

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Brief News

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37th Battalion ITBP organises Bharat Darshan tour for school students

CHOGLAMSAR: The first phase of Bharat Darshan tour comprising 46 students including 26 girls and 20 boys flagged off by Ram Mehar Singh, DIG, Head-quarter, North-west Frontier on December 12 from Drona Hall, 5th Btn ITBP, Choglamsar, Leh.

The students were from Nomadic Residential School, Puga, and Middle school, Hanley, Khaldo and Mudh Changthang.

The excursion tour was organised by 37th Battalion, ITBP under the civic action programme, MHA, Govt. of India.



Reach Ladakh's show 'The Reality' Episode #6 will be releasing on January 4 (Saturday) TIMING: 4:00-5:00PM on our YouTube channel Reach Ladakh.

Stay tuned and subscribe to our channel.

Correction and clarification

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

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Editor: Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

Assistant Editor: Stanzin Dasal

Reporter: Tsering Dolker

Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup

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Students observe hunger strike in Leh over 6th schedule

Seeks answer from MP, Ladakh, for being silent in Parliament



Protest rally demanding sixth schedule for Ladakh by student organisation in Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Demanding sixth schedule and job reservation for Ladakh, the indigenous student organisation took out a protest rally from NDS ground till the main market on December 12 in Leh.

Despite cold weather, the students observed a hunger strike and appealed people to join them for a better cause.

The protest was joined by various student unions under the banner of the Student Organisation of Unified Ladakh (SOUL).

Rigzin Dorje, President, SOUL said, "We are striving for the future of Ladakh and it is disheartening to see that very few turn up to support us. I personally went to some of the associations seeking support from them but they didn't

support. We are firm with our words and will not move back until our demand is fulfilled".

"We the students are the future of Ladakh and we don't want to lose our land and identity", he added.

He appealed leaders to understand the sentiments of the people, the need for land, job, economy and identity safeguard for a better future and sustainable development.

The student leaders seek an answer from MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal for being silent on this demand in the parliament winter session. Also, they wanted to meet the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and discuss the demand of including Ladakh under the 6th schedule of Indian constitution.

District Youth Congress demands 6th schedule for Ladakh



Protest rally demanding sixth schedule of Ladakh by District Youth Congress.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Demanding sixth schedule for Ladakh, District Youth Congress organised a protest rally on December 11 from Leh gate till the main market.

Dorjay Gyalsan, President, District Youth Congress, Leh said that with the declaration of UT Ladakh without any safeguard, people of Ladakh are concerned about the land, culture, job and identity. The rally has been called to raise the demand of sixth schedule for Ladakh which is the need of the hour.

He questioned MP Ladakh for being silent on the demand of sixth schedule for Ladakh in the parliament.

It was informed that the Congress party will file a petition in the parliament signed by the people favouring the demand of 6th Schedule for Ladakh. Also,

the senior party leaders led by Tsering Namgyal, President, District Congress Committee, Leh went to Delhi to seek the support of other Congress MP's in raising the demand.

When asked about the demand not being raised by the opposition party earlier, he said, "It is true that we have been granted UT without any safeguards but we hoped that the MP Ladakh will raise the demand of the people before the parliament in the winter session. Since no voice is being heard from him we are forced to take out the rally."

Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides the tribal population of the country a right to preserve and maintain their identities and autonomy, thus helping them to develop politically, socially

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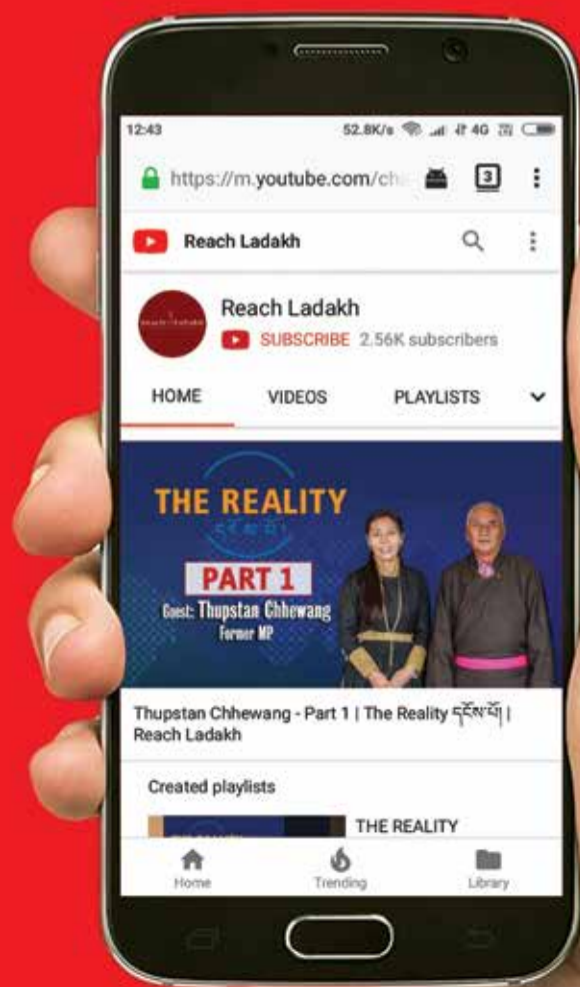


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Students of Ladakh demand proper education system

Alleges public representatives and politicians for paying least attention towards students' issues



Students of Ladakh protesting and demanding their education rights.

Tsering Dolker

LEH: Highlighting the issues of education system, various student organizations of Ladakh region under the banner of All Ladakh Students' Association took out a peace protest rally on December 5 in Leh.

Students in one voice demanded full-fledged Central University for Ladakh, Public Service Commission, Job reservation and timely announcement of result and exam schedule for Degree College, Leh.

The speakers alleged the administration for the improper job recruitment, pending interviews and the state of EJM College where students are facing many problems related to their result and examination. Also, they alleged public representatives and

politicians for paying least attention to students' issues.

Ali Hussain, Student President of EJM College said, "Generally it takes only 3 years for completing the graduation but here in EJM it takes 4-5 years. Students are still waiting for their results and exam notifications.

Ibtsum Iqbal, Vice President SOUL said that there is no professor for Maths subject in the college since one year and students are compromising such problems in the college.

Talking about the infrastructure and facility problem at Degree College Nubra, Stanzin Chophel, President, Student Union Nubra demanded special hostel for students of Nubra studying at EJM College if the administration couldn't able to provide

better facilities at Nubra College.

The presidents of student union unanimously demanded the intervention of authorities in this matter and notification about examination and result within 10 days. They threatened to call a protest again if the problem of students remains unsolved.

The students also demanded the sixth schedule for Ladakh and to conduct the next election scheduled in May- June so that thousands of students studying outside Ladakh could also vote.

Rigzin Dorje, President, Student Organization for Unified Ladakh (SOUL), Tsering Angchok, President All Ladakh Student Association Jammu (ALSAJ) and students in large numbers of the district participated.

District Congress Committee, Leh demands safeguard for UT Ladakh

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Demanding sixth schedule for Ladakh region District Congress Committee, Leh hold a protest rally on December 5 from Leh gate till Main market.

The leaders of the opposition party expressed the importance and need of constitutional safeguards for the region after declaring UT without legislature. They said that the UT Ladakh will be meaningless in terms of safeguarding the land rights, economic interest, job reservation for local youths, preservation of culture and languages and other local interest issues. They stressed empowering both the Hill Council under the 6th schedule.

Rigzin Spalbar, Former CEC LAHDC, Leh said that the grant of UT status is indeed a positive move from the government but without any safeguards for land, job, environment, culture of the region it has created confusion and fear among the people. He stressed on the unity of the leaders, religious heads and people in demanding the constitutional safeguards for the region for a better future.

He further extended support



District Congress Committee, Leh party leaders during the protest rally demanding sixth schedule for Ladakh.

from the Congress party to the BJP leaders who hold a bigger responsibility in raising the voice of the people. "If we fight in the name of party and power of the seats now, the whole region and the future generation will suffer. It is high time we have to stand united for the greater cause of Ladakh", he added.

The speakers questioned BJP local leaders for not raising the demand of the sixth schedule for Ladakh.

Clearing the doubts, Tsering Samphel, Former, Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes said, "In many of the states there is an issue of sixth schedule functioning because of the lack of coordination between

the district council and state government, but in case of Ladakh we are not under state government thus, will have no issue in proper functioning."

He said that the sixth schedule safeguards the tribal population and it is a must for the Ladakh.

Deldan Namgyal, Former MLA Nubra questioned MP Ladakh for not raising the demand in parliament while Asaduddin Owaisi MP of other region has sought the answer on the tribal area status to Ladakh.

All the speakers urged religious organisation, political parties, and social organisation to jointly raise the demand of the sixth schedule for Ladakh.

Director-General, CIDC P.R. Swarup meets Hill Council, Leh



Director-General, CIDC, P.R. Swarup; Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh; Deputy Chairman Tsering Sandup and Executive Councillor for Agriculture Phuntsog Stanzin in a meeting at Council Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Director General, Construction Industry Development Council, P.R. Swarup also the Member Secretary, Engineering Council of India visited Leh to access and understand the infrastructural need of UT Ladakh.

A meeting was convened with Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh on December 3 at Council Secretariat.

P.R. Swarup informed about his meetings with different stakeholders in Leh. He gathered valuable feedback and suggestions regarding the special needs of the region in terms of infrastructure development.

He also briefed about the func-

tions of CIDC in India under the Planning Commission, Gol in policy formulation related to construction, skill training to the engineers, workers, and management, financing policies, interaction and networking with international organizations to promote emerging technologies and best practices. He said that the role of CIDC in the progress of UT Ladakh is going to be very vital soon.

DG Swarup also informed that the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which is the prime construction agency of the Central Government under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, will set up two project units in UT Ladakh, one

each in Leh and Kargil to boost infrastructure projects in the region.

Gyal P Wangyal talked about the peculiar problems of Ladakh focusing mainly on the short working season due to harsh climatic conditions. He strongly urged on introducing new technologies in extending the working season of the region. Also, he stressed developing new infrastructures in UT Ladakh keeping the local needs, climatic conditions and aesthetic architecture of unique Ladakhi tradition in mind.

Deputy Chairman Tsering Sandup and Executive Councillor for Agriculture Phuntsog Stanzin were also present.

His Holiness Dalai Lama to visit Ladakh next summer



Delegation of Hill Council Leh during a meeting with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in Dharamsala.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DHARAMSALA: A delegation of Hill Council Leh headed by Gyal P Wangyal, CEC on December 7 met and requested His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to visit Ladakh.

Gyal P Wangyal said that with the blessing and prayers of His Holiness, the long-cherished dreams of Ladakh to become UT has been fulfilled. He said that the identity, dignity, and liberty of the region has now been re-

stored and we shall now be an architect of our own destiny.

Inviting His Holiness in the new union territory of Ladakh, He said, "We the people of Ladakh are embarked on the road to prosperity and happiness. It is the wholehearted wish of every Ladakhi that our long-cherished journey should be consecrated by your holiness visiting Ladakh next summer and blessing us all."

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama agreed to visit Ladakh in summer.

The delegation also attended the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

L-G Mathur reviews situation arising out of Zojila pass closure

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: After the order of sudden closure of Zojila pass by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, RK Mathur, Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh called an emergency meeting of the top officials on December 12 in Leh.

RK Mathur gave directions to immediately assign a Nodal

Officer from Kargil House in Srinagar to visit Gagangir and Sonamarg to look into the welfare of the stranded passengers of Leh and Kargil.

The Administration of UT Ladakh wrote a letter to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to revisit the decision of closing the Zojila Pass before time and take steps to reopen the road so that stranded

passengers can be facilitated and move from both sides of Zojila. Besides, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs have also been requested to intervene and provide immediate sorties of IL 76 to evacuate the stranded passengers.

The matter is being closely monitored by Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh.

District Youth Congress demands 6th schedule for Ladakh

...Continued from Page 1

and economically as per their desires.

Tundup Norboo, General Secretary, District Youth Congress said that the government is doing injustice to the people of Ladakh by not granting sixth schedule despite having 95 percent tribal population.

He said that the region needs land, economy and job security because of the scattered tribal population living in a strategically important place and harsh climatic condition with distinct identity and culture.

The speakers expressed their opinion about the need of sixth schedule for Ladakh to protect job, land, economy and identity.

Meeting held to explore wind energy potential in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting regarding the installation of a wind power project in Ladakh was convened under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bhanu Pratap Yadav on December 6 at DC Office Conference Hall, Leh.

Giving detail information about the benefit of renewable energy, Bhanu Pratap Yadav said that Ladakh has a huge potential in terms of wind and solar energy as compared to other parts of the country. He said that non-renew-

able energy is the main pollutant causing climate change-related issues.

Exploring the possibilities of setting up wind power projects in Ladakh region, location for installation of the wind power plant, setting up wind masts for validation of wind resources and other implementation-related issues were discussed in detail.

Project Director, LREDA, Leh spoke about the good wind resource in Ladakh due to its valley shape terrain and temporal variation.

He informed that Ladakh has a capacity to produce wind energy of nearly 1 Lakh MW within 5% of its total area. Also, at 50 m the estimated wind power potential is around 5311 MW and at 120 m, the estimated wind power potential is around 1,00,000 MW.

Sachin Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Dr. K. Balaram, Director General, National Institute of Wind Energy; S.K Mishra, Director Solar Energy Corporation, officers of Air force, BRO and various company representatives attended the meeting.

Ladakh delegation meets Prime Minister



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A joint delegation of leaders representing the various religious and ethnic groups of Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh region met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Speaker Lok Sabha Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy on December 6.

The delegation expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and all other prominent leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party and NDA government for abrogating Article 370 & 35A and granting Union Territory status to Ladakh.

During the meeting with the top leadership of the Modi Government, the delegation discussed var-

ious issues pertaining to Ladakh.

Clearing the doubts and rumours about not consulting the leaders of Kargil and political parties of Ladakh, MP Ladakh said, "I, along with all the leaders who were present in this delegation, have personally made phone calls to Feroz Khan, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil; Hassan Khan, National Conference Leader and Former Member of Parliament; Sheikh Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi, Chairman, Joint Action Committee, Kargil; President, Islamia School Kargil and Mohd Ali Majaz, District President BJP from Kargil District and Former Minister, Nawang Rigzin Jora, Congress Leaders and Former Minister from Leh. We invited them well on time but all of them couldn't attend the meetings for their personal reasons."

The group of delegation headed by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh includes H.E. Thiksay Khanpo Rinpoche, Former Member of Parliament (RS) Ladakh; Gyal P. Wangyal, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh; Phuntsok Stanzin, Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Mohd Ali Chandan, Executive Councillor representing LAHDC Kargil; Haji Anayat Ali, Former Chairman Legislative Council, J&K; Ven Shadup Chamba, President, All Ladakh Gonpa Association (LGA); Religious heads; T. Chostar, President, Zanskar Buddhist Association; Mosin Ali, Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Stanzin Lhakpa, Councillor, LAHDC Kargil and Dorjey Angchuk, District, President, Tashi Gyalsan, Vice President, Nawang Samstan General Secretary of BJP Leh.

Gyal P Wangyal inspects work on Choglamsar – Chuchot bridge



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHOGLAMSAR: Gyal P Wangyal, CEC LAHDC, Leh along with Mumtaz Hussain, EC Minority Affairs inspected the ongoing

construction work of Choglamsar – Chuchot bridge over Indus River on December 4.

Superintending Engineer, PWD, Leh informed that trucks loaded

with bridge components will reach Leh with the opening of Srinagar –Leh national highway. He assured to make the bridge ready for pedestrians at the earliest.

Gyal P Wangyal directed to ensure speedy restoration of army cable suspension bridge at the same location with the support of the army so that commuters could not face any difficulties crossing the Indus river.

BDC Chairman Chuchot Block Saira Bano, Executive Engineer Construction Division Leh, AEE and other concerned field staff were present at the site.

R K Mathur visits DIHAR Leh



Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, R K Mathur visiting Defense Institute of High Altitude and Research (DIHAR).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, R K Mathur visited Defense Institute of High Altitude and Research (DIHAR) under Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on December 9.

R K Mathur said that the scientific endeavor of DIHAR targeting both local and armed forces are contributing towards the socio-economic development of the area. Appreciating the overall contributions of DIHAR, he suggested preparations of the Proj-

ect Reports for polycarbonate greenhouses based on the complete network to cater to the vegetable/fruit requirements of both locals as well as armed forces; commercialization process of white kernels apricot (raktsey karmo) by local entrepreneurs, and solar energy power plant to cater to power, water, and heating needs at the household level in scattered habitations.

Dr. OP Chaurasia, Director DIHAR convened a detailed tour of DIHAR to the Lieutenant Governor. Col. Manoj Batra, Head,

Animal Science Division DRDO and concerned scientists were also present.

Various types of greenhouses from trench houses to polythene to polycarbonate greenhouses, improved versions, and functionalities were also briefed.

Dr. Dorjay Angchuk, Senior Scientist, DIHAR briefed RK Mathur about the overall function, research studies, and achievements of laboratories of DIHAR Leh through a power-point presentation.

Weeklong campaign on Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana concludes



Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh felicitating the anganwadi workers during the concluding day of the weeklong campaign on Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Around 46 new beneficiaries were identified during the weeklong campaign of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana themed 'Towards building a healthy nation (Surakshit Janani Viksit Dharini)' held from December 2 to 8 in Leh.

Sachin Kumar, DC, Leh appreciated all the staff and workers of ICDS and Health Department, Leh for making the week-long programme successful. He said that this programme should continue with the same passion throughout the year to cover the maximum number of pregnant women in the district. He also hoped that every Anganwadi worker will enroll a maximum number of beneficiaries in their respective areas under the PM-

MVY scheme.

He further assured all possible help and support from the district administration in the successful implementation of the PMMVY scheme.

Kunzes Angmo, District Programme Officer, ICDS, Leh briefed about the programme carried out in the district. The objective of this programme is to identify new beneficiaries and spread awareness involving public representatives at the grass-root level.

Highlighting the benefits of PM-MVY scheme, she said that this programme is devised to provide an incentive of ₹5000 in three installments for the first child to every pregnant woman except for regular government employees.

Talking about the programme, Zarina Bano, CDPO, Kharu said that the programme was launched on December 2 at different levels followed by meeting with the health department and besides awareness camps; social media was used to spread maximum awareness. The programme includes Gram Sabha/Urban Local Bodies meetings, conduct of Marathon, pamphlets distribution, door to door campaign and intensive drive to invite, collect and digitize application from eligible beneficiaries, meeting with stakeholders, special drive for reduction of application in Correction Queue, talks on health, nutrition, and sanitation, etc.

Two beneficiaries from Tibetan Refugee Camp 2 namely Tsedar Lamo and Kunzang Dolma said that the PMMVY scheme has hugely benefited them to nourish their child. They thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for devising an important programme for pregnant women.

Dr. Iqbal, District Health Officer presented a detailed account of the programmes of health department Leh for pregnant women and children. He informed that around 120 Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHNSD) was done in the month of November in the district.

The Anganwadi workers who enrolled maximum beneficiaries in their respective blocks were felicitated.

EXPERT TALK

Power Supply

By Tsering Dolker



Tsewang Paljor Executive Engineer, Power Development Department, Leh: The 45 MW Nimoo-Basgo project in Leh and 44 MW Chutuk Project in Kargil constructed by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) are the only source of power generation in Ladakh. There are 4 stations in Kargil and 6 in Leh to distribute the power.

Earlier, PDD was known as Power Development Corporation (PDC) which looks after the power generation side of small projects such as Igoo-Martselang, Sumoor, Hunder, Basgo and many more. The responsibilities of PDD are to maintain the 66kv level sub-station under sub-transmission, distribution of power to different localities, maintain them and also revenue collection.

There are 632 transformers, 28,895 consumers are covered by Alchi Project and 1713 consumers are powered through Diesel Generator. The distribution transformer capacity in Leh is 63.8 Mega Volt Amp.

During summer, the demand for power is met easily because there are no issues of water level in the Indus River. The maximum demand for power during the peak summer season is 15 kv and the surplus is exported outside. But the problem is faced during the winter months, because of the insufficient water flow in the river. The power is generated less and with the use of electrical appliances like heater and water boiler leads to low voltage issues and overloading of transformers. Whenever the load irregularly increases or decreases from a particular feeder, the system gets destabilized and tripped.

In winter, the demand is high and the power generation gets less whereas, in summer the power generation is adequate and the demand is less. This will be solved once the Northern Grid is completed and fully connected. A low-level transmission of 132KV is connected to the grid indirectly since there is no direct transmission till now. We have adequate power supply if people use it judiciously.

To avoid power-related issues during winter, if a consumer is using

more than 5KW he has to apply a three-phase connection and people should disclose the usage amount and inform the department so that we can plan according to the need of power.

To provide an uninterrupted power supply in and around Ladakh, connectivity with Northern Region Grid was envisaged. The irregular power supply will be solved once the Northern grid of the Srinagar-Leh transmission line gets completed.

The ongoing project of the Northern Grid power transmission line of 220 KV is being tendered by the REC Transmission Project Company and executed by the JKPDD system operation.

JKPDD was expecting to complete the grid in November-December this year but due to heavy snowfall in Srinagar a few days back they have informed that few towers were damaged and now they are expecting to complete the grid till March 2020. According to them, approximately 30km distance of the grid still needs to be completed.

The transmission line will ensure quality power supply in the region throughout the season.

There are some other power projects in line including, the 19 MW Durbuk-Shayok power project under Prime Minister Development Package and few other projects such as Nimmo-Chilling and Nubra are already sanctioned. Another rural area scheme like Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-AP-DRP) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) are already sanctioned and the work is also going on.

To improve the voltage in town, the REC Transmission Project Company is currently upgrading the capacity of the transformer and line under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) and Prime Minister Development Package Urban. This will be completed next year.

Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir government has unbundled this department and since our region got the Union Territory and separated from J&K, PDD will turn to Ladakh Power Corporation Limited and the functions and tariffs will also be changed.

Also, the power supply issues can be solved with the alternate local power generation system so that we can meet the local demands sufficiently and export the surplus to other regions which will be a source of income generation.

Solutions:

- To increase capacity, additional local power generation should be there to cover the problem faced during irregular power supply from the grid system.

- There is a need for more power projects .
- Judicious use of electricity is a must.
- Disclose the power usage and electrical appliances like heater, water boiler,, and others to the department.
- Public cooperation is needed at the most.

Prit Pal Singh Wilkh, General Manager, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Leh: Nimmo-Basgo Power station at Alchi is a special initiative by the Central Government which has met the power demand of the region by harnessing the hydropower potential of river Indus. The hydropower plant has replaced diesel generators which cause huge pollution, thus generating clean energy and giving a



boost to the different sectors such as tourism, service industry, etc.

Nimmo-Basgo Power station comprises of concrete gravity dam with three penstocks, the powerhouse has installed capacity of 45 MW houses 3 units of 15MW.

The maximum power demand in Leh district during the peak summer season is 15MW and in winter, the demand rises up to 25MW. In summer, the water flow is very high and adequate power is generated to meet the demand of the local region. The surplus power is exported outside. But, in winter due to the cold harsh climatic condition of the region, the water level decreases in the river and causes a problem in power generation. Thus, we face shortages.

At present, the power plant generates 25MW which is quite sufficient for the Leh region if people use it judiciously. Because of misuse of power we need to draw additional power from the local grid since we are generating only the required power. The misuse of electricity should be avoided by people to overcome electricity issues in winter.

The 220KV Northern Grid of Srinagar-Leh transmission is almost completed, A link around Srinagar is still under process and with the completion of this power grid, there will be no power shortages at all.

Apart from hydroelectricity, the best alternate solution to generate electricity in Ladakh is solar power as it is cheap and environment-friendly. Central Government has found great potential for solar power in this region and preparing for many schemes. Ultra

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Fortnight Highlights



Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh and Dr. Lobzang Sangay, President Central Administration during the celebration of 30th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in Dharamsala.



RK Mathur, LG Ladakh during his visit to Solid waste management centre, the first centre of project Tsang-Da under Rurban Mission at Solar colony, Choglamsar.



Muhammad Ali Chandan, EC, Forests and Wildlife, LAHDC, Kargil launching the Wildlife Campus Caravan Campaign at Degree college, Kargil.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Problems are necessary in life!



No one on this planet can claim that he/she has no problems. Even God has many problems! The problem with us is that we have more problems than solutions. But some of us are capable of taking problems as inevitable challenges of life, and take them head-on.

The sad thing is that a majority of us do not realise the importance of problems, and they ignore them altogether or do a half-hearted attempt to resolve them. As a result, they make a mess of their own lives.

Ann Landers, American columnist, says that one must accept trouble as an inevitable part of life. And, when it comes, hold your head high, look at it squarely in the eye and say: "I will be bigger than you, you can't defeat me."

And, we also know it very well that every problem gives us an opportunity to grab something that will make you be proud of yourself, and others too will start singing your praise.

The only problem with most of us is that we do not realise this possibility of a gate opening up for us only if we start taking it as a challenge. Once you make an effort to confront a problem, you are already taking it as a challenge, and your efforts never go unrewarded.

That is why thinkers like Norman Vincent Peale has this to say: "Every problems has in it the seeds of its own solution. If you don't have any problem, you don't get any seeds." In other words, if there is no problem, you lose a great chance to unlock the gates of possibilities and opportunities.

It is not that we don't have the ability to unlock the doors to fortune, all that we lack is the lack of confidence and a positive attitude towards life. Even then, one who is sincere and hardworking, all other tools for doing good of life fall into place. And that leads you to a point where your ability to solve problems gets strengthened many times.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Tashi Namgyal, Painter

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. When did you decide to be an artist and how did you develop an interest in art?

I grew up seeing the paintings of my father, his work inspired me and that is how I decided to be an artist. After my schooling, I pursued Bachelor in Fine Arts from the College of Arts, Delhi, and Master in Fine Arts from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. During those six years, I learned to observe and perceive things differently. My father once told me, "If you have a passion in your life, consistent in pursuing it or else that passion fades away".

I am grateful for the support of my parents and family members to make me believe and pursue it further.

Q. Can you talk about what you're trying to communicate with the elements in your work?

I mostly work on figurative painting and try to communicate the inter-dependent relationship between nature and human beings. There is a perception among many people that nature is vast than a human being or vice-versa. Through my work, I want to convey the bond between these two elements which shows how incomplete one is without the other.

While in college, I explored both the positive and negative values of the subjective themes that I wanted to paint. Usually, I feel that it's important to understand the negative aspect of a subject, in order to bring out the value of the positive aspect of the same.

In 2016, I interpreted the Ladakhi folksong, 'Chorten spara spurey' on yamangs with acrylic paints. This project inclined me towards understanding the essence of Ladakhi folksongs, which I believe conveys a lot of stories about our unsung history and culture.

Currently, I am working on a Brokpa series, where I draw inspiration from their folksongs and practices. Paintings on, songs about their migration to Ladakh, hunting songs, songs on a harvest festival, songs on women are some of my existing artworks and I plan to create more works around this theme of folk culture throughout the region of Ladakh.

Q. What mediums do you work with?

I work on canvas using oil, acrylic, and watercolors. I have also used a lot of mixed mediums like hay, ash, clay, cloth, stones including other natural elements. I wish to explore more in terms of mediums when



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“An art piece is open to interpretation, but keep in mind that art-work is just one individual's thought!”

my inspiration draws me towards it.

Q. Where you have exhibited your work? Share with us the experiences and achievements.

I participated in many group exhibitions, titled, 'On the Earth-Ladakh'

with SEOMI (Korean artist group) at Ladakh Arts and Media Organization (LAMO), Leh in 2017; 'The Inner Path' at Alliance Francaise, New Delhi (2016); exhibited paintings at the 'Bird Festival of Ladakh' at LAMO, Leh (2017) and showcased a group installation at the student biennale in Kochi Muziris Biennale, Kerala. Apart from painting, I also participated in the International Snow sculpture competition at the Harbin Snow Festival, Harbin, China with a team of four members from Ladakh called 'Kangsing' in 2019.

Each exhibition is a platform to learn and improve one's work as an artist. You get the opportunity to explore and learn from other co-artist. I am still learning to make my work more expressive.

I also received the national scholarship for painting from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India (2016).

Q. What do you have to say about ancient and traditional artwork? What has to be done to revive, develop and promote the ancient artwork?

Earlier, to learn traditional art, people travelled to far off places like Tibet, wherein without any references, the work of artists were disproportionate and with each teacher or master the style of art-work also changed a bit. These days, the knowledge of an artist is not just limited to one's teacher but influences from the internet are also visible in traditional artworks. Earlier traditional artists used natural pigments, like soil, different minerals, herbs, plants to extract colour, but nowadays synthetic colours are more in use. These are the things I have observed.

As for the question of reviving traditional art, it is still in good practice in Ladakh. Nowadays people can afford to buy more elaborate traditional artworks for their prayer rooms (Chodkhang); as compared to people in earlier times when limited households could afford to have a proper prayer room with statues and paintings.

Q. Do we have a scope in this field? What advice you will give for the young aspiring artists?

Yes, there is scope in this field, if only you are good at what you do. There are many art colleges and universities throughout India as well as abroad. 'Art is not just about impressing, it's more about expressing'. I hope that every young aspiring artist creates original artwork to express their thoughts and feelings.

Sixth Schedule a must for Ladakh



Konchok Chhorol

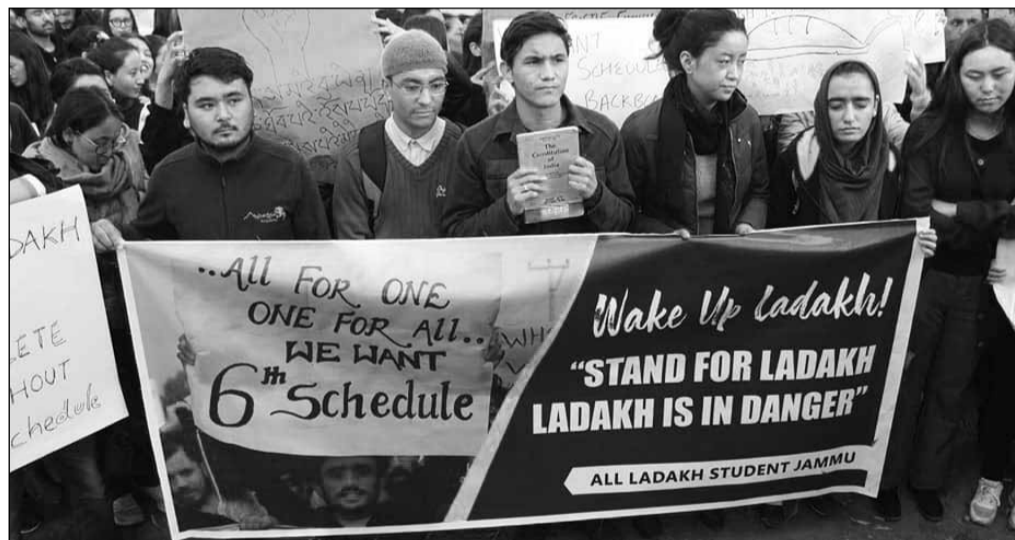
Before we discuss the importance of the 6th Schedule for Ladakh, it is important to mention why and how it was incorporated in the Constitution; and why do we need to

locate the same in the context of UT, Ladakh. Significantly, the provision of 6th schedule had emerged in the debate of the Constituent Assembly while deliberating upon the process of political integration of the North-East region with the Union of India as these areas of 'undivided Assam' were ruled by the British Administration as partially 'excluded areas.'

After Independence, an attempt was made to bring these areas closer to mainstream India through the 6th Schedule which sought a sort of compromise between the Tribesmen's desire for independence and the government's interest to assimilate them with mainstream India. The 6th schedule was drafted based on the recommendations submitted by the Bordoloi sub-committee constituted by the Constituent Assembly to look into the matters of the people belonging to the hill areas.

The committee had a careful study of the special circumstances, needs and aspirations of the people of the hills on the eve of Independence. The demand for autonomy, integration and development constituted the major considerations and the Constituent Assembly accepted a special mechanism of administration under the 6th Schedule which defines the 'Autonomous Hill District Councils.'

Since the accession of Jammu and Kashmir State with India in 1947, the Ladakhis, especially the leaders from Leh, have demanded full integration of Ladakh with the Union of India. Although insignificant in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh constituted two-thirds of the territory and three percent (3%) of its population. But having been treated just as a 'district', Ladakhis could not



A peace protest rally demanding sixth schedule for Ladakh by All Ladakh Students Association, Jammu on December 11 at Press Club Jammu.

assimilate with the mainstream in the erstwhile state which drove them towards the Centre. In the wake of the political assertions, followed by political agitations, Ladakh was granted Scheduled Tribe status in 1989 and LAHDC in 1995 through a presidential order. However, both of these moves do not ensure such guarantees to the distinctiveness as Ladakh has neither been declared Scheduled Area under the V Schedule nor been incorporated in the VI Schedule.

UT for Ladakh has been a long-standing demand. After the declaration of UT status for Ladakh, the people of Ladakh, particularly the leaders from both the districts, despite having some reservations, are putting their hard for the inclusion of Ladakh in the 6th Schedule. The Government of India has made painstaking effort to fully integrate Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh with the Indian Union. Moreover, the national interest of India demands timely integration and execution of the same. But, on the other hand, Ladakh deserves to be administered as a

special area under the Sixth Schedule as the people of the region are having unparalleled uniqueness in every facet of their lives which constitute one of the basic criteria of the 6th Schedule. Moreover, it has already been recognised as a distinct region in terms of culture, language, script and geographical remoteness in the LAHDC Act, 1995.

The 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution is perceived to be the heart and soul of the tribal population of India as it envisages a special mechanism to administer the tribal areas and their people who have not been able to assimilate with mainstream India, given their cultural distinctness and geographical remoteness, and remained neglected and marginalized. The people of Ladakh have also gone through the same stages of marginalization through the ages. Hence, people from all walks of life must give a unified fight for the better cause of Ladakh.

The inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule will vest in the District Council legislative, executive,

judicial, financial and other powers and functions. The Hill Council can make laws, subject to the approval of the Lt.Governor, allotment, use and occupation of the land other than that of reserved forests, management of unreserved forests, use of any canal or watercourse of agricultural purpose, regulation of shifting cultivation, the establishment of village and town committees, marriage and divorce, and social customs. The executive powers are already there in the LAHDC, Act 1995/97. The Council is also empowered to set up various types of courts for the suits among tribals. It is also competent to control trading and money lending by non-tribals. It also enjoys the power to discuss the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the district budget. The same will also enable the Council to legislate upon the more vital issues of eco-system, tourism, job security, education, health etc.

In a nutshell, the Sixth Schedule has all the provisions of Constitutional safeguards; so both the Councils of Leh and Kargil deserve to be empowered, as Ladakh has been granted UT status without legislature. The empowerment of the Hill Council will enable it to act as a Mini-legislature of the region. Having and acting under a legislative body will further pave the way for the future course of action and the same might help in raising our demand for full-fledged statehood. In fact, the geo-political significance of the region has prompted the government to boost the centripetal forces of Ladakh. But the same needs to be supplemented by fulfilling the basic aspirations of the people who are the main stakeholders of the region. Thus, the Constitutional guarantees to the people will obviously help the government to see a lasting peace in the region; and also to safeguard the larger national interests as the region is bounded by two international borders of China and Pakistan.

Konchok Chhorol is Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, EJM College, Leh

Lieutenant Governor Ladakh visits SNM hospital



RK Mathur, LG Ladakh interacting with the patient during his visit to SNM Hospital, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, RK Mathur stressed on requirement of a team of good doctors with para-medical staff, lab technicians along with sophisticated machinery during his visit to SNM Hospital Leh on December 6.

RK Mathur complimented SNM hospital Leh for winning Swachhta awards repeatedly and appreciated the dedication and spirit of the staff of the hospital.

He visited the wards and interacted with the doctors on duty and enquired with the patients about their health and the ser-

vices rendered by the hospital staff.

The doctors association, nurses, lab technicians, Counsellor ICTC, FMPHW, and other staff members highlighted their grievances and issues before the Lieutenant Governor.

Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner/Secretary Ladakh; Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner/Secretary Ladakh; Sachin Kumar, DC Leh; Dr. Phunchok Angchuk, Director Health; Dr. Tsering Motup, Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Tsering Samphel Medical Superintendent were present.

Later, the LG Ladakh also visited 'Jalzum Skit-tsal' - a Day-care centre at SNM hospital premises and interacted with the senior citizens who were visiting the centre during their leisure time.

Zanskar delegation meets LG Ladakh in Leh



Delegation of Zanskar Sub - Division with Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A joint delegation of BDC chairmen and Sarpanch coordination committee of Zanskar Sub - Division met Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur on December 7.

The delegation raised important

demands of the region and requested R K Mathur to ensure all the basic amenities to the people of the Zanskar region.

They highlighted the problem faced due to a shortage of doctors at the Community Health Center, Padum, absence of prop-

er medical facilities and medical staff, no digital connectivity in the region and restoration of VSAT Internet for the Gram Panchayat of Zanskar.

Also, they demanded separate district status for the Zanskar region which is the long pending demand of the people.

Talking about the poor road connectivity, they requested Lieutenant Governor to augment the pace of road repair work and the various outstanding road projects including Nimoo Padum Darcha road. They said that the timely completion of these essential road projects will make lives of the people better.

R K Mathur assured to tackle all the issues raised by the delegation at the earliest and promised to visit Zanskar soon.

Kargil's elected representatives pledge to follow fundamental duties



Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, LAHDC, Kargil addressing the elected representatives of Kargil during the campaign on Constitution of India.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: As a part of the ongoing campaign on the Constitution of India, District Administration Kargil organised a programme for the elected representatives of the district on December 8 at Auditorium hall, Kargil.

A film titled 'Samvidhan- Making of the Indian Constitution' was screened which highlighted the history of how the Constitution of India came into being, significance of the Constitution

Day, contribution of the makers of the Constitution and Fundamental Duties of Indian citizens.

Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, LAHDC, Kargil highlighted the importance of the constitution day, the principles and values. He stressed upon the need to uphold and practice the principles and values enshrined in our Constitution.

Stating the Constitution of India as the best constitutions in the world, he said that we should be

proud of its values of equality, freedom of speech, expression, and religion. Also, he emphasized the fundamental duties of the citizens enshrined in the Constitution and to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.

Congratulating the District Administration and all officers and officials involved with the campaign, Feroz Ahmad Khan urged them to continue reiterating the constitutional values through such programmes as per the scheduled calendar.

Meanwhile, the CEC and all the elected representatives, district officers and students read out the Preamble to the Constitution followed by a pledge to uphold the fundamental duties.

The campaign on the Constitution of India will culminate on April 14, 2020, on Dr. B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary. During this time, a range of activities is being undertaken by different departments.

Hill Council convenes meeting with GoC 14 Corps in Leh

Resolves to further strengthen army and civil relation



GoC 14 Corps Leh, Lt. General Harinder Singh during a meeting with Hill Council, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: An introductory meeting of Hill Council Leh with the army officers of 14 Corps Leh was held on December 5 at Council Secretariat.

Welcoming GoC 14 Corps Leh, Lt. General Harinder Singh, Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill council, Leh highlighted the exemplary cordial relationship between the India Armed Forces and the civil population.

Briefing about the transition phase of UT Ladakh, he said that the role of Army in the progress of Ladakh was and will remain crucial.

To further strengthen and consolidate the existing relation and cooperation between civil and army, he further stressed on convening Civil Military Liaison conference in the coming months.

Lt General Harinder Singh said that Ladakh after UT is on the way of change with lots of opportunities coupled with challenges and the leadership and people of Ladakh should use their wisdom responsibly in choosing the right opportunities.

He said that dealing with the peculiar environment and terrain of Ladakh, generating capacity,

managing resources and retaining and maintaining a societal balance of Ladakh is going to be a key factor in driving the engine of Ladakh towards sustainable development and progress.

Talking about the contribution of the army in the economy of Ladakh as the largest consumer and job provider, he assured support from the Army to the Hill Council and civilians.

He further stressed developing more mutual understanding and a close relationship between the Army and Civilians, especially in border areas.

Issues like the supply of local agro products to the army including milk, sharing of army OFC to strengthen mobile network in borders area and menace of dog issues, etc were discussed in the meeting.

Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman; Executive Councilors Councilors and Senior army officers of 14 Corps Leh were present.

Power supply

...Continued from page 5

Mega Solar Power Project of 50 MW is planned and NHPC is assigned for the research for the solar project as of now.

With the help of the Power Development Department and with each other's cooperation, we are try-

ing our best to provide power supply to UT Ladakh.

Solutions:

- Planning of more power projects in newly formed UT will enrich the region's future.
- People should use electricity judiciously.
- Turn off the lights and unplug the appliances when not in use.

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One month skill development training programme on "Organic Grower" shall be conducted at SKUAST-Leh office, Housing Colony (near Chitah Chowk) under "Pradhan Mantri Koushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY)" through Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) from 16th December 2019 onwards. Twenty participants will be selected. 10th Pass candidates will be given preference. Refreshment and lunch will be provided to the participants during the training. For any query contact Dr. Phuntsog Tundup (Course Instructor) 8494060250, 9469730439 (whatsapp). Interested candidates will report SKUAST-Leh Office, Housing colony, near Chitah Chowk on 14-12-2019 (Saturday).

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**Wishes Happy Losar &
Merry Christmas to all
the people of Ladakh**



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