JULY 16-31, 2024

In Conversation with

Tsering Lhanzes, Illustrator and Animation Filmmaker

EXPERT TALK:

Ladakh's environmental challenges: Impact of tourism and human activities

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Substance Abuse

Substance abuse surges in Ladakh, prompting community action

New de-addiction centre to deal with crisis

Nenzes Chodon

LEH: In recent years, Ladakh has witnessed a concerning social dynamics and newfound Once insulated from mainstream drug culture, Ladakh now grapples with issues stemming from alcohol, cigarette, comparatively lower. and drug consumption among its younger population.

Traditionally secluded, Ladathemselves increasingly drawn cumbing to them. towards substance abuse, necessitating a deeper understanding of its impact on individuals and society.

Substance abuse involves the misuse of drugs beyond their intended medical or therapeutic purposes. While drugs serve essential roles in healthcare, their excessive consumption poses severe health risks. Drugs are broadly categorized into hard and soft drugs, with hard drugs like heroin and cocaine being particularly dangerous due to their addictive stance abuse. and harmful nature. In contrast, soft drugs such as alcohol The YATO Club serves as a and marijuana, though legally restricted in quantity, are more socially acceptable.

substance abuse often begins couraging their active particiwith soft drugs, which are pation in various activities to more accessible and perceived as less harmful. Marijuana, for ests. This strategic approach instance, has become readily aims to reduce drug demand available to teenagers despite and combat substance abuse efforts to regulate its distribu- effectively within the school

Nilza Angmo, District Social It is crucial for young people to Welfare Officer in Leh, ex- explore various opportunities plained, "The criminals inoperandi' using discreet methods. They might use parcel ser- only enrich their experiences port on another, employing various means to reach their consumers".

: "There are two main routes to reach Ladakh: one via Manali and the other via Srinagar. Drug sellers transport their products through these routes, but as mentioned earlier, criminals often resort to unpredictable and illicit methods to distribute their products to consumers", she added.

Teenagers are highly susceptible to substance abuse, often influenced by peer pressure or involvement in their daily lives driven by financial, family, or emotional challenges. This is- opment of negative habits. sue is more prevalent among males compared to females in District Social Welfare Offi-

Ladakh. Historically, societal norms in Ladakh have granted more freedom for men to rise in substance abuse among explore outside their homes, its youth, reflecting evolving contributing to higher male involvement in substance abuse. access to modern influences. However, it's important to note that women are not completely immune to this problem, though their involvement is

Peer pressure plays a significant role in pushing teenagers towards substance abuse. When kh's exposure to the outside managed positively, peers can world has ushered in lifestyle help deter their friends from changes, influencing youth drugs by providing support and behaviors and choices. To-day, teenagers in Ladakh find tive influences rather than suc-

> Recognizing the influence of peer pressure, the district administration has initiated the formation of the YATO (Youth Against Tobacco and Other Substances) Club in schools. This club aims to harness peer influence positively by engaging students as members, supported by a teacher and overseen by the principal. By spending significant time together, peers are better able to identify and support classmates who may be vulnerable to sub-

> platform to proactively prevent drug abuse among teenagers. It emphasizes the importance of not neglecting vulnerable groups at the school level, enexplore their talents and intercommunity.

in life beyond academic educavolved in drug supply have a tion, including sports, art, culconstantly evolving 'modus ture, and environmental conservation. These avenues not vices one day and road trans- but also contribute positively to their personal growth.

> Similarly, families play an equally important role. In today's times, there often exists a gap in understanding between parents and their children. It is essential for parents to actively engage in their children's lives-knowing where they go, what they do, and the challenges they face. Family issues should not adversely affect children's mental health. Regular monitoring of their academic progress is necessary, but more importantly, ongoing is crucial to prevent the devel-

cer, highlighted, "In Ladakhi society, we often see strained relationships between children and parents. Some parents are occupied with work or transferred to distant areas, while some children reside in hostels without regular check-ins. Others live independently away from their parents. Even those who live together may neglect meaningful interactions.'

Effective communication between parents and their children fosters mutual understanding and strengthens familial bonds, ensuring that parents are better equipped to support and guide their children through life's challenges.

With a growing number of young people involved in substance abuse, Leh-Ladakh has inaugurated its first de-addiction center on June 1st. This center aims to rehabilitate addicts and reintegrate them into mainstream society through treatments, counseling, and yoga therapy.

Treating addiction is particularly challenging in a place where stigma remains attached to the issue. Awareness is crucial to dismantle this stigma; the more it spreads, the less stigma will endure. The center is dedicated to promoting awareness and fostering trust while ensuring

Nilza Angmo emphasised, "Recovery is a distinct process that follows prevention. It is essential to educate children about the consequences of substance abuse early on. They need to learn effective ways to handle peer pressure, and parents must engage them on a familial level. It's imperative to remove the stigma surrounding open communication about any issues."

As Ladakh's youth represent the future of the region, safeguarding them from the scourge of drug abuse is paramount. It requires concerted efforts from families, schools, and the community to create an environment where drug use is unacceptable. Educating youth about the dangers of substance abuse, fostering supportive peer networks, and strengthening family bonds are crucial steps in this journey.

In conclusion, the preservation of Ladakh's unique cultural heritage depends on nurturing a generation free from the grip of substance abuse. By addressing the root causes and providing effective support mechanisms, Ladakh can ensure a brighter and healthier future for its youth.

ITBP seizes 108 gold bars near Indo-China border, two arrested



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) seized 108 gold bars weighing 108.060 kgs near the Indo-China border on July 9. Two individuals, Tenzin Targy (40) and Tsering Chamba (69), were arrested in connection with the incident.

According to the press statement, on July 9, 2024, at around 01:30/02:00 PM, the 21st Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) launched a Long Range Patrolling (LRP) in the border areas of the Southern Sub Sector in Eastern Ladakh, specifically in the general areas of Chismule, Narbula Top, Zakle, and Zakla. This patrol was aimed at satellite phone. He directed checking infiltration and smug gling activities, which tend to custody of the precious increase during the summer metal and suspects. The season. There were also specific inputs about smuggling activities in the area near Sirigaple, Ladakh.

The patrol team, headed by Deepak Bhatt, DC/GD, comprised three SOs and 17 ORs. While reaching the area of Sirigaple, approximately 1 km

al Border at around 1:20 PM, the party encountered two suspicious individuals with mules. The patrol party chased them down and took them to the suspects' camping area. Initially, the suspects claimed they were collecting medicinal plants, but the patrol party later discovered a large quantity of gold and other items.

away from the Internation-

The patrol party took custody of both suspects and seized the items, then proceeded to Tactical HQRS Koyul to report the matter to Ajay Nirmalkar, Comdt 21 Battalion, ITBP, via them to ensure the secure matter was reported to higher headquarters, and further investigation and action are ongoing in coordination with other organizations.

This patrol was planned by SHQ Srinagar, ITBP, with the approval of HQ NW Ftr, ITBP, along with several

other patrols launched simultaneously in the general

In addition to the gold bars, the following items were

•2 mobile phones

•1 binocular •Some Chinese food items

•2 knives

•2 ponies •1 torch

•1 hammer •1 nose plier

The ITBP is authorized by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India (GOI), to carry out search and seizures, and exercise the nowers of toms on the border to combat smuggling activities. The suspects will undergo joint interrogation by Civil Police, IB, SB, Customs, and ITBP. The seized items and the suspects have been handed over to Customs officers for further questioning and necessary legal

Ladakh Sangha Council: Strategies for sustaining buddhist teachings and culture

Nenzes Chodon

LEH: The First Ladakh Sangha Council 2024 was held at Zen Hotel, Leh Ladakh, on July 12, organized by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in collaboration with the Ladakh Gompa Association.

The event was graced by His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche, His Eminence Bakula Rangdol Nima Rinpoche, CEC LAHDC Leh Tashi Gyaltson, Executive Councillor (Animal/Sheep) Tashi Namgyal, Executive Councillor (Culture) Stanzin Chospel, Nominated Councillor Ven Konchok Tsepel, Ven Tsering Wangdus, President of the All Ladakh Gompa Association, Vice President LBA Rigzen Dorjey, Tsewang Paljor, Deputy Secretary Culture, and venerable monks.

The council focused on the significant role of monasteries and monks in Ladakh in preserving ancient Buddhist teachings, literature, and culture. Historically, many Rinpoches and renowned Buddhist monks have dedicated their efforts to preserving Ladakh's unique cultural heritage. It is crucial to continue this legacy to protect the language, belief systems, rituals, art, literature, and cul-

Monasteries contribute not only to spiritual fulfilment but also to Ladakh's tourism sector.



During the First Ladakh Sangha Council 2024 at Zen Hotel, Leh

and manuscripts in monasteries attracts tourists, eager to learn about Buddhist culture and Ladakh's history. His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche emphasized the council's vision for the next 15-20 years, focusing on nurturing, protecting, and sustaining the teachings of Buddha rather than on further infrastructure development. He expressed concern over the declining Buddhist population and the waning interest among locals in the true significance of monastic scripts, statues, and teachings.

The display of primitive art

CEC LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyaltson, highlighted the contributions of Buddhist monasteries to tourism, referring to them as the Living Heritage. He mentioned the construction of stupas at Umling La, Sindhu, and other locations, symbolizing peace. Gyaltson also discussed initiatives by the administration to provide social security, including health insurance for the poor and for monks.

Tsewang Paljor, Deputy Secretary / Special Officer Culture, noted that Ladakh's rich culture owes much to the guidance and teachings of the gompas. The event was an occasion to express gratitude for the historical contributions of monks and monasteries, emphasizing the continued importance of gompas as centers of worship and learning for future generations.

Fortnightly News

Leh celebrates 89th birth anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The day celebrated as Universal Day of Compassion

Nenzes Chodon

LEH: The 89th birth anniversary of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was celebrated at Jivetsal on July 6. The event was organized by the Ladakh Buddhist Association, All Ladakh Gonpa Association, and the Office of the Chief Representative of Tibetan Sonamling Settlement Leh.

The day began with Rewoe Sangchot (fragrant smoke offering), symbolizing purification of the place. This was followed by a procession to bring the portrait of life and teachings of His His Holiness to the throne, accompanied by Serthang emphasizing his efforts to by ALGA, Daman-Surna, Phogs-Kalchor, and Tashi Choepa by TCV.

ADGP Ladakh Police, Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, was ligious understanding, and the chief guest for the scientific knowledge. occasion. Other notable attendees included Exec- Chering Dorjey Lakrook, utive Councillor Stanzin President of LBA, under-Chosphel, Councillors of scored the significance LAHDC Leh, SSP Shruti of the day, noting that it Arora, IPS, monks from marked the first celebra-



Cultural performances during the His Holiness Dalai Lama's 89th birthday celebration at Jevetsal, Leh

other distinguished guests. In his address, Dr. S.D. Jamwal highlighted the Holiness the Dalai Lama, protect Tibetan culture and be a voice for Tibetans. He noted the Dalai Lama's advocacy for compassion, humanity, peace, inter-re-

various monasteries, and tion of His Holiness the

Dalai Lama's birthday as the Universal Day of Compassion. This designation was unanimously declared during the 12th ABC (Asian Buddhist Conference).

The day was further enriched with vibrant songs dedicated to His Holiness and diverse cultural programs, including traditional Ladakhi and Tibetan dance performances. There is also optimism that the Dalai Lama will visit Ladakh in August for his sermon.

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviews progress of Sindhu Central University campus construction

that water and electricity



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Advisor, Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal reviewed the preparedness for construction of the main campus and operationalizing of the temporary campus of the Sindhu Central University.

Professor Sachin Gunthe from IIT Madras gave an at Khaltse and the establishment of the transit campus of the SCU and briefed about the ongoing admission process.

The permanent campus of the University is being constructed in Gothang at village Khaltse, Leh, Ladakh covering approx. 110 acres while the temporary campus is coming up

prised that the DPR for the project to supply electricity at the temporary cam-pus has been shared with the SCU officials and work shall start once administrative approval is received.

Advisor said that the archi-Advisor said that the architectural design of the Central University should be in keeping with the geographical and cultural context of the region. He flagged the challenges related to water access and high wind conditions at the campus site and Stressing basic ameni- asked the concerned Deties, Advisor Ladakh, Dr partments to factor these as-Pawan Kotwal said that pects and asked IITs to look the Departments of PHE for innovative solutions to and PDD should ensure these challenges.

supply is provided at the The meeting was attended main campus site within by the Commissioner Secretary of the Higher Education Department, UT Commissioner/Secretary, Ladakh; the Administrative Higher Education De- Secretary of the PDD, UT partment, Padma Angmo Ladakh; the Administrative overview of the status of construction of the Sindhu the temporary campus PHE / I&FC UT Ladakh; Central University (SCU) which is being established DC/CEO LAHDC of Leh; in the premises of Govt Chief Engineer of PWD/ Degree College, Khaltse. R&B Ladakh; Under Sec-Administrative Secretary, retary of the Higher Edu-Public Works Department, cation Department, UT La-Michael D'Souza apprised dakh; Internal Committee regarding the status of from IIT Madras; Assistant construction of approach Director of Planning, UT road to the site and stated Ladakh; and other offithat the fair-weather road cials, while the Additionis expected to be complet- al Secretary of the Higher ed in the next two months. Education Department, UT Administrative Secretary, Ladakh joined the meeting PDD, Vikram Malik, ap- virtually.

79th birth anniversary of Drigung Chetsang Rinpoche celebrated with devotion, joy

Yangchen Dolma

LEH: The 79th birth anniversary of His Holiness Chetsang Rinpoche was celebrated with great fervor and devotion at the Drigung Dharma Foundation in Phyang, Leh, on July 10. The ceremony also marked the significant occasion of Buddha's First Turning of the Wheel of Dharma.

The event was co-host- The ceremony began with ed by the revered mon- the sacred lighting of asteries of Ma Gon Sum lamps, symbolizing the (Phyang Gompa, Lamayu- triumph of wisdom and ru Gompa, and Shachukul compassion over igno-Gompa). Chief Executive rance. The cake-cutting Councillor LAHDC Leh ceremony added a festive Tashi Gyaltson graced the touch to the proceedings. event as the chief guest, while His Eminence Baku- three monasteries perla Rangdol Nima Rinpoche formed a special Mandawas the special guest of la offering ceremony. His honor.

The celebration was at- delivered a brief introductended by several distin- tion to Buddha's First Serguished guests, includ- mon to the audience. ing Executive Councillor Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Ven. Khanpo K Rangdol Phyang Councillor Tundup Nurbu, Lamayuru Councillor Konchok Stanzin, flection on the Extraordi-Chushul Councillor Phunt- nary Life of HH Chetsang sog Norboo, Nominat- Rinpoche," highlighting ed Councillor Ven. Tashi the life and achievements Gyaltsen, Secretary of of His Holiness. Drikung Dharma Founda-Go Green Go Organic, and ed His Holiness Chetsang



During the celebration of 79th birth anniversary of His Holiness Chetsang Rinpoche at the Drikung Dharma Foundation in Phyang, Leh. many devoted followers.

Vajra masters from the Eminence Bakula Rangdol Nima Rinpoche then

delivered a speech titled "A Rare and Inspiring Re-

tion, President LGA, Vice In his address, CEC Tashi President LBA, Director of Gyaltson warmly felicitat-

Rinpoche on his birthday, acknowledging the esteemed spiritual leader's remarkable contributions the environmental well-being of Ladakh, particularly through the Go Green project and the mega plantation drive. These initiatives have become beacons of hope and inspiration for the region's ecological revitalization. He reassured the continued support and solidarity of the LAHDC in pursuing such noble endeavors, emphasizing the imper-ative of collective action and collaborative spirit in addressing the environ-mental challenges facing the region.

The event also featured a cultural performance by Ratnashri Artists, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Comprehensive plans discussed for cloudburst risk management



During the meeting regarding the preparedness for potential Glacial Lake Outburst Flow (GLOF) and floods due to cloudburst hazards in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Outburst Flow (GLOF) burst hazards in the Union Civil Secretariat, Leh.

hensive deliberations and volvement and advanced discussions vulnerable areas prone to floods due to cloudbursts affecting lakes (Tso) in La-ning, coordination, and dakh. Dr. Kotwal reviewed detailed reports on vulnerable lakes in the Leh, Kargil, and Zanskar regions. He instructed the District Magistrates and Senior Superintendents of Police of Leh and Kargil to identify suitable locations in their respective districts to accommodate the National (NDRF) team. The Addi-Police, Ladakh, assured that the NDRF team would be provided accommodation in existing District Police Lines.

Dr. Kotwal directed the Union Territory Disaster Response Force (UTDRF) ble points to assess the risk

LEH: Dr. Pawan Kotwal, and enhance prepared-Advisor and Chairman of ness. He emphasized the the State Disaster Managenet Authority (SDMA), ment, including solar charging panels and sat-UT Ladakh, chaired a sig-nificant meeting on July 10 ellite phones, to be made regarding the preparedness for potential Glacial Lake Outburst Flow (GLOF) the UTDRF to provide and floods due to cloud- training to the Aapda Mitr (Volunteers) and residents Territory of Ladakh. The to ensure the safety of humeeting was held at the man lives during natural

The primary focus of the meeting was on compre- tance of community inconcerning preparedness in mitigating the impact of GLOFs in Ladakh. Proactive planpreparedness were underscored as crucial elements to mitigate the impact of such natural disasters.

The meeting focused on preparedness and response GLOF and flood risks due to cloudburst hazards in the UT of Ladakh. Strate-Disaster Response Force gic deliberations and discussions aimed at enhanctional Director General of ing Ladakh's resilience and disaster management capabilities were central to the meeting's agenda.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Ladakh Police, UT Ladakh; the Commisto visit identified vulnera-ble points to assess the risk Forest Department, UT the Administrative Secretary of the Department of Disaster Management Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, UT Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary of RDD&PR Department, UT Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary of Power Development Department, UT Ladakh; the District Magistrate, Leh, UT La-dakh; the Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, UT Ladakh; Lieutenant Colonel Prateek Gupta GSO-1 (OPS), HQRS Leh Sub Area; the Superintendent of Police, UTDRF, UT Ladakh; the Director of Indian Meteorological Department, UT Ladakh; the Dean of Research Studies, Ladakh University, UT Ladakh; Under Secretary of the Department of Disaster Management Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Ladakh; and other concerned officials. Additionally, the Commandant-13 NDRF, Ludhiana Punjab; the District Magistrate, Kargil, UT Ladakh; the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kargil; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kargil; and other concerned offi-

cials joined the meeting

virtually.

Ladakh; the Commission-

er/Secretary of Planning

Department, UT Ladakh;

Ladakh Sports policy draft to be open for public feedback



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor, Ladakh Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting on July 8 to discuss the draft of the Ladakh Sports Policy.

At the outset of the meeting, a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation was given by Dr. Stanzin Thakchos, OSD to the Administrative Secretary of Youth Service and Sports Department UT Ladakh. The presentation highlighted various aspects of the proposed policy, in-cluding the appointment of outstanding sportspersons in government jobs and special cash awards for sportspersons winning medals for the country on different national and international platforms.

Deliberations were also held on the objective of the sports incentives to encourage sportspersons and foster the overall sporting scenario in the UT of Ladakh.

Advisor Ladakh directed the concerned officers that the guidelines of the draft must encourage the sports culture in UT Ladakh while going through the procedures for availing any benefits of the policy. He further instructed that the draft must be put in the public domain for stakeholders' comments before finalizing it.

The vision of the proposed Ladakh Sports Policy 2024 is to create a dynamic, inclusive, competitive, and innovative environment that enables and empowers the youth of Ladakh

to experience and benefit from a strong sporting culture. The policy aims to facilitate the creation of a self-sustaining and participative sports ecosystem that makes sports affordable, enjoyable, and sustainable for all those who wish to play and for those who wish to excel on the ground forefront.

The meeting was attended by the ADGP, UT Ladakh; the Commissioner/Secretary of Higher Education, Ladakh; the Commissioner/Secretary of GAD, Ladakh; the Commissioner/ Secretary of Health & Medical Education, Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary of PDD/Youth Services & Sports, Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary of Information Technology/RDD, Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary of PWD/R&B, Ladakh; the Deputy Commissioner/ CEO LAHDC, Leh; Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh; the Director of the Finance Department, UT Ladakh; the Joint Director of Youth Service and Sports, UT Ladakh; the Director of School Edu-cation Department, UT Ladakh; Additional Secretary of GAD, UT Ladakh; Under Secretary of Information Technology/RDD UT Ladakh; OSD to the Secretary of PDD/Youth Services & Sports; District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Leh; and concerned officials. The Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC, Kargil; District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Kargil, and other concerned officials joined the meeting virtually.

Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre bag victory in 3rd CEC Polo Cup



Nenzes Chodon

LEH: The Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC) triumphed in the 3rd CEC Polo Cup, securing victory against the Indus team in the final match held at Shagaran Polo Ground, Chushot, Leh, on July 5. LSRC emerged victorious with a score of three goals, lifting the coveted cup.

The tournament saw intense competition, with the semi-finals featuring matches between Indus and Kundik, where Indus scored 4 goals to Kundik's 1, and between LSRC and the Animal Husbandry Team A, where LSRC dominated with 5 goals.

The Ladakh Polo Festival is celebrated annually with immense enthusiasm and dedication from organizers, players, cultural performers, and audiences. The game of polo in Ladakh is believed to have begun during the reign of

King Jamyang Namgyal, es needed to feed and train whose second wife was a horses for the game. Dr. Balti Princess, bringing Kotwal emphasized that the sport from Gilgit and the administration would Baltistan to the region.

nificance, polo is not as dakh. frequently played today as it was in the past. Howev- The festival also featured er, efforts are made by the stalls selling traditionadministration to conduct al food such as Chutagi, tournaments and occa- Skyu, Thukpa, Pava, and sional exhibition matches Khambir, along with culto preserve the traditional tural dance performances

visor to LG Ladakh, ex- day before the men's final pressed his excitement match. over the final match, praising LSRC for their victo- The event was attended by ry and commending the Advisor to LG Ladakh Dr. as the sport of kings," he LAHDC Moses Kunzang, said, "but it is amazing to Joint Director Youth Serwatch the locals play the vices and Sports, distingame in Ladakh.'

polo, highlighting the sig- polo match. nificant effort and resourc-

ensure adequate facilities to promote and expand the Despite its historical sig- game's significance in La-

by local artists. A women's exhibition match was also Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Ad- showcased on the same

sportsmanship of the In- Pawan Kotwal, Executive dus team. "Polo is known Councillor Agriculture healthcare facilities. guished guests, villagers of Chushot, and other He further noted the ded- spectators who gathered to ication required to play witness the thrilling final

L-G BD Mishra discusses Ladakh's development with Karnataka Legislative Committee



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), with the members of the Committee on Public Accounts from the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), met with the members of the Committee on Public Accounts from the Karnataka Legislative Assembly during their study tour to Ladakh on July 5. The meeting, led by the Chairman of the Committee, CC Patil, took place at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, and ADGP Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal, IPS, were also present.

The Committee on Public Accounts from Karnataka Legislative Assembly is on a study tour to Ladakh from July 4 to 7. During the meeting, Patil provided a brief introduction of the Committee members and explained the functioning and objectives of the Committee. The members inquired about various sectors in Ladakh, including agriculture, hydro-electric projects, industrial policy, the election of Hill Councils and their governance roles, crime rates, and

LG expressed his pleasure in interacting with the esteemed Committee, acknowledging their long-standing public service. He informed the members about Ladakh's nascent stage as a Union

Territory since 2019 and highlighted the neglect faced by the region when it was part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in budget allocation, communication, and connectivity. He discussed the challenges in utilizing funds allocated by the Government of India due to the lack of proper mechanisms but assured that the UT Administration is now ensuring proper and full utilization of these funds for Ladakh's development.

LG shared his six-decadelong association with Karnataka, particularly Mysuru, where he was commissioned into the Infantry, the 18th Battalion of the Madras Regiment, in 1961. He also discussed the challenges faced by the UT Administration, such as ensuring the availability of drinking water for future generations, maintaining year-round road connectivity, and reducing the mortality rate of pashmina goat kids.

He felicitated the members of the Committee on Public Accounts. Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, briefed the Committee on various initiatives taken by the UT Administration across different sectors, despite the short working season, and highlighted efforts to make Ladakh a carbon-neutral region.

Fortnightly News

Chamba Animal Welfare Society inaugurates animal care facility in Thiksey



Chairperson of People for Animals, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi during the opening ceremony of animal care facility.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Chamba Animal Welfare Society celebrated the grand opening of animal care facility at Shesrap Skayadtsal Ling, Thiksey on July 7.

The ceremony was honored by the presence of Former Union Minister and Chairperson of People for Animals, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, who attended as the chief guest, alongside His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, gracing the occasion as the guest of honor. The event

of esteemed guests including His Eminence Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche (Padma Shri Awardee), Executive Councillor (Agriculture) Stanzin Chosphel, Former Member of Parliament Jamyang Tsering Namg-yal, and other local digni-

In his address, H.E. Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche commended the society for establishing the vital animal rescue center, emphasizing the significance guest of honor. The event of compassion towards also saw the participation stray animals. H.E. Thik-

sey Khanpo Rinpoche applauded the efforts of all involved and underscored the center's mission.

Phuntsog Wangail, President of the Chamba Animal Welfare Society, extended a warm welcome to attendees, shedding light on the society's dedication to caring for animals in need. The event also featured captivating cultural performances, adding to the festive atmosphere of the occasion.

New Toy library launched at Police Public Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Under Project Khilona, the Pagaria Welfare Foundation, in collaboration with Human Upliftment Organization and Himalayan Volunteer Tourism, has launched a new Toy Library at Police Public School in Kargil on July 10.

The primary mission of this initiative is to foster an environment where children can learn and grow

through interactive and engaging play. Additionally, the project aims to provide educational and entertaining resources for children in the communi-

The Toy Library offers a diverse collection of toys, providing access to 38 different types of toys for over 60 students from nursery to 1st grade.

The library was inaugurated by DYSP, DAR Kargil, Shri Stanzin Dorjay, in the presence of the Secretary of Human Upliftment Organization, Bilal Ahmad, and the Founder of the Organization, Altaf Hussain, along with the school principal and staff. This marks the 4th library established under Project

MSME ministry outlines growth plans for Ladakh in meeting with Lt Governor



Officials of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr. Rajneesh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), along with Vipul Goel, Joint Secretary of ARI, Ministry of MSME, held a meeting with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) on July 11 at the Governor's Lieutenant Secretariat.

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kot-Commissioner/ Secretary to the LG L. Franklin, and Under Secretary of Industries and Commerce Sumera Shafi were also present during the meeting.

Dr. Rajneesh highlighted that MSME contributes approximately 30% to India's GDP and outlined the ministry's vision to foster a robust MSME sector, including Khadi, Village, and Coir Industries. He mentioned the establishment of an MSME office in Ladakh and shared plans to support existing enterprises while promoting new

strategy to support regis- entrepreneurs. tered MSMEs operating these enterprises.

hance the infrastructure MSME schemes. of the Industrial Estate and Small Enterprises ery. (MSEs) in Ladakh. Additionally, he highlighted Additionally, LG encourplans for establishing an aged officials from the Min-

initiatives.

the importance of increasing awareness about various Dr. Rajneesh briefed the Ministry of MSME schemes Ministry of MSME's among Ladakhi artisans and

in Ladakh, noting that ap- LG directed Dr. Kotwal to proximately 10,000 such identify and support apricot enterprises are registered growers in Ladakh, assessin the region. He also ing their specific needs for updated the LG on the assistance. He instructed assistance provided by Dr. Kotwal to ensure that the Ministry of MSME to concerned officials prioritize enabling Ladakĥi entrepreneurs and artisans He outlined plans to en- to fully utilize Ministry of

government Furthermore, LG urged schemes and emphasized Dr. Kotwal to allocate the adopting a cluster de- ground floor of the Incubavelopment approach to tion Centre near Leh Bus bolster productivity, com- Stand to the Ministry of petitiveness, and capacity MSME for installing/up-building among Micro grading necessary machin-

Extension Centre to sup- istry of MSME to collaboport local artisans and rate with the University of entrepreneurs, offering Ladakh to enhance entrecertification to youth, and preneurship skills among upgrading machinery at local students. He also rethe Incubation Centre, quested Dr. Rajneesh to orunderscoring the need for ganize a workshop promptadequate space for these ly, aimed at familiarizing Ladakhi entrepreneurs with the various schemes offered Dr. Rajneesh also stressed by the Ministry of MSME.

LEH: Former Union Minister and renowned animal

rights activist Maneka Gandhi met with the Lieutenant Governor of La-dakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at Raj Niwas on July 7.

The meeting was attended by First Lady Neelam Mishra, Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal, ADGP Ladakh Dr. SD Singh Jamwal, Commissioner/Secretary to LG L Franklin, and Director of Animal Husbandry Ladakh Dr. Muhammad Iqbal.

Maneka Gandhi discussed various animal welfare



Former Union Minister and renowned animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi meeting with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), First Lady Neelam Mishra and other officials

order by the Deputy Commissioner Leh to stop the disposal of leftover food in public places accessible to feral dogs. She requested the LG's intervention on this matter.

She also emphasized the importance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Proissues, including a recent gramme in Ladakh, advo-

cating for designated areas where people can feed dogs and ensuring that both male and female dogs are sterilized to control the population. She proposed tagging sterilized dogs and returning them to their original locations.

Maneka Gandhi meets L-G, discusses animal welfare initiatives in Ladakh

Furthermore, she suggested that the UT Administra-

of Understanding (MoU) with the Chamba Animal Welfare Society, Leh, to implement the ABC programme, citing the organization's trained personnel in Delhi. She assured the LG that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the dog sterilization programme in Ladakh would be provided.

tion sign a Memorandum

Maneka Gandhi also raised concerns about the two-humped camels in Nubra used for tourism and suggested their potential for camel dairies. She requested proper shelters for the camels and proposed utilizing their milk for dairy purposes.

The LG informed Maneka Gandhi about the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh's order to maintain hygiene in municipal areas and the Deputy Commissioner's order banning the feeding of dogs. He requested her to initiate a flagship project for the ABC Programme in Ladakh. The Director of Animal Husbandry was asked to take necessary initiatives for the ABC Programme in collaboration with Maneka Gandhi's organization and to formulate a plan to promote camel dairies and ensure shelters for camels in Nubra Valley.

University of Ladakh honors 493 graduates at inaugural convocation ceremony

Reach Ladakh Correspondent LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (DR) BD Mishra (Retd), graced the first convocation ceremony of the University of Ladakh as the chief guest at a grand event held at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra in Leh. A total of students, including undergraduates and 253 postgraduates, were conferred with degrees during this momentous occasion.

In his address, the LG expressed his delight in participating in this auspicious event, lauding the predominance of female students and their academic achievements, which he believes will significantly influence society's future. He extended his congratulations to the awardees, distinction holders, and medal winners, acknowledging the crucial support of assistant professors, professors, and parents in nurturing students' demic journeys.

commended Vice-Chancellor for meticulously organizing the ceremony, emphasizing its significance as not just a formality but a sacred academic process that must be conducted punctually and periodically. He underscored the collaborative efforts of teachers, students, and support staff in achieving university excellence, tive actions that hinder academic progress. As Chancellor of the Uni-

a peaceful and conducive environment, stressing the need for proactive academic planning, efficient class schedules, fair examinations, timely results, and admissions processes compliant with UGC norms. He urged a balanced faculty composition to benefit students Addressing the gathering, the LG highlighted

LG emphasized the im-

portance of maintaining

the significance of fundamental duties outlined in Article 51(A) of the Indian Constitution, urging students to integrate these principles into their lives. He encouraged lifelong learning, hard work, and entrepreneurial spirit among students and parpromoting a shift from job seeking to job creation through startups. During the ceremony, the LG conferred honorary degrees: Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) to ate (Honoris Causa) in event.

During the first convocation ceremony of the University of Ladakh. versity of Ladakh, the Innovation to Chewag Norphel; and Doctorate (Honoris Causa) in Literature to Akhon Asgar Ali Basharat. Additionally, all 13 toppers from various undergraduate and postgraduate courses for the academic years 2020 and 2021 were honored.

> Prof (Dr) Ajay Kumar Sood, in his remarks, applauded the gender balance among medal winners and envisioned the University of Ladakh becoming a leading institution in the country, emphasizing education, science and technology, innovation, and societal values as pillars of national greatness.

The ceremony, hosted by Vice-Chancellor Prof SK Mehta, included a presentation showcasing the university's courses and departments. Dignitaries including His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, CEC Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, and other Prof (Dr) Ajay Kumar officials from various sec-Sood, Principal Scientific tors, along with students Advisor to the Govern- and parents, were present ment of India; Doctor- to witness this memorable

First Changthang Nomadic Gompa schools exchange program cultivates cultural and educational bonds



During the inaugural Changthang Nomadic Gompa Schools Ex-

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: The inaugural Changthang Nomadic Gompa Schools Exchange Programme, held from June 24 to July 3, 2024, at Nyoma Photang, marked a significant cultural and educational milestone.

Organized by the Gompa schools of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) in collaboration with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, the event aimed to foster exchanges among nomadic Gompa schools in the Changthang region.

Participating schools in-cluded Chushul Gompa School, Nyoma Gompa School, Korzok Gompa School, and Hanley Gompa School, providing a platform for students and teachers to share knowledge, experiences, and educational practices.

programme was graced by Executive Councillor Tashi Namg-Yakzee as the chief guest, accompanied by

Nyoma Councillor Ishey Spalzang, Korzok Councillor Karma Namdak, and Nominated Councillor Ven Konchok Tsephel. Dr. Konchok Rigzen from the Administrative Office, CIBS, honored the occasion as the guest of honor. Eminent resource persons, including EJM Professor Dr. Tashi Dorjey, Madam Stanzin Padma, and CIBS Lecturer Sonam Angchuk, alongside English Lecturer Dr. DK Patnaik, contributed to enriching the educational seminars and work-

Over ten days, the programme featured workshops, cultural performances, and educational seminars aimed at enhancing students' educational journeys and deepening their cultural heritage appreciation.

The successful implementation of this initiative underscores its vital role in preserving and promoting the unique cultural traditions of the Changthang nomadic communities.

Advisor to LG Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, convenes meeting on action climate plan - Net Zero by 2047



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, convened a significant meeting to dis-cuss the Action Climate Plan - Net Zero by 2047, focusing on achieving a net-zero carbon footprint in Leh by 2047. The meeting took place at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

A representative from

the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi, presented a detailed overview of the plan. The presentation covered baseline analysis, future climate implications, problem statement, vision, objectives, implementation roadmap, mitigating measures, adaptation measures, proposed public transport routes, Hop-on/Hop-off routes, Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) infrastructure.

The meeting included indepth discussions on the plan's objectives, strategies, and initiatives aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change in Leh. The draft plan features a resilience in Leh City.

a thorough study of the ture for the district. Master Plan for Leh district to ensure a holistic The meeting was attended approach to sustainable by the Principal Secretary development. He also in-structed the Public Health Development; the Adminto implement water recharge structures such conservation efforts.

Additionally, Dr. Kotwal directed the Power Development Department to electrify all government departments and offices with solar rooftop units, promoting renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. He also instructed the concerned essary orders and notifications to minimize plastic footprints.

the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing climate change and

range of measures to re- urged stakeholders to conduce the carbon footprint, duct a workshop to gain inpromote sustainable de- sights and suggestions from velopment, and enhance local experts in passive heated structures and artificial glaciers. He stressed the Dr. Pawan Kotwal direct-ed the NIUA to conduct to ensure a sustainable fu-

Engineering Department istrative Secretary of the Power Development and Renewable Energy/Tourism as check-dams and infil- and Culture Department; tration galleries/holes to the Chief Conservator of bolster the region's water Forest; the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Leh; Deputy Secretary of the Planning Development and Monitoring Department; Deputy Secretary of the PHE & I&FC/Public Works (R&B) Department; Under Secretary of the Transport/ Disaster Management Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; the Executive department to issue nec- Officer of the Municipal Committee, Leh; and NIŪA Team members. The Director of Urban Local Bodies, Dr. Kotwal emphasized Ladakh, joined the meeting

virtually.

IT Secretary highlights Importance of robust cybersecurity for Ladakh's digital services



Administrative Secretary of the Information Technology Department, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma,

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Administrative Secretary of the Information Technology Department, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma convened a significant meeting on July 10 to discuss and strategize critical aspects of IT infrastructure and cybersecurity in Lada-

Deputy Director General (DDG) and State Co-ordinator for NIC Ladakh and State Informatic Officer of NIC J&K and Ladakh and senior officers from NIC J&K were present in the meeting.

The meeting focused on critical aspects such as cybersecurity, network operations, security operations, network augmentation, and integration with online services like UMANG, Digi Locker, and e-Office. Emphasizing the importance of robust cybersecurity, Amit Sharma urged the NIC J&K team to replicate successful services in Ladakh, ensuring seamless connectivity and efficient data management.

IT Secretary Amit Sharma highlighted the importance of robust cybersecurity measures to ensure the secure delivery of online services. He urged the NIC J&K team to replicate the successful services implemented in J&K in Ladakh, ensuring seamless connectivity and efficient data management.

This strategic meeting marks a significant step towards strengthening our IT infrastructure and ensuring the secure delivery of online services to the people of Ladakh, Amit Sharma added. He stated that the development aims to bolster the digital landscape of UT Ladakh, ensuring efficient, secure, and citizen-centric services.

The meeting was attended by the DDG & State Co-ordinator for NIC Ladakh; State Informatics Officer, NIC Ladakh/J&K; Director and OIC, NIC Ladakh; senior officials from NIC J&K; NIC Scientists; IT Managers and all concerned officials.

EXPERT TALK:

Ladakh's environmental challenges: Impact of tourism and human activities

Stanzin Padma



Sonam Lotus, **Director of Meteorological Ladakh**

Climate change is a global phenomenon affecting regions worldwide, including Ladakh. Despite its vast expanse and relatively small population of around 300,000 in Leh and Kargil combined, human activities, primarily anthropogenic factors, contribute significantly to this issue. Activities such as the continuous emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons, as well as pollution from industries and transportation, have altered the natural balance of the atmosphere. Consequently, temperatures have risen beyond normal averages, impacting glaciers which serve as crucial freshwater

Pollution exacerbates health risks, although fortunately, there have been no reports of ex-

treme heat or cold-related casualties in Ladakh thus far. However, the region experiences intensified weather patterns such as heatwaves, extreme cold spells, and erratic monsoon rains leading to events like cloud bursts, floods, and landslides. These consequences underscore the urgent need for sustainable practices and policies to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change in Ladakh and globally.

As a meteorologist deeply connected with nature, I believe responsibility for environmental stewardship rests not just with the people of Ladakh but with everyone globally, especially policymakers. Implementing eco-friendly green policies is crucial in combating the adverse effects of climate change, which often result from widespread ignorance and unsustainable practices.

Fortunately, the Government of India has taken significant steps towards sustainability, exemplified by efforts to make Ladakh carbon neutral. These initiatives aim to reduce carbon footprints and emissions, although addressing such a complex issue requires time and concerted effort.

Given India's vast size, further robust green policies are necessary nationwide to combat climate change effectively. It's imperative that every individual worldwide acknowledges their role in environmental conservation. Ladakh sets a positive example with its community's strong commitment to nature, reflecting a hopeful trend towards greater environmental awareness and action.

Governments, institutes, and universities organize numerous awareness programs, seminars, and strategies at the village and panchayat levels. However, there is a pressing need to translate this awareness into everyday practice. This responsibility is particularly significant for educators who play a crucial role in instilling environmental consciousness among students.

By integrating sustainability into the curriculum and fostering practical initiatives, educators can empower

future generations to adopt environmentally responsible habits. This holistic approach ensures that awareness translates into tangible actions, creating a sustainable and environmentally conscious society.

Solution:

- Avoid overexploiting natural resources and respect the environment.
- Cultivate crops and rely on local resources during times of need.
- Simplify our lifestyles to reduce environmental impact.
- · Embrace green and eco-friendly attitudes in our thoughts and actions.
- Promote these practices to ensure future generations can adapt to sustainable living



Chewang Norphel, Ice Man of India:

In Ladakh, climate change has brought about significant consequences, notably a severe water shortage. Previously, the region benefited from heavy snowfall and extensive glacier ice caps that ensured robust groundwater recharge and sustained flowing springs (chumiks). However, due to accelerated global warming, these glaciers are melting rapidly, leading to the drying up of streams and diminishing water sources. This has critical implications for agriculture, drinking water supplies, and the overall ecological balance of the region.

The rapid growth of tourism in Ladakh has further exacerbated environmental challenges. The proliferation of hotels and guesthouses demands continuous water supply, often drawing from already stressed groundwater reserves. This intensifies water scarcity issues, underscoring the unsustainable practices driven by economic activities in the region. Human activities play a central role in exacerbating climate change in Ladakh. Improper waste disposal practices, including burning waste, contribute to air pollution and green-

house gas emissions. Additionally, there's a lack of awareness and responsible behavior in resource conservation—simple actions like leaving lights on unnecessarily reflect unsustainable consumption patterns. Adopting responsible waste management and efficient resource use is crucial for mitigating these impacts.

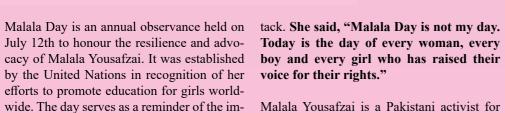
Traditionally, Ladakh practiced sustainable methods such as dry toilet systems that conserved water and utilized human waste as fertilizer for crops. However, modernization has seen a shift to water-intensive flush toilets, disrupting the natural nutrient cycle and placing further strain on water resources.

Transportation poses another significant environmental challenge in Ladakh. The increase in vehicular traffic, including military operations and tourist vehicles, contributes to air pollution, particularly during winters when diesel-powered vehicles emit significant black exhaust. The rise in private vehicle ownership has led to congestion issues, limiting space for pedestrians and exacerbating environmental degradation.

...continues on page 6



Malala Day



Yousafzai spoke before the UN on July 12, 2013, her 16th birthday, to promote universal access to education. Later, the day was declared "Malala Day" by the UN. With an audience of more than 500 young education advocates from around the world, it was her first speech in front of a crowd since the at-

portance of education and the ongoing strug-

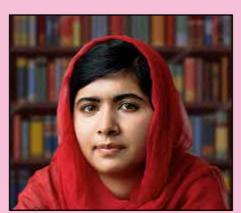
gle for equal access to education, especially

for girls in underprivileged communities.

tack. She said, "Malala Day is not my day. Today is the day of every woman, every boy and every girl who has raised their

female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate. Born on July 12, 1997, she gained international prominence after surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban in 2012. Malala advocates for girls' right to education and continues to work towards improving access to education for children worldwide. Her courage and activism have made her a global symbol of education and empowerment.

rain is on its way.



Despite surviving a targeted attack, she continued to speak out and fight for the rights of girls to receive an education. Her courage, resilience, and determination have motivated millions globally, empowering them to stand up for their rights and work towards positive change in their communities.

Courtesy: Jagran Josh

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

The ways of an inspiring leader

Leaders, in whatever the field, are the champions of social progress



and prosperity. If you are an inspiring person, you are a leader in the making. Only inspiring persons can become great leaders who can move the masses, be it in politics, social or spiritual fields. Mahatma Gandhi was not only a great political leader but an equally great social leader too. He had a complete grip over the minds and the hearts of the masses because of his 'do-it-to-show-it' qualities. So were Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela, iconic leaders in all walks of life.

The Dalai Lama's leadership traits of love and compassion coupled with forgiveness mark his persona. Today, he has followers all over the world, from all faiths. And he is 'elected' as the most-loved and respected person year after year.

Author and speaker John C Maxwell says: "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way." Isn't that so inspiring? Let's have a look at the good qualities an inspiring leader possesses.

We can list three major umbrella qualities that make one a path-finder. The foremost quality an inspiring leader needs to have is humility. Humility is the basic requirement but it alone leads one nowhere until one has clarity and the courage to translate one's vision into reality.

That is why German writer John Peter Zenger had this to say: "Great leaders are not defined by the absence of weakness but by the presence of clear strengths." Yes, clarity with courage and vision makes one an inspiring leader.

Such leaders inspire us with their vision and action, and they have the knack to simplify complex issues, thereby giving everybody a complete solution. The secret of their success lies in the fact that they are great innovators too. They seek the so-called 'out-of-box' solutions when the normal and the traditional systems fail to deliver results.

A great leader's idea of success lies in not giving up at any cost, but to look at every issue from a different angle for a good solution.

And, great leaders not only help the masses, they also keep a constant watch to 'produce' great leaders for tomorrow!

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



- 1. In a historic move, the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP) unanimously recognized the profound contributions of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to global peace. The assembly declared July 6th, the Dalai Lama's birthday, as the 'Universal Day of
- 2. You can't fold a piece of A4 paper more than eight times. As the number of layers doubles each time, the paper rapidly gets too thick and too small to fold. The current world paper-folding record belongs to California high school student Britney Gallivan, who in 2002 managed to fold a 1.2km-long piece of tissue paper 12 times.
- 3. Smells can pass through liquid. Please don't try smelling underwater (your nose will not appreciate it), but smell does protrude through liquid.
- 4. Bats aren't blind. Despite the famous idiom, bats can indeed see, but they still use their even more famous echolocation to find prey.
- 5. Pine trees can tell if it's about to rain. Next time you see a pine cone, take

- a close look. If it's closed, that's because the air is humid, which can indicate
- 6. You inhale 50 potentially harmful bacteria every time you breathe. Thankfully, your immune system is working hard all the time, so virtually all of these are promptly destroyed without you feeling a thing. Phew.
- 7. You can see stars as they were 4,000 years ago with the naked eye. Without a telescope, all the stars we can see lie within about 4,000 light-years of us. That means at most you're seeing stars as they were 4,000 years ago, around when the pyramids were being built in Egypt.
- 8. Plants came before seeds. According to the fossil record, early plants resembled moss and reproduced with single-celled spores. Multicellular seeds didn't evolve for another 150 million years.
- 9. New car smell' is a mix of over 200 chemicals. These include the sickly-sweet, toxic hydrocarbons benzene and toluene.

In Conversation with

Tsering Lhanzes, Illustrator and Animation Filmmker

Q1. Tell us about yourself. What drives your passion for storytelling through animation and filmmaking?

My name is Tsering Lhanzes, and I am from Nubra Valley. I have a master's degree in Animation Film Design from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. I love art and storytelling, and animation allows me to combine these passions.

Animation fascinates me because it can cross language and cultural barriers, making it a powerful way to tell stories. It lets me use visuals, sound, and emotion to create messages that connect with people. Filmmaking helps bring these animated stories to life in a way that feels real and engaging. My education and work experiences have shaped how I tell stories. I am inspired by how visual storytelling can make people feel, think, and talk about important social and environmental issues. Through my work, I want to celebrate my cultural heritage and explore themes that everyone can relate to.

I am always looking for new ways to be creative and inspiring in animation and filmmaking. My goal is to create works that have a lasting impact and add positively to the world of art and culture.

Q2. Your film "Taar" has been selected for various international film festivals. Tell us about it. How does it feel to showcase your work on a global platform, and what do you hope audiences take away from it?

"Taar" is a special project for me as it explores the significant impacts of climate change on my homeland, Ladakh. Being selected for various international film festivals is a great honor. It's not just about presenting my work; it's about highlighting the urgent environmental issues our region faces.

Showcasing "Taar" on a global stage is incredibly rewarding. It gives me a chance to raise awareness about Ladakh's delicate ecosystem and the resilience of its people dealing with environmental challenges. Through animation, I hope to create empathy and understanding among viewers worldwide, showing how interconnected we are with nature.

I want audiences to see "Taar" as a prompt for reflection and action. I hope they understand the real and immediate effects of climate change on vulnerable communities like Ladakh. More than just awareness, I want the film to inspire discussions on sustainable practices and collective efforts to protect our planet for future generations.

Q3. Your illustrations and designs often feature Ladakhi motifs and themes. How do you balance traditional inspiration with modern appeal?

Interviewed by Yangchen Dolma



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

Embrace creativity to uplift our community and celebrate our cultural heritage. Let's build a future where artistic endeavours thrive, creating economic opportunities and fostering pride. Together, we can make a meaningful impact through our creative expressions.

Creating art within the Ladakhi context is something I absolutely love. I truly believe in the beauty of our culture, being a Ladakhi myself, and it is what I know best. Growing up immersed in this culture, it naturally influences my work. When I first tried creating a story, my initial instinct was to begin the story with an "Abi" and a "may-may," which made me realize the deep connection I have with the stories I heard as a child and their impact on me.

In terms of balancing traditional inspiration with modern appeal, I prioritize authenticity in portraying inspiration and the design language that needs to be considered. My goal is to create genuine representations that resonate with my heritage and personal experiences.

Q4. Tell us about your book' Acho, Nomo and the Yak's published by DIET. How long does it take to illustrate a book?

I always wanted to write and illustrate a children book. Acho, Nomo, and the Yak was the first children's book I wrote and illustrated, and I was more focused on learning and understanding the process. I had great fun working on it, and it was truly a childhood dream come true. Growing up, I had minimal encounters with local Ladakhi children's books, so creating one was a very satisfying experience. The book is about two siblings looking for their lost yak. The book is available in both English and Bhoti languages. It has been distributed to the government schools in Ladakh. The process, including writing the story, illustrating, and layout, took around two months, not counting the Bhoti translation and final text editing.

Q4. What role do you believe art and storytelling play in preserving and promoting cultural heritage, especially in Ladakh?

Art and storytelling play an essential role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage, particularly in Ladakh, by capturing and conveying the unique traditions, customs, and folklore of the region. These mediums serve as vital tools for educating younger generations and raising awareness among outsiders, ensuring that cultural knowledge is passed down and understood widely. They foster a strong sense of identity and pride within the community, bridging generational gaps and connecting elders with the youth. Additionally, by promoting Ladakhi culture through art, the region can attract tourism and economic benefits, supporting local artists and communities. Ultimately, art and storytelling keep Ladakh's rich cultural heritage alive and relevant, enabling it to thrive in the modern world while maintaining its distinctive identity.

Fortnight Highlights



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoon inquired the health of two young boys who met with an accident at Tangool, Kargil. He assured that all necessary medicines would be provided free of cost by the hospital and assured full support during their treatment.



A team of NITI Aayog headed by Programme Director, Major General K Narayanan AVSM, SM(Retd) launched the Sampoornata Abhiyan in the aspirational block of Rupsho.



The Sand Dune Festival held in Nubra Valley was graced by Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalson, as the chief guest. The festival, a vibrant tribute to Ladakh's cultural diversity, highlighted a commitment to preserving its rich heritage.



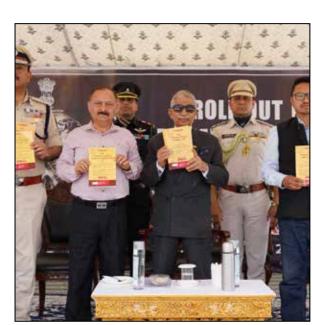
The District Social Welfare Office, Leh in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) successfully organized a distribution camp for assistive devices, benefiting senior citizens and individuals with disabilities on July 12.



The Department of Information and Public Relations in collaboration with Education Department, Health Department and Ladakh Police, Leh organised an awareness programme on 'Drugs and Substance Abuse' at St. Peter's High School, Chuchot Yokma on Into 4



The National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, jointly organised their 99th programme to encourage women towards entrepreneurship as a career, held on July 1 at NIELIT, Kargil, with support from the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) inaugurated the poster exhibition along with the rollout of Three New Criminal Laws in UT of Ladakh organised by Ladakh Police, at the Eco-Park in Leh market.

In Conversation with

Tsering Lhanzes, Illustrator and Animation Filmmaker

...Continuity of page 5

Q5.As a woman from the Nubra Valley in the film industry, have you faced any challenges? How do you hope to inspire others from the region?

As a woman from Nubra Valley navigating the film industry, I've encountered several challenges typical of being a minority in a predominantly male field. Access to resources, networking opportunities, and societal expectations can often present hurdles. However, these challenges have fuelled my determination to succeed and have strengthened my resolve to pave the way for others.

I hope to inspire fellow women and aspiring filmmakers by demonstrating that passion, skill, and persistence can overcome obstacles. Representation matters deeply, and by showcasing diverse perspectives and stories from our region, we can enrich the global cinematic landscape and inspire future generations to embrace their cre-

Through my work, I hope to create opportunities for more people to share their stories. It's about building a supportive community where everyone's talent and hard work are recognized, no matter their background or gender, and where every storyteller can make a meaningful impact.

Q6. You have transitioned from working on personal projects to establishing Rhungs Studio. What challenges have you faced in setting up your own studio, and what are your long-term goals for Rhungs Studio?

Transitioning from personal projects to establishing Rhungs Studio has brought several challenges and exciting opportunities. Managing the logistical and administrative aspects, like securing funding, finding the right workspace, and navigating legal and business requirements, has been a primary challenge. Building a team that shares the same vision and passion for Ladakhi culture and storytelling has required careful selection and collaboration.

Another significant challenge has been balancing creative aspirations with the practicalities of running a business. Ensuring a steady flow of projects, managing deadlines, and maintaining high-quality output while fostering an innovative and supportive work environment are ongoing tasks.

Despite these challenges, the long-term goals for Rhungs Studio are ambitious and inspiring. The primary aim is to create a platform that showcases the rich cultural heritage of Ladakh through various forms of art and storytelling, making it accessible to both local and global audiences. This includes producing animated films, children's books, and other creative projects that highlight Ladakhi traditions, folklore, and contemporary stories.

Additionally, Rhungs Studio aspires to become a hub for nurturing local talent, providing opportunities for artists, writers, and filmmakers from the region to develop their skills and collaborate on projects. By doing so, we hope to enrich the cultural landscape and create a supportive community for creative minds in Ladakh.

Q7. How do you hope your work inspires young artists and storytellers from Ladakh and beyond? What advice would you give to young artists and filmmakers from the region who aspire to follow in your footsteps?

As a 2D animation filmmaker and children's book illustrator, I aspire to ignite the imagination of young artists and storytellers from Ladakh and beyond. Through my work, I aim to showcase the beauty of storytelling through animation and illustration, encouraging them to explore their own narratives rooted in their unique cultural backgrounds. I hope to inspire a sense of pride in their heritage and empower them to share their stories with the world, bridging local traditions with universal themes.

For young artists and filmmakers in Ladakh who dream of pursuing a similar path, my advice is rooted in dedication, learning, and community. Continuously hone your skills, embracing both traditional techniques and modern tools. Seek out mentors and peers who can offer guidance and constructive feedback. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, and don't shy away from experimenting with new styles and methods. Your journey will be shaped by perseverance and a genuine passion for storytelling that reflects the richness of your culture and personal experiences. By staying true to your artistic voice and engaging with the global artistic community, you can carve out a path that honours your roots while making a meaningful impact on audiences worldwide.

25th Kargil Vijay Diwas: 'Know Your Army' Mela educates and inspires local youth



Weapon and equipment display during 'Know Your Army' mela in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 'Know Your Army' mela was organized by the 14 Corps at Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, MVC, Stadium on July 6.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), attended the mela along with GOC 14 Corps Lt General H Bhalla; Secretary, Tourism, Vikram Singh Malik; Army officials, ex-servicemen, and school students.

The mela, held as part of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas, aims to motivate local youth and familiarize the local population with modern weapon technology, tactics, and the battle-worthiness of the Indian Army.

Terming the mela a significant initiative by the Indian Army, the LG highlighted the contribution of Ladakhi men and women during the Kargil War in 1999. He noted their support and combat alongside the Army to defeat enemy forces, commemorated annually as Kargil Vijay Diwas. The LG stated that the supreme sacrifices of martyrs, their courage, and achievements are remembered each year, reflecting the nation's grat-

Highlighting the need to keep the Indian Army 'young,' the LG mentioned the Government of India's introduction of the Agniveer Scheme. He stated that the Agniveers who have joined the Army are performing well and emphasized that the Army's strength lies in enrolling the youth. He also mentioned that Agniveers not retained after four years would be inducted into the Police and other services.

The LG complimented GOC 14 Corps Lt Gen Bhalla for organizing the event. He inspected the weapon and equipment display, medical and dental information camps, an information desk for Army recruitment under the Agniveer scheme, and an ex-servicemen grievance cell, interacting with the jawans.

The event featured band

NOTICE

I, Tashi Lundup S/o Sonam Dorje R/o Phyang, Leh Ladakh, do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK-1020170020224 and I am applying for a duplicate driving license. Objection if any may be conveyed to Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh, Ladakh within 10 days from the date of publication.

Fortnightly News RBI conducts cyber fraud awareness session for Ladakh

Police

Reach Ladakh Correspondent LEH: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu organised a sensitisation programme for officials of Ladakh Police on legal provisions and investigative aspects on various regulated as well as unincorporated bodies, digital lending apps and cyber frauds on July 3.

Chief Guest, ADGP, UT of Ladakh Dr. S.D Singh Jamwal inaugurated the program.

programme covered sessions on various aspects of banking and non-banking business, modus operandi and other preventive and investigative measures, financial frauds in securities market and role of SEBI, Banning



of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act,

Various initiatives by the regulators like guidelines on Key Fact Statement Guidelines on digital lending and Fair Practice Code for lenders and problems faced while investigating the cases related to financial frauds and the queries were also The programme was attended by senior dignitaries from Ladakh Police, RBI and SEBI including AIG Personnel Stanzin Nurboo; Deputy General Manager, RBI, Ram Sarup; Deputy General Manager, SEBI, Bhartendra Kumar Gupta; SP Leh Shruti Arora; SO to ADGP, Farhan Jahanzeb Naqash; Sudesh Kumari, AGM, RBI among other officials.

Seminar-cum-training for De-addiction centre staff held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Welfare Office, Leh, organised one-day seminar-cum-training for the newly recruited staff at the District De-addiction Centre on July 10. The training aimed to equip the staff with knowledge and skills to combat drug addiction in the region.

Nilza Angmo, District Social Officer, Leh emphasised the need to understand the contextual aspect of the addiction problem

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: To commem-

orate 25 years of Kargil

Army's D5 Motorcycle

Expedition began its jour-

ney on June 12, 2024, from

Dinjan (Assam), Dwarka

(Gujarat), and Dhanush-

kodi (Tamil Nadu). The

expedition teams honored

War Heroes and Veer Na-

ris while traversing diverse

and challenging terrains

on their way to the Kargil

War Memorial in Dras.

Seven riders from North-

ern Command also joined

Vijay Diwas, the Indian

in Leh. Pallavi Singh, Director, Jammu & Kashmir State Level Coordinating Agency (SLCA,) Society Promotion of Youth Masses (SPYM) spoke about the role, and responsibilities, and also gave an overview of the functioning of a de-addiction centre.

Stanzin Legsmon, Narcotics Wing, Ladakh Police, discussed the legal aspects, while Urgain Angmo, Counsellor at SNM Hospital, shared insights

Indian Army's D5 motorcycle expedition concludes at

Kargil war memorial

the expedition en route.

The journey culminated on

July 10, 2024, at the Kargil

War Memorial, Dras. The

flagging-in ceremony was

attended by Lieutenant

General M V Suchindra

Kumar, PVSM, AVSM,

YSM, VSM, General Offi-

cer Commanding in Chief,

Northern Command, and

Lieutenant General Adosh

Kumar, AVSM, SM, Di-

rector General Artillery,

along with other senior

military officers. They in-

scenario in Ladakh.

Additionally, President, Association, and relapse factors.

The seminar aimed to enhance staff competence and foster collaboration with stakeholders to address the issue of drug addiction in Ladakh

teracted with war veterans,

Veer Naris, and the expe-

The D5 Motorcycle Ex-

pedition was not merely a

ride but a homage to the

valor and sacrifice of the

soldiers who defended the

nation during the Kargil

War. This expedition com-

memorated the sacrifices

of brave soldiers and sym-

bolized the spirit of unity

and resilience of the Indi-

an Army.

dition members.

into the current addiction

Hotel Association, and Vice President, Merchant interacted with staff on prevention, community engagement,

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Kargil, assesses FMD outbreak in Drass



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Dr. Gulzar Hussain, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kargil, visited Drass on July 9 to assess the status of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak and evaluate the measures being implemented to control it. During his visit, Dr. Hussain chaired a meeting with Block Veterinary Öfficer Drass, Dr. Mohd Amine, and the field staff actively working on the ground. Dr. Amine provided a comprehensive overview of the FMD outbreak, reporting that the situation is under control due to the diligent efforts of the entire field

The team has been implementing rigorous control measures, including daily monitoring and treatment of affected animals in highland pastures, which have effectively curbed the spread of the disease. The field staff has been visiting the highland pastures daily to monitor livestock health and administer necessary treatments.

Dr. Amine emphasized that their proactive approach has been crucial in managing the outbreak despite the challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions. Their efforts have significantly mitigated the impact of the outbreak on the livestock population.

During the discussions, Dr. Amine highlighted the need for additional protective equipment, such as

masks and gloves, essential for ensuring the safety and health of the veterinary team while handling infected animals.

Dr. Gulzar Hussain assured the BVO that the requested supplies would be issued promptly, emphasizing that the health and safety of the field staff are of utmost importance. He reiterated their commitment to providing the necessary resources and underscored the importance of community awareness and engagement in preventing the spread of FMD. Outreach activities will be organized to inform livestock owners about best practices for disease prevention in the coming days, with fund requisitions placed to higher authorities.

Dr. Hussain also noted the request for additional protective gear and medicines, promising that necessary actions would be taken to ensure the team's safety. He assured continuous support with resources and guidance needed to maintain control over the outbreak and prevent future occurrences

Later, Dr. Hussain visited the old building of the Veterinary Complex, which is set to be dismantled soon for the construction of a new block for the veterinary hospital. Funds for the new block have already been released to the concerned executing agency.

L-G flags off Indian Army's D5 motorcycle expedition



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Marking the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) flagged off Indian Army's Delta 5 Motorcycle Expedition from Hall of Fame War Memorial on July 7.

This rally was organised to honor the valour and sacrifice of the Kargil War heroes, Veer Naris and veterans.

GOC 14 Corps, Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla along with other Army personnel, Veer Naris, ex-servicemen, NCC cadets and school students were present on the occasion.

Emphasising the crucial role of the Indian Army in handling crisis situations, the LG highlighted the supreme sacrifices of martyrs, their courage and their achievements and stated that the nation remembers and honours their sacrifices every year on Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The LG stressed the importance of maintaining a youthful Army and mentioned the Agniveer Scheme introduced by the Government of India. He stated that Agniveers, who have joined the Army, are performing well and emphasised that enrolment of youth in the Indian Army strengthens its ability to defeat any enemy forces.

..Continuity of page 4

EXPERT TALK: Ladakh's environmental challenges: Impact of tourism and human activities

Addressing these environmental challenges requires collective action and responsibility. Encouraging sustainable practices such as using public transportation or walking for short distances can reduce congestion and environmental impact. Individuals, whether local residents, tourists, or policymakers, must embrace responsible behaviors that support sustainable development and conservation efforts in Ladakh. By fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and mindful resource management, we can strive towards a resilient and sustainable future for the region.

One of the most impactful policies has been the government's promotion of electric vehicles, which has significantly reduced emissions. Additionally, harnessing solar energy for various applications is crucial, and it's encouraging that the government is prioritizing such strategies.

Previously, during winters, people in Ladakh used Bukharis (traditional stoves) for warmth, which emitted substantial smoke. To combat pollution, the government has subsidized the transition to solar-powered heating systems. This initiative has effectively reduced emissions and improved air quality in the region. Ladakh benefits greatly from solar energy potential, surpassing many other states in India.

These measures highlight a positive shift towards sustainable energy practices, aligning with global efforts to mitigate climate change and preserve the environment.

Solutions:

•Plantation: Increasing tree cover through extensive plantation is crucial for mitigating climate change and regulating tem-

•Use of Electric Vehicles: Promoting the widespread adoption of electric vehicles and buses is essential for reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

•Segregation of Plastics: Proper segregation and recycling of plastics are imperative to minimize pollution. It's essential for everyone to responsibly dispose of plastics to facilitate effective recycling and environmental conservation efforts.

Fortnightly News

Kargil Agriculture Department organises training on Buckwheat cultivation and organic farming



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Department of Agriculture Kargil Ladakh organized a oneday workshop cum awareness camp at Yourbaltak village in the Kargil-B zone on July 6.

The event saw the participation of hundreds of farmers, primarily women. The training session was attended by Councillor Yourbaltak, Manzoor ul Hussain; Dr. Mohd Mehdi Akhone, Principal Scientist KVK-1 Kargil; DAO Extension Kargil; AAI; AEOs; and JAEOs of the Agriculture Department.

The workshop commenced with a welcome speech by the AEO of Kargil-B. Resource persons then provided comprehensive training on various topics,

including buckwheat cultivation, pest and disease management in vegetable crops, organic farming, the importance of protected cultivation, and the introduction of the Ladakh Green House. Participants were also informed about different Central and State-sponsored schemes available in the Kargil dis-

Dr. Mohd Mehdi Akhoon, Principal Scientist KVK-1 Kargil, emphasized the benefits of cultivating buckwheat, highlighting its medicinal value and suitability as a second crop in the district. He also discussed the importance of awareness camps in revegetable production and mote villages of the Kargil organic disease manage-

Mohd Iqbal, DAO Extension Kargil, briefed the attendees on various departmental schemes implemented in the district over the years, urging farmers to take advantage of these schemes for overall agricultural development.

In his concluding remarks, Councillor Manzoor Ul Hussain encouraged local farmers to adopt the latest farming technologies, particularly organic farming, to boost local production for both consumption and commercial marketing. He praised the Agriculture Department for organizing such workshops and



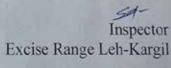
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH OFFICE OF THE EXCISE AND TAXATION OFFICER EXCISE RANGE LEH-KARGIL

Public Notice

It is for the information of general public of the locality of New Bus Stand, Leh that Mr. Sonam Angchuk S/o Sonam Stobdan, Shenam, Leh Ladakh has applied for change of licensed premises namely M/s Rewa Bar and Restaurant having license type (LAEL-4) from existing location Ldorapa Building, New Bus stand, Leh, Ladakh to Cultural & Educational Welfare Society Tukcha Building, New Bus Stand, Leh Ladakh.

Objections, if any may be filed in the office of Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range Leh-Kargil within a period of sixty days from the publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of this notice period.



No:ETO/Leh/2024-25/146 Dated: 10-07-2024

APPLICATION ARE INVITED FOR

Allocation of shop at Dhan Singh Thapa Institute, Karu by HO 3 Infantry Division on rent. Last date of application - 22 July 2024. For further detailsplease contact 503 ASC Battalion. Phone no: 7988983179 & 7790828768

NOTICE

Service No 9928330Y Rank Hav Lobzang Ishey Unit 4 Ladakh R/o Icher Zanskar Lungnak Kargil UT Ladakh has claimed that his wife name & DOB has been wrongly entered as Stenzin Kunzang & DOB 20/7/1998. Instead of the correct name and DOB Stanzin Kunzang & DOB 11/4/1990 in his Service record and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary Public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA06955096662392W for making necessary corrections. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file an objection if any to the concerned authority within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

Whereas, Ghulam Hussain Bari S/o Abdul Rahim R/o Turtuk, Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that his name Ghulam Hussain Bari has been wrongly entered as Ghulam Hassain instead of Ghulam Hussain Bari in the Driving License bearing No. JK10 20040000116. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Leh Ladakh within 7 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

Whereas, Punchok Dorjee S/o Late Dorjee Rinchain R/o Khaltsi Leh, UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as

Puntsog Dorje instead of the correct name Punchok Dorjee in the Driving license bearing No. JK-1020090003972, hence the notice is hereby served through the press to file an objection if any in this office, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh, within 7 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

Whereas Stanzin Angchuk S/o Tsering Dorjey R/o Tangtse Durbuk, Leh Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Stanzin Angchuck instead of the correct name Stanzin Angchuk in his son Tsering Paldan school record of ST Peters school Chuchot Yokma Leh registration no 2250002000500030. Hence, notice is hereby served through press to file an objection if any in this regard report to ST Peters school Chuchot Yokma Leh office within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

POWERGRID donates truck mounted water tanker to Government Degree College, Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent KARGIL: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) handed over a 9 kL capacity Truck Mounted Water Tanker to the Deputy Commissioner of Kargil for the Government Degree College, Kargil under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initia-

The tanker was handed over by Executive Director (Northern Region-II), Rajesh Kumar, to Depu-Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil in the presence of Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon; Arshad Iqbal Shah, Sr. GM (Ladakh); Vinod Prakash Baxla, General Manager (HR), and several senior officers from POWER-GRID and the District Administration Kargil. Staff and students of Government Degree College, Kargil were also present

CEC Kargil, DC Kargil, and the Incharge Principal of GDC Kargil expressed their gratitude to POW-ERGRID for this CSR initiative, which will significantly benefit the students and staff of the college. CEC Jaffer highlighted that the tanker will greatly alleviate the college's water scarcity issues and ex-pressed hope that the PHE Department will achieve

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ries of the PM SVANidhi

scheme on July 8. The

event was attended by

street vendors from Kargil

town and the staff of the

Administrator Imteeaz Ka-

cho graced the occasion,

appreciating the dedica-

tion of the street vendors

and acknowledging the

efforts of the Municipal

Committee, Kargil team

Municipal Committee.

on the occasion.



percent saturation under the JJM project in Kargil district by the end of August 2024.

DC Kargil, while handing over the water tanker, congratulated the college faculty and students, stating that it fulfilled a long-pending demand and addressed their water scarcity issues.

Director Executive Region-II), (Northern Rajesh Kumar, empha-POWERGRID's sized commitment to providing ongoing support to the Union Territory of Ladakh and highlighted the company's contributions to the region. The cost of the tanker is approximately ₹29.59 lakh.

With more than 3,000 students enrolled in various undergraduate courses, the Government Degree College, Kargil had identified a permanent water supply for daily use as a primary concern. To resolve the issue, college authorities raised the matter with the District Mag-

Street vendors share success stories at PM

SVANidhi interaction in Kargil

KARGIL: The Munici- in ensuring the scheme's to various government

most all street vendors

ered under the scheme.

As part of the 'PM SVANidhi se SIMRIDHI'

initiative, the Municipal

Committee Kargil has

profiled all street vendors,

ensuring comprehensive

coverage and facilitation

of benefits. This initiative

aims to empower street

vendors and enhance their

livelihoods through finan-

cial support and access

During the interactive lunch event with beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme in Kargil.

pal Committee of Kargil success. He noted that al-schemes.

lunch event with beneficia- the region have been cov-

istrate of Kargil, who then requested POWERGRID to provide a water tanker to ensure an ample supply of potable drinking water for the students and staff.

The MoU for providing this tanker was signed, and today, it was formally handed over to the DC of Kargil for the use of Government Degree College, Kargil.

This project is part of POWERGRID's ongoing initiatives in District Kargil to promote education. Through its CSR initiatives, POWERGRID has continuously supported the development of various infrastructure activities in UT of Ladakh. So far, CSR projects worth ₹3 crores have been executed by POWERGRID in UT Ladakh.

POWERGRID, Northern Region-II, headquartered in Jammu, has its Transmission System spread across Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, parts of Haryana, and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh,

During the event, street

vendors shared the bene-

fits they have received and

expressed their gratitude.

They also highlighted

The event underscored the

Municipal Committee's

commitment to uplifting

the street vendor commu-

nity and promoting their

economic well-being un-

der the PM SVANidhi

their grievances.

scheme.

CEC Kargil honors AIIMS, Safdarjung doctors for successful medical camp



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In collaboration with Ashoka Mission and District Administration Kargil, a five-day free medical camp concluded successfully. On July 11, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon honored doctors from AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital Delhi for their contributions.

CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon extended gratitude to the doctors, General Secretary of Ashoka Mission, and District Administration Kargil for organizing the medical camp. He commended the prestigious institutions for providing healthcare services to the people of Kargil, emphasizing future collaborations to serve marginalized sections.

Dr. Akhoon highlighted the ongoing construction of Kargil House Building

in Dwarka Delhi, aimed at benefiting patients who frequently travel to Delhi for medical check-ups. He underscored plans for specialized training of Kargil doctors at AIIMS to address local healthcare needs.

Secretary of General Ashoka Mission, Tashi Motup, acknowledged CEC Kargil for honoring the doctors and providing commendable facilities during their stay. He mentioned that approximately 50 patients have been referred to AIIMS Delhi for further treatment, ensuring continued care and guidance in the capital.

Doctors from AIIMS and Safdarjung Delhi expressed appreciation for the hospitality and facili-ties provided by LAHDC Kargil and District Administration during their tenure.

Nyoma senior dominates 18th Kailash running cricket tournament with 153run victory



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: Nyoma Senior emerged victorious in the 18th Kailash Running Cricket Tournament, defeating Y.A.C. Chushul by a significant margin of 153

Organized by the Nyoma Youth Association under its Vibrant Village initiative, the tournament drew enthusiastic participation from various departments of the Nyoma block. Chief Guest Councillor Nyoma, Ishey Spalzang, and Guest of Honour Colonel Vinay Yadav, Deputy

Commandant of the 254 Snow Leopard Brigade, were present to witness the thrilling match. Special guest Carmen Williamson from New Zealand also graced the occasion.

Councillor Ishey Spalzang praised Nyoma Senior for their outstanding performance and thanked the organizers for promoting sports in the Changthang region. He emphasized the importance of local involvement in sports initiatives supported by LAH-DC Leh.

District Health Society Kargil organises panel discussion on mental health



During the panel discussion on mental health at the District Hospital, Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: District Health Society Kargil organised a panel discussion on mental health at the District Hospital, Kargil on July 6.

The panel included prominent participants such as Rector of the University of Ladakh, Kargil Campus, Kaneez Fatima, and various doctors from DHK Kargil, including Dr. Fatima Nissa (Nodal Officer, Mental Health DHK), Dr. Ghulam Hussain Bardi (Consultant Physician), Dr. Zahra Banoo (Gynecologist), Dr. Sajjad Hussain (Surgeon), Dr. Murtaza Ali (Consultant Psychiatrist), Dr. Azhar (Orthopedic Surgeon), and Dr. Tanveer (Nodal Officer, NCD OPD).

The discussion covered a wide range of mental health issues such as postpartum psychosis, ADHD, substance abuse, depression, schizophrenia, and other related diseases. The panel emphasized the critical importance of mental health for social life and financial prosperity. They

noted an increase in patient referrals for psychiatric consultation due to the availability of specialized doctors at DHK.

Strong measures for diagnosing mental health disorders were discussed, highlighting the need for holistic care for adolescents experiencing stress and those prone to substance abuse. The panel also acknowledged the significant stress on youth due to performance pressures and stressed that mental health issues should be treated as normal health problems by society.

The panel further discussed postpartum psychosis, stress among patients undergoing major surgery, and intellectual disabilities in children. The collective agreement was to develop robust methods for spreading awareness about mental health, urging the public to seek consultation from psychiatrists or psychologists when facing psychological issues.

CEC Kargil discusses issues related with Mining Department



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman/ CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, chaired a meeting on July 8 at the Conference Hall of LAHDC Secretariat Kargil to address issues related to the Mining Department of Kargil.

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor Tourism, PHE and I&FC, Kargil; Executive Councillor, Social Welfare, Animal Husbandry, LAHDC, Kargil; Councillor, Choskore Constituency; Councillor, Town Constituency Kargil; Councillor, Baroo Constituency; Councillor, Shargole; Councillor,

suru; Sr. Superintendent of Police Kargil; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kargil; Deputy Director Mining and Geology UT Ladakh; District Mineral Officer, Kargil; Naib Tehsildar Kargil; Naib Tehsildar Sankoo, and oth-

During the meeting, the CEC directed the Executive Councillor Tourism, PHE and I&FC, Kargil, to outline the agenda. The Executive Councillor elaborated on the provision of sand and Bajiri to the public and contractors,

Bhimbet; Councillor, Tai- highlighting the department's challenges due to non-auctioned quarries and blocks.

The meeting extensively discussed the auction process for identified blocks, which will be decided during the LG meeting. It also covered the terms and conditions proposed by LAHDC, Kargil, to be included in the guidelines.

New blocks will be identified by the District Mineral Officer, Kargil, and submitted to the Assistant Commissioner Kargil for

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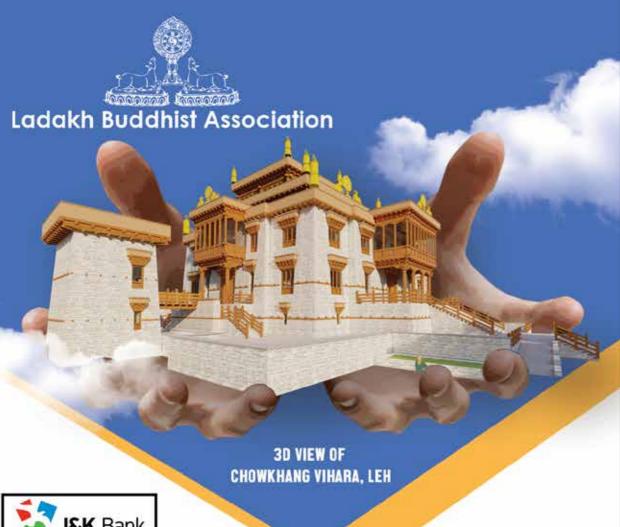








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