

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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In Conversation with Reach Ladakh
Kunzes Dolma 5

Expert talk
Sixth Schedule 4

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Brief News

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Two-day capacity building training programme held for BDC Chairpersons

KARGIL: A two-day capacity building training programme for the Chairpersons of Block Development Councils (BDCs) was inaugurated by Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Hill Council Kargil on November 10.

Feroz Khan explained that the capacity building programme has been organised to build up the capacity and enlighten the newly elected BDC members about their roles and responsibilities.

THE REALITY

Reach Ladakh's show 'The Reality' Episode #5 will be releasing on December 7 (Saturday) TIMING: 4:00-5:00PM on our YouTube channel Reach Ladakh.

Stay tuned and subscribe to our channel.

Correction and clarification

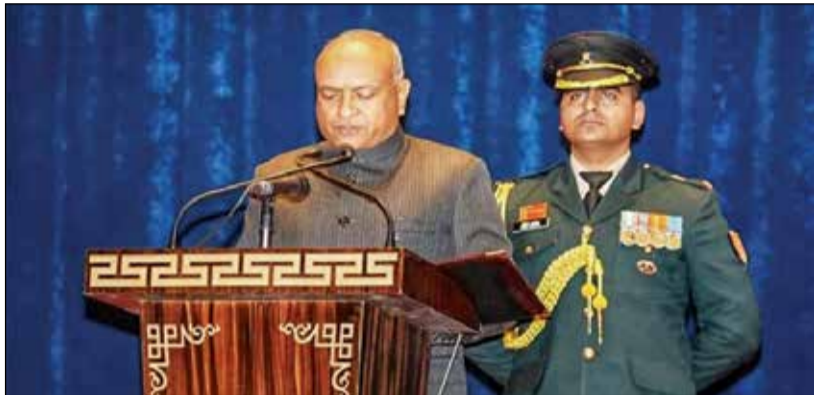
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Assistant Editor: Stanzin Dasal
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First L-G of UT, Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur, sworn in

Priorities for Ladakh will be set in after consultation with public and Hill Houncils, says L-G



First Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur swearing in.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The first Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur took oath on October 31 at Sindhu Sanskriti hall, Leh. The oath was administered by Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Geeta Mittal.

Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Ladakh Affairs Department, Rigzin Samphel read the warrant of appointment issued by Ram Nath Kovind, President of India.

Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur while addressing the media said, "The priorities to work upon will be determined only after talking to the Hill Council's, intellectuals and public."

He said that the government is already implementing several programmes in the region but the aspiration of the people of

Ladakh is the prime thing that will be focused upon.

Radha Krishna Mathur is a retired 1977 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Tripura cadre. He has served the Tripura government as Chief Secretary of Tripura, Principal Secretary of Finance, and Principal Secretary of Agriculture. He retired as the Chief Information Commissioner of India (CIC) in November 2018.

He was the Defence Secretary at the centre before his appointment as Lieutenant Governor.

Expressing happiness and joy over the official declaration of UT Ladakh, the torchbearer of the UT movement, Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP said, "The demand for the status of UT Ladakh

...Continues on Page 2

Sonam Wangyal remembered on his 21st death anniversary



Lieutenant Governor (LG) Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur alongwith other guest releasing the book highlighting the life, struggles and contributions of late Sonam Wangyal in uplifting the Ladakhi society.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sonam Wangyal was remembered on his 21st death anniversary on November 11, with Lieutenant Governor (LG) Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur paying tribute saying that the late Sonam Wangyal was a people's leader with a secular approach.

Special prayers were offered for peace of late leader. LG Ladakh, guests and family members offered 'Khataks' at his memorial Stupa. Similar Khataks offering ceremony at the portrait of Late Sonam Wangyal was also held at the main function at Degree College.

"His efforts in bringing solutions to the people's problems and his movements on every issue with a commitment to transform the political and administrative system were the symbol of a great leader," added Lieutenant Governor (LG) Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur.

Assenting with the proposal of LAHDC as well as people's demand for naming Open Stadium and Youth Hostel at Spituk after Sonam Wangyal, Mathur said that it will be a small tribute to the great leader of Ladakh. LG further urged the people of all sections of the society to work together for accomplishing the ideal and directions set by late Sonam Wangyal and lead Ladakh towards prosperity.

Thupstan Chhewang, Former Member Parliament, who was the guest of honour in his speech said that Sonam Wangyal was the most prominent leader who laid a strong political foundation in Ladakh. He further said that Wangyal was the most trusted colleague of Late KG Bakula who together set a vision of prosperous Ladakh.

Speakers spoke high of Sonam Wangyal as a true leader of poor masses with a revela-

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Heritage kitchen inaugurated at Rizong Gonpa



The newly renovated Heritage kitchen at Rizong Gonpa

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The heritage kitchen of Rizong monastery was inaugurated by Gyal.P Wangyal, CEC Hill Council, Leh on November 13.

The renovation of the old dilapidated traditional kitchen was taken in hand by Leh Development Authority spending ₹35 Lakhs under tourism promotion scheme and voluntarily worked by the INTACH Ladakh Chapter.

Gyal.P Wangyal appreciated the teamwork of Tsering Sangdup, Deputy Chairman, Dr. Zahida

Bano and INTACH for yielding a remarkable result in bringing back the kitchen in service without harming its age-old structure. He said that Hill Council is further committed to undertake similar projects at needy places with proper identification in the near future.

He further said that in UT Ladakh, a bigger responsibility is on Hill Council and people of Ladakh in preserving and promoting our traditional identity and heritage values.

Talking about the project, Tser-

ing Sandup said that it was conceptualized in 2016 under the head of late Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo and expressed pleasure that the project has completed with tireless efforts put in by Dr. Zahida Bano.

Dr. Zahida Bano, ADC Leh was felicitated for bringing up the heritage kitchen in its conventional form.

Geshe Thupstan Rinchen highlighted the history of Rizong Gonpa and extended his gratitude to each and everyone who contributed for the project.

4th Ladakh dPal-rNgam-Duston celebrated with great zeal

Thupstan Chhewang receives Ladakh dPal-rNgam-Duston 2019 award

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Celebrating the new era of UT Ladakh, the 4th Ladakh dPal-rNgam-Duston was held in a grand way recalling the glorious past and ancient tradition on November 1.

The festival commenced majestically with the portrayal of King Singey Namgyal, 'The Lion King' of Ladakh, his queen and mother Gyal Khatoon along with the royal members at Leh palace. A cultural procession from Leh palace till NDS ground was taken out.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh said, "Today is a moment of pride and glory for each one of us to celebrate this annual festival in UT Ladakh."

He said that the UT Ladakh has opened up new opportunities and road to development along with many challenges which have to overcome with cooperation and responsibility.

RK Mathur assured to work along with Hill Council to fulfill the demands and aspirations of the people. He said that Ladakh being a UT now, the decision making will be faster with more appropriateness and correctness in the utilization of funds and work implementation.

As the long-pending demand for UT status got fulfilled, people of Ladakh remembered the sacrifices and struggles of people who led and joined the UT movement.

Thupstan Chhewang, Former



Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP Ladakh while receiving Ladakh dPal-rNgam-Duston 2019 award from RK Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

MP and the torchbearer of the UT demand movement was conferred with Ladakh dPal-rNgam-Duston 2019 award for his tireless contribution and sacrifices made for achieving UT Ladakh status. Also, kin's of the Late Nawang Rinchen from Sankar, Tsering Stobdan from Durbuk, and Tsewang Dorjey from Saboo were honored. The three brave hearts were martyred on August 27, 1989, during the Union Territory agitation in Leh.

Expressing gratitude to the people of Ladakh on receiving the award, he said, Ladakh being a Union Territory the region has its own identity and scope of development. He said that because of Article 35 A and 370 the development of the region has been hampered. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for the historic and courageous decision in favor of the people of Ladakh.

He appealed people for unity and understanding the responsibility to make the UT Ladakh a pro-

gressive one.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh expressed gratitude to great leaders including Gyalrasas Kushok Bakula Rinpoche and Thupstan Chhewang who always thought and worked for the people of Ladakh. Also, he paid tribute to Nawang Dorjay Stobdan who laid down their lives while demanding UT status.

Talking about the rising concern and issues after UT status, he appealed people of Ladakh not to fall under rumours spread in social media. He said that he is giving his best along with Hill Council to get what the people of Ladakh deserve.

One of the major highlights of the festival was the unveiling of the magnificent statue of the 'Lion King' of the Ladakh, King Singey Namgyal at Skyatsags chowk sculpted by local artist Tsering Gurmet from Kungyam and a black-necked crane at Tourism Department sculpted by Chemet Dorjay from Sakti. Both the sculptor was also honored during the celebration.

Lt. Governor, R.K Mathur visits Kargil

Holds meetings with Hill Council Kargil representatives, JAC, District Officers



Rada Krishna Mathur in the meeting with the Kargil representatives

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Radha Krishna Mathur, Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh met with Council members of LAHDC, Kargil on November 12 during his first visit to Kargil.

R.K Mathur also chaired a meeting with district officers and met the Joint Action Committee (JAC) Kargil, various political, religious leaders, social groups and various associations.

R.K Mathur said that the entire nation admires and values the patriotism and communal harmony of the people of Kargil and the sacrifices they have made for the nation.

He said that the Government wants Kargil to prosper along with the rest of the nation and become a partner in the country's economic progress.

Mathur also highlighted the recent decisions of the Government which were meant to speed up their progress and he also stated that the fund flow for development shall increase.

R.K Mathur assured that the operation of commercial aircraft, AN 32 Courier Service, MI-17, other Helicopter services and opening up of Zojila pass till late winter and many more shall be on the top priority list.

He also announced an exposure

visit for the Executive Council members of both LAHDCs soon. He assured members of the Hill Council, Kargil that in due course of time, funds for completion of the Council Secretariat infrastructure would also be released.

For efficient administration, Mathur said that Raj Bhawan, UT Secretariat, Police establishment, residence and others shall be located in Kargil also and various administrative issues for efficient functioning shall also be addressed.

The meeting was attended by Feroz Ahmad Khan Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC Kargil; Aga Syed Mujtaba Mosavi, Executive Councilor for Social Welfare; Phunsog Tashi, Executive Councilor for Tourism; Aga Syed Abbass Razvi, Executive Councilor for Works; Muhammad Ali Chandan, Executive Councilor for Health; Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil; Dr Vinod Kumar (IPS), Superintendent of Police Kargil; and Councilors.

Umang Narula takes charge as Advisor to L-G, Ladakh



Umang Narula, Advisor to L-G, Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Umang Narula, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh convened an introductory meeting with Leh based Director level officers and Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh on November 2.

Welcoming Umang Narula, Sachin Kumar gave a

brief introduction of the area specifics of Leh district and major ongoing developmental activities under various sectors being carried out in the district.

The officers also gave a brief on current financial status, organisational setup besides key responsibilities and objectives of various departments in Leh.

Umang Narula sought notes on administrative, infrastructural as well as financial issues of each department by November 4.

He assured that all important issues shall be amicably resolved for better implementation of schemes and policies in UT Ladakh.

Director Urban Local Bodies Ladakh, Chief Engineer PWD, Ladakh, Director Animal & Sheep Husbandry Ladakh, ADC/Joint Director Protocol, Joint Director School Education Ladakh and Regional Transport Officer Ladakh.

Later, the advisor along with DC, Leh visited the Cold Storage facility at Agling and assessed the present status of the plant.

Sonam Wangyal remembered on his 21st death anniversary

...Continued from Page 1

tion at a time when providing leadership to the people of Ladakh was not an easy task. They appreciated the crucial role of Wangyal who worked tirelessly to uplift the deprived Ladakhis in critical times.

A book highlighting the life, struggles and contributions of late Sonam Wangyal in uplifting the Ladakhi society was also released by the Lieutenant Governor on this occasion. Besides on behalf of Sonam Wangyal Memorial Society, LG distributed education sponsorship cheques among deserving schools.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh in his vote of thanks said that one among his late father Sonam Wangyal's priority was to give education to all the children especially to the girl child. Sonam Wangyal Memorial Society has started a pro-

gramme of providing educational sponsorship to the poor children studying in various private as well as Govt schools. Gyal Wangyal said that this initiative would discourage dependence on foreign sponsorships and would surely encourage other well-off people in our society to come up with a similar helping hand in the education of poor and needy children.

He extended gratitude to the LG Ladakh for chairing the event and expressed hope that under the leadership of Mathur, Ladakh will achieve all its developmental targets.

Presidents and representatives of various religious, political and social organizations, family members, friends and colleagues of late Sonam Wangyal and a galaxy of prominent personalities were present on the occasion.

First L-G of UT, Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur, sworn in

...Continued from Page 1

struggled all those years by the people from all walks of life unitedly is fulfilled today. With this greater responsibility lies upon everyone to make UT Ladakh a progressive and better one".

He said that the unity of Ladakh is important to project demand and make the system work for a better future.

Marking the historic day, leaders of BJP and com-

mon masses danced and celebrated the new UT Ladakh which will be ruled directly from the centre.

Celebrating the official declaration of UT Ladakh along with National Unity Day, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Bharatiya Janta Party, Leh organised a rally themed 'Run for Unity'.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on August 5.

ONGC to harness geothermal energy in Puga Changthang



The team with Gyal P Wangyal, CEC.

Ladakh for which initial survey will start soon.

Gyal Wangyal welcomed the team of ONGC to Leh and thanked them for initiating work on Puga Geothermal Energy Project stating that it has immense power potential. Wangyal said that it will be game changer for UT Ladakh in power sector if this clean energy from Puga will be tapped properly. He assured all possible support from Hill Council Leh to ONGC in starting this prestigious project in UT Ladakh.

Geothermal Energy is heat stored in earth crust and being used for electric generation and also for direct heat application worldwide since beginning of last century. The total installed capacity for global geothermal power generation was estimated to be around 12.8 gigawatts (GW) till 2014. The maximum capacity in Puga is 80 MW. Top five leading countries in the geothermal power generation are USA, Philippines, Indonesia, Mexico and New Zealand.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A team of engineers from ONGC Energy Centre Delhi visited Leh to discuss about their future plans for exploration of geothermal energy in Puga Changthang with Gyal P Wangyal, CEC on 13 November.

The team comprises of Peeyush Kumar CGM-Head of energy centre; Uday Shankar GM (Mech.); Ahsan Absar Ex. Director Geological Survey of India Geothermal Expert and Nawang Thinless Lonpo, Co-

ordinator for Geothermal Puga UT Ladakh. Phuntsog Stanzin, Executive Councillor for Agriculture was also present in the meeting.

The team apprised the CEC that efforts have been made by various organizations in exploration of this clean energy since decades in Ladakh but now GoI under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has assigned ONGC to harness geothermal energy from Puga and other potential areas of UT

Hill Council Leh welcomes L-G R K Mathur

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Welcoming the first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur, Hill council Leh convened an introductory meeting on October 31 at Grand Dragon Hotel.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh introduced R.K Mathur with all the councillors and expressed hope that under Union Territory the role of Hill Council will be taken as crucial in every decision-making process.

He stressed the need to maintain a good relationship between Administration and Hill Council for better development in Ladakh.

He further urged R.K Mathur to take everyone together in ensuring the smooth functioning of UT Ladakh and proper utilization of money with increased funds flow in the coming times.

R.K Mathur assured to take the council along and said that the developmental processes will be considerably improved with much greater ease in implementations of schemes and policies.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur during the introductory meeting with Hill council Leh at Grand Dragon Hotel.

As the power has been shifted from Srinagar to Ladakh, he expressed strong hope that under UT status Ladakh will achieve the dream that was always wished for.

He urged all stakeholders to work together on certain issues that are being raised at the local level such as land, environment, employment, and outside influences.

In the new governance structure, he said that the role of Hill Council is critical and the new system will always involve Leh and Kargil Hill Councils in deci-

sion-making processes.

Financial packages will be announced soon and adding of the funds should be efficiently and judiciously used, he added.

R.K Mathur also stressed upon thorough understanding about the local peculiarities and distinct features of Ladakh in presenting the region to the outside world.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh; Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary and Sachin Kumar, DC, Leh was also present on the occasion.

DC, Leh directs Doctors not to work in private clinics between 9:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Leh convened a meeting recently where strict direction was given that government doctors are not allowed to work in private clinics between 09:30 am to 04:30 pm in Leh.

Services of medical consultants and other issues related to the health department have been discussed.

Sachin Kumar directed the President, Chemists Association, Leh to ensure that no government doctor works at the private clinics during the stated period.

To ensure a regular duty of the staffs in the hospital,

Sachin Kumar instructed Medical Superintendent, SNM hospital, Leh to submit biometric attendance of the staff to DC office on a daily basis.

He also asked Station Manager Leh, Air India to have reserved quota in cargo to ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines in the winter months.

A committee was constituted headed by Moses Kunzang, ADDC, Leh to fix the wages/allowances of security guards who are employed at SNM Hospital, Leh.

District Drug Inspector, Leh, President, Chemists Association, Leh and other chemist personnel attended the meeting.

Hill Council, Leh discusses future plan with Umang Narula, Advisor, L-G, Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Hill Council, Leh hosted a high tea to Umang Narula the newly appointed Advisor to Lt. Governor of UT Ladakh on November 4 at Council Secretariat.

Umang Narula said that since the inception of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, both the districts have witnessed many positive changes. He said much more is required to be done, now the power has come closer and the decision-making process will be faster; fulfilment of development aspiration of the people will be easily possible. He said that having a developmental vision is critically important and challenges are also there in achieving the goals. Narula assured to resolve all issues by taking everyone together. He expressed hope that his work experiences would be useful in solving the local issues.

He also stressed on the need of a well-thought formulation of next financial year's plan for Ladakh and also expressed intend of UT Govt. to start its secretariat immediately.

Gyal.P Wangyal, CEC Leh welcomed Umang Narula and expressed fortunate to have Narula who has already served Jammu and Kashmir as Principal Secretary to Governor before.

Briefing about the structure and functions of Hill Council Leh, Gyal.P Wangyal stressed on developing a clear business rule between LG Office and Hill Council, Leh, so that all the developmental works could be car-



Umang Narula Advisor, LG Ladakh with the Councilors during afternoon high tea.

ried out smoothly and cordially. He also talked about the need of amendment in the Council Act on some key issues and sought Governor's intervention with Central Govt.

Gyal.P Wangyal also apprised about the shortage of manpower at key departments like Rural and PWD and sought his intervention in filling up of these posts at the earliest.

He also explained about the power issues being faced by Leh district during the winter months and sought his intervention in resolving the issue before the onset of winter.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh welcomed Advisor Umang Narula and congratulated for assuming his office. Jamyang said that it is very important to give a good shape to UT Ladakh at the beginning which will turn out to be a roadmap to take UT Ladakh on the path of development with a clear vision.

He stressed on taking visionary steps to bring reforms in sectors like education, health, local

economy and infrastructure and the strength and role of Autonomous Hill Development Councils of both the districts in plan formulation should remain vital as it was.

Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman raised the issue of shortages of doctor especially medical officers in the district. He suggested devising of incentives/ allowance for doctors to be posted in remote areas.

Konchok Stanzin, EC Education raised the issue of adjustment of Assistant Professors serving in different parts of UT J&K who have opted to serve in UT Ladakh and salary issues of teachers working under SSA, RAMSA and ReTs.

Phuntsog Stanzin, EC Agriculture also requested for creating the posts of Directors of Agriculture and Command Area for Ladakh.

Mumtaz Hussain, EC Minority Affairs; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner LAHDC, Leh and other councillors were present.

Solar 'churpey' drier distributed among farmers



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Solar Cheese (Churpey) Drier was distributed by Gyal P Wangyal, CEC at DC Conference hall on November 13.

Churpey- the traditional form of cheese is a product of buttermilk obtained after churning out the butter and separating the whey after boiling the buttermilk and is rich in proteins, omega 3 fatty acids and antioxidants.

Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC congratulated DC Leh Sachin Kumar for the idea behind it and appreciated A&SH department for its implementation in making the solar churpey drier. He termed it

as the need of the hour to make the product more hygienic and sustainable for consumption as well for further selling in the market.

"In due course of time it should also be included in the organic category as the beneficiaries of this project are from areas where the animals are grazed at pasturelands and have limited access to compounded cattle feed," added CEC Wangyal.

Konchok Stanzin, EC Education emphasized on working on its value addition of churpey and other local products like yak and goat cheese, hair and wool, for the greater benefit of the farmers, growers and livestock rearers.

Sachin Kumar, DC Leh said that on request of Kharnak villagers for a churpey drier, he came up with the idea of a solar and hygienic product. He appreciated the valuable contributions of some of the departmental heads who helped to bring out a low-cost, hygiene, and eco-friendly solar churpey drier.

Dr. Mohd Baqir, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Leh and Dr. Tsewang Morup also spoke on the occasion.

Later, Gyal Wangyal, CEC also distributed Solar Churpey Driers to the Self Help Groups from Changthang, Digar, Tangyar, Durbuk, Tangtse and others.

EXPERT TALK

Sixth Schedule

By Tsering Dolker



Disket Angmo, Environmental Lawyer: The Sixth Schedule provides autonomy to the tribal population through a simple administrative set up that helps to preserve their tribal customs, their way of life and their identity, and their autonomy at managing affairs that are best understood by them.

The spirit of the Sixth Schedule in this manner reflects the aspirations and determinations of the framers of the Constitution to provide the nation's tribal population with the right to preserve and maintain their identities and their autonomy that will help them develop politically, socially and economically as per their desires.

The mere inclusion of Ladakh within the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution will not help in ensuring land or environment safeguards. The Sixth Schedule does not include legislative power over locally crucial subjects such as land transfer, environment, tourism or natural resources. The Sixth Schedule is therefore deficient to this extent and requires a considerate amendment to include locally crucial subjects.

The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) have been vested with power over various matters like it can take administrative decisions on land, development schemes and plans, budget, employment, promotion of language and culture, public health, watercourses, roads, environment, education and more. However, its powers are only limited to executive powers (Section 23, LAHDC Act, 1997). This means that the LAHDCs can only act as an administrator to carry out and manage developmental and other matters listed in the LAHDC Act, 1997.

While executive powers are important to ensure execution and implementation of action on the ground, they do not empower the Hill Councils to make laws (apart from bye-laws) to ensure preservation and safeguards. Their (LAHDC Leh and Kargil) powers are therefore limited to this extent.

With respect to the land, all government land (Section 2 (n) of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997) is transferred to the Council. The Council has the right to decide upon the allotment and use of these government lands. However, it cannot make any laws with the decision of laying down restrictions upon the use or transfer of any land. For example, it can pass directions to build cultural and language centres to promote the same but cannot make laws stating that land cannot be sold to non-domiciles to ensure that influx does not affect culture and language.

The LAHDC, therefore, can initiate action to promote language, environment, and culture but it does not have the power to make regulations to ensure the preservation of the same.

Importance of the sixth schedule for Ladakh

It is extremely crucial for Ladakh region owing to its very distinct nature. The problem faced in the region and the solutions pursued are equally different, which required an in-depth understanding of the region and its people.

This can perhaps only be ensured by a body consisting of local members who understand the region, its people, geography, ecology, needs, and problems. Sixth Schedule could, therefore, be a means towards this.

Furthermore, a region like Ladakh, while rich in heritage, culture, and tradition, is a threatened minority with a population of mere 2.7 Lakh of which 97% is tribal, in its home country India and the world. Its rich heritage and identity, therefore, require safeguards to ensure not to lose in the process of 'modernization'.

Ladakh without Sixth Schedule

Absence of Sixth Schedule or any measure which provide autonomy, through both legislative and executive power, will somewhere affect the contextual development of the region and will endanger the preservation of tribal identity, custom and environment.

At present Ladakh is a Union Territory and is therefore governed and administered directly by the Centre. This would mean that all decisions for Ladakh will be taken by an administration that is neither based here nor composed of people who understand the region, its people, its geography or its environment. While the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) have been retained, their powers are only limited to executive or administrative actions that are not enough to safeguard subjects of local importance.

Solutions:

- Inclusion of Ladakh within the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution
- Recognition of the existing Hill Councils as Autonomous District Councils which is envisaged in the Sixth Schedule.
- If entertained, this would mean that the LAHDC would (i) be constitutionally recognised, and (ii) would be endowed with legislative and judicial powers along with executive powers. This will allow the LAHDC to implement actions to promote environment, language, culture, etc. also to make regulations to ensure the preservation of the same.



Nasir Shabani, Assist. Professor in Commerce, Gov't Degree College Kargil: There are fears that there will be a massive influx of trade, industry, and commerce as well as of people who are alien to the cultural, religious and traditional ethos of Ladakhis which they have upheld for centuries.

Ladakh's ecology is very fragile. Rapid industrialization and increasing population will adversely impact the socio-cultural fabric. A narrow population of around 300 thousand [h1] will be exposed to minority risk unless land ownership and employment rights are protected. Government and defence jobs are the only service industry available to Ladakhis which provides maximum employment opportunities. All these concerns of the people need to be safeguarded within the ambit of the constitution.

In a Union Territory, there will be better administrative control, economic prosperity, and accessibility but due to the distinctiveness of the region, both the districts must work together to chalk out the modalities so that many reservations, as well as safeguards which were available to our region under Article 370, could be the part of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Under the constitution of India, many other States, as well as Union Territories, are conferred with such provisions to safeguard their distinct identity and culture.

Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas as designated as 'Scheduled Areas' and 'Tribal Areas'. These areas are treated differently by the constitution and sizeable amount of autonomy has been given to

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Hill Council, Leh welcomes S.S Khandare first IGP Ladakh

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

LEH: Hill Council, Leh hosted a tea party to welcome S.S Khandare, the first Inspector General of Police, Ladakh on November 8 at Council Secretariat.

Gyal.P Wangyal, CEC Leh welcomed S.S Khandare on behalf of the Hill Council Leh with traditional Khataks and briefed him about the structure and functions of LAHDC, Leh.

He also apprised S.S Khandare about the police related pending issues and demands of Leh district including nonexistence of traffic police wing which affecting traffic problems in the city badly especially in tourist season, increase in road accidents, up gradation of Police Check posts to Police Stations, opening of new police station and checks posts in the district, early transfer of remaining police personals from UT J&K to UT Ladakh and provisions of Protective Service Officers to Deputy Chairman and ECs of LAHDC, Leh etc.

Addressing the meeting, S.S Khandare congratulated Ladakhi people for stepping into a

Union Territory and he added that there will be a speedy progress in every spare as decision making process will be fast in new setup with more resources.

S.S Khandare while focusing on traffic system as first priority said that they are already devising a comprehensive plan to improve traffic in the city. Besides, post of SP, Traffic and other required officers will be created soon.

He asked support from Hill Council for required infrastructure for police, and said that without council support police alone cannot manage the traffic problems.

Khandare also expressed his plan to introduce Tourist Police in UT Ladakh with proper training; he said that these tourists' friendly police personnel will be deployed at famous tourist spots to facilitate tourists.

He further said that the transfer of Ladakhi police personal from UT J&K to UT Ladakh has already been started. Also he informed that UT Ladakh still need thousands of more police for which a recruitment process will be devised in the coming months.

Khandare further assured for a systematic and effective policing in UT Ladakh. To start different offices including IGP Office, Traffic Wing Office, CID Office, new police stations and training centers for police, he requested LAHDC, Leh to allot required land for construction of these important establishments at the earliest.

For the opening of new police stations and check posts, Khandare asked the Hill Council, Leh to forward their proposals and assured to move the proposal after examination for approval.

Regarding PSOs to Deputy Chairman and Executive Councilors' of Hill Council Leh, Khandare said that a meeting of security review committee will sit soon to decide on the matter.

Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman; Stanzin Phuntsog, EC Agriculture; Konchok Stanzin, EC Education; Mumtaz Hussain, EC Minority Affairs; Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh; Sargun Shukla, SSP, Leh; Ishtyaq Ahmed Kacho, Deputy SP HQ Leh and other Councillors were present.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The wonders of quiet listening



A friend has sent me a 'Good Morning' message, and also these words: "The words LISTEN and SILENT are made up of the same letters. Think over it." This tempted me to react: They are among the most powerful words in any English dictionary, capable of shaping and reshaping our lives, provided we use them appropriately.

Actually, none of the two is more powerful over the other even though traditional wisdom makes us say that listening is a bigger 'asset' than being just silent. True, one can't listen until one is silent; and hence those of us who believe in being silent more than in listening would vouch that silence rules over listening. To them, let me say this: Just being silent does not necessarily mean being attentive. You may be silent but your mind maybe exercised with innumerable thoughts of dangerous proportions!

Whereas, when you are listening, you are automatically tuned to be silent in a manner that you are completely lost in your listening process. That means the two are interdependent in a manner that none of them can 'exist' without the other.

And then, we have these proverbial words of wisdom: Listening quietly is more powerful than talking or shouting. Men of wisdom are generally of very few words. They don't shout, and they weigh their words and sentences before exercising with their vocal cords.

As Stephen R Covey, American educator, says: "Most people don't listen with the intent to understand, they listen with the intent to reply." What he means is that most of us are more interested in questioning, irrespective of the fact that we have understood or not what the speaker said.

It is a proven fact that patient listening makes you appreciate others' point of view though you may not and need not agree with them. And, listening also makes you upgrade yourself in your own estimation and of others as well. That is because you have got to know and understand the different aspects of a particular issue. That way, one can say, you are now wiser, thanks to your undivided attention in listening.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Kunzes Dolma, Singer

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. When did you first start singing songs and where do you draw inspiration?

I gain the inspiration from my mother Tsechu Lamo known as Nightingale of Ladakh, the Sangeet Natak Academy awardee. I grew up listening to her melodious voice and her constant motivation made me first sing in front of the whole school. She used to say, "Music is a part of the culture and we should promote and preserve it." I never had any formal education in music, all I learned is from her. My mother not just trained me to sing songs but has always taught me to be a good human being.

Singing makes me happy and from school days till now, the zeal for singing and love for folk music never ended.

Q. How many songs you have recorded till now?

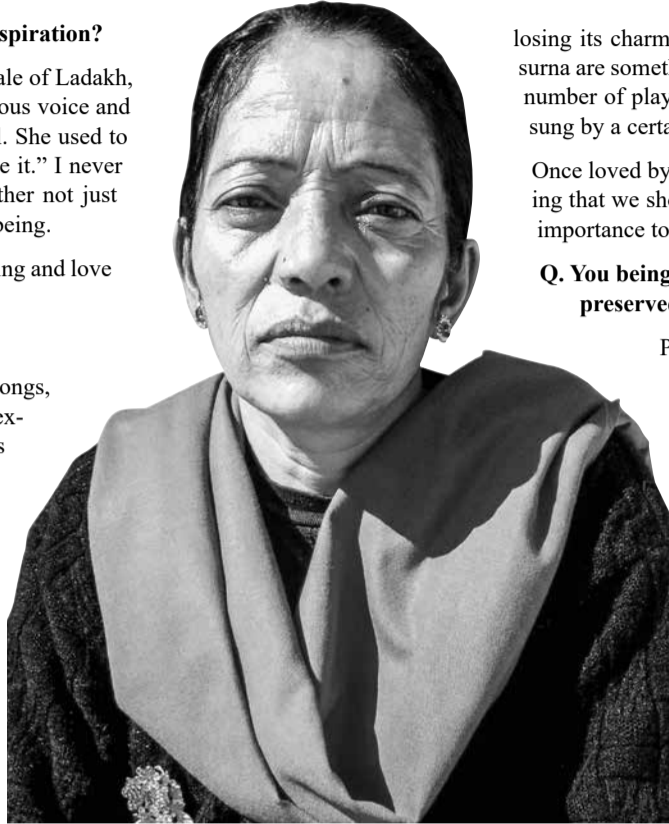
I have sung many songs including ghazals, folk songs, devotional songs, songs of Spiti, Himachal Pradesh and modern songs as well but don't exactly remember in figures. I sing in All India Radio, festivals, various programs and also work with cultural academy.

A book of 30 to 40 ghazals was compiled by me with the help and initiative of Cultural Academy, Leh.

Q. Folk songs and instruments are losing their existence. What do you see as a reason behind the erosion of such culture?

Folk songs are an integral part of our culture. In Ladakh, we have songs inspired by the land, mountains, rivers, monasteries, wildlife and many more. Similarly, we have different songs for different occasions such as marriage song, harvest song, auspicious song and many more. With time and modernization, the art and culture of our region are fading away. Musical instruments and folk songs are disappearing; there are few indigenous musical instruments such as 'Piwang' which is hard to find nowadays. Linyu (flute), Damnyan (string instrument) Khakong, (sitar) Daph (Dafli) are also facing the threat of extinction. An effort has been made to revive, preserve and promote such art and culture. Now again the charm of folk song and instrument is regaining because of training, workshop, and festivals.

I have come across cultural performance during some events, people cheer during modern song performance but the crowd gets scattered during the folk song performance. Lack of interest among the people to listen and learn folk music has been one among the reason for



losing its charm and glory. Playing of the musical instrument such as daph, daman and surna are something passed on from generation to generation and today we have very less number of players because of the social stigma attached to it. Thinking it is played and sung by a certain section of the society many of the youths do not want to learn it.

Once loved by masses, the folk songs are now found boring to the people. I am not saying that we shouldn't listen to a modern song; there is a need to give equal interest and importance to folk songs also.

Q. You being a singer how you think that these folk songs and instruments can be preserved?

People need to understand that folk songs and instruments are a part of our rich culture. We need to ingrain the importance of culture and tradition among our children from the very childhood. Along with modern education, it has become very important to impart all our traditional and cultural knowledge for the holistic development of a child. Nowadays in schools, we have music classes; I feel that the inclusion of teaching traditional music along with western music will also help in promoting folk songs and instruments at some levels.

Also, there is a need for more and more training in folk songs and playing traditional musical instruments. The initiative does not necessarily have to come from some organisation or department; we can do it at our home or village level. Once the elders start taking it seriously the young minds will learn from it.

Q. What do you say about the opportunities and scope of music?

Music is loved by all but in Ladakh; I feel that there is no such big opportunity or scope in it to sustain one's life. There is a need for big platforms and musical shows to showcase the talent which can open up new opportunities to the youngster or aspiring singers.

Q. Do you have any advice for aspirant folk singers or song-writers?

I want to say to the young artist of Ladakh to learn and keep the folk songs of Ladakh alive along with modern education. We should strive towards keeping our culture alive so that it can be experienced and passed on from generation to generation.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“I expressed my gratitude to everyone for honouring and remembering my mother Tsechu Lamo. Thank you for the various initiative and opening of an Art gallery on her name. This honour and recognition also encourage me to contribute my best to the society.”

Fortnight Highlights



Hemis and Chemray monastery and Young Drukpa Association (YDA) hosted a dinner reception in honour of Kung Fu Nuns who received the Asia Society's Game Changer Awards in recognition of their outstanding work in tackling the Key Challenges of the Himalayas in the 21st Century, gender equality and environment issues.



Monks of Rezhong monastery during the inauguration of Heritage kitchen.



World Diabetes Day observed at CMO Office complex organized by District NCD Cell (Health Department Leh). The theme for this year was 'Family and Diabetes'. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, amputation, heart disease, kidney failure and early death. Simple action can reduce the risk.



20 students from Jamyang School, Leh participated in the adventure course at Ladakh Mountaineering & Adventure Club's Veer Savarkar Institute of Mountaineering and Search & Rescue site, Shey from October 27 till 31.



Newly elected Block Development Council Chairman of 16 blocks of Leh district taking oath on October 31 in Leh. The oath was administered by Zakir Hussain, District Panchayat Officer, Leh.



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Sixth Schedule

...Continued from page 5

the people for self-governance. Presently the four tribal areas i.e, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have been constituted autonomous districts of similar nature of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council and enjoy privileges and safeguards so that their cultural and tribal distinctiveness remain protected.

In regard to land, which is the biggest concern of the people of Ladakh, the Sixth Schedule states as: the allotment, occupation or use or the setting apart, of land, other than any land which is reserved forest for the purposes of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non agricultural purposes likely to promote interests of the inhabitants of any village or town, administer the areas under their jurisdiction.

Solutions:

- Shifting of Autonomous District Council to Regional Council under Union Territory Ladakh will be a milestone in promoting coexistence among different cultural, religious and linguistic identities of the region.
- The district or regional Councils shall have the power to make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, the inheritance of property, can construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, market, roads and so on. And are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.
- Both the Autonomous Councils must coordinate and collectively put forth the demand for strengthening the existing LAHDC Act and inclusion of the above provisions.

Deputy Chairman, Hill Council, Leh stresses upon repair of Sasoma, Irrigation Canal in Siachen belt

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting on the development of Sasoma command area and repair of irrigation canals in the Siachen belt of Nubra valley was convened by Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman, Hill Council Leh on November 5.

Tsering Sandup said that due to very poor conditions of the irrigation canals of both upper and lower Sasoma about 450 families of Siachen belt could not cultivate their fields properly this year. Moreover, due to the poor condition of the canals, the development of the command area of Sasoma was also affected.

He directed Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control to formulate a plan to repair the



Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman, Hill Council Leh convening the meeting on Sasoma Irrigation Canal.

Sasoma Irrigation Canal well before the next sowing season and a final decision will be taken after visiting the site soon. Also, Deputy Director Command Area Leh was asked to formulate a detailed plan for the development of Sasoma Command area at the earliest.

Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control, Deputy Director Command Area Development Leh, Sarpanch Kubet, Nam-bardar Khemi, and Kubet and members of Sasoma Command Area committee were present during the meeting.

Umang Narula convenes meeting with director-level officers of Leh, Kargil



Umang Narula interactive meeting with officers of Kargil district through video conferencing

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first Director Level meet of both districts of Leh and Kargil was convened by Umang Narula, Advisor to LG, UT Ladakh on November 5 in the conference hall of his office.

He said that the new set up of Union Territory would be a greater opportunity for the people of the land as well as for us to better delivery, and as such, everyone must strive hard to do better than before, he added.

Narula said that we have to follow a new system in this new set up and gave directions to the officers to come up with suggestive write-ups about specific legal is-

sues so that sustainable solution could be reached out to the problems. Talking about budget allocations of Ladakh for the next financial year, Advisor cautioned the officers about the careful formulation of the budget to avoid any inappropriate alterations.

Taking cognizance of the difficulties of the winter season, he enquired about the present status of preparedness in Leh and Kargil mainly in terms of stocking essential commodities and urged to gear up their efforts to ensure stocking of the required amount of all important items.

Umang Narula also held a similar interactive meeting with the

high-level officers of Kargil district through video conferencing and enquired about the functioning of various directorates and status of preparedness for the winter months. The DC Kargil apprised that 95 percent of stocking of essential commodities has been completed for Kargil district so far.

During the meeting, Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary Ladakh and Sachin Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Leh gave important inputs on various issues.

SS Khandare, IGP Ladakh and director level officers were present during the meeting.

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Interview Venue and Date: 27-11-2019 (10 AM onwards) SKUAST-Leh Office, Housing Colony, Choglamsar Road, Cheeta Chowk.

Dr. Dorjay Namgyal
Head, KVK-Leh



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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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