

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Brief News

### DISCLAIMER

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### 2,781 patients screened during weeklong Super Speciality Medical Camp in Leh

LEH: During the weeklong Super Speciality Medical Camp in Leh, a total of 2781 patients were screened. This camp was organised by Ashoka Mission in collaboration with Sonam Norbu Memorial Hospital Leh and Medical Social Service Association.

Headed by Founder Ashoka Mission, Lama Lobzang Kaau, around 25 Super Specialist doctors were in Leh for consultation, treatment and medication.

Full report in the next issue.....



Reach Ladakh's show 'The Reality' Episode #4 will be releasing on November 9 (Saturday) TIMING: 4:00-5:00PM on our YouTube channel Reach Ladakh.

Stay tuned and subscribe to our channel.

### Correction and clarification

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

## REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Accountant-General to audit Hill Council, Leh, account



Sangeeta Purswani, Deputy Accountant General during the meeting with the Hill Council, Leh.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting of Hill Council, Leh with a team of Accountant General J&K was held on October 12 realizing the urgent need of compilation, audit and reconciliation of the funds allocated to Hill Council Accounts since 1995 onwards. The team was headed by Sangeeta Purswani, Deputy Accountant General.

This meeting was to ensure smooth transaction of Hill Council, Leh's account in the financial structure of UT Ladakh from 31st October 2019.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC while welcoming the AG team to Leh stressed to set a timeframe for complete audit and reconciliation of the Council funds.

He asked the concerned officers to work in close coordination to ensure well maintenance of the records of the Council

funds in the shortest possible time so that account and financial related procedure could merge into UT Ladakh smoothly.

DC, Leh and CCF Hill Council, Leh apprised Accountant General J&K team about the steps already taken by the district administration, Leh, to ease the auditing process.

The meeting was attended by Tsering Sandup, Dy. Chairman; Konchok Stanzin, Executive Councillor for Education; Mumtaz Hussain, Executive Councillor for Minority; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner; Padma Lundup, CPO, Leh; Jigmet Namgyal, Chief Controller of Finance Hill Council, Leh; Zulfikar Ali, Account Officer DC Office Leh; DTO, Leh, AD Planning DC Officer Tsewang Gyalton and other concerned officers.

## Ladakh MP JTN receives Suryadatta National Integration Award 2019



Jamyang Tsering Namgyal receiving the award in Pune.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

PUNE: Suryadatta Education Foundation (SEF) has conferred Suryadatta National Integration Award 2019 to Jamyang Tsering Namgyal during his first visit to Pune on October 11 for his significant contribution in nation-building through series of initiatives he has taken inside and outside Ladakh.

Suryadatta Awards are conferred on 7th February every year on the occasion of Suryadatta Foundation Day.

On this occasion, stalwarts from different fields, who have contributed/rendered their selfless services in the respective fields for the growth of the nation/enrichment of the society, are felicitated.

The Suryadatta National Integration Awards are given to towering personal-

ities from all walks of life, whose significant contributions towards the enrichment of their chosen vocation have made a difference to the society, transforming all those lives that they have touched and leaving their footprints on the sands of time.

Dnyaneshwar Mulay, former Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs, Govind Namdev, well-known film actor, Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, Social workers are among the few awardees who have received this award earlier.

Jamyang speech in the Lok Sabha won him praise from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and other lawmakers.

He joined BJP and served as Office Sec-

...Continues on Page 2

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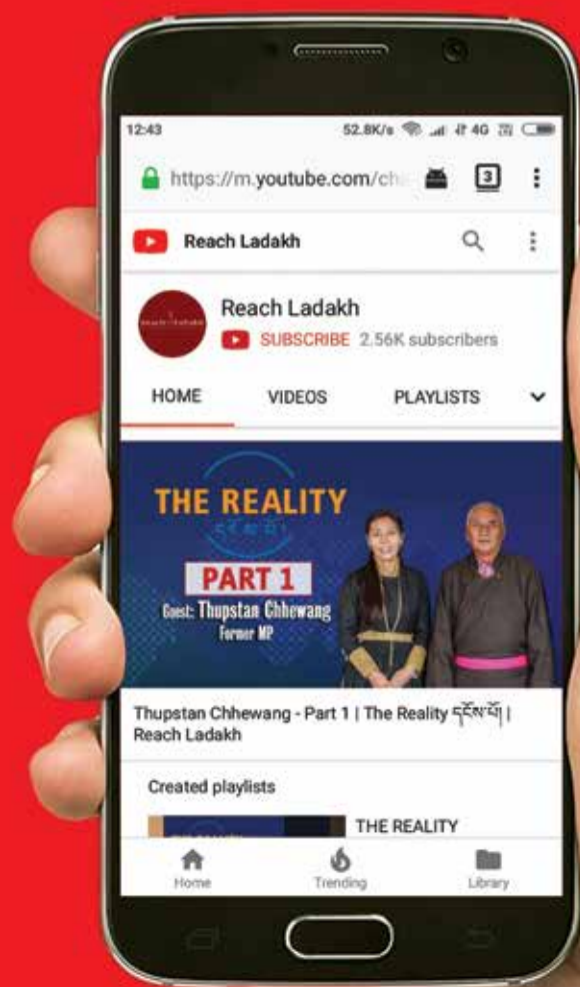


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## Two-month skill development training programme held for jail inmates in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The District Administration, Leh through Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Leh organized a two-month-long skill development training program for the jail inmates on October 12.

The aim was to provide opportunities for the jail inmates and to engage them in fruitful pursuits during the period of their sentence in prison. They were provided with basic training on various trades like painting, domestic house wiring, and LMV repairing.

DC Leh Sachin Kumar on a surprise visit to district jail Leh on Wednesday also took stock of the hygiene and basic facilities being provided to the inmates and also had an interaction with them.

Rigzin Sangdup, Superintendent of Jail briefed the DC about the daily routine and activities of the inmates and also put forth various demands of the inmates and jail administration, like roof treatment of the kitchen, smooth electricity, early procurement of hard-coke for the winter season, provision of RO water filter and others.

During the course of the inspection, DM was delighted to see the outcome of the training, especially the wonderful portraits, paintings, sketches, and electrification work which the inmates have learned during the two-month training course.

He appreciated Abid Hussain, Superintendent ITI department Leh and his trainers for imparting effective training in such a short period of time.

Superintendent Jail and inmates thanked the District Administration for its continued support to the Jail administration and the inmates.

## Entrepreneurs from Bihar present techniques to produce petroleum products from plastic residue

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A working model of a mechanized technique to produce petrol, diesel and LPG using plastic waste was demonstrated by a team of young entrepreneurs from Bihar headed by Kirti Bhushan Bharti, project mentor, Ashutosh Mangalam and Vineet Kumar on October 10 at Solid Waste Segregation Centre in Solar Colony, Choglamsar.



Team showcasing their project which converts plastic waste into useful natural gas.

After learning about the functioning and the possibility of reusing and recycling of plastic waste resulting useful products besides revenue and employment generation, along with its success story of the model in other parts of the country, Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh urged the team for a detailed presentation of their project with its requirement and a project proposal at the earliest to decide on the possibility for further collaboration

and development of the project in Leh.

Explaining the purpose of their visit, Bharti said that the main objective is to create employment and boost local economy and they are proposing to establish a unit in Leh with the help of local government to reduce plastic waste in the region.

He further explained that the group is working on an innovative method to convert plastic

bottle and other plastic waste into ethane and produce several useful petroleum products, fire-proof bricks and tiles from the residual left.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC/CEO, Moses Kunzang, ADDC, Leh; Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman; Mumtaz Hussain, EC Minorities; Konchok Stanzin, EC Education; Tsering Paldan, ACD, RDD, Leh and his office staff were present.

## Meeting held for upcoming Block Development Council elections



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting for the upcoming Block Development Council Elections was convened by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Panchayat Election Officer/ Deputy Commissioner, Leh with all the returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Sector Magistrates, Observer and Contesting Candidates from different block of Leh District on October 12.

He informed that the election notification has been issued on October 1. As per the schedule the process of filing nomination, scrutiny of nomination papers and withdrawal of candidature have already been done for the BDC election which will be held on October 24. The counting of votes has been scheduled for the same day.

Sachin Kumar also informed that out of 16 Blocks, 15 Blocks will contest, as one candidate from Singay Lalok area has already been elected uncontested.

For smooth holding of upcoming BDC elections,

Sachin Kumar directed the concerned authorities to keep co-ordination among them and flying squads and surveillance teams to monitor the misuse of liquor and cash during the elections.

He further informed that the election shall be held with the use of secret ballot box and training for the same will be provided on October 17 and 21.

To ensure free, fair and transparency in the election process, Sachin Kumar said that the general observers shall be deployed to keep a close watch on every activity of the electoral process.

October 24, 2019,	as the date on which a poll, if necessary, shall be taken from 09:00 am to 01:00 pm.
October 24, 2019, 03:00 pm onwards	as the date and time of counting.
November 5, 2019 (Tuesday)	as the date before which the election shall be completed.

## Women Alliance of Ladakh exhibits traditional cuisine, handicrafts



Members of Women Alliance preparing roasted barley during the annual exhibition in Leh

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Along with Union Territory status for Ladakh celebration, Women Alliance of Ladakh organised its annual exhibition of local organic foods and handicrafts on October 8 at Women Alliance office, Chubi.

Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP Ladakh, who was the chief guest talked about the NGO movement in Ladakh and its initiative and various activities are done so far for the betterment and development of the region. He talked about the role of Helena Norberg in leading the NGO movement in Ladakh. Apart from NGO, he also mentioned different associations and society of Ladakh who worked for sustainable development of the region.

Talking about women's participation in politics, he said, "Women are excelling in every

field but in politics, very few are interested to stand and fight the election. They are seen just limited to party membership".

"Today we have qualified, educated and experienced women in our society who needs to be encouraged and hopefully in the coming days we will see them leading", he added.

He encouraged women to take active participation and also suggested a women's political party.

Tsering Samphel, Former MLA also stressed the importance of demanding a 33 percent reservation in policy and decision making.

Jullay Ladakh, NGO sponsored to construct a shop at Women Alliance of Ladakh premises to help in generating income and a platform to support the local economy and sustainable future for Ladakh.

Supporters of the Women Alliance were felicitated and honoured.

Tsering Chorol, President, Women Alliance of Ladakh talked about the annual exhibition and various activities carried out by the women members.

Talking about the initiative of women alliance in banning polythene long time back she further assured every support in the new initiative of getting rid of single-use plastic.

Freshly cooked traditional cuisine, art and crafts were also exhibited. Traditional dance and song also enthralled the audience.

Ven. Shedup Chamba, President, All Ladakh Gonpa Association, P T Kunzang, President, LBA and other dignitaries also spoke on the occasion.

## DC, Leh, convenes meeting to prepare Capex Budget 2020-21



Sachin Kumar DC/CEO convening the meeting with all the Head of Departments

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting with all the Head of Departments regarding the preparation of Capex Budget 2020-21 and revised estimates 2019-20 was convened by Sachin Kumar DC/CEO, Leh on October 10 at DC Conference Hall.

DC directed all the officers to finalise the proposed budget preparation and submit it to his office with

relevant justifications to present in the coming budget discussion.

He instructed the officers to explore all the avenues for capital expenditure and innovation besides regular expenditure in the formulation of the proposed budget for 2020-21 including all the data. He urged them to learn effective ways to work with proper planning.

## Ladakh MP JTN receives Suryadatta National Integration Award 2019

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retary for BJP Leh unit, then Private Secretary to the Member of Parliament from Ladakh Thupstan Chhewang in 16th Lok Sabha.

He contested election to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh in 2015 from Martselang Constituency and won by a record margin.

Later, he was elected as the Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor to the Hill Council, Leh. In 2019, Namgyal contested the 16th Lok Sabha elections from the largest Ladakh constituency, comprising Leh and Kargil districts.

The Suryadatta Education Foundation (SEF) is a charitable trust registered with the Registrar of Societies, Government of Maharashtra. The Suryadatta Group of Institutes was established in the year 1999, with the blessing of Late Ratanbai & Bansilalji Chordiya in Pune - The Oxford of East. Over the years, Suryadatta family has blossomed into a bouquet of academic institutions in varied disciplines such as School, Management, Travel & Tourism, Hotel Management, Media & Mass Communication, Interior Designing, Fashion & Jewellery Design, Event Management, Multimedia Graphics & Animation, Creative Arts, Aviation, Health & Fitness, Self Defence, Beauty & Wellness, Vocational and Advanced Studies etc.

## Col. Rinchen's Sumur house converted into a 'Heritage Abode'

*His heroic history and belongings put up on show*



**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

SUMOOR: The old house of Late Col Chewang Rinchen, Maha Vir Chakra and Bar, Sena Medal converted into a heritage site named 'Heritage Abode'. The site was inaugurated by Lt Gen

YK Joshi, GOC, Fire and Fury Corps on October 5 at Sumoor.

The house exhibits not only the heroic history of Col Rinchen but his personal belongings also. It is open for visitors and tourists to familiarize them with the he-

roic history of Col Rinchen.

The project was taken by 'Tejasve Teen' battalion of the Ladakh Scouts Regiment under the aegis of the Fire and Fury Corps.

While interacting with the locals, Lt Gen YK Joshi expressed gratitude to the locals for their support.

Family of Col Rinchen and the local civil population thanked GOC, Fire and Fury Corps for the tremendous efforts by the Indian Army in creating a remarkable landmark in Sumur Village. The place will also be a popular tourist destination on the map of Ladakh.

Senior army officers, civil dignitaries, family members and relatives of Col Rinchen were present during the occasion.

## Day-care centre set up for the elderly in Leh

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

LEH: A day-care and recreation centre for senior citizens has come up in Leh which was inaugurated by Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, Judge Supreme Court of India on October 7 in presence of Gita Mittal, Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir.

This centre, co-sponsored by Government will be a stop-shop for entertainment, medical services and legal aid for the aged people of the region. Besides, District Legal Service Authority will also provide a raft of medical facilities including geriatric care, health consultations and check-ups, physiotherapy as well as legal service to the senior citizens.

Interestingly, the centre will be equipped with computer learning and a library and the aged citizens can entertain themselves with indoor games and recreational activities.

Justice Nazeer appreciated the initiatives of the State Legal Service Authority who came up with this concept for the senior citizens.

"I feel immense pleasure in dedicating this facility to the senior citizens of this region. Opening a centre is comparatively easier than its sustainability; therefore, the local administration has a big responsibility to run this recreation centre in a meaningful way," said Justice Nazeer.

Greeting the senior citizens of Leh, Justice Mittal talked about the success story of 'Swabhiman Parisar'—a Centre for the welfare of senior citizens in Delhi which was opened on her initiative and said that similar centre was also opened in Srinagar and now in Leh with all those facilities.

"This will be a place of cheer-



Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, Judge Supreme Court of India inaugurating the centre alongwith Gita Mittal, Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir and Justice Tashi Rabstan.

fulness where senior citizens can meet, share their experiences, discuss solutions to the social issues and guiding the society using their experiences and expertise in different fields", she added.

She further said that in this fast changing scenario, such centres are required for the elderly people to get answers to all their questions from a single window. Justice Mittal expressed gratitude to the district administration for their huge contribution in establishing and running the Centre.

Justice Tashi Rabstan highlighting the importance of this first-ever Day Care Recreation Centre for senior citizens of Ladakh said that the Centre will not only provide senior citizens recreational facilities but a platform where they can spend time together, share life experiences, read books, take part in recreational activities and play games. He urged the people to avail the facility and assured that the centre would be strengthened further with more facility. He appreciated the active role of Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner Ladakh in providing the space for this centre and appreci-

ated for prompt action in quickly preparing the building.

Justice Rajesh Bindal, Executive Chairman, J&K State Legal Service Authority said that with the dominance of information technology these days, the elderly people feel a sense of isolation. In such a situation, this centre will provide space and let them sit together so that they don't feel isolated and ignored.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Leh said that the centre would play a role of a game-changer in addressing the special needs of the senior citizens at what is a crucial point in their life. This will provide a socializing environment for them. He assured that district administration would do its best to run the Centre in a well-organized way.

Akram Chaudhary, Member Secretary, J&K SLSA, Dr. Aabha Chaudhary, Resource Person, Ghulam Rasool Lassu and Padmashri awardee Morup Namgyal also spoke on the occasion.

In the end, RS Jasrotia, Chairman, District Legal Service Authority, (Principal District & Session Judge Leh) presented the vote of thanks.

## Two-day Aryan Folk festival concludes in Garkhone

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

GARKHONE: Showcasing ethnic food, local fruit and handicraft products to preserve and promote the rich Aryan culture, two-day-long Aryan Folk festival held on October 9 and 10 at Garkhone, Changrah.

The festival was organised by Tourism Department Kargil in collaboration with the Preservation of Aryan Culture and Traditional Society (PACES). Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil inaugurated the festival.

Traditional music and dance form were presented by the artists of Darchik, Garkone, Sanachay, Hardass, Gargardo and adjoining villages.

Baseer ul Haq Chaudhary congratulated the artist for their outstanding performances. He said that the festival aims to preserve the rich culture of Aryan valley and to improve cultural tourism by showcasing its divergent ethnic features, folk traditions, local food, rituals and heritage sites.

He urged the Aryan people particularly the youngsters to strive hard to cherish and uphold the rich cultural traditions and age-old ethos of communal harmony, unison with nature and peaceful co-existence so that these are passed on to the coming generations in their true essence.

Dr Vinod Kumar, Superintendent of Police Kargil; Col Vinod Joshi, Commanding Officer 16 JAKLI; prominent citizens, officers of civil and police ad-



ministration besides domestic, foreign tourists and researchers were present during the inaugural function.

Deputy Commissioner also met few public delegations from Garkhone, Darchik and adjoining villages. They projected various issues and demands including construction of central sponsored school like JNV, KV in the area, extension of link road of Garkhone village, construction of cultural centre and community hall, up-gradation of Medical Sub Centre (MSC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC), up-gradation of High School to Higher Secondary School, provision of funds for flood restoration works, provision of solar lights facility to Garkhone Gonpa and many more.

Construction of road from Darchik to Mantha and Langtot hamlets under CRF and NABARD, upgradation of schools, construction of playfield and Primary Health Center were

the demands of Darchik delegate. Apart from that, provision of electricity to the area from Chutak and Dah from the Hydel Project, provision of new water supply scheme for Thara hamlet, broadcast of programmes in Dardi language from All India Radio (AIR), Kargil and other related demands were presented.

Baseer ul Haq assured them for their demands to be considered seriously and steps for fulfilment will be taken up in a phased manner. He also asked people cooperation with the administration for effective and efficient execution of various developmental programmes and welfare schemes

The festival was concluded at the Women Empowerment Centre (WEC) of the 16 JAKLI of Indian Army at Darchik. Number of folk music and dance-themed on nationality and patriotism, bravery of the Aryan race, communal harmony, love and care for nature and sentient being were presented.

## Div Com Ladakh directs redesigning of subway architecture in Leh

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

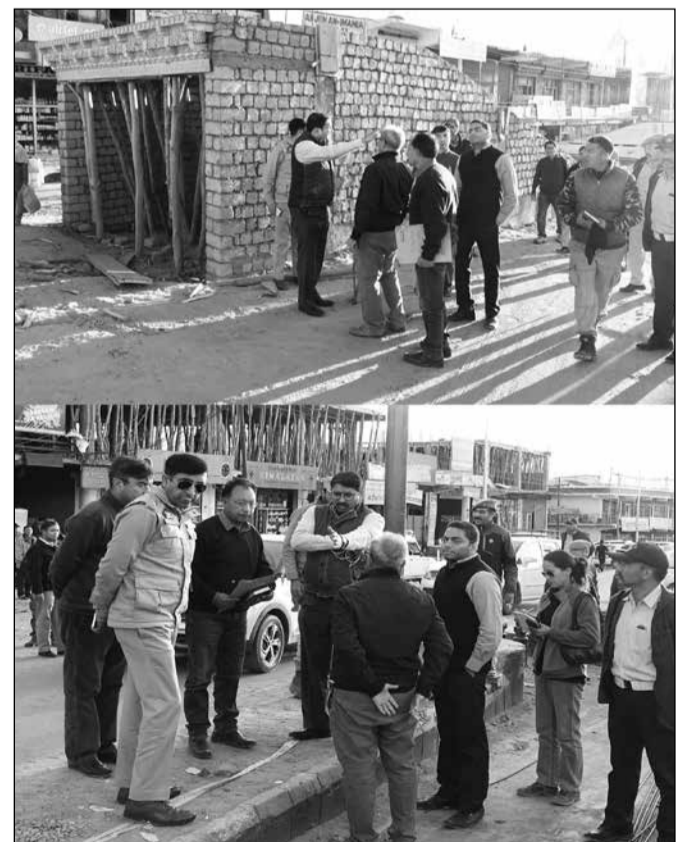
LEH: Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, inspected the ongoing subway construction near SNM Hospital on October 12.

Sachin Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Leh; R.L. Angurana, Chief Engineer PWD Ladakh; Moses Kunzang, ADDC, Suresh Kumar Chib, ASP, Leh; SE PWD; Ex-En R&B, Incharge Traffic Police, Leh and concern engineers were also present at the site during the inspection.

After the scrutiny of the construction, Saugat Biswas expressed serious concern over the design of the subway. The staircase of both sides comprises about 5metres each from the existing width of the road, thereby narrowing the existing road by almost half.

With the concern for the smooth flow of traffic and everyday commuters, Biswas made a serious objection over the construction.

While directing the officers he said, "It is our constant endeavour to widen roads for a smoother flow of traffic and ease of the commuters. At a time when traffic on the roads is increasing constantly and there is a need to have separate cycle tracks, nar-



Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner Ladakh inspecting the ongoing subway construction near SNM Hospital.

rowing down of an existing road cannot be allowed."

Saugat Biswas directed Sachin Kumar and R.L. Angurana to modify the architecture of the subway and road alignment within 24 hours keeping the existing road width intact. He also

directed to restart the work only when the design ensures restoring of the original road width for easy traffic movement.

The subway is being built at a cost of ₹ 1.67crores sanctioned under AMRUT in 2014-15 and the construction started in 2019.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Lobzang Samdup S/o Tsewang Deldan, date of birth 01-01-1994 R/o Gokma Panamik Nubra, Leh Ladakh, do hereby notify that I have lost my passport bearing Number P0510262 and I'm applying for the duplicate passport. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Regional Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication.

## EXPERT TALK

## Single-use plastic

By Tsering Dolker



**Dr. Eshey Namgyal, President, Municipal Committee Leh:** Single-use plastic include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled, such as plastic drinking bottles, food wrappers, plastics grocery bags, straws and stirrers, disposable plates and spoons, which generates more waste quantity than other plastic material.

On 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared ban of single-use plastic and India will be free of single-use plastic by 2022. The dream of single-use plastic-free cannot result instantly but it's a long process which needs government as well as peoples' cooperation.

The municipal committee is the enforcing authority in this regard, we have seized certain plastic materials already and after the public notice furthermore, confiscation and fines will be charged. We are imposing fines on disposing waste anywhere, littering, unlicensed, selling of disposable products by a brand if they don't have a system to recollect the used soft-drinks bottles or mineral water. Mineral water of plastic bottle less than 200ml and other disposable items will be banned. Our plan is to discontinue the import of single-use plastic totally which eventually will erase the single-use plastic in our territory. Also, awareness and advertisement will be spread across the region.

Globally, 900 million tons of plastic are generated every year, out of which 47% of total waste comes from single-use plastic. Earlier, in Ladakh, we don't use plastic much as compared to other states and towns. We used to have a tradition that during any social function or gathering people used to carry their own cups and plates, but the time has changed now. Due to the convenient nature of disposable products people stopped practising the same old eco-friendly tradition rather end up using disposable plates and spoons. Apart from functions and gathering, the usages of disposable plastics are also there at many households. The main purveyor of single-use plastics in Ladakh is the mineral bottles which are widely used by the tourists

during the season. Over 5 lakh mineral water bottles, 1lakh cold drinks and around 1.5 lakhs of oil used for lamp are sold in Ladakh.

**Negative effects:**

It is believed that when a plastic bottle of water exposed to the sun for a few days, it produces dioxin and has a chemical called Bisphenol A when consumed it promotes cancer product called carcinogenesis. Likewise plastic can harm us in every method when we try to disassemble it; for instance, if we burn plastics, it releases dangerous chemical such as hydrochloric acid, Sulfur dioxide, etc and these emissions are known to cause respiratory ailments and are potentially carcinogenic.

Secondly, when the plastics buried underground, it makes the soil less fertile, plastic does not dissolve they break into pieces and it remains up to 1000 years contaminating soil waterways and ocean. We have witnessed many sea creatures dying because of plastic they gulp and which eventually affects those who consume seafood also.

Apart from that, Ozone layer, the natural shield from UVB rays from the sun, is also depleting considering plastic as one of its major cause. Burning of plastic is also the major reason for Global warming.

**Initiatives**

We have installed an environment-friendly 'blackhole' machine at bomb guard that works without fuel or electricity, and it converts all waste, except glass into ash.

A solid waste management plant has also installed at Shak-sha-lingu, it operates completely on renewable energy, it imbibes the principle of reduce and recycle waste.

Under Project rTsangda at rural areas, shredding machine was installed in which the plastics waste can be shredded into small pieces, 8-10% of this shredded plastics can use with coal tar during road construction which has shown much durability and intactness whereas the demand for the shredded plastics is also increasing.

During the season, we are also planning to set up water filters or water booth at various areas to refill the bottles which can decrease the purchase of packaged bottled water.

**Solutions:**

- People should carry their own biodegradable bag made of fabric.
- People while going for shopping must cooperate with the shopkeepers when they refuse to provide plastic bags.
- While going for functions or marriages, carrying one's own cups and plates can contribute immensely towards reducing plastic waste.



**Phunsok Angmo, Watson Co-Ordinator, Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LE-DeG):** As Prime Minister Modi has announced a ban of single-use plastics to be phased out by 2022, he specified six items of plastics which are Plastic cups, plastics straws, plastic plates, sachets, water bottle less than 200ml and polythene bags. However if the government is not well planned with substitutes and alternate solutions, the situation will not improve, as plastic items are designed to be used only once to deliver benefits such as convenience, cost savings and public health. So, our ultimate goal is to collect these products and converted into energy or recycled.

As per the study done by Tetra Tech India Ltd in 2012, the composition of waste collected in Leh town consisted around 46% biodegradable waste and around 24% recyclable waste, although the quantity of waste has more than doubled in last 7 years, I am assuming that the percentage composition of waste must be more or the same. So, if we are doing proper segregation even at a household level by separating them based on biodegradable, non-biodegradable and hazardous waste including sanitary pads, diapers and medical waste than we can reduce 70% of waste that is being dumped in the landfill.

On October 2, we have organized a rally and an event also to create awareness among people about waste segregation and the six items of single-use plastics. Also, in collaboration with the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) Leh, we are planning to start a door to door campaign in this matter.

Every season, almost 3 million mineral water bottles get consumed and dumped in Leh. LEDeG plans to eliminate the use of plastic mineral water bottles by tying up with MCL and local mineral water packaging companies such as Leh spring and Khayul to install water dispenser and water kiosks. Further, we are also planning on Billboards, posters and Street play to be organized in this matter.

**Negative impacts of single-use plastics:**

While there are various benefits from single use plastics products, problems arise when these items are not disposed of properly. Most of them are not designed to be reused whereas some cannot be recycled using the traditional method and some plastics like bio-medical waste cannot be recycled or reused.

Petroleum-based plastics are not biodegradable and when it goes into a landfill, it finds its way into the water bodies. Plastic does not decompose but breaks into tiny particles called micro plastic.

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## BDC elections: 1st randomisation of polling staff held in Kargil

After withdrawals, 38 candidates left in the fray for BDC elections in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Under the chairmanship of the District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO) and Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil held its first phase of randomization of polling staff for Block Development Council (BDC) Elections on October 11 at DC office Kargil.

Nargis Fatima, Deputy District Election Officer; Iftikhar Hussain, District Informatics Officer; Zakir Hussain, Election Naib Tehsildar and other concerned officers attended the randomization process.

15 blocks of the district including Barsoo, Bhimbhat, Drass, Kargil, Karsha, Lotchum, Lungnak, Pashkum, Sankoo, Shakar Chiktan, Shargole, South, Tai Suru, TSG and Zanskar was done with adequate reserve staff at the polling stations for randomisation.

Officers associated with the BDC elections were exhorted by the DPEO to perform their allotted duties with dedication and sincerely to ensure the conduct of free, fair, smooth and ethical elections in the district.

The DPEO Kargil has also issued the schedule of training programmes for the polling personnel appointed for the BDC elections. More than 300 trainees are being trained. After the first phase, the second phase will conduct on October 14 and 17, while the final phase on October 22 and 23 at Auditorium Hall Kargil.



On the same day, after the withdrawal of 32 candidates out of 70 candidates from the nomination list, 38 including 24males and 14females have been finalised for the fray for the 15 seats of Block Development Council (BDC).

The number of candidates left in the tussle include 4 candidates from Barsoo, 2 from Bhimbhat, 2 from Drass, 3 from Kargil, 2 from Karsha, 2 from Lotchum, 2 from Lungnak, 2 from Pashkum, 3 from Sankoo, 2 from Shakar Chiktan, 2 from Shargole, 3 from South, 2 from Tai Suru, 5 from TSG and 2 from Zanskar.

A total of 841 voters comprising of the Sarpanchs and Panchs of the Panchayat Halqas in 15 blocks of the district will cast their votes for election of the Chairmen to the BDCs in these blocks.

## SOS TCV cleans SNM Hospital Leh on Gandhi Jayanti

Tsering Dolker

**LEH:** Around 200 children and 80 staffs of SOS TCV school, Leh carried out a cleanliness drive themed, 'Thank you India' and 'Swachhta hi seva' at SNM Hospital on October 2, marking 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Chemey Lhundup, Director SOS TCV, Leh said, "This event is to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti in a most practical way. Also, we take this opportunity to thank India, especially Ladakh for hosting and supporting Tibetans always".

"Since last few years SOS is doing this campaign on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan but this year the theme is on 'Swachhta hi seva' to pledge and focus on limiting the use of single used plastic", he added.

Dr. Tsering Sampel, Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital, Leh thanked SOS team for the Labour donation and choosing SNM hospital for the drive on Gandhi Jayanti.



Staffs and Students of TCV gathered at SNM Hospital for the cleanliness drive.

## SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

## Perfection is nothing but a myth



That we are not perfect is very well known to us, but what is not known to us is that we need to be as perfect as possible. There is always a scope to be better, but one has to be realistic enough to understand that none of us can be perfect.

That is because the dynamics of nature, and those of life, go on changing. That brings forth the need to keep moving and improving non-stop, as long as we have our last breath on this planet.

This kind of feeling comes out strongly if you try to look within and discover the 'reality of facts'. Unfortunately, most of us feel good enough to stay put in our comfort zone, and hesitate for any kind of change because of a combination of factors like fear, ignorance and lack of understanding of the value of our life and its ultimate purpose.

As American footballer Vince Lombardi had said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence." Very clear that any kind of resistance to change or the desire to stay put to protect our comfort zone will be our undoing step. In other words, one needs to put in one's best every day. If there had been anything like 'perfection', then the whole world will stop growing. and life will have no charm left.

Mahatma Gandhi used to say, quite often, "A principle is the expression of perfection, and as imperfect beings like us can't practise perfection, we devise every moment limits of its compromise in its practice." That means there is always a scope for improvement even in perfection. In other words, perfection is momentary, and it may not be as good the next day because the circumstances may have changed.

So, change is the essence of life and it keeps the zing of life alive.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

## In Conversation with

## Zakir Hussain, KAS, District Panchayat Officer

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

**Q. Brief us about the Panchayati Raj system in Ladakh. What are the role, powers, and functions of the Block Development Council?**

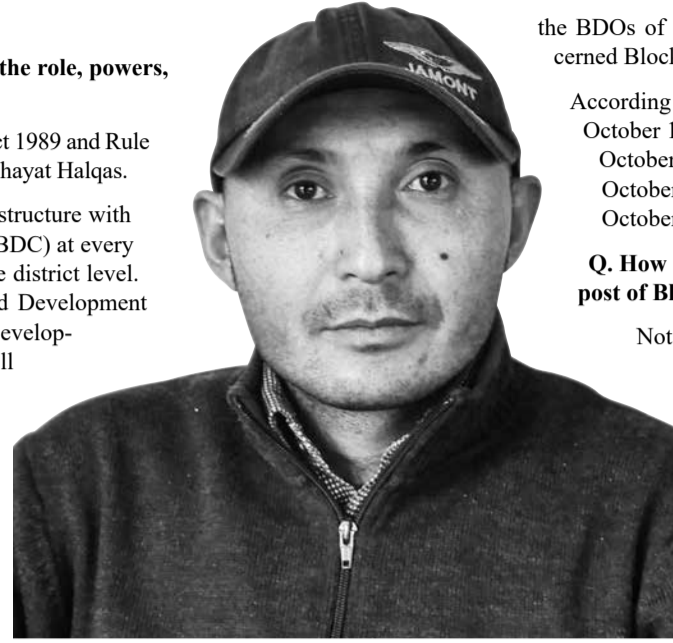
Panchayati Raj system in Ladakh is formed as per J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989 and Rule 2 (1) of J&K Panchayati Raj rules, 1996. In Leh district we have 95 Panchayat Halqas.

The Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 provides a three-tier structure with Halqa Panchayat (HP) at the grassroots, Block Development Council (BDC) at every block and the District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) at the district level. In the case of Ladakh, Hill Council acts as the District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) or Zilla Parishad- the third tier. The second tier, Block Development Council was not in existence till now. The election for the same will be held in the whole J&K for the first time on October 24.

The Block Development Council has its importance in the Panchayat system. Their function is to construct, maintain and supervise Inter-Halqa Panchayat Communication System, thus bridging the gap between every halqas and its members. It will guide Halqa Panchayats administratively and technically, and can also review their work. They will supervise plans relating to agriculture, rural development, animal husbandry/sheep husbandry, social forestry, education, and public health, cross-check eligible beneficiaries of different schemes, undertake measures for effective supervision and monitoring of various developmental programmes and many more. The Gram Panchayat Developmental plan will be consolidated at the Panchayat level to the respective block where the BDC Chairman will check and approve further at District Development Board.

**Q. How important is the role of Block Development Council chairpersons?**

Every Block Development Council will have a chairperson who will be elected among the Sarpanches or Panches of any Halqa Panchayat falling within the block. The chairman of the Block Development Council will have Block Development Officer as his secretary. They will also become the ex-officio members in the Hill Council and the Councillor of the respective block will be an ex-officio of the Block Development Council.

**Q. Tell us about the preparation and election process of the Block Development Council to be held on October 24, 2019.**

## MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ I urge people of every village to take active participation and take part in all the decision-making process, thus making the Panchayat system strong and to bring development. ”

The election process of the Block Development council including preparation of electoral rolls, filing of claims and objection and the final electoral rolls was initiated in September. In Leh district, we have 16 blocks, 652 Panch and 92 Sarpanch. On September 23 we finalized the electoral roll and the total voter is 744. The Election Authority has also appointed Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs). District Panchayat Officer (DPO) of every district will be the Electoral Registration Officer while

the BDOs of every block will be Assistant Electoral Registration Officer of the concerned Block Development Council. There will be 16 polling stations.

According to the notification, the dates for the election process are as follows:

- October 1 to 9: Filing of the nomination
- October 10: Scrutiny of the nomination
- October 11: Withdrawal of the nomination
- October 24: Polling (9am to 1 pm) and Counting at 3pm

**Q. How many Panches and Sarpanches are eligible to vote and contest for the post of Block Development Council chairpersons? Is there any reservation?**

Not everyone can cast the vote or contest in the Block Development Council election. The chairperson of the BDC is elected by the Electoral College comprising panches and sarpanches of the panchayats falling within the block. We have a total of 744 voters including 496 male and 248 female voters. Also, reservation for SC/ST/Women and ST has been made. This time women reservation is notified in five blocks including Chuchot, Khaltse, Nimoo, Rupsho, Singay Lalok.

**Q. How important it is to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system? Reason**

Panchayati Raj system is a rural local self-governance which promotes democracy at the grass-root level. It is in charge of all developmental work in the villages. Various developmental plans and projects will be successful if people are taken into confidence. It will be very difficult for an officer to understand every village level need. Thus, the Panchayati raj system plays an incredible role in understanding the demands, needs, and aspirations of the villagers and also the areas to be focused on. Through different ward level meetings and gram sabhas, the voices of the people are heard.

It is very important for further strengthening of Panchayati Raj because it has the potential to empower the most marginalized sections of our society.

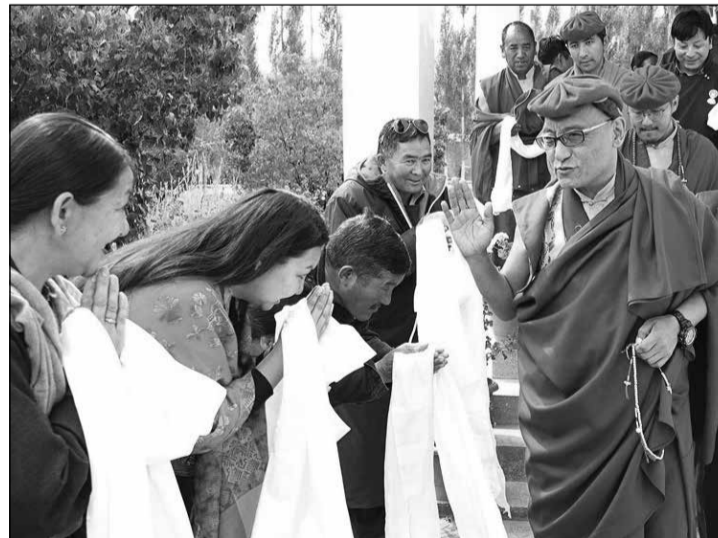
**Q. Tell us about the relation of Hill Council and Panchayati Raj institution. Will there be any hiccups in the smooth functioning of both the bodies?**

Hill Council acts as District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) or Zilla Parishad because of which there will be no issues in the functioning of both the bodies.

## Fortnight Highlights



Divisional Commissioner inspecting infrastructure for housing the UT administration by giving a face-lift and upgrading the existing Govt. buildings for offices and residential facilities.



Devotees seeking blessing from H.H Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche while His Holiness leaving for Delhi on October 7.



Faroq Khan, Advisor to Governor while inaugurating the first JK Bose sub-level office building in Leh on September 28



Nooran Sisters on the stage while performing during the grand Sufi music concert held in Leh on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of the father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi on October 2.



J&K Tourism in collaboration with Leh Development Authority and Overland Escape organised operation clean up Ladakh campaign on world Tourism Day on September 27.

## Science Festival, 2019 themed 'Young Innovators' inaugurated



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A science festival, 2019 under the theme 'Young Innovators' was inaugurated by Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner, Kargil on October 12 at Suru Valley Public Higher Secondary School Kargil.

The science festival featured a model exhibition and painting competition in which students of more than 27 schools participated including 13 in the model presentation and 14 in the painting competition.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, while inspecting the

model exhibition stalls keenly examined various models and ideas of the students and appreciated them for having come up with such unique and innovative scientific concepts. He also praised the paintings of the students.

He said that knowledge of science and technology among youngsters develops in them an attitude of logical and rational thinking that would facilitate them in leading a successful life and become resourceful to society.

In total, 39 models were exhibited by the students of various age groups from Class 1st to 5th, 6th to 8th and 9th to 12th.

Earlier, Professor Nasir Shabani, Secretary Suru Valley Public School (SVPS) said that the school management has ensured maximum participation of students from class 1st to 12th in the science festival.

Later the dignitaries distributed young innovator trophies and certificates of participation among the winners and other participating students.

## Two-day free knee camp concluded in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The two days Free Knee Camp at Inqilab Manzil Kargil was concluded on October 12 in which 900 patients were screened.

The camp was organized by the Health wing of Anjuman Jamiyat Ullama Isna Ashriya Kargil (AJUIAK) Ladakh, Al Reza Health Care and Research Foundation Kargil in collaboration with Prime Healthcare Group Dubai UAE and Health Department Kargil.

Dr Azam Badar Khan, Orthopedist and Joint Replacement Surgeon provided a free check-up. Patients from all parts of Kargil including Zanskar, Drass, Shakar Chiktan and Batalik took the benefit and appreciated for the free service.

While interacting with media Dr Azam Badar Khan said that among 900 patients, 400 was already registered and 90 patients have been screened for total knee replacement during the next year camp.

Dr Azam Khan said that the camp has allowed him to serve his country particularly the people from the frontier area of Kargil.

Dr Ghulam Abass, Gen Secretary of Al Reza Health



A doctor checking patients during the free knee camp in Kargil.

Care and Research Foundation showed gratitude to the district administration and deputing Dr Shujat Ali, and Dr Abass Ali for the camp.

He also thanked Dr Jameel Ahmad, Managing Director Prime Healthcare Group UAE and Dr Azam Badar Khan for the successful service and hoped for such service in future also.

Dr Ghulam Abass appreciated the volunteers of Al Reza, Health Care and Research Foundation, and other wings of AJUIAK, Ladakh and expressed hope for such volunteerism from the youths in future towards development and progress of the society.

## DC Leh reviews Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A review meeting of work progress under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme was convened by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC Leh on October 9 at DC Conference hall.

The meeting was attended by all the SDMs, Programme Officer ICDS, CMO, CPO, Education Department Officer and officers of the implementing agencies.

Sachin Kumar reviewed the sub-divisional level implementation of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme in terms of its financial and physical progress.

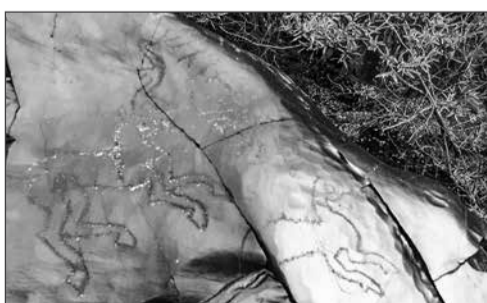
He urged the concern officers to complete the programmes under the scheme within a given time frame to ensure timely submission of Utilization

Certificate (UC) and further sanctioning of the fund to continue the scheme in the district. He cleared that no excuses of any officers will be considered if the implementation of the project is delayed.

He said that the scheme being female-centric efforts should be made to provide benefits to maximum girls under this scheme covering the entire district.

Blacktopping work at the sub-divisional level under various schemes including CRF, BADP, Cities & Town and PMGSY was also reviewed. Sachin Kumar instructed the SDMs to speed up the blacktopping work as long as the weather is favourable. Also, he urged the officers to complete the tendering process of all the sanctioned projects well in advance to start the work early in the next working season.

## Thangjuk exhibits ancient Rock Art



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DOMKHAR: A FAM trip to a colossal collection of ancient rock art of 1000-2000 years was organised at Thangjuk Rock Art Garden on September 30.

Thangjuk Rock Art Garden propagates the existence of some of the classic and rare kinds of ancient rock art which speaks highly of the primitive

human history of Ladakh. The trip aims to promote tourism in the Sham region.

Stanzin Thangjuk said that the Shaam region particularly the lower Indus belt possesses a chain of ancient rock art of varied figures. This can be a great attraction to pull-in tourists as well as anthropologists to Shaam region across the world.

He stressed the need for propagating this art to the world which will not only help in promoting tourism in the region but will also boost the local economy

The visitors urged to keep these values and heritage well preserved.

Tsetan Angchuk, President ALTOA; Dorjey Stumpa, President, Taxi Union; Executive members of Hotel Association and some other art lovers were present.

## Road safety awareness held in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: New Motor Vehicle Act, its rules and regulations was aware during the traffic awareness programme on October 7 in Kargil.

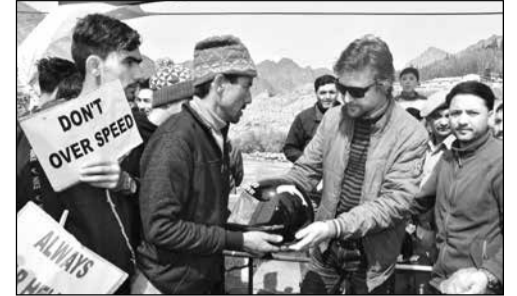
The awareness programme was organised by Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Kargil with Police Department Kargil, Traffic Police Kargil and Nun Kun Driving Institute Kargil.

Officials of Motor Vehicle Department, Traffic Police, volunteers and students imparted the law to the drivers and daily road users.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil highlighted the need to follow proper traffic etiquettes and observance of traffic rules to ensure sound traffic regulation. He said that efforts are on to raise traffic awareness and about New Traffic Act among masses through various media.

Dr. Vinod Kumar, Superintendent of Police Kargil; Khadim Hussain, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Kargil; Inspector Muhammad Nisar, Traffic Police Kargil besides other concerned officers were present on the occasion

People were urged to observe traffic rules in letter and spirit besides wearing seatbelts and helmets



Khadim Hussain, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Kargil distributing helmets during the awareness programme in Kargil.

for a safe drive. Two wheeler riders without helmet were penalized to engage as road awareness assistants for two hours.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary instructed ARTO Kargil to continue with the process of traffic awareness as and when required by involving more and more volunteers and students. He said that such initiative will help in reducing road accidents and other traffic related issues.

Helmets sponsored by Nun Kun Driving Institute were distributed for free among the riders of two wheelers not wearing helmets.

## Segregation plant shed inaugurated in Kargil



Baseer ul Haq Choudhary inaugurating the segregation shed at Ringmospang in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A segregation shed under Solid Liquid Waste Management Scheme of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin was inaugurated by Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC, Kargil on October 10 at Ringmospang.

Shabir Hussain, District Panchayat Officer Kargil and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner said that with the establishment of the segregation shed which has come up for the first time in the history of Kargil, waste will be segregated for recycling to turn into a resource instead of being dumped or burnt. He further said that to accomplish this, door to door collection of waste would be done in areas taken up under the scheme.

The DC further said that for the project to be successful people must segregate their waste into dry and wet waste at the source itself before it is brought to the segregation shed.

Baseer said that the administration will extend help to the Rural Development Department and the private operators to ensure smooth functioning of the segregation shed.

Later, DC also flagged off vehicles from the segregation shed for the door to door collection of waste from the areas taken up under the scheme.

Meanwhile, DC has sought the cooperation of the general public to work proactively towards ensuring the cleanliness and sanitation of their home and surroundings to lead a healthy and happy life.

## Single-use plastic

...Continued from page 5

During this process of degradation, it releases toxic chemicals such as BPA that enter our system through polluted soil and water.

Burning plastic releases a lot of toxic fumes, when these toxic chemicals mixed up in the soil, water and air, it makes its way into the human system. These chemicals have been linked to various health hazards like cancer, hormonal activity disruptions,

skin diseases, breathing disorders etc. Besides, discarded plastics has impacted a huge on our fauna, many animals are dying because of ingesting or choking of plastic stuff.

**Solutions:**

- Household-level segregation must be done
- Carrying cotton or other fabric bags while going for shopping
- Traditional systems of carrying one's own plates and cup at marriage functions will help



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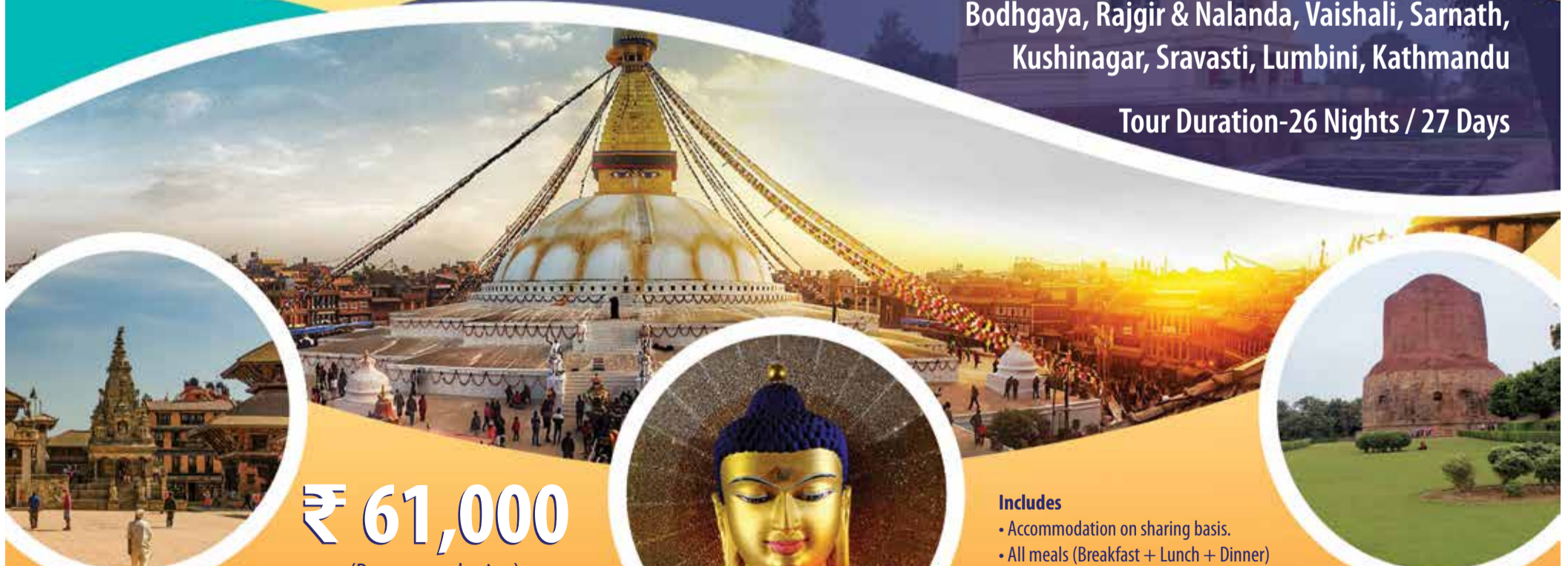


  
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