had said, "Beauty is power, a smile is its sword." Therefore, one can say that we can never do what a simple smile can do. If we learn to smile, we learn to spread a kind of positive energy that keeps everybody around us in a positive and happy mood.

And, one can very well see the difference in one's life if one begins one's day with a smile every day. Japanese activist Yoko Ono describes smile as a mirror that reflects only smile. Indeed, very pertinent, and we must never forget such advices. Since it costs us nothing to smile, we will be always in a gain-gain situation. And life would be much better not only for ourselves but for all around us.

So, learn to smile and have a great life.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

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

In Conversation with Mohammad Ali, Polo player

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. How playing polo inspired you?

Horse polo was a very famous game during my childhood days. I have seen the love for the game and enthusiasm of the old people at that time to ride on the horses and play. All this naturally inclined me towards the game. I started playing at the age of 17 years (now 63 years) and almost played polo for the last 40 years.

I played it as fun in my initial age when my father bought a horse for me. I started working in the Animal & Sheep Husbandry department and played for the team of the department. I was retired in 2012, and today we have formed our own team known Indus Polo club Chuchot.

Q. Polo is known as a sport for royals. Can you tell us about the history of sport in Ladakh?

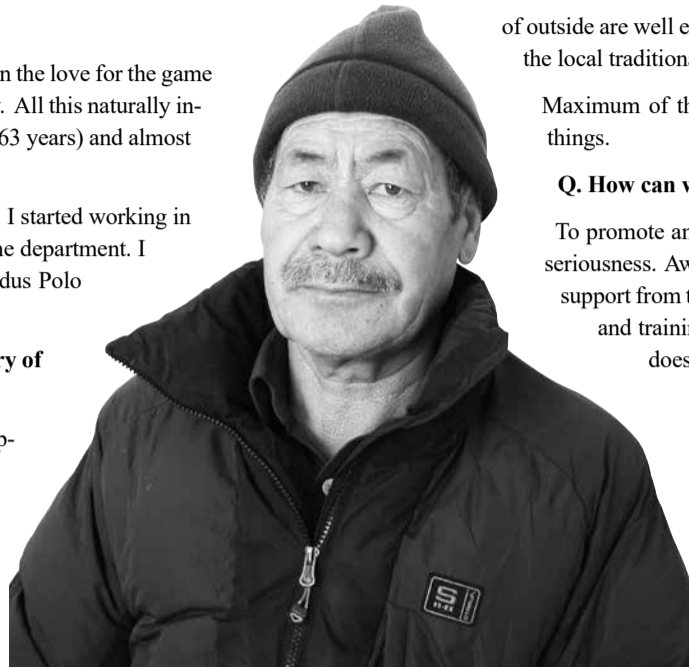
The royal game, 'Polo' was there from centuries ago, and has been a popular sport in Gilgit, Hunza, Skardo, Ladakh, and Manipur. According to the legend, the game was introduced in Ladakh during King Jamyang Namgyal reign from Baltistan who married Gyal Khatun, the Balti princess. Since then, the sport has become part of our culture and a main source of amusement for the people.

Q. What is the status of the polo in Ladakh?

Polo the traditional sport of Ladakh was loved by the masses and one among the main source of entertainment. It was so addicted among the players that during the leisure hours they will be found playing the game. Apart from nobility, the game was very popular in almost all the villages of Ladakh, particularly in Chuchot. The pologround called as 'Shagaran' of Chuchot is still there and the sport is played occasionally. That was a time when playing the game doesn't need planning and a special day.

But time has changed now, there are limited local teams. Only the teams of army, department and local team participate in the tournament. Also, horses are not raised like before and people find it difficult to raise the horses as the game is not being pursued professionally. The game is mainly highlighted during the 'Ladakh Festival' and 'Ladakh Polo Festival' which is also a great step to keep it alive.

Q. Did you participate in a tournament outside Ladakh? What are the challenges faced?



of outside are well equipped with modern facilities and play with stricter rules as compared to the local traditional game.

Maximum of the players at our time was not well educated so was unaware of many things.

Q. How can we promote and develop the game in Ladakh?

To promote and develop polo in Ladakh, we definitely need more professionalism and seriousness. Awareness about the importance of the polo sport is must along with the support from the Hill Council for extensive development. A provision to raise the horses and training is needed to make the youths more interested in pursuing the game. It does cost a lot to buy a horse and polo ponies are quite expensive.

More publicity is needed to make the people come to watch the game and we need more tournaments and competition. Coach and basic infrastructure also needed to make the youth interested in the game and pursue it professionally.

Q. What is the difference between polo that is played in Ladakh and other parts of the country?

The game is incomplete without the beats and sound of Daman and Surma in Ladakh. When we went outside the region and interacted with the players we found that the game is played with strict rules and professionalism. In Ladakh, the game is played very furiously on the barren land. Six players play in each team, whereas at international level 4 players play on each side.

Q. How difficult or easy is it for youths to pursue the sport professionally?

If one is interested and love the game, pursuing it is not at all difficult because the challenges will be overcome easily. But yes, the game does have many risks to the player and horses. The game is all about strategy, horsemanship, skill, and nerve. When you are riding on the horse with a stick to hit the ball and score goal you need to have good control. Though it's difficult, but it's not impossible if one has a passion to play and score.

If there are more polo clubs and training facility the game can be encouraged a lot among the youths.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Polo is a traditional game and it is our responsibility to preserve and promote it. The game needs support at all levels to develop it so that interested youths can pursue it professionally.”

Apart from the local tournament we also participated in Jaipur and Srinagar. In Jaipur, there were some issues regarding the horse's vaccination because of which we were sidelined. The maintenance, proper care of the horses with vaccines was unknown at that time. We also played an exhibition match with the Manipur team and won as well. The players

IN FOCUS

Ladakh gets Divisional status with administrative and revenue wings

Nawang Tsering Shakspo



For the people of Ladakh, February 8, 2019, will go down in history as a great day. On this day, the J&K government, under the President's rule, declared Ladakh as a separate Division in the State.

To give a brief background, the Dogra force of Maharaja Gulab Singh led by General Zorawar Sing subjugated Ladakh in the year 1835. From the administrative point of view, the rulers of Maharaja transformed Kargil, Leh and Skardo into a single entity and was called Ladakh Wazarat. During the Dogra period, Leh was the summer capital and Skardo the winter capital.

With the independence of the country on August 15, 1947, a new era was ushered in. Kargil and Leh combined were made a district with Leh as district headquarters, while Skardo Tehsil of Ladakh was annexed into Pakistan, and is currently a part of the northern area of Pakistan. And in the year 1979, Ladakh district was bifurcated into two districts, Kargil and Leh.

Now, it is heartening for Ladakhis that the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir has granted Divisional status to Ladakh inspite of stiff opposition from the political circle of Kashmir as well as some of our own leaders.

I had raised the at a conference of International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS), held at Heidelberg University, Germany, in 2013. Later, I raised the issue in the Kushok Bakula Centenary Issue of Ladakh Review in 2017.

Interestingly, the Greater Kashmir newspaper dated July 5, 2012, published my note on the Divisional status for Ladakh, and it was based on the report of the Central Government-appointed interlocutors:

“The report of the Central Government-appointed interlocutors on Jammu and Kashmir is now available for public debate. Among the proposals, and which I find significant for Ladakh in particular, is the one that states that Ladakh would no longer be part of Kashmir division, as was the case presently”.

I would add to this proposal the recommendation for change of the nomenclature of the State so that it would henceforth be called Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Additionally, I would further propose that Leh, Ladakh, be considered the autumn capital of the State, so as to give parity with Jammu and Srinagar.

In doing this, each of the State's three regions would get a fair treatment from the State government in every sphere of political and developmental activities.

As proposed in the interlocutors' report, Ladakh deserves Divisional status. The absence of this is one of the root causes of its backwardness. Because of the long struggle of the people of Ladakh, the government had created two autonomous Hill Development Councils for the two districts of the Ladakh region, but it seemed that the two Councils were not good enough to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people. This is because the State government's allocation of funds to the two district development Councils did not adequately reflect Ladakh's size and its geographical and strategic importance. Due to the scant job opportunities in the field of educa-

tion in the region, the educated are now forced to seek government jobs. Here, I would like to draw your attention to the pessimistic state of educated Ladakhis. Recently, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh) conducted a written test for 40 posts for schoolteachers in Leh district. For that, around 2,500 aspirants turned out, with graduate or post-graduate degrees, and the majority of them were womenfolk.

As said earlier, funding constraints due to the region's administrative woes have significantly con-



tributed to this problem. The Divisional Commissioner resides in Kashmir and in Kargil and Leh, only their deputies are stationed but they cannot surpass the power of the Divisional Commissioner unless they are permitted to do so. An example of the negative effects of this situation occurred soon after the cloudburst, which shook the region in 2010. The two respective Deputy Commissioners of the region had to 'wait and see' till they heard from Kashmir regarding the release of ex-gratia funding to the affected people. Similarly, all the developmental projects or creation of posts are determined by the State Cabinet or the government at

the Divisional level, and hence the Ladakh region was neglected. Because of this, the two districts of Ladakh are lagging far behind in developmental activities. Even after 70 years of independence, for instance, the people of Leh and Kargil still have to be contended with only 5 hours of irregular electricity. And this is not even to speak about the far-flung villages of the region and their problems. Not only that, life in Ladakh is made more challenging by the six-month winter during which time the residents of Ladakh carry on their lives in severe cold, when the mercury drops to minus 40 degrees, without the benefit of all-weather road connections to the State capital, or anywhere else. During that time, the staple food of the residents remain only 'sattu', roasted barley, potato, and, if lucky, some cabbages or radishes.

Ladakh's political position is no less tenuous than its administrative one. Prior to the fourth general election in the country, Ladakh had no representation in the Lok Sabha (as the region was treated as a part of the Gandarbal constituency as in the 60s when the rulers of the state treated Ladakhis as polyandrous, superstitious and ignorant people). A landmark era began in the political history of Ladakh with the delimitation of the State's assembly seats and the unopposed nomination of Kushok Bakula in the Lok Sabha in the year 1967 and subsequently his representation of Ladakh in Parliament for two consecutive terms. Under his good stewardship, Ladakh made some good political and developmental progress, but its woes remained largely unattended to because it had little say in the overall structure of the State. In the over 80 Assembly seats in the state legislature, today Ladakh has only four seats, and out of those, two are from the ruling party and only the remaining two are able to raise questions in the Assembly in any capacity as opposition or critical party.

Nawang Tsering Shakspo is Director, Centre for Research on Ladakh.

40-day SAVE winter camp concludes



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: With over 150 student's participation in the 40-day long multidiscipline course, Student Association for Village Education -SAVE winter camp concluded on February 5.

'SAVE Winter Meet' is a confluence of youth, culture, and sustainability, started with the aspiration of bringing people of Changthang together, to rethink the concept of regional development in the field of Youth and their Responsibilities, Culture and Environment.

Over 22 group and individual faculties imparted different course including Ice Hockey, art, academic subjects and culture

workshop.

Lt. Col. Y. S. Ranavat was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Tashi Gyalson, President, SAVE expressed his joy and gratitude for being able to bring the camp to a successful ending. He applauded the team who have been working ever since the inception of the proposal of the Winter Camp.

Smanla Dorjey Nurboo, Planner from School of Planning and Architecture and Filmmaker stressed about how parents should be mindful in their ways to groom their kids for the changing world.

A panel discussion themed,

'Youth, Culture and Sustainability' was also held. Stakeholders of education, representative from parents, village head and student leaders discussed the essentials issues from various perspectives.

Students performed on traditional music and folk songs which they learned during the culture workshop and also shared their experiences.

Rinchen Dolma and Skalzang Putith from Ladakhi Women's Ice Hockey Foundation - LWIHF, Skarma Dorjey, Sarpanch Tsaga, Padma Namdol, Nambardar, Nyoma, Team Kangsing (Tashi Namgyal, Tsering Gyurmet and Chemet Dorjey), parents were present on the occasion.

Alternative skilled-based winter camp for students in Kanji concludes



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KANJI: With the participation of around 93 students, a month-long alternative skilled based winter camp was concluded on February 5 in Kanji village.

The winter camp was organised by Youth Association of Kanji - YAK. The camp was facilitated by 20 college graduates from different fields with assistance from village skilled individuals.

The camp was focused on in-

troducing new skills among the kids including Ice Hockey, archery, folk songs and dances, traditional knitting of Pashmina and wool, storytelling, English speaking, computer It, movie making, yoktho & spuruk spinning, science builds and others.

Rigzin Spalgon, President, Youth Association Kanji said, "The main aim of the Alternative skill based winter camp is to enhance a sense of fun learning, inheriting the traditional values

and making the winter vacation valuable for the kids. Also, it helps in reducing stress among the kids from the heavy burden of bookish knowledge."

This is the 2nd edition of such camp in the village. YAK was inspired to host it with great support and response from the kids and villagers from the outcome of the 1st version in 2017/18.

Best performers of the camp, supporters and donors were apprised and felicitated.

PDP, Leh meets Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Extending warm welcome to the first divisional Commissioner of Ladakh, Tashi Gyalson, President, PDP, Leh and Mohd. Nasir, Nominated Councillor met Saugat Biswas on February 13 at DC Office, Leh.

Tashi Gyalson requested Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner to make an arrangement of examination centre of JK Bank exam to be held in next week. He said it is ironical that right after creating a new division for Ladakh the JK bank has shifted its centre outside Ladakh and forcing prospective candidates to travel outside states.

He further added that some centers are even outside state and is very difficult to travel and arrange accommodation, especially for female candidates.

The party also demanded for a High Court Circuit Bench in Ladakh as many poor litigator avoids

travelling to Jammu and Kashmir for Higher Courts of Law to seek justice because of high expenses incurred on travel and other things.

Division Status for Ladakh was created with an aim to deliver justice and equality and in the absence of High Court Circuit Bench in Ladakh the true essence of equality will not get fulfill, they added.

To check on malpractices in the newly created division, PDP, Leh demanded anti corruption cell. Also, requested Divisional Commissioner, Leh to approach SAC for Nubra Development Authority. The previous governments under the leadership of then Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti sanctioned Nubra Development Authority which after the governor rule have been scraped as per the sources.

Discussion on the recent resentment shown by the people of Kargil district with the headquarters of division in Leh was

also carried out. He said that the governor has appointed a high level committee to oversee the location and place to set up Divisional Commissioner office.

Giving a suggestion in case of any amendment, PDP, Leh said that the Divisional Commissioner office should remain in Leh while the IG office may setup in Kargil. All directorates to be shared equally with their subordinate's office at place where director office does not exist or to setup entire divisional office at Khatse which is centre point for both Leh and Kargil.

He rejects the idea of rotational system because this will overburden the public exchequer.

PDP, Leh expressed hopefulness from the Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh for carrying forward equitable development of the region due to his familiarity with the district.

Expert Talk: Power supply

...Continued from page 4

envisaged to reduce the dependency of the region on DG Sets and provide power supply to some extent till operationalization of the Grid. The Power Supply scenario has improved dramatically with NHPC commencing its operations in Leh.

Earlier power was available only for a few hours during the evening and was fed through Diesel Generators, which not only provided expensive power but also polluted the environment. It is also necessary to understand that Hydro Power Station is designed according to the availability of river discharge. As long as the availability of water is concerned, the primary source of water in the Indus River is glaciers.

During winter when the temperature drops, water in the river reduces drastically which is beyond anybody's control. An effort was made to make the lives of the population of Leh lot easier and comfortable.

However, there are many reasons that are beyond the control of anybody which sometimes hampers electricity supply.

Solution

- With the availability of the Grid now instead of spilling the excess water, the same shall be utilized for producing electricity.
- The departments working to generate electricity must do the work collectively and uniformly to overcome electricity problems.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tsering Lhamo W/o Late Stanzin Paljor service No 9924713N rank RFN and R/O Staksha Nubra Leh, Ladakh has claimed that her son's name has been wrongly entered as Stanzen Tundup instead of Stanzin Tundup and her daughter's name is also wrongly recorded as Chemet Lhandol instead of Chemat Ladol and also her date of birth is wrongly recorded as 23-03-2007 instead of 23-3-2008 in the service record of her deceased husband. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Zila Sainik Welfare Office Leh Ladakh within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Training held on 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act' in Sakti

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SAKTI: Scientists of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra SKUAST-K Leh imparted farmers about the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act- PPV&FRA (2001) during the one-day training cum awareness programme on February 5.

Around 165 farmers participated in the training cum awareness programme and Gyal P Wangyal, Dy. Chairman was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Dr. Dorjay Namgyal, Prof & Head informed the farmers about PPV&FRA and spoke on the mandate and activities of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra. He asked the farmers to visit various demonstration units especially protected cultivation at KVK Stakna.

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act objective is to establish an effective system for the protection of plant varieties,



the right of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants. To recognize and protect the right of farmers in respect of their contribution made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties. To accelerate agricultural development in the country, protect plant breeders' right to stimulate investment for research development of new plant varieties. To facilitate the growth of the seed

industry in the country, ensuring the availability of high-quality seeds and planting material to the farmers.

Gyal P Wangyal thanked KVK for conducting the awareness camps and urged farmers to follow the guidance of scientists for acquiring better quality and yield in agriculture.

The farmers were provided with a handy folder containing details of PPV&FRA (2001) and also fruitful interaction with the scientists.

Fruits and vegetables market coming up in Agling



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

AGLING: For the earliest functional of fruits and vegetables market (Mandi) in Agling, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC along with Phuntsog Stanzin EC Agriculture inspected the work carried out on February 10.

The main purpose of the Mandi is to give modern market facil-

ities for farmers of Leh where they can sell their products including fresh fruit, vegetables, dry fruits, flowers and all kinds of cereals.

Tsewang Punchok, Chief Horticulture Officer Leh and Angchuk, AEE Construction Division Leh informed Jamyang Tsering Namgyal about the infrastructure facilities created at the site.

The office cum residential building at a cost of ₹87 lakh and Auction Platform at a cost of ₹32 lakh was completed under Govt of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Marketing by PWD Construction Division last year. Land development, weighbridge and other facilities are yet to be added in the Mandi.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal directed the concerned department to make the fruits and vegetable market functional at the earliest so that farmers could be benefited.

Informing about the post of Deputy Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing for Leh district need to make the Mandi functional, he said that the Council is trying hard for post creation at the earliest.



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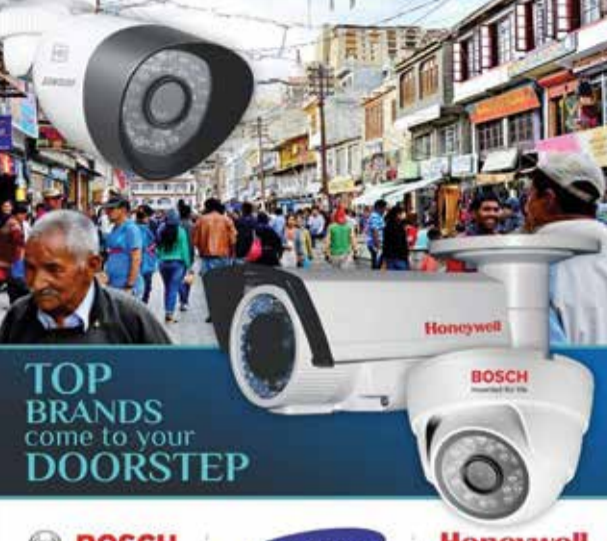
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