

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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November 1-15, 2019



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## Brief News

### DISCLAIMER

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### Three-day Ladakh Literature Festival held in Leh

LEH: The first-ever three days long Ladakh Literature Festival held for three days in Leh starting from 29th to 31st October. The Ladakh Literature Festival 2019 was jointly organised by J&K Tourism, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, Ladakh Media & Art Organisation (LAMO) and All Ladakh Tours Operators' Association (ALTOA). Inaugurating the festival, Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh said that the festival will help in preserving the art and culture.

Around 110 speakers and performers took part in this literary festival.

## THE REALITY

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.

Guest: Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, 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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## Block Development Council polls: 8 Independents, 8 BJP candidates win in Leh district

2 other independent candidates join BJP



### Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

LEH: In the first-ever Block Development Council (BDC) elections in Leh district, 8 Independents, 8 BJP candidates have won; while in Kargil District, 11 Independents, 4 BJP candidates have won the BDC elections on October 24. The BDC election was clearly a contest between BJP and independents.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- The BDC election was clearly a contest between BJP and independents.
- The BJP had fielded 13 candidates in Leh district. However, only 8 candidates managed to win.

- Congress fielded 1 candidate but lost from Saspol Block

- Independents played a very important role in BDC elections in whole Jammu & Kashmir, 217 Independents, 81 BJP members elected

- There are thirty-one blocks in the Ladakh region, and the BJP won 11 and Independents in 20.

Leh district has 16 blocks, 652 Panches and 92 Sarpanches. Five blocks are reserved for women which include Chushot, Khaltse, Nimmo, Rupsho and Singey-

...Continues on Page 2

## 5th standard boy sodomised by youth in Leh

Students' association rallies, seeks justice



Students protesting demanding justice to the victim.

### Stanzin Dasal & Tsering Dolkar

LEH: In a gruesome incident, a 5th standard boy was allegedly sodomised by a 29-year-old man in Leh on October 23.

The accused Muzafar Ali R/O Chuchot Yokma was arrested on the same day evening. The accused was booked under FIR no. 143/ 19 section 5 (M)/6 of JK POCSO and 377 RPC.

Narrating the whole incident, father of the victim said, "My child was coming back from school after taking the examination. He took a lift on his way from the accused who was on a motorcycle. When the small boy asked him to stop while reaching nearby home the man pretended unheard, drove further and the incident happened".

"My son told us the whole story after which I went to look out for the person but

couldn't able to trace him. In the evening, me and family members were going to a relative place when on our way my son recognised the bike parked at the roadside of Shey. We caught hold of him there and handed over to the police", he added.

When asked about the case to Sargun Shukla, SSP, Leh, she said, "The case is under investigation and the accused is booked under the strongest section. I have assured the parents of the victim also and we will be doing our best to get the justice delivered."

All the business establishments remained closed for one day and a peaceful protest lead by Student Organization of Unified Ladakh (SOUL) and All Ladakh Student Association on October 28 at Main Bazaar.

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## Nepal and Buddhist Circuit Tour 2020

**₹ 61,000**  
(Per person sharing)

**Leh - Delhi - Patna - Bodhgaya - Rajgir-Nalanda - Vaishali- Sarnath - Kushinagar - Sravasti - Lumbini- Maratika Cave - Stakmo Luschin - Delhi - Leh**

**Tour Duration-26 Nights / 27 Days**  
From 2 to 27 January, 2020

**Includes**

- Accommodation on sharing basis.
- All meals (Breakfast + Pack / Hot Lunch + Dinner)
- Flight tickets from Leh to Delhi to Patna, Kathmandu to Delhi & Delhi to Leh
- All transport by Non-AC 30 seater coach.
- Monk guide, 1 male & 1 female tour escort
- Cook and helper throughout the tour
- Tea, Coffee, Snacks and entrances.
- Travel insurance, GST

- **Day 01** Leh to Delhi/Patna by Flight & Patna to Bodhgaya by Bus. Arrive Bodhgaya by evening. (140 Km, 5 hrs)
- **Day 02:** Bodhgaya Monasteries Visit
- **Day 03:** Monasteries Visit (Rajgir & Nalanda)
- **Day 04:** Monasteries Visit (Vaishali)
- **Day 05:** Monasteries Visit and late evening after dinner drive to Sarnath (263 Kms, 8 hrs.)
- **Day 06:** Arrive Sarnath by Morning, rest till afternoon, after lunch proceed for Monasteries Visit
- **Day 07:** Sarnath Monasteries
- **Day 08:** Sarnath Monasteries
- **Day 09:** Monasteries visit and late evening after dinner drive to Kushinagar (0/N) (222 Kms, 6 hrs.)
- **Day 10:** Arrive Kushinagar by Morning, rest till afternoon, after lunch proceed for Monasteries Visit
- **Day 11:** Monasteries Visit and late evening after dinner drive to Sravasti (238 kms, 6 Hrs)
- **Day 12:** Arrive Sravasti by Morning, rest till afternoon, after lunch proceed for Monasteries Visit
- **Day 13:** Monasteries visit and late evening after dinner drive to Lumbini (166 Kms, 5 Hrs 30 Min)
- **Day 14:** Arrive Lumbini by Morning, rest till afternoon, after lunch proceed for Monasteries Visit
- **Day 15:** Monasteries Visit and late evening after dinner drive to Kathmandu (294 kms, 9 Hrs)
- **Day 16:** Arrive Kathmandu by Morning, rest till afternoon, after lunch proceed for Monasteries Visit
- **Day 17:** Monasteries Visit
- **Day 18:** Monasteries Visit
- **Day 19:** Monasteries Visit
- **Day 20:** Monasteries Visit
- **Day 21:** Freeday for Shopping
- **Day 22:** Freeday for Shopping
- **Day 23:** Kathmandu to Delhi
- **Day 24:** Freeday for Shopping
- **Day 25:** Freeday for Shopping
- **Day 26:** Delhi to Leh

**Overland Escape**  
Skara Yokma, Leh Ladakh. Contact person: Mr Kunga Namgyal  
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## Block Development Council polls: 8 Independents, 8 BJP candidates win in Leh district

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lajok. Leh has 16 blocks, out of which 15 blocks go for contest, as one candidate Stanzin Yangdol from Singey Lalok area has already been elected uncontested. She was the lone candidate of the Singaylajok block which consisted of Photoksar, Lingshed, Dipling and Wanla village.

In Leh, a total of 36 candidates, including 10 female and 26 male candidates, were in the fray for the 15 BDC seats. The total voters in Leh district were 704 in 15 blocks out of which 685 voters (468 male and 236 female) cast their votes.

In Kargil, a total of 38 candidates, including 14 female and 24 male candidates, were in the fray for election for the 15 BDC seats in the district for

which 827 electors (565 males and 262 females) cast their votes. The poll percentage for the Leh district was 97.30 per cent, and 98.34 per cent for Kargil district.

However, in a press conference on October 25, Dorjay Angchuk, President, BJP, Leh, informed that Konchok Phuntsog from Durbuk block and Jigmet Yontan from Rong block have joined the BJP.

The Congress, the National Conference and the PDP stayed away from the elections, the first to be held after the withdrawal of Article 370 that granted special status to the State. In J&K Block Development Council polls 217 Independents, 81 BJP members elected with 98.3 per cent voter turnout.

S.No	Name of the block	Candidates	Total votes	Party Affiliation
1	Skurbuchan	Tashi Yangskit	18	BJP
2	Khaltse	Stanzin Chusket	31	Independent
3	Saspol	Chhering Phuntsog	17	BJP
4	Nimmo	Rigzin Chorol	28	Independent
5	Leh	Skalzung Dorjey	36	BJP
6	Chushot	Saira Bano	41	BJP
7	Thiksay	Tsewang Paldan	35	Independent
8	Kharu	Dechen Dorjay	17	Independent
9	Durbuk	Konchok Phuntsog	18	Independent
10	Rong	Jigmet Yontan	22	Independent
11	Rupsho	Jigmet Namdol	14	BJP
12	Nyoma	Urgain Chodon	14	BJP
13	Diskit	Stanzin Gyatso	46	BJP
14	Panamik	Lobzang Gyatso	29	Independent
15	Turtuk	Ghulam Hyder	25	Independent

## Hill Council welcomes Commissioner-Secretary Rigzin Samphel to Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Hill Council, Leh under the chairmanship of Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC welcomed Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Ladakh Affairs Department, Rigzin Samphel on October 23 at Council Secretariat.

Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman; Konchok Stanzin, EC Education, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh; Councilors and staff of the Council Secretariat were present.

Gyal P Wangyal congratulated Rigzin Samphel for getting the opportunity to serve Ladakh as Commissioner/ Secretary. He said that his presence would be highly crucial at a time of transaction of Ladakh from a Division to Union Territory.

Rigzin Samphel is the second IAS officer from Ladakh to serve the region after former Chief Secretary, J&K Govt., C. Phuntsog.

Gyal P Wangyal expressed great hopes that his administrative experience would immensely benefit Ladakh at the inception of UT Ladakh. He further added that Rigzin Samphel will be a connecting bridge between Hill Council and Lieutenant Governor. He expressed positive hopes that his role will take the new Ladakh towards prosperity.

Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary said that it was his vision and aspiration to serve the people

of his land and expressed his happiness on getting this chance after 15 years. He said that Indian Administrative Service officers are Civil Servants and are bound to serve the public with a sensitive and compassionate attitude.

He assured to serve Ladakh at the best of his capacity in execution of policies and programmes of both the Council at grass root level under civil limitations. He said that Ladakh has very peculiar and geographical constraints and to address the problems besides effective governance, close coordination and local wisdom are needed.

He hoped that his work experience in UP and J&K Govt. will help him to serve UT Ladakh effectively.

Earlier, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh also welcomed him and expressed great hopes that under his supervision the administrative establishment of Ladakh UT will be fair and effective in all ways.

Rigzin Samphel from Stok village is a 2003 UP Cadre IAS Officer. He has served in Uttar Pradesh and as Secretary Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir and Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Ladakh Affairs Department. To oversee the transition of Ladakh region as the youngest Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir government has shifted the Ladakh Affairs Department along with its Administrative Secretary Rigzin Samphel to Leh in an order released on 16th October 2019.

## 11 Independents, 4 BJP candidates win in BDC elections in Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: With total polling percentage of 98.34%, Block Development Council Election was concluded peacefully on October 24 in Kargil district.

In Shargole, Sodh, Karsha and Lungnaq blocks, BJP won 4 seats, Tsering Nurboo, Zakir Hussain, Lobzang Namgyal and Stanzin Yangzom of BJP won by 13, 1, 1 and 5 votes respectively.

The independents remained victorious on the seats in rest of the 11 blocks, Hajira Banoo won the Barsoo seat by 5 votes, Najuma Banoo Bhimbat by 10 votes, Noor Muhammad Drass by 1 vote, Khatija Banoo Kargil by 3 votes, Murad Ali Lotchum by 1 vote by draw of lot, Pashkum seat Zakir Hussain by 5 votes, Sankoo Mehdi by 1 vote, Shakar Chiktan Syeda Banoo by 2 votes, Tai Suru Amina Banoo by 6 votes, TSG Haji Tahir Hussain by 3 votes and Zanskar Stanzin Sandup by 10 votes

100% polling recorded from Barsoo, Bhimbat, Lotchum, Shar-



Voters of Kargil district standing in the queue to cast their votes

gole, Sodh and Zanskar blocks. While polling percentage in rest of the blocks recorded; Drass 98.21 %, Kargil 97.98%, Karsha 94.12%, Lungnaq 95.83%, Pashkum 93.75%, Sankoo 98.92%, Shakar Chiktan 97.37%, Tai Suru 96.43% and TSG 98.82%.

Foolproof security and other arrangements in all the 15 blocks in the district was made by the District Panchayat Election Officer to ensure free, fair and ethical elections including observance of the Model Code of Conduct.

To ensure smooth conduct of

BDC elections, 7 observers appointed by the Election Authority, 7 zonal and 15 sector magistrates, 30 Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), 54 polling personnel including Presiding and Polling Officers and security personnel in adequate numbers were deployed on duties.

Total of 38 candidates including 14 female and 24 male candidates were in the fray for election for the 15 BDC seats in the district for which 827 electors (565 males and 262 females) cast their votes.

## BJP gets 10 BDC seats; two independent candidates join in



Newly elected BDC chairperson along with the party members at BJP office Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Newly elected Block Development Council chairpersons of Durbuk, Konchok Phuntsog and Jigmet Yontan of Rong joined BJP on October 25. With this move, out of the 16 BDC seats, the party got 10 seats.

A press conference was convened in the party office by Dorjay Angchuk, President, BJP Leh.

Dorjay Angchuk said that the abrogation of Article 370 and the declaration of Union Territory status for Ladakh will open up the road to the development of the region. He said the Block Development Council election is held in the state for the first time which will further strengthen and empower the Panchayati Raj system.

Welcoming the newly joined independent candidates in the party, Dorjay Angchuk said that they have decided to join along with their panches and sarpanches of the block for the overall development of their respective blocks. He hoped that all other Independent BDC Chairpersons too will join BJP for the development as both the Hill Council and Centre Government are run by the BJP.

He criticized Congress party Leh for claiming the win of the independent candidate in the BDC election on their support. He further alleged that the party got no candidates to fight the election on Congress ticket except Saspol which they lost.

All the elected BDC chairperson were felicitated on the same day.

## 5th standard boy sodomised by youth in Leh

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While addressing the gathering, Rigzin Dorjey, President SOUL said, "It is heartbreaking to see that limited people and students turned out today to protest against the unfortunate incident but when there is a celebration or rally for any other issues people join in masses."

Condemning the incident he said that cases of POCSO, rape, molestation, and many other criminal cases are increasing every year. He alleged that the culprits are sent to the prison but with daily meal and leisure life they come out on bail.

Recalling the past incidents of molestation and rape of a minor, he expressed resentment and unfortunate towards delay in delivering justice to the victims.

Stressing on a stringent action against the accused, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh said, "Such heinous crime in the society shouldn't be tolerated at all. Despite any socio-economic condition, faith or how well influential the culprit is, action as per

law should be taken against the person who is involved in such crime".

He further assured to leave no stone unturned and to personally follow up on the case.

Ibtesum Iqbal, Vice president SOUL expressed the importance of imparting sex education to the children. She questioned the society that how a student who is supposed to be the future nation-builder are facing such a monstrous act at their young age?

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh, representatives of religious youth wings, students also spoke on the occasion and demanded strict action against the culprit.

### Section 377RPC: Unnatural Offences

Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine.



## Training on Child Protection Acts held in Leh



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A training programme for three days on Juvenile Justice Act 2015, Child Protection Scheme and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 and (amended) Act 2019 was started on October 22 at DC office conference hall.

The training programme was organised by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development Regional Centre Mohali.

Stakeholders including officers and officials of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Special Juvenile Unit of police, Labour, Education, Health, social welfare, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), NGOs of Leh and stakeholders from Kargil district were present.

Krishna Murthy, Additional Director NIPCCD Delhi talked about the importance of child protection acts

in a society. He said that constitutional acts are formed to safeguard the rights of children where they have to face various physical and mental challenges.

Sunil Kumar, Assistant Director NIPCCD Regional Centre Mohali said that the training will train the stakeholders in the implementation of the JJ Act without facing any challenges. The training also aims to provide adequate information about the new initiatives, acts and to evolve a strategy for structural and functional improvement in the child protection system.

Dr. Konchok Paldan, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Leh said, "As Ladakh is now a Union Territory the central laws and acts will be applicable in our region also and therefore the POCSO Act 2015 will be applicable in place of J&K POCSO Act 2013. The stakeholders will benefit immensely from these

3-days training programme".

"We all are in a way or the other involved with children and it becomes our moral duty to take note of, guide them and inform the concerned authorities about negative effects that many of our young children are being dragged into by way of peer pressure, depression due to education and family, flashy world of materialist importance and other factors", he informed.

Child Welfare Committee Leh is actively working hard towards observing, checking, informing the concerned authorities about the atrocities and substantial effects children are going through. The department also facilitates physical, mental and economic assistance to the affected and deprived children of the society.

Spalzes Angmo, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Leh appreciated the employees of Child Protection Scheme Leh for doing commendable work in the district with limited resources.

Sunil Kumar gave his presentation on the Rights and Challenges of Children in Leh Ladakh with Special Focus on Child Protection. He also spoke about Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015: Salient Features.

## Jamyang Tsering Namgyal reviews DISHA meet



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To check status and progress of central government programme, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh who is also the Chairman of District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCMC) 'DISHA', chaired a review meeting with the members of DISHA and districts officers of line department on October 25.

Sachin Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Leh who is also the Member Secretary of the committee opened the house for discussions and deliberations on various centrally sponsored schemes. He informed stakeholders and line departments to work towards implementation of centrally sponsored schemes on ground level.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Chairman looks over coordination and monitoring of the schemes and also provided his intervention by reporting issue and requirement to higher authorities or governing body at the centre.

"This is the first DISHA review meeting after constituting the 17th Lok Sabha", said Jamyang. He further said that the committee recommendations should be uploaded on the online portal and every point of recommendation should be followed up until its final implementation on ground.

The issue of rising illegal construction of buildings on government lands was discussed, Jamyang stresses to take decision as per the guidelines.

Status, progress and issues of 42 various schemes like MGN-REGA, Deen Dayal Gramin Kaushal Vikas Yojna, PMGSY, Social Welfare, PM Shehri Vikas Yojna, PM Gramin Aawas

Yojna, Swachh Bharat Mission Rural, SBM Urban, Rurban, and many more were discussed.

Gyal P.Wangyal, Chief Executive Councillor talks about the importance of identification of the genuine beneficiaries and awareness of rural people for exact and proper sharing of personal information during census, which will be helpful in forming policies of the land the people.

Chering Dorje Lakrook, former minister and MLC said that the people staying in Leh on rent since more than 15 years should be identified and included in the schemes.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal was requested to take the requirement steps of increase in central share fund for further effective implementation of solid waste management under Project Tsangda.

Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Jamyang directed SE PHE to submit details of drinking water connection, linemen, and daily-wagers of the district.

Taking notice of the on-going work of digitalization of land records online, Jamyang taking the example of Uttar Pradesh suggested for adoption of their system of 'translator' who can translate the entire records from Urdu to English and then further can be translated to tri-language.

Under Deen-Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Jyoti Yojna, Jamyang directed submission list of remaining places for electrification in detail. He informed that the electricity timing will be increased by two-hours in Nubra valley.

The on-going sub-way construction in front of SNM hospital Leh, Jamyang, as per committee of DI-

SHA recommendations, directed to prepare estimation for re-designing of the sub-way and to submit the estimation to the Council before October 31 and follow the directions of the Council. Jamyang addressed schemes related to farmers and stressed on the importance of dissemination of soil education information in addition to distribution of soil card.

Under National Health Mission and recently granted Medical College to Leh district, He also directed to submit all the issues pertaining to post creation, SRO 202, shortage of staff and other important issues and requirements.

Under Integrated Child Development Service, Jamyang gave directions for mass awareness of government schemes especially in far-flung areas for pregnant women, lactating mothers and infants.

Discussing about the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway-line project, JTN asked Sachin Kumar for final completion of allocation of land for office and rest houses. He then further stressed for completion of the railway survey from Upshi-Leh. Tsering Dorje Lakrook talking about the strategic and national importance of the area also stressed on early completion of works.

Progress report of all schemes was presented in detail and various other schemes were discussed during the meeting.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal requested departments and concerned members to highlight the issues and follow up with CEC and DC and upload the meeting on DISHA portal. He assured that all the noted issues would be taken up at central level for their redress in phased manner.

## Project Tsangda branch to be opened in Kharu

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHARU: After the successful implementation of 'Project Tsangda' in Choglamsar, Diskit, Nimoo, Khaltse, Pangong and Chuchot villages, the centre is all set to open up in Kharu market.

An awareness programme on the project was conducted for the shopkeepers of Kharu market and villagers on October 26 at BDO office, Kharu.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC informed that to establish the project Tsangda centre in Kharu, Eicher Group of Foundation has agreed to provide ₹30 lakh under its CSR programme and ₹ 20 lakh has been sanctioned by Hill Council.

He appealed the shopkeepers of Kharu market, villagers of Kharu and Sakti to support Rural Development Department Leh in the successful implementation of this project. He said that it is the responsibility of President Kharu Market and newly elected BDC Chairman Kharu to make this project successful by their



guidance and leadership ensuring maximum participation of people.

Kharu market which is bisected by Manali national highway also in the way of famous Pangong Lake and Hemis monastery is experiencing garbage problem since many years.

Konchok Stanzin, EC Rural Development Department informed that the project will cover Kharu market initially and later as per capacity and revenue of the same project other surrounding villages will be covered.

Talking about the segregation, recycle and reuse procedure of

the project, he said that besides scientific disposal and management of garbage, employment is also generated.

Tsering Paldan, ACD Leh highlighting the success story of Project Tsangda that started in December 2017 at Choglamsar, appealed the people to fully involved in making this project successful, and requested for proper usage of the dustbin, and segregation of garbage at their home.

Later, a dustbin was distributed to the people and screened a documentary film on Project Tsangda.

## Stanzin Chospel, Councilor Marstelang takes oath



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: New councilor of Martselang constituency, LAHDC, Leh Stanzin Chospel took oath on October 22 at DC's Office Conference Hall.

The oath of secrecy was administered by Chief Judicial Magistrate Leh Bashir Ahmad Munshi.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh; Executive Councilors, Phuntsog Stanzin, and Konchok Stanzin; Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member Parliament Ladakh; Chering Dorje, MLC Leh; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC Leh; Councilors of LAHDC, Leh; religious heads and other dignitaries were present.

## Hill Council, Leh welcomes Govt. decision to open Siachen for tourists

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Union government on 21 October announced that Siachen area is now open to tourists. Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman, Hill council Leh, who also holds the portfolio of tourism thanked Rajnath Singh, Defense Minister on October 25, while inaugurating Col Chewang Rinchen Bridge over Shayok River a week before.

Ministry of Defense announced that Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield located at the height of about 18,600 feet from the sea level is now open for the tourists from the base camp up to Kumar Post.

Tsering Sandup in a statement said that the present council has



put continuous efforts since long time to open Siachen belt for tourists. He said that this historic and path breaking decision of government will benefit the tourism industry of Ladakh especially in Nubra valley.

He further added that the potential of adventure tourism in Siachen belt could now be explored

which can benefit unemployed youths of Nubra region also.

Sandup also expressed concern over the possibility of overexploitation of the fragile glacier area and acknowledged the responsibility of Hill Council to formulate a sustainable roadmap for regulating tourism in the area.

## EXPERT TALK

## UT Ladakh

By Stanzin Dasal



**Feroz Ahmed Khan, Chairman/CEC LAHDC Kargil:** With the official declaration of UT Ladakh on October 31st we don't know what is in store for us as the provisions of the Reorganisation Act 2019 are not yet clear. We can only hope that everything turns out to be on the brighter side as we have been assured of, lately.

People of Kargil have never been in favour of bifurcation of the state. Our demand was an empowered Hill Council & Divisional Status for Ladakh within the state of Jammu & Kashmir because of the various safeguards under Article 370 and 35A. With the abrogation of Article 370 and grant of UT status for Ladakh, it is obvious that people will have apprehensions regarding land protection, job security, trade, industries, culture, environment, and natural resources, etc. The rising insecurities could be mitigated by the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule and by declaring the area as Tribal. Other Constitutional safeguards can be incorporated on the lines of the Bodoland Territorial Council.

If these special provisions are extended to the UT Ladakh, then to a greater extent these issues can be dealt with. Moreover, in this age of globalization, the duty to safeguard our uniqueness also falls upon the people as well. This needs a two-way approach. On one side, the government needs to take every stakeholder into confidence and on the other hand, the native people need to extend cooperation.

The joint meeting of Hill Council Leh & Kargil on the UT issue in September was convened in a very cordial atmosphere. Some of the common issues such as the inclusion of UT Ladakh under Schedule Sixth of the Constitution of India, constitutional recognition of the LAHDC Act and delegation of more legislative powers to the councils, land protection, job security, interests of the employees, etc. were discussed. At this very moment, the need is to bring our apprehensions to the government in a loud & clear voice rising above the party and regional politics. This is a very grave issue concerning

the entire coming generations of Ladakh; we cannot afford to let our guards down. It is the foremost duty of the proponents of the demand of Union Territory that they must see to it that Ladakh should not be at the receiving end once this hullabaloo over UT settles down.

In the absence of a Legislative Assembly, the Hill Councils are the only democratic institution that would work towards the development of the region by the aspirations of the people and most importantly it is the only platform left where people can voice their concerns. So, the Hill Councils need to be strengthened with certain legislative powers. By area, we would be the largest Union Territory and by population, we would be the second least populated Union Territory.

The twin districts of Ladakh, Leh and Kargil shares cultural, traditional and linguistic bonds. We believe that the exemplary communal harmony which has existed in our region in the past would always remain so. We must work together to strengthen our cultural and traditional bonds. However, the relation between the two districts should be a relationship of equals. Only then we can work towards keeping the tranquility of the region intact.

**Solutions:**

- We must sit together and understand the regional aspirations
- A joint team of both the districts shall visit all the existing Union Territories and report back the best mechanism to run a Union Territory
- Recommendation best suited to entire Ladakh shall be made to the Central Government
- Budget allocations should be made based on the area of the region instead of the population



**Gyal P Wangyal, Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh:** UT Ladakh status has given a new identity to the people of Ladakh. With a change, the increasing insecurities and concerns are very obvious and to deal with it the UT consultative committee was formed. The committee discussed and considered various suggestions and feedbacks submitted by stakeholders and individuals to safeguard the interest of local people in the newly created UT.

On September 21, Hill Council Leh and Kargil had a meeting in Leh during which both the council agreed on several issues and demand

relating to the UT. Both the council expressed the need of including Ladakh under Sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution, constitutional recognition to Hill Council, legislative powers on land, language and culture, tradition and customary practices, natural resources, trade and industry including tourism, environment, and ecology.

Inclusion of Ladakh under Sixth Schedule is very important and is the priority demand of the region because many of the insecurities will be protected under this provision. The demand has been recommended by the tribal ministry also and we are very positive and hopeful that it will be granted.

With UT Ladakh the development of the region will boost and we must also understand that there are few projects such as cement factories and other big opportunities in which the investment from outside is necessary. E.g. in tourism, we don't need outside ventures because we already have the potential and capability to handle this industry. To curb such issues, the demand for legislative power on certain subjects has been put forward so that we can work on such issues and concerns.

A joint memorandum highlighting necessary points has been sent to Hill council Kargil for their consideration after which, both Leh and Kargil delegation will go to Delhi and submit to the Central Government. The memorandum was supposed to submit before October 31 but due to several issues, it got delayed. There is a difficulty in getting the appointment because of the election in Haryana and Maharashtra but we are trying best to get the appointment soon.

The grant of UT status is a big change and definitely, there will be many confusion, concern, and issue which will be sorted with time. Besides, UT Ladakh has a Hill Council intact which is very positive but we need to work on implementing the Advisory Council which will strengthen the relation of both the council and work collaboratively.

Once the whole system of UT Ladakh starts working, things will be clear according to which we can make necessary amendments and changes.

**Solutions:**

- Inclusion of Ladakh under Sixth Schedule
- A collaborative effort is a must
- Implementation of the Advisory council is a must to further enhance and strengthen the relation of Hill Council Leh and Kargil district.

## DC Leh addresses demands of Nubra valley



Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Leh while assessing developmental progress in Nubra valley.

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

LEH: Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Leh assessed developmental progress and implementation of various schemes in Nubra valley.

He addressed people of Khardong village on October 21 where people demanded a mobile tower.

At Diskit, Nambardars of various villages put forth the demands of respective villages. People of Diskit strongly demanded two hours extension in the duration of power supply in the evening. They also urged the deployment of a water tanker during winter months.

Nambardar of Khyungroo demanded a permanent scheme of drinking water supply in the area and also requested to assist Women's Self Help Groups for income generation.

Nambardar of Hundar demanded repair of village internal link road and installation of a bridge over Hunder Tokpo at Laksosa place. The demands of other Nambardars include water hand pump for Udmaroo, Medical sub-center at Skuru, irrigation water lifting system at Skampuk, communication facility for Waris, link road and medical sub-center for Fastan.

The villagers of Bogdang demanded the opening of a degree college, water tanker and extension of power supply duration. Turtuk demanded the establishment of Sub Divisional Headquarter at Turtuk, opening of a new polling station and Cooperative marketing facility.

Sachin Kumar gave full assurance to fulfill their genuine demands at the earliest and also gave on spot directions to the concerned officers to immediately address people's needs of important nature. He also assured to provide a V-set for Waris and extension of power supply duration to places where the demand was raised.

Sachin Kumar also visited villages in the Siachen belt to learn about the development works and public issues.

He interacted with the village Nambardar and listened to all their problems and grievances. He gave assurance to look into the issues and try to address their demands on priority at the earliest possible.

He also visited Govt. Higher Secondary School, Sumoor and interacted with the teachers and students to get first-hand information about the functionality, facilities, and standard of the school.

Sonam Norbu, SDM Nubra, and other Sub Divisional level officers were also present during the tour.

## Capacity-building program held for line department officers in Leh

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

LEH: Under the project 'Space-Based Information Support for Decentralized Planning (SIS-DP)' by ISRO, Department of Space, NRSC, Government of India organized capacity building program for line department officers along with training of manpower started on October 17.

The 2-day session was organized by the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing in collaboration with User Departments of Leh district.



The training was being imparted to the officers of line departments involved in the execution of developmental purposes and geo-tagging of assets generated under various flagship schemes.

Gohar Naseem, Geo-Spatial Analyst explained that the project aims to make geo-spatial information available to the people at the grassroots level (Panchayat) involved in planning, implementation and monitoring of various developmental schemes like MGNREGA, PMGSY, IWMP, CAMPA, and others.

The training focused on enabling the trainees to use databases created under this project for planning and developmental purposes as per the requirement of individual departments. Also, the use of mobile phones in data capturing and e-governance were imparted.

## SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

## Follow your heart to be a winner



When it comes to following, there is nothing better than following your heart. Your heart is where your wellbeing is. That does not mean that one should not use one's brain. There are certain occasions when your brain works wonderfully well, but there are many more occasions when it 'deceives' you. It 'advises' you to calm down and do nothing. It tries to keep you conservative and in a 'play-safe' mode. As a result, you become a 'Kaam Chor'.

It is only your heart that knows what you are really after! I know for sure of several things, in my life, that haven't worked out the way I wanted. But I also know very well that I did not follow my heart seriously, and tried to go by my 'brainy vibes'. And, also true that some of the efforts made were half-hearted attempts. On the other hand, let me assure you with 100% conviction that I could achieve all that I was really mad about.

It is true that one can do wonders by listening to one's heart, and by going by its 'dictates'. That is why someone had said that your heart and your instincts are far more reliable than your brain. When you follow your heart, be sure you won't regret later.

Therefore, trusting your heart more than your brain will get you better results, anytime, anywhere. Make it a point that you are in 'touch' always with your heart just as you have to be in touch with your brain for any kind of activity. One is in 'touch' with one's brain, almost automatically, consciously or unconsciously, but that is not the case with one's heart. There has to be a conscious and asserted effort to be in touch with your heart.

And, as American singer Lesley Ann Warren says, the "path to happiness and success is only through the inner recesses of your heart."

Courtesy: WongWorld

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



## In Conversation with

## Nawang Thinles Lonpo, Chairman CII Ladakh Zone

Interviewed by Tsering Dolker

**Q. What are the roles and perspectives of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Leh?**

Confederation of Indian Industry is non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process. CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community. CII works to create and sustain an environment favorable to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society through an advisory and consultative process. CII works closely with the government on policy issues, interfacing with the leaders, enhancing good organization and business opportunities for industry through particular service.

In 2010, CII was started in Ladakh region also. Our perspective is to ensure a suitable industry in consideration of the fragile ecosystem. Mostly we stress renewable energy and eco-friendly industries such as Solar energy, Geothermal energy, Hydroelectric energy, Medicinal plant, Aromatic herbs, Pashmina, Sea buckthorn, White-kernel apricot, Wood carving, handloom industries, and Organic farming and avoid an industry that pollutes the environment.

We also have a monthly magazine which provides an idea of businesses to the new startups.

**Q. Tell us about the status of industry establishment in Leh.**

In Ladakh, there are many small scale industries such as metal fabrications, handloom, wood carving and many more. Tourism sectors the booming industry of Ladakh lead to the mushrooming hotels and guest houses. The developmental change without any master plan is causing various issues such as sewage and drainage. The administration should work towards a master plan for all-round development. Conservation of glaciers, natural spring, river, streams, green belts, marshes, and river banks are important along with the development.

A capital subsidy, incentives, tax exemption are needed to promote the big scale industry in Ladakh.

**Q. Ladakh being declared as a Union Territory status, what are the different scope and opportunities in an industry sector?**

Ladakh is blessed with many natural resources such as Medicinal plant, aromatic herbs, Pashmina, sea buckthorn, white-kernel apricot and many more which has a potential in the market. With the Union Territory status for Ladakh, there is a great opportunity to develop these products and earn a good amount of money by establishing eco-friendly industries. Wood carving, handloom industries, and Or-



established which can harm our environment and ecosystem. The growing industries can lead to water problems, glacier meltdown, pollution, increase greenhouse gas emission and global warming.

To curb such devastation, Hill council and administration should have an expertise and consultancy wing to assess and impact of various upcoming projects on our fragile ecosystem as well as the eco-friendly environment. CII is also framing a policy with the councils and administration to build up strategies to eliminate such industry which can be harmful and dangerous.

**Q. Brief us about the needed framework to make the industrial sector sustainable.**

To accelerate the economic growth, CII under project 'Roadmap for growth of Ladakh' listed eight agendas, which are; Connectivity and Infrastructure, Leveraging Tourism Potential, Harnessing Solar Energy, Agriculture, and Animal Husbandry, Education and Skill Development, Focus on Innovation based industries, Delivery of Affordable healthcare and Sustainable Development.

To make the industrial sector sustainable the need for planning and management is more important. Every industry should have a good project on their business along with the care for nature. Through government, CII supports any project during their initial stage and help them to boost considering their issues and challenges.

To attract more industries in UT Ladakh, there should be GST exemption or reimbursement for the initial 10-15 years.

**Q. What are the initiatives and strategies adopted by your department for the betterment of industrial growth?**

In the 2010 flash flood, CII under Corporate Social Responsibility provided funds, especially to Saboo village. Ladakh becoming a Union Territory, our initiative will be greater than before since CII is very close to the Union government and we are opening a branch office in Leh also. To promote industrialization and attract more investment in the region a mini conclave investor submit was held recently where councils, hotel industry, tour and travel, and young entrepreneurs participated and discussed the industries which will suit our ecosystem.

Currently, research is going on the geothermal project, the survey for which was initiated since 1974 by many scientists. A geothermal is a heat derived from the surface of the earth and the energy can be used to generate clean electricity for 24x7 as well suits Ladakh like terrain. Puga Changthang is found as a potential area and we are working on a plan to evacuate power supply to Ladakh region as well as outsource to neighbouring states also.

## MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Since we are dependent on tributary water and glacier is the main source, water crisis could be a threat to our region. People should use water judiciously and save it.”

ganic farming are a few examples of progressive steps for future Ladakh in which our youth should involve.

**Q. What are the negative impacts of industrial growth in Ladakh and how it can be curbed?**

Natural resources such as Uranium and coal have been discovered in Ladakh. If the administration allows extraction or mining of these resources without proper survey and planning there will be a negative impact also. The radiation caused while extracting uranium is very harmful to people and the environment.

Similarly, many industries such as plastic manufacturing and others will be

## IN FOCUS

## The history of the political ordeal of Ladakh

Dawa Tondup



Recently in Ladakh, there has been great jubilation, particularly in the Buddhist dominated Leh district regarding the division of Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir as a separate political entity. It marked the fulfilment of a 71-year-old demand of the Ladakhi people. Back in the late 1940s on the eve of Indian independence, the then head of Ladakh Buddhist Association Kalon Tsewang Rigzin, head of one of the leading Buddhist families of the time, reiterated the illegality of Ladakh being absorbed into Kashmir. What was this illegality he was talking about? How did it come through? The Ladakhis took on the invading Dogras in service of their King and country but they could do little in the face of superior firepower of the Dogras. Matters were not helped by the fact that the King, Tsepel Tondup Namgyal, and his son, Crown Prince Tsewang Rabstan, were both indolent and weak-willed, and were dominated by their intriguing wives, which finally cost them their kingdom. In a nutshell, the father-son duo were mere shadows of their powerful ancestors.

Even before the Dogra invasion, inroads were made into the Kingdom by forces from Kullu and Mandi. Evidently, the neighbouring states had already sensed the weakness of Ladakhi polity. We, the Ladakhis, were compelled to live for over a century under Dogra suzerainty and then reluctantly had to accept more than 70 years of Kashmiri dominance with brief periods of popular upsurge.

Ladakh was, as is believed, ruled by the same dynasty for about a millennia. The dynasty provided many shrewd and able kings but had its fair share of failure. The Tibeto-Mongol invasion and the

subsequent Treaty of Tigmogang, signed in 1684, greatly weakened the once-powerful kingdom and significantly reduced its size. The last independent ruler of Ladakh was Tsepel Tondup Namgyal. His Prime Minister was the powerful and able Kalon of Basgo, Tsewang Tondup, whose daughter married the Crown Prince, Tsewang Rabstan. When William Moorcroft, the English traveller and East India Company agent, met with the Prime Minister, he showed him documents proving Russia was making diplomatic overtures towards Ladakh. Those were the opening days of The Great Game. The Kalon and Moorcroft signed a treaty under the terms of which the English were to aid Ladakh against foreign invasions and that Ladakh would be free of foreign intervention internal. But powers that be at the East India Company refused to ratify the treaty and gave the Dogras, who were under the suzerainty of the Sikhs, a free hand over the territory, thus sealing the fate of Ladakh. A few years before the Dogras invaded, as fate would have it the able Kalon died and his daughter, Skalzang Dolma, married the Crown Prince. She gave birth to a baby boy at Shey Palace, in the midst of a failed rebellion engineered by her husband Tsewang Rabstan. The boy, Jigmed Singey Namgyal, was crowned king by a rebel Ladakhi army and a token Tibetan force at the Leh Palace after the failure of Zorawar Singh's Tibetan Expedition and the decimation of his forces at the hands of a Tibetan Army. His reign was short-lived for another Dogra force invaded Ladakh and defeated the Tibetans while Ladakhi forces melted away. Kalons and Lonpos became Zildars and Kardars or Kasdars. Leh remained an entrepot for traders and merchants who traded their goods across High Asia. Many families enriched themselves through their involvement in this trade which passed through some dangerous terrains. Names like Sra-ngar and Radhu stand out. While the countryside was dominated by the landowners. The size



of their landholdings dwarfed that of present times. Landowners used to lend grains to the poor at exorbitant rates which were repaid in grains. These interest rates were multiplied if the debtor failed to pay his dues. This, coupled with the custom of begar broke the back of the common Ladakhis. Only a privileged few, those who had extensive, well-managed landholdings, and those who were engaged in trade, had had access to cash.

Modernity came to Ladakh when, at the eve of Indian independence, it was invaded by tribal raiders sent by Pakistan. These raiders were turned back near Leh. Kushok Gyalsras Bakula Rinpoche, a great-great-grandson of Tsepel Tondup Namgyal, emerged as the de facto leader of the masses in the aftermath of the tribal invasion. Ladakhis demanded to be merged with East Punjab or be granted a NEFA type administration, just like Arunachal Pradesh, but in no way be enjoined with Kashmir

with whom Ladakh shared no similarity, be it race, language or culture.

But it was made part of Jammu and Kashmir against the wishes of its people. From the very onset, the new administration proved no different than its predecessor. Ladakhis were treated as second class citizens by their Kashmiri overlords. From a kingdom of respectable stature, Ladakh was reduced to a district, albeit a large one. Kushok Bakula threatened to join Tibet if the demands of the people were not met. His historic speech on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on 12th April, 1952, drew the attention of the world towards the plight of the Ladakhis, who were struggling to adapt to the modern world that they were being exposed to, for the first time in their history. Throughout its history under the administrative control of Kashmiri leaders, Ladakh continuously received step-motherly treatment, leading to resentment which periodically broke out into political agitations and violence.

Despite the discontent with provincial leaders, Ladakhis have time and again proved their patriotism to India. Be it the 1962 conflict with China, when a large portion of Ladakh was lost to Communist China, or the 1999 Kargil conflict, when the Ladakh Scouts Regiment had a significant role in the eventual Indian victory. The formation of Hill Council in 1996, a result of the popular 1989 Buddhist Agitation led by Thupstan Chhewang, nephew of Kushok Bakula, and his colleagues, and its subsequent empowerment by the Mufti government in 2002, gave the Ladakhi people a taste of self-governance, although it left much to be desired. The granting of divisional status to Ladakh in February, 2019, and the subsequent granting of Union Territory status to Ladakh in August, have fulfilled the political aspirations of the Ladakhis. The saga is truly epic for the former kingdom gets poetic revenge on its former masters as it breaks away to form a Union Territory albeit without legislature. The road to UT has been arduous, only the future will tell which direction the fate of its people and its fragile ecosystem will take. Let's hope the dreams cherished by its people come true.



## Training held on Gram Panchayat Development Plan, mission Antyodaya Survey- 2019



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Training cum refresher course on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and mission Antyodaya Survey- 2019 was given by Zakir Hussain, District Panchayat Officer, Leh on October 28 at DC conference hall.

It was attended by master resource persons of the district, Block officers and facilitators of Leh District.

Dr. Zahida Bano, ADC, Leh underlined the importance of training for the Sarpanches which help to develop their capability and formulate good developmental planning and policy. She urged for utilizing the centrally sponsored schemes so that the beneficiary gets maximum advantages. She also

recommended for taking prompt implementation with close coordination.

Zakir Hussain gave a PowerPoint presentation on people plan campaign under the theme 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' from 2nd October to 31st December 2019. During this period every Panchayat shall hold Gram Sabha meetings for preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan for the next financial year with relating to economic development and social justice. He also gave a broad highlight on people's plan campaign regarding the strengthening of PRI and SHGs, evidence-based assessment of the progress of 2019-2020 and proposal for 2020-2021 in all subject of schedule XI of J&K Panchayat Raj Act-1989.

## Workshop on promoting medicinal and aromatic plants concluded in Leh



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A two-day workshop-cum-brainstorming programme on 'Promoting Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (MAP) Sector for Conservation of Snow Leopard Habitats in the Himalaya' concluded on October 15 at DIHAR, DRDO, Leh.

The programme was organized by G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand and Himachal Regional Center, Mohal Kullu.

More than 50 stakeholders attended the workshop which includes experts, academicians and research organisations. Besides, NGOs, pharmaceutical industry (Dabur), MAP cultivators, traders, Amchi, Ladakh Organic Farming and other organisations working on the MAPs in the region has also attended the workshop.

Dr. I.D. Bhatt, Scientist-F, GBPNIHESD welcomed all the dignitaries and participants in the workshop.

Dr. R.C. Sundriyal, Scientist-G, GBPNIHESD provided a detailed overview of the workshop. He highlighted the national and regional scenario of MAP development, regulatory framework and progress of the UNDP (MAP) project for Ladakh region.

Konchok Stanzin, Executive Councillor, Education stressed that the medicinal and aromatic plant is one the very important and key sector for the growth of the Ladakh region and particularly livelihood development of the indigenous communities.

He further added that there is an urgent need for formulation of policy planning for medicinal plant development considering the local environment. He also suggested the recommendation of the workshop to be implemented in Ladakh.

Preet Pal Singh, Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Department discussed MAP conservation, productivity, government legislation, market demand and benefit-sharing issues. He also stressed on the urgent need of constitution of state biodiversity board and medicinal plant board in UT Ladakh.

"The outcome of the workshop will be included in the forest working plan of the Ladakh region," Preet Pal Singh emphasized.

Col. Manoj Batra, DIHAR highlighted the importance of the proposed workshop for the development of MAP resource in the region. He also briefed participants about the work done by DIHAR for medicinal plant area.

The workshop was divided into four technical sessions i.e. diversity, distribution and availability of map; cultivation, propagation and harvesting; traditional healthcare and value chain and recommendations, policy considerations and way forward.

Dr. Padma Gurmet, Head of the NRISR talked about the Medicinal Plants Diversity and Traditional Medicine of Sowa-Rigpa in the first technical session.

Dr. Dorjey from DIHAR presented an overview of research carried out in medicinal and aromatic plants by DIHAR. He highlighted the value change development work done by DIHAR on sea buckthorn, Inula and Podophyllum MAP species.

Dr. Mohd Deen, Founder, LEHO shared his experience on MAP cultivation and livelihood development in Ladakh.

Dr. Rinchen, NRISR, discussed the propagation and harvesting of high-value medicinal plants. During traditional healthcare and value chain session, He explained the Sowa Rigpa system: focusing on Rhodiola plant (Sanjeevani of Himalaya).

Surendra Bhagat, Dabur highlighted the value chain, marketing and product development of medicinal plants of Ladakh region in his presentation.

At the end, experts recommended the need of coordinated research on medicinal plants, in-situ & ex-situ conservation of threatened species, medicinal plant hotspot areas should be designated as medicinal plant conservation areas (MPCAs), identification of MAP species as per trade value and threat perception, strict guidelines for protection of IPR of indigenous communities, advance scientific research on phylogenetic studies, phytochemical studies, Value addition, agro techniques, organic farming required for MAPs, utilization of wasteland for MAP cultivation, establishment of processing and product development units for MAP in Ladakh and capacity building and awareness creation for stakeholders.

## Delegation demands Bhoti as official language of UT Ladakh

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A team of delegation from Ladakh Cultural Forum and CIBS, Choglamsar submitted a copy of memorandum demanding recognition of Bhoti as an official language of UT Ladakh to Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh on October 18 at Council Secretariat.

The delegation also demanded to make Bhoti language as a medium of all social life including administrative offices, judiciary, archival and new land records. They asked for Bhoti as the medium of teaching from Nursery till 4th standard in all schools, to revise the school textbooks giving importance to local topics and to include monastic schools under the government school system.

The demand further includes forming of a separate education board for UT Ladakh, filling up of the vacant post of Bhoti teacher post in all the government schools, Bhoti Department in Ladakh University and Degree colleges to offer B.A. and M.A. courses in Bhoti language and literature, to make Bhoti language the medium for broadcast and telecast for All India Radio Leh and Doordarshan Kendra, Leh.

Institutionalize Sowa Rigpa, strengthen Culture Academy by affiliating the department to Sahitya Academy for Language and Sangeet Natak Academy Rashtriya Kalakender for theatre, songs, music, art and crafts with department branch office in different regions of Ladakh, to make ethics and traditional based curriculum mandatory in schools, to promote research-based institutes to support local and outside researchers in Ladakh was also put forward.

Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) pro-



Delegation from Ladakh Cultural Forum and CIBS meeting with Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh at Council Secretariat.

posed to offer certificate and diploma courses in Bhoti to help young professionals with the language and grammar.

Gyal P Wangyal welcomed the proposal as an important initiative towards strengthening the culture, language, and script of the region. He assured that Hill Council, Leh would leave no stone unturned to preserve and promote the cultural values and identity of the region. Also, he sought the guidance of scholars and intellectuals to make it happen in UT Ladakh.

Konchok Stanzin, EC Education assured the delegation that LAHDC will soon initiate necessary measures in this direction with the support and guidance of the scholar fraternity.

Tsering Norbu Martse, President, Ladakh Culture Forum, Geshes Konchok Wangdus, Director, CIBS, Ven. Lobzang Nyantak, Councilor Upper Leh, Scholar Jamyang Gyalson, Mipham Otsal, Sangeet Natak Awardee, Tsewang Paljor, Cultural Officer and Dr. Sonam Wangchuk were among the delegation.

## DC, Leh visits villages of Changthang, ensures proper facilities

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHANGTHANG: To access the ground reality of people living in Changthang area, the standard of facilities and problems faced by the people, Sachin Kumar, DC Leh conducted a 2-day tour to Durbuk and Nyoma Sub-divisions on October 15.

During the interaction with the public, the villagers apprised various issues such as lack of basic facilities and infrastructure in their villages. Sachin Kumar instructed the concerned HODs for immediate readdress of their issues.

He also assured to take immediate steps on their major issues like commissioning of JIO mobile services, improvement in BSNL services, renovation of solar power plants, enhancement in diet charges of children in residential hostels and shortage of



Sachin Kumar while interacting with the students of Nyoma School.

staff in schools .

Sachin further ensured the provision of funds for mud house construction for the hand pumps, Chhurpey-driers, improvement in drinking water facility, electricity, road connectivity and construction of staff quarters and many more.

Sachin Kumar also visited PHC and Hr. Sec School, Nyoma. He

also convened a meeting with the officers of Nyoma sub-division and discussed the functioning, performance, problems, and achievements along with the issues and requirements of various departments.

Sachin Kumar was accompanied by Rigzin Spalgon, SDM Durbuk; Mohd Taqi, SDM Nyoma and other sub-divisional officers during the tour.



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#### ITINERARY

- 7 January Leh to Delhi/Patna by Flight & Patna to Bodhgaya by Bus
- 8 January Bodhgaya Monasteries Visit/ Main stupa.
- 9 January Monasteries Visit (Rajgir & Nalanda)
- 10 January Monasteries Visit (Vaishali) (yangspa chan).
- 11 January Monasteries Visit and late evening drive to Sarnath (247 Kms, 5 hrs. 50m)
- 12 January Arrive Sarnath by Morning, after wash and change proceed for Monasteries Visit.
- 13 January Sarnath Monasteries (Main chorten, Museum and Karma pa Gonpa)
- 14 January Sarnath Monasteries. (Ganga river)
- 15 January Sarnath to Kushinagar (O/N) (222 Kms, 5 hrs.)
- 16 January Arrive Kushinagar by morning, after wash and change proceed for Monasteries Visit (Buddha Nirvana Place and Buddha Ghat)
- 17 January Monasteries Visit (Thai Temple) and late evening drive to Sravasti (238 kms, 5 Hrs)
- 18 January Arrive Sravasti by Morning, after wash and Change proceed for Monasteries Visit
- 19 January Monasteries visit and late evening drive Lumbini (198 Kms, 5 Hrs)
- 20 January Arrive Lumbini by Morning, after wash and change proceed for Monasteries Visit. (Buddha birth place)
- 21 January Monasteries Visit (Kargut monastery and more) and late evening drive to Kathmandu (260 kms, 6 Hrs)
- 22 January Arrive Kathmandu by Morning, after wash and change proceed for Monasteries Visit
- 23 January Monasteries Visit (Swayambhunath Stupa /Druk Amitabha )
- 24 January Monasteries Visit (Maratika cave)
- 25 January Monasteries Visit (Stakmo luschin)
- 26 January Monasteries Visit (Bhaktapur city and Guru rinpochey cave)
- 27 January Freeday for Shopping
- 28 January Freeday for Shopping
- 29 January Kathmandu –Paro (Bhutan) by flight. Arrival at Paro and transfer to Thimphu (65km/1hrs drive)
- 30 January Hike to Tango and Cheri Monastery.
- 31 January Thimphu – Punakha (77kms/3hrs Drive)
- 1 February Punakha –Bumthang (217.4kms/6hrs.)
- 2 February Bumthang Local Sightseeing
- 3 February Bumthang – Punakha (217.4km/6hrs)
- 4 February Punakha – Paro (145kms/4hrs.)
- 5 February Hike to Tiger Nest monastery (5hrs hike)
- 6 February Paro – Phuentsholing (168kms/5hrs.)
- 7 February Phuntsogling to Kalimpong (Sikkim) (175 Km /5 Hrs)
- 8 February Monasteries visit
- 9 February Kalimpong to Gangtok (75 Kms/3 Hrs)
- 10 February Monasteries Visit
- 11 February Monasteries visit
- 12 February Gangtok to Pelling (117 Kms/5 Hrs)
- 13 February Monasteries Visit
- 14 February Pelling to Darjeeling (74 Kms/3 Hrs/40 M)
- 15 February Monasteries Visit
- 16 February Darjeeling to Bagdogra Airport (70 Kms/ 2Hrs/40Min)
- 17 February Freeday for Shopping
- 18 February Freeday for Shopping
- 19 February Delhi to Leh





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