

Fortnightly Special

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

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Brief News

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REACH LADAKD

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Defence Minister lights 'Victory Flame' to mark 20 years of Kargil Vijay Diwas



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Marking the 20th anniversary of the Operation Vijay, Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister lit the Victory flame on July 14 at National War Memorial.

The Victory Flame will pass through nine major towns/ cities of North India and finally culminate at the Karambhoomi of the martyrs at the Kargil War Memorial, Drass on July 26. Carried out by the Indian Army's outstanding sportsmen and war heroes, the flame will be received by the Chief of the Army Staff.

The victory flame symbolizes the coalescence of the souls of the Kargil war martyrs and all along the journey and homage will be paid to the heroes who fought valiantly for the Nation.

Rajnath Singh along with Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, Subedar Sanjay Kumar, Param Vir Chakra handed over Victory flame to ace army shooter Subedar Jitu Rai who represented India, as the first torch bearer.

The design of the Victory Torch has been inspired by the grit, guts and glory displayed by the immortals who made supreme sacrifice for the motherland in the finest tradition of the Indian Army. The torch is made of copper, brass and wood

.Continues on Page 2



Yarchos Chenmo begins with religious fervour

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: The nine-day lDumra Khadot Yulsum Yarchos Chenmo begins with religious fervour on July 15.

Ven. Geshe Thupstan Rabgyas (Spiritual guidance of His Eminence Ling Rinpoche) who was the chief guest on the occasion hoped that Khadot Yarchos Chenmo would play a big role in highlighting the message of compassion, tolerance, peace and harmony taught by the Buddha. Besides, it will further strengthen the communal harmony among all the co-existing community. He made a special mention about the generous contribution of the Muslim community of Nubra in organizing Khadot Yarchos Chenmo and termed it as a rare example of communal harmony.

Ven. Shadup Chamba, guest of honour said that the message of Yarchos Chen-

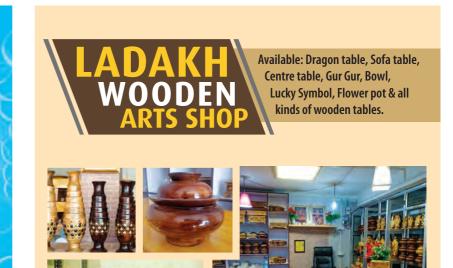
mo would help to promote good traditional practices and discourage ill practices like caste system and alcoholism.

In commemoration with Khadot Yarchos Chenmo, the Cultural Academy Leh has organized a 5-day cultural training to the people of this area and to mark the occasion, a cultural programme was presented by the trainees. Cultural programme was also showcased by cultural troupes of Pinchimik and Khalsar.

People in huge number people attended the opening ceremony of Khadot Yulsum Yarchos Chenmo.

President LBA Nubra and President Nubra Muslim Association, Councilor Panamik Tsering Samdup, Councilor Deskit Tsering Wangchuk, Gobas and Panchayat members of entire Nubra region were also present.





All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone numbers.

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Fortnightly News

Meeting on water issues and management held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting was held on water issues and management in Leh on July 4, in which Pramod Jain, Chairperson, State Water Resources Regulatory Authority (SWRRA) asked full-fledged database comprehensive report on the state of affairs in PHE and Irrigation & Flood Control Division of Leh by July 10 and a water audit report by July 20.

Pramod Jain enquired in detail about the water-related issues in the district and the status of the meter system on water usage.

He stressed on charging fees for water usage by implementing a metering system at the earliest possible in Leh. The engineers were asked to ensure availability, quality, reliability, and functionality of the metering hardware considering its feasibility relevant to the district. Also, he directed to regularize the illegal connections and to give new connections only on the installation of the meter.

He also asked about the total requirement, availability, usability, and wastage of water, irrigation potential and amount of water used for irrigation, total canals created, safety of water reservoirs in terms of hygiene, laboratory test of drinking water supply, assured and non-assured water supply and total villages covered.

He said that community participation has made obligatory and urged the officers to consider people's view in checking water stress at ground level.

The officers were asked to ensure uninterrupted water supply in the winter season and to have department vision based on a modern, purposive, futuristic and professional approach.

He asked to prepare a data-based report on groundwater availability, glaciers, lakes, springs, hydraulic water and to conduct a water body census. The Superintendent Engineer, PWD was asked to appoint a public grievance redressal forum and ensure timely response to people's problems through a call center and to submit monthly detail report to his office.

He said that failing in compliance with these instructions, punitive action shall be taken against concern officer through a penal monetary punishment.

Avny Lavasa highlighted the water problem at the implementation level and informed about the difficulty in proper water supply during winter months due to extreme cold temperature. She requested for some cost-effective technical support from SWRRA in addressing the issue.

She informed that from July 9 water fees will be collected from consumers on a flat rate till the metering system doesn't get installed.

Gyal P Wangyal elected as new Chairman/CEC of LAHDC, Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Chairman, Hill Council, Leh Gyal P. Wangyal was elected uncontested as the 4th Chief Executive Councilor/ Chairman LAHDC, Leh in the General Council Assembly held at Council Secretariat on 2 July.

Avny Lavasa, DC/CEO, LAH-DC, Leh convened the proceedings of the election of new CEC, Hill Council, Leh.

Stanzin Phuntsog, Councilor Skurbuchan proposed the name of Gyal P Wangyal for the vacant post of Chairman /CEC LAH-DC, Leh and seconded by Ven. Lobzang Nyantak, Councilor Upper Leh which was supported by all the councillors of BJP. Not having a proposal for the second name to contest the election, DC declared Gyal P. Wangyal elected unanimously and uncontested to fill the vacant post of CEC/ Chairman LAHDC, Leh.

After taking the seat of CEC, Gyal P Wangyal in his address to the house expressed his gratitude to BJP senior leader Thupstan Chhewang for the guidance provided to him in shaping his political career.

Gyal stressed on ensuring a cordial work atmosphere with a common goal towards achieving development targets well on time. He urged all the councillors of both ruling and opposition parties to work in a united manner with the intention to serve the people of their region. He asserted that Deputy Commissioner is like the bridge between Hill Council and Administration and urged DC, Leh to ensure better coordination, support and cordial relationship between the Councillors and District Officers in the coming days too for the smooth functioning of developmental works in the district. He urged upon all to uphold the dignity of Hill Council.

After taking over the chair, CEC visited Chowkhang vihara, Jama Masjid and Imam Bargha and took blessings. Later, he visited the memorial stupa of his father Late Sonam Wangyal (former state minister) at Housing Colony to pay homage to the departed leader.

On this occasion, MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MLC, Leh Chering Dorjey, General Secretary Organization BJP J&K, Ashok Kaul, State Gen. Secretary BJP, Dr. Narendra Singh, and BJP workers headed by District President Dorjey Wangchuk were present.

After the election, a two-minute silence was also observed to pay homage to those who died recently in Leh district in the wake of road accidents.

the National War Memorial to

the Kargil War Memorial brings

alive the theme of the 20th an-

niversary of the Kargil Vijay

Diwas - 'Remember, Rejoice and

Renew'.

Week long Ladakh Polo festival held in Chushot



..Continued from Page 1

which symbolises the tenacity and determination of our fallen heroes.

The upper portion of the torch has a metal etching of the Amar Jawan, epitomizing the fallen unknown soldiers. The lower wooden portion of the torch has 20 gold embossed inscriptions of the Amar Jawan exemplifying 20 glorious years of the Kargil Victory.

The Victory Flame and the journey of the eternal flame from

New Executive Councillors appointed for Hill Council, Leh





Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHUSHOT: The week long Ladakh Polo Festival organised by Indus Chushot Polo Club was inaugurated on July 11 at Shagaran Chushot Gongma. The festival will continue till July 17.

Ladakh Polo festival is supported by Hill Council, Leh, J&K Tourism, ALTOA, Cultural Academy Leh, and sponsored by Overland Escape.

Mumtaz Hussain, Executive Councillor who was the chief guest on the occasion appreciated the arrangement made for the festival and asked people to stay motivated and participate in the festival to make it more popular.

Tundup Dorjey, President, Indus Chuchot Polo Club said, "The Ladakh polo festival is being organised for the fourth time and the objective is to revive the age old game Polo which has its historical importance in Ladakh. Along with the revival of polo game, it also aims in promoting tourism in the village.'

On an inaugural day, the match was played between Indus Chushot Polo Club team and Army Red Polo team.

Cultural program and exhibition

stall attracted many people from all walks of life.

The game of Polo became an integral part of our culture since its inception in the 15th century and has developed as one of the most loved local games of the region. Registered in 2013, Indus Chushot Polo Club was established with an aim to revive the age-old tradition and culture. The Polo Club took the responsibility to preserve and promote the polo game.

PHOTO CAPTION: Players in action during Polo Festival in Chushot.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent LEH: Gyal P Wangyal, Chairman/ CEC LAHDC, Leh nominated Phuntsog Stanzin of Skurbuchan constituency, Mumtaz Hussain of Chuchot constituency and Konchok Stanzin of Chushul constituency as new Executive Councilors on July 4 at Council Secretariat.

Gyal P Wangyal said that the portfolios to the newly nominated Executive Councillors shall be allotted within few days.

He informed that the Executive Council of LAHDC, Leh has been dissolved after the resignation of Jamyang Tsering Namgyal from the post of Chairman/ CEC, LAHDC, Leh.

He said that port folios to the newly nominated Executive Councilors shall be allotted within few days.

CEC, Leh calls on Advisor Sharma



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Various issues and demands of Leh district was highlighted by members of Hill Council, Leh headed by Gyal P Wangyal, CEC during a meeting with Advisor to Governor J&K, on July 15. A memorandum highlighting the pressing issues was also submitted.

Gyal P Wangyal demanded the release of pending wages and regularization case of daily rated workers and casual labours of PHE Division and PWD circle, Leh. He also briefed about the need for permanent restoration of flood-damaged infrastructure, restoration and training of 5 nallahs of Leh district, creation of Hydraulic units in Leh, consideration of projects submitted under languishing projects from Leh district as a special case and recommend for approval of most of the projects even schemes below ₹1 crore, timely release

of funds under CRF, clearing of work done liability under cities and towns and sanction of funds for deep bore well hand pumps to be allotted to the councillors to mitigate drinking water problem. Grant of Special Duty Allowance (SDA) of 10% in favour of state government employees serving in Ladakh, commencement of Leh Nubra transmission line works, providing transmission line to left out villages on account of being in Off-Grid (solar power) were also put forward.

KK Sharma assured to look into the matters and put forth by Hill Council, Leh and address them at the earliest possible.

In regard to water issues, he said that the engineers in Ladakh need to look for good winter water supply practices in other countries to address the freezing of drinking water problem in winter months. He suggested trying using insulated water pipes in Leh, a model which is being tried in Kargil.

He enquired about Saubhagya scheme and its implementation in the district. He apprised about the commitment of Governor Administration to provide electricity to every household under this centrally run scheme and urged DC, Leh, to ensure that all the villages covered under this scheme to be electrified. Also, he assured to provide extra funds to cater to the water need of the district considering the harsh climatic condition of the region.

Councillors were urged to monitor works while they are being executed and assured to consider completion of projects on need basis under languishing projects.

He further mentioned about the special attention being given to Ladakh region by Governor's Administration in fulfilling their development aspirations.



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A preparatory meeting for the proposed visiting programme of Union Textile Minister Smirti Irani to Leh on August 2 Gyal P Wangyal, CEC convened a meeting with district officers and stakeholders on July 10.

Gyal P Wangyal said that the main purpose of the meeting is to devise a well-thought programme so that a clear picture of the legitimate need of this region mainly in the field of pashmina, handicrafts and handlooms can be focused. He said that textile minister's tour could be more meaningful if she does a field visit to a pastoral area in Changthang.

He further added that the final touch to the programme by assigning responsibility to different departments shall be given on the confirmation of her tour.

Konchok Stanzin, EC Education and Sheep Husbandry stressed upon taking up important projects such as procurement of ₹ 20 crores Pashmina De-hairing plant, promotional projects of handicrafts and handlooms sectors, funding for skill development of artisan fraternity and value addition of pashmina and wool products.

Dr. Niyas, Sheep Husbandry Officer spoke about various points which are to be taken up with the Minister during her

visit to Leh.

Various suggestions including the creation of a pastoral nomadic village at the reception venue in case her visit to Changthang cancels, installation of stalls by Looms of Ladakh, Handicrafts and Handlooms departments, visit of Pashmina de-hairing plant, interaction with nomads, holding of cultural programmes were put forth.

The other purpose of the meeting was to organise a reception to the expedition team of bikers who are coming to Ladakh via Manali with a promotional campaign on pashmina and propagation of its value.

Meeting held on Road Safety Action Plan in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting to formulate District Road Safety Action Plan as prescribed by the Supreme Court Committee on road and safety was held on July 4 at DC Conference hall.

Avny Lavasa, DC also the Chairperson of District Road Safety Committee Leh chaired the meeting with all the stakeholders.

Talking about the purpose of the meeting, R.K Bhat, Additional Secretary (Technical), Secretariat of State Road Safety Council said that the aim is to assist and coordinate with various stakeholders to formulate district road safety action. Also, the target is to reduce 50% road accident in the year 2019-20.

He highlighted all the mandatory rules and procedures needed to be implemented by concerned departments while preparing DPR for their projects related to roads. Road safety management, safer roads, and mobility, safer vehicles, improvement in enforcement of traffic regulations, education and emergency care must be ensured.

He also urged DC Leh to initiate other activities like the formation of Road Safety Clubs in colleges and schools as per directions of the Supreme Court committee for which incentives will be provided.

Avny Lavasa directed all the concerned agencies to submit their targets as per Supreme Court Committee within ten days. Based on the targets implementation, follow-up and future plans will be initiated.

Leh celebrates 84th birth anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SHEY: Wishing healthy and long life to His Holiness Dalai Lama on his 84th birthday, Ladakh Buddhist Association Leh and Sonamling Tibetan Settlement jointly organised a grand celebration on July 6 at Jivestal.

Speakers recalled unparalleled contributions of His Holiness in promoting universal peace, brotherhood and harmony. His Holiness Dalai Lama's deeds and commitments has been of PT Kunzang, President, Ladakh Buddhist Association hoped that under the auspicious guardianship and blessings of His Holiness, peace and harmony will further prevail in the world

and teachings.

Does anything happen by chance?

P P Wangchuk

good luck." But that is another it has come by. Didn't you work

is: "Nothing can happen without need to look back and see how

Does anything happen anywhere in the world by chance? This is one question I have had to answer quite often. Of course, the most common answer is: Nothing happens by chance! But, at times, because of our firm belief, or being compulsive argumentative, we do say that if not all, at least half of the things that happen do happen because of no reason, which means, by chance.

Here, we can substitute the word 'chance' with 'luck'. I have a saintly and seasoned-by-age octogenarian friend who believes in luck/chance more than in hard work and diligence. That is not to say that he keeps everything for 'chance' to do. He is a sincere, labourious and truthful person. And yet, his favourite line way of saying that God helps them who help themselves.

At times, we come across circumstances and consequences that compel us to rely on luck. We pray, we beg and we do all kinds of unreasonable things, except using rationality and working hard. And yet, let us remind ourselves that it is always better to rely on our potential, hard work and sincerity rather than leaving things to chance or luck occurrences. Because, as American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson had said: "Shallow men believe in luck or in circumstances. Strong men believe in cause and effect."

Whenever you do something good that is appreciated, you hard for it? Was it not a longtime to-be-achieved target? You will see that every small step you have taken consciously or unconsciously has played a crucial role in getting you where you are. That is why American author Shannon L Alder has said, "Life always begins with one step outside of your comfort zone."

Your hard work and sincerity pay off, for sure.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Ladakh School Olympic to start from 17th July



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To take stock of the progress in preparations and arrangements for the conduct of Ladakh School Olympic 2019, Avny Lavasa, DC convened a meeting with district officers on July 3.

DC enquired about the development of arrangement of venues, deployment of officials and manpower for conducting the events.

She also reviewed the arrangement of other es-

sential facilities like food, boarding and lodging, Medicare, drinking water, toilets, transportation and availability of equipment and sports uniforms for the participating students. She directed the concerned engineers to do the preparation well in time at all the selected venues to ensure the conduct of LSO in a well-organised manner.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 2,989 students both boys and girls from Higher Secondary Schools, High Schools and Middle Schools across Leh district will participate in various events such as Volley Ball, Cricket, Archery, Boxing, Table Tennis, Judo and Track and Field.

Besides, river rafting competition would be an added attraction of this year's School Olympic.

Concerned officers, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, Construction, PDD and District Youth Services & Sports officers attended the meeting.

20 YEARS OF KA REMEMBER. RE

Maha Vir Chakra Awardees



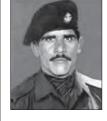
Sepoy Imliakum AO, 2 Naga Maha Vir Chakra

Immediately after 2 Naga had captured Twin Bumps, Sepoy Imliakum AO took part in a raid on an enemy mortar position in the Mushkoh valley on 8 July, 1999. He volunteered to silence the sentries. He approached the enemy sentry on the outer perimeter by stealth and killed him silently. This gallant act made it possible for the assault group to close in with the mortar position with total surprise. Three 120mm and two 81mm mortars were recovered during the raid by 2 Naga along with a large stockpile of ammunition. For his daredevil courage, immense fighting spirit, tenacity of purpose, indomitable determination to succeed in the face of enormous odds and exemplary professionalism, he was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.



Major Vivek Gupta, 2 Rajputana rifles, Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS)

Major Vivek Gupta was in command of the 'C' Company of 2 Rajputana Rifles during the attack on Tololing top in the Drass Sub-Sector on the night of 12-13 June 1999. Despite heavy artillery and withering automatic fire, under his inspiring leadership, the company was able to close in with the enemy. On reaching the position he fearlessly engaged the enemy in fierce hand-to-hand combat and killed three Pakistani soldiers. However, in the ensuing close quarter combat, he was hit by another volley of enemy bullets and made the supreme sacrifice on Tololing Top with victory at his feet. For conspicuous gallantry and inspiring leadership in the face of overwhelming odds, he was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS).



Naik Digendra Kumar, 2 Rajputana Rifles, Maha Vir Chakra

Naik Digendra Kumar of 2 Rajputana Rifles was the commander of the Light Machine Gun detachment during his company's assault on Tololing feature on the night of 12-13 June 1999. When the assault group was nearing its objective, it came under intense fire from a well-concealed enemy position and he was hit by a bullet in his left arm. Undaunted and unmindful of his own injury, he took up position in the open and kept firing with one hand. Finally, under the cover of his effective fire, own troops physically assaulted the enemy position and cleared it after a fierce hand-to-hand fight. Despite being seriously wounded, he placed duty and service before self. For displaying conspicuous gallantry, grit and courage, Naik Digendra Kumar was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.



Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse, 2 Rajputana Rifles, Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS)

On the night of 28 June 1999, Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse was the Ghatak Platoon Commander of 2 Rajputana Rifles during the attack on Area Black Rock in the icy heights of Drass Sub Sector. He volunteered to undertake the mission of attacking a well-sited enemy Machine Gun Position. The brave officer sustained splinter injury in his abdomen during this assault. Despite being injured, unmindful of his personal safety, he charged at the enemy position and personally killed two men with his rifle and another two with his commando knife in hand-tohand combat, before succumbing to his injury. This daredevil act of Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse single-handedly ensured the capture of the objective. For this valiant action, conspicuous gallantry, indomitable resolve and grit beyond the call of duty he was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS).

Lieutenant Balwan Singh, 18 Grenadiers, Maha Vir Chakra

On 3 July 1999, Lieutenant Balwan Singh with his Ghatak Platoon was tasked to assault the Tiger Hill Top from the North Eastern direction as part of a multi-pronged attack. The officer set about his task with single-minded determination. The team led and exhorted by him, moved for over twelve hours along a very difficult and precarious route and under intense artillery shelling to reach the designated spur. In the ensuing firefight, his resolve to finish the enemy remained unshaken. He moved swiftly to encircle the enemy and single-handedly killed four enemy soldiers. The remaining enemy personnel opted to flee rather than face the fury of the fierce officer. He was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his gallant action during this battle.



Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum, 12 Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS)

On the night of 30 June 1999/01 July 1999, in the operations to capture Point 4812 in the Batalik Sector, Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum was tasked to assault the feature from the South Eastern direction. On reaching the top, enemy pinned down his column with heavy fire. On seeing the futility of own fire against the fortified enemy positions, Lieutenant Keishing Clifford Nongrum with utter disregard to his personal safety, charged through the fire zone, closing in with the first position he threw grenades into it and killed six enemy soldiers. His audacious action stunned the enemy giving valuable reaction time to his troops to close in and finally clear the position. Though severely wounded officer refused to be evacuated and fought valiantly till he succumbed to his injuries. This act resulted in the ultimate capture of Point 4812. For this valiant action, he was awarded Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS).



Late Captain Anuj Nayyar, 17 Jat, Maha Vir Chakra, (POSTHUMOUS)

On 06 July 1999, Charlie Company was tasked to capture an objective which was a part of the Pimple Complex on the Western Slopes of Point 4875, in the Mushkoh valley. At the beginning of the attack, the Company Commander got injured and the command of the company devolved on Captain Anuj Nayyar. He continued to command his leading platoon into the attack under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. While clearing the fourth position, an enemy Rocket Propelled Grenade hit the officer killing him on the spot. This action led by him resulted in killing nine enemy soldiers and the destruction of three Medium Machine Gun positions of the enemy. He displayed indomitable resolve, grit and determination and motivated his command by personal example. Acting beyond the call of duty, he made the supreme sacrifice in truest traditions of the Indian Army. For this valiant action, he was awarded Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS).



Major Padmapani Acharya, 2 Rajputana Rifles, Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS)

On 28 June 1999, Major Padmapani Acharya as a Company Commander was assigned the formidable task of capturing an enemy position which was heavily fortified, strongly held and covered with mines and sweeping machine gun and artillery fire. With utter disregard to his personal safety, he took the reserve platoon of his company and led through raining artillery shells. Even as his men were falling to the murderous enemy fire, he continued to encourage his men and charged at the enemy up the steep face with his reserve platoon. Despite being severely injured and unable to move, he ordered his men to leave him and charge at the enemy while he continued to fire at the enemy. The enemy position was finally over-run and the objective was captured. After completion of the mission, the officer succumbed to his injuries. For this valiant action, he was awarded Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS).

Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari, 18 Grenadiers, Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS)



On 30 May 1999, as a part of operations to capture the Tololing feature, Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari of 18 Grenadiers was given the tasks to secure an initial foothold for a battalion by capturing a strongly fortified forward enemy position. He killed two Pakistani soldiers in close quarter combat. Thereafter, the assault party continued to inch its way up during which he suffered grievous bullet injuries. Disregarding his injuries, Adhikari made a superhuman effort and personally led a charge on another bunker and killed one more Pakistani soldier. He succeeded in capturing the second enemy position at Tololing before succumbing to his injuries, which later facilitated the capture of point 4590. He displayed exceptional valour, outstanding leadership and laid down his life in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS).

Param Vir Chakra Awardees





Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, 1/11 Gorkha Rifles, Param Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS)

Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles took part in a series of boldly led attacks during Operation Vijay. On the night of 2/3 July 1999, as the enemy fired from the surrounding heights, the officer was tasked to clear the interfering enemy positions, so as to prevent his battalion from getting day lighted. The officer quickly moved his platoon to an advantageous position under intense enemy fire. He was injured on the shoulder and legs by enemy fire while clearing the position. Without caring for his grievous injury, he led the assault on the fourth position urging his men and destroyed the same with a grenade, even as he got a fatal MMG burst on his forehead. He thus showed most conspicuous bravery, indomitable courage, devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order, in the face of the enemy and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions on the Army. He was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS) for his gallant action during this battle.



Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, 13 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, Param Vir Chakra

Rifleman Sanjay Kumar volunteered to be the leading scout of the attacking column tasked to capture Area Flat Top of Point 4875 in the Mushkoh Valley on 04 July 1999. He displayed indomitable spirit and courage when he charged the enemy bunker with utter disregard to personal safety. In the ensuing hand to hand combat, he killed three of the intruders and was himself seriously injured. Despite being injured, he charged on to the second bunker. Rifleman Sanjay Kumar displayed extraordinary courage and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order in the face of the enemy. For this valiant action, he was awarded Param Vir Chakra.



Captain Vikram Batra, 13 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, Param Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS)

On 20 Jun 1999, Captain Vikram Batra, Commander, Delta Company, was tasked to attack Point 5140 during Operation VIJAY. Leading his men from the front, the officer in daredevil assault pounced on the enemy and killed four intruders in a hand to hand fight. On 07 Jul 1999, in yet another operation in the area of Point 4875, Captain Batra sustained grievous injuries. Leading from the front he rallied his men and pressed on the attack and achieved a near impossible military task. The officer, however, succumbed to his injuries. Inspired by this display of extraordinary junior leadership, the troops fell upon the enemy with vengeance and annihilated them, finally capturing Point 4875. For this valiant action, he was awarded Param Vir Chakra (POSTHUMOUS).



Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav, 18 Grenadiers, Param Vir Chakra

Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav was part of the leading team of the Ghatak platoon of 18 Grenadiers tasked to capture 'Tiger Hill Top' on the night of 03/04 July 1999. He volunteered to lead the assault and fix a rope for the rest of his team to follow. On seeing his team reach the top, the enemy reacted violently and opened up intense fire. The further advance of the Ghatak Platoon was stalled. Realising the gravity of the situation, he crawled up to the enemy position to silence it and sustained multiple bullet injuries in the process. Disregarding his injuries, he continued towards the enemy's bunker and lobbed grenades inside. He killed four Pakistani soldiers in close combat and silenced the automatic fire. For this most conspicuous courage well beyond the call of duty, he was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, the nation's highest gallantry award.

RGIL 1999-2019 JOICE. RENEW



LIEUTENANT GENERAL YOGESH KUMAR JOSHI, AVSM, VrC, SM

SALUTE

OUR

HEROS

Lieutenant General Yogesh Kumar Joshi, AVSM, VrC, SM, the current Corps Commander of Fire and Fury Corps fought in Kargil heights in 1999. The officer commanded 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles and led from the front in the battle of Point 4875 and Point 5140. The exemplary military leadership of the officer proved to be decisive in the battle of Point 4875 and Point 5140.

During the attack on 20 June 1999, he kept staging himself forward with utter disregard to his personal safety. His leading from the front and being well forward in battle acted as a morale booster to the attacking troops. Drawing inspiration from him, the attacking companies surmounted the heavy odds, rugged in-hospitable terrain and enemy fire to close in and capture the objective, important peak of Point 5140. He displayed exemplary leadership, out-

standing command and control and valour beyond the call of duty, leading to the killing of six enemy intruders and recapturing of the strategically important Point 5140. For this valiant action, he was awarded Vir Chakra.



THE BATALIK SAVIOUR

Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, MVC (Retired) a graduate of Shri Venkateswara College, Delhi University, joined the Indian Army on 04 September 1987. He was born in 1964 and hails from Leh. Presently, Col SonamWangchuk, MVC resides in Leh and actively motivates the young generation of the region to serve the motherland. Recollecting, the memories of war, Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, MVC narrates his heroics.

"During OP Vijay I received information of enemy trying to occupy certain important heights along the LOC in Chorbat La sector. It was clear that Pakistan was trying to occupy dominating features along the Line of Control. On 28 May 1999, I received orders to

establish an Observation Post in one of the forward features and also to be prepared to evict the enemy by launching an assault.

The operations commenced on 30 May 1999. My team encountered almost two feet of fresh snow while climbing the feature. At around 0700 hours, I observed the movement of three-four enemy soldiers moving towards the top. My team engaged the enemy at close range, killing two of them, while the remaining fled. We continued our advance towards the top, where I spotted about twelve enemy soldiers. We closed in on the enemy and engaged them with automatic weapons inflicting heavy casualty. My team continued the advance and reached the top by last light. At morning 31 May 1999, I noticed the presence of an enemy platoon on the adjacent feature close to my observation post. We attacked and captured the enemy post killing six enemy soldiers while the remaining abandoned the post and ran away."

Colonel Wangchuk took charge of all forces along the Chorbat La axis in the Batalik sub-sector and cleared the area up to the LOC of all enemy personnel by 02 June 1999, despite being constantly under enemy shelling and unmindful of the risk to his own life. Colonel Sonam Wangchuk displayed exceptional determination, superb leadership qualities and gallantry of the highest order in the face of the enemy in extreme climatic conditions and was awarded the MAHA VIR CHAKRA. Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, MVC (Retired) today is the face of Ladakh and epitomises the Ladakhi spirit.



THE BRAVE YOUNG LADAKHI

It was a day of hard work in fields for Gurmet Dorjai, a twentyyear-old young Ladakhi boy filled with patriotism and a will to do anything for the country. As the war broke out in May 1999, his dream of serving the nation was not very far from getting fulfilled. Recollecting the fond memories with a sense of pride, Gurmet Dorjai narrates his daredevil adventure as if he lives every moment of it every day in his life.



THE TOUGH LADAKHI DUO

Stanzin Namgail & Phunchok Angdu are the best buddies in a small village Nurla, 140 km North-East of Kargil. The inseparable duo is famous for doing everything together and takes on the challenges collectively. In May 1999, when the war started, a great sense of patriotism and nationalism was flowing through the blood of all Ladakhis and the entire village of Nurla was boiling with josh to help the national army in any way possible.

Twenty years hence, the duo is still inseparable. Sitting in the lush green fields of their village, recollecting the incidents, the duo with pride on their faces narrated their story as if everything had happened just yesterday.

"We were the first ones from our village to board an army vehicle and move towards the battlefield of Kargil without having any clue what the future had in store for us. We were dropped at Darsi, where we stayed the night. The next day morning we were given war stores containing ammunition for the rocket launcher, machine gun ammunition box, ration and kerosene oil. Both of us along with several other volunteers started moving towards the forward posts without any guide, just following the footmarks and animal tracks. We started at around 4:00 AM without any breakfast under heavy shelling from the enemy side. After around 14 hours of climb, we were not able to reach the forward post, possibly losing way somewhere in between. At around 7:00 PM, we decided to halt for the night as it became impossible to move in hours of darkness and enemy shelling. The entire group of volunteers did not eat anything as the ration which we were carrying was for the fighting soldiers and must not be consumed by us. Tiredness and fear of death were clearly visible on the faces of many volunteers of the group. We both decided to stay in a small broken dhok (Kacha hut) and asked all others to go back to the base (to come back again next day morning). With no food or blanket, we stayed awake the entire night fighting for our lives with the sole motivation of helping the troops fighting for the nation. We consumed ice as there was no water to drink. There was continuous shelling in close proximity which kept us on our foot the entire night.

With the first ray of sunshine the next day morning, we gained some confidence and started moving ahead. At around 6:30 AM we saw a flag being waved from the forward post guiding us in the right direction. The feeling of providing supplies to the brave soldiers of the Indian Army gave us immense pride and satisfaction, which filled us with more courage to do the same in days to come. We returned back to the base in Darsik sector at around 9:00 PM where we had our first meal in 40 hours. We lifted up our spirits to get ready for another night filled with thrill and opportunity to serve the motherland".

The victory in Kargil is dedicated to such determined and courageous sons of the soil. Kudos to the fearless Ladakhi Spirit.



THE UNSUNG PATRIOT

On a pitch dark night, in the month of June 1999, when the nation was fighting its biggest battles of the twentieth century, Tsering Dorjai, resident of village Tia in Ladakh was busy taking care of his ill mother at his house. When he got a call from his village nambardar seeking volunteers for the assistance of Indian Army in Kargil, Tsering Dorjai without thinking twice, volunteered to proceed towards the war zone. With a nostalgic look on his face, Tsering Dorjai narrates his experiences with pride.

"Myself along with twenty other volunteers were moved to Biama bridge from where rations, ammunition and various other war like stores were being moved forward to the fighting troops. I lifted more than 25 kgs of ration and ammunition on my shoulders till Ganasok. All this was happening in the thick of battle, under heavy shelling from the enemy side. I walked alongwith other volunteers for more than twelve hours, uphill on a steep nala track, and successfully delivered the stores. We also took khambir (local bread of Leh) and sattu (a powdered mixture of seven cereals) for the troops who were fighting for the nation. In addition to delivering the stores at Ganasok we also assisted in the evacuation of war casualties back to the base. We experienced enemy mortar shells falling as close as fifty meters to us. During the war, a sense of patriotism & nationalism was flowing through my entire village. People of my village had a sense of responsibility towards the nation in the times of despair. We wanted to contribute alongside the brave soldiers who were willing to sacrifice their lives for the nation. I gathered the volunteers from every house in our village, who were ready to risk their lives for the nation. During the war, I saw the people of my village going out of their way to support the army. I overcame the pain surging through my body and the indomitable Ladakhi spirit helped me in serving the nation for twenty-three days".

The Kargil Vijay is dedicated to hundreds of such volunteers who assisted the armed forces with utter disregard to their own life. Today, we salute such brave hearts.



THE CONQUEROR OF BATALIK HEIGHTS

Honorary Captain, then Subedar Tsering Stobdan, VrC (Retired) was enrolled in Ladakh Scouts on Jun 1972. Right from his childhood days, he dreamt of serving the motherland by joining the Indian Army. The day finally came to perform the ultimate act of bravery, when the courageous JCO was deployed alongside Maj. Sonam Wangchuk, MVC in the Batalik Sector on 30th May 1999. Subedar Tsering Stobdan was inducted with eight men to fight for the nation on Batalik heights. Reliving the gallant act, the JCO narrated the battle fought to secure the strategic pass of Chorbat La.

"I was ploughing my paddy fields when I heard the news of war with Pakistan. I felt my blood pulsing through my veins. Many volunteers from the village were leaving towards Kargil to assist the Indian army. I sat on an army truck which was proceeding towards

the war zone. I was detailed to accompany a Sikh Major who was being inducted into the battle. The major looked at me & smiled, probably thinking that I was too young. I took this as an opportunity to prove my worth and serve the nation. I was given AK 47 ammunition and grenades to carry towards the forward area. It was an eight-hour hike from the base to the forward post and the major reached the top almost an hour before me. When I reached the top, the major greeted me with surprise that I made it the top and praised me by calling 'TagdaLadakhi'. On my way back I saw soldiers of engineer regiment constructing a bridge. The construction was to shorten the supply route by around six hours. I worked with them for two days and only left after the bridge was completely constructed. On my way back to the base, I was filled with honour and a sense of achievement. I continued assisting the brave soldiers of the Indian army for fifteen days before returning back to my village''.

The triumph in Kargilis dedicated to the bravery and ladakhijosh of such young boys who selflessly served their motherland.

"I was selected for a special mission patrol to report any enemy movement close to Chorbat La. I was tasked by Major Sonam Wangchuk, my Company Commander, to establish an Observation Post on Chorbat La heights. On 25th May 1999, his Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama was visiting Leh & I wanted to seek his blessings before proceeding on this special mission. Major Sonam Wangchuk at once approved my request & after seeking the blessings of Dalai Lama, I proceeded for my mission.

On 27th May 1999, I was given final orders for the mission. On 30th May, I was further inducted as commander of an eight men team into an extremely inhospitable & high altitude terrain to evict armed Pakistani intruders on the Chorbat La heights. While moving towards the enemy position, I observed enemy troops climbing up an ice wall to occupy a dominating feature from where heavy casualties could have been caused to own troops. Without caring for my own life, I rushed to the spot & preempted the enemy. I shot down two enemy personnel who were later identified as regular soldiers of Pakistan Army and I reported the same to Major Sonam Wangchuk".

This valiant act of Subedar Tsering Stobdan ensured that the enemy was prevented from occupying an important dominating mountain feature on the Indian side of the Line of Control. Subedar Tsering Stobdan displayed exceptional courage in the face of the enemy and outstanding devotion to the duty under extremely difficult conditions and was awarded the Vir Chakra.

VC, Ladakh University, holds meeting with CEC, DC Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: To discuss the arrangement of temporary office accommodation and identification of land for the establishment of University campus in Kargil district, a meeting was held on July 2 at Tourist Facilitation Centre.

The meeting was convened by IAS (Retired) C Phuntsog, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Ladakh with Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC and Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC.

It was decided in the meeting that Purig Guest House of Tourism Department located at Kurbathang would be handed over to the Cluster University of Ladakh for the establishment of temporary office on rent basis till the establishment of a permanent office complex.

Discussion on the additional accommodation for starting integrated PG courses, identification of PG courses, establishment of Women's College, introduction of paramedical courses, staff selection for the newly established Cluster University besides other related issues were also discussed.

C Phuntsog proposed that lower Kurbathang plateau would be the most ideal place for setting up of the University campus where 4 acres of land would be needed. He also proposed that the land patch near the Aerosports complex near Kargil Airport as another possible option.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary informed that the decision with regard to the identification of land would be tak-

en only after the visit of the technical team of the Airport Authority of India (AAI). The team will conduct a technical survey for the expansion of Kargil Airport at Kurbathang area.

He further added that patch of land measuring about 400 kanals near Tharumsa Pashkum could also be considered as an option for setting up of the Cluster University infrastructure.

C Phuntsog urged CEC and DC Kargil to start the process of DPR formulation for the construction of additional accommodation at Degree College Campus Kargil for starting of integrated courses which would be funded under RUSA.

The first batch of undergraduate courses in the Cluster University is likely to start by February-March 2020 and the exams of the semester would be conducted in June-July.

While expressing satisfaction over the timely start of the modalities of the Cluster University, Feroz Ahmed said that the LAHDC Kargil is committed to extend support to ensure early functioning of the university.

Discussion for the running of integrated Islamic Studies and Arabic course, Bachelor and Masters of Physical Education), BSc Nursing and Paramedical Courses among other courses in the Cluster University of Ladakh were also carried out.

Also, Assistant Professors, lecturers and other subject experts posted outside the district would be brought on deputation in the Cluster University. Moreover, discussion was also held for exploring possibilities to engage retired Government employees on contract till the regular staff is selected and positioned.

Sonam Chosjor, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Imteeaz Kacho, Registrar, Cluster University of Ladakh, Prof Deskyong Namgyal, Controller of Examinations besides other concerned officers attended the meeting.

City vehicular speed limit calls for regulation: SPCA, Leh

Duhlic Natica

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To discuss issues related to safety and security of animals in the district, Avny Lavasa, DC, Leh who is also the Chairperson of Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Leh, chaired a meeting with the members of SPCA at Animal Husbandry Department premises, Changspa on July 1.

The members urged for the regulation of vehicular speed limit especially in and around Leh city to keep a check on serious injuries and even death of animals. Conduct of awareness programmes to educate people about the importance of animal welfare to be conducted in future was also discussed. Regarding the awareness programme, Chairperson Lavasa directed them to prepare a presentation.

SPCA, working in collaboration with Animal Husbandry Department Leh, updated Chairperson Lavasa in detail about the issues pertaining to staff strength and their salaries.

Duhlic Natica



SPCA works towards the safety and security of animals and other then Animal Husbandry, Superintendent of Police, Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Department and District Panchayat Officer are the executive members of SPCA.

Dr. Mohd Iqbal, Secretary SPCA; Razdan, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Leh; Phuntsog Wangyal, Jt. Secretary SPCA, veterinary doctors, officials and members of AHD and SPCA, were also present during the meeting.

Duhlic Natica

Coaching classes for IAS, KAS examinations begin in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The coaching classes for IAS, KAS and allied examinations through the Centre for Competitive Exam, Guidance and Counselling was formally inaugurated by Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Kargil at auditorium hall Kargil on July 2.

The six months course is being run by the Centre for Competitive Exam, Guidance and Counselling which is an initiative of the District Administration Kargil and SCPC Government Degree College Kargil.

CEC expressed hope that the course will help in providing the right platform and guidance for the young aspirants of competitive exams to pursue well planned and systematic preparation.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil urged them to strive hard to achieve positive goals in life.

He said that there is no dearth of talent in the youngsters of Kargil but the need of the hour is to hone this talent through proper guidance.



The preparatory classes being run during the six months course will include classes on General Studies (Polity, History, Economics, General Science, Environment, Current Affairs and General Knowledge), Civil Services Aptitude Test, Interview Skills, English Comprehension and Essay Writing. Classes will be conducted by competent resource persons and Civil Services exam qualifiers.

Library facility with books, newspapers, periodicals and study material will also be provided besides regular test series and mock interviews will be held during the course. There will be classes on special personality development classes on etiquettes, self-presentation, leadership skills, confidence building, positive thinking, mannerism and management skills also form an integral component of the course.

100% attendance is mandatory for the candidate to continue the coaching classes.

Components of pedagogy like learning by doing, active participation and taking action and activities like expert talks, group activities, presentations, project work, exposure visits, aerobics and meditation have also been incorporated to provide the aspirants all-inclusive teaching and grooming mechanism.

Milk Pasteurization Plant Leh to be made functional by July 15 in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The roadmap was drawn out for making the Milk Pasteurization Plant Leh functional by the 15th of July in a meeting held on July 4.

The meeting was chaired by the Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, Saugat Biswas with the CEO, LAHDC, Leh, Animal Husbandry Department, Cooperative Departments and the Executive members of Ladakh Milk Producer's Cooperative Federation (LMPCF), Leh.

Saugat Biswas appreciated the efforts put forth by the district administration in removing major bottlenecks of funds to make the pasteurization plant functional. The plant was lying defunct since last seven years. He in consultation with all stakeholders finalized the technical and operational measures to be taken for the sustainable functioning of the plant.

He urged the concerned department to device a systematic mechanism for streamlining processing, packaging, branding and marketing the pasteurized milk. Cooperatives and the animal husbandry de

partment will integrate the milk cooperatives of Leh in the supply chain effectively, the Div Com directed.

He further urged Milk Producers Cooperative Federation to make a capital investment in packaging material, its printing and certain recurring operational cost. He asserted that the uninterrupted functioning of this milk plant is in the overall interest of milk producers of Leh district, and subsequently Kargil too.

Engineers of PDD and PHE department were directed to install a 100KV transformer and bore well at the plant site. ACD Leh was directed to complete the compound walling within three weeks.

Avny Lavasa, DC assured training and handholding to the operating staff from the milk cooperatives.

Phuntsog Angchuk, Chairman Ladakh Milk Producer's Cooperative Federation, Leh apprised that the Federation covers 52 villages and produces around 14,000 litres of milk per day during summer months.

He said that the Pasteurization Plant will benefit the milk producers hugely and in the coming days, people in the villages will join the milk cooperatives.

Saugat Biswas also visited milk pasteurization plant and took stock of the existing machinery and the new cooling infrastructure. He directed Dr. Iqbal, Chief Animal Husbandry to propose for creation of technical posts for operating the pasteuriration plant.

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I Stanzin Gurmet S/o Tsering Angchuk R/o Old Road Leh and Proprietor M/s Thin Air Expedition will be applying for changing the name to "Wild Mountains" with the Assistant Director Tourism office Leh. If anybody has any objec- tion in this regard may file their report in writing with- in seven days from the date of publication of this notice.	Gyaltsen R/o TR Settlement Camp No 7. House No.04 Agling, Leh-Ladakh 194101, Jammu & Kashmir, has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Tenzin Nikith instead of actual and correct name which is Tenzin Nyijed in my Identity	I Yangki Dolma W/o Lobsang Gyaltsen R/o TR Settlement Camp No 7. House No.04 Agling, Leh-Ladakh 194101, Jammu & Kashmir, has claimed that her name has been wrongly entered as Yangkyi Dolma in- stead of actual and correct name which is Yangki Dolma and also my date of birth is also wrongly entered as 15-03-1962 instead of actual and correct date of birth which is 05-03-1962 in my Iden- tity Certificate No: IC 059869. Objection, if any may be con- veyed to Regional Passport of- fice New Delhi within 7 days from the date of publication.	Importing for smarter & safer Ladakh. We deal & provide service in: CCTV, Biometrics, Fire Extinguisher, Inter- com, Automatic School Bell. We are also on GeM Office location: Taru Namgyal Com- plex, Petrol pump, Leh. Contact: 9419304234, 9622968086, E-mail: jkcommunicationleh@gmail. com/ www.facebook.com/jksecurity24.

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ladakhtourister@gmail.com
www.theladakhtourister.com