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SEPTEMBER 01-15, 2024

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



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## Tai Situpa Rinpoche's nine-day visit: A blessing for Ladakh



pretation of the name "Lamdon," explaining that "Lam" means path and "Don" means light, symbolizing enlightenment and progress. He emphasized the importance of SEE (Social, Emotional, and Ethical) learning for both students and teachers.

Principal Kunzes Angmo expressed her happiness at His Holiness's visit to the school and his teachings on SEE, which were introduced by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. She highlighted the challenges faced by 21st-century students, such as stress, anxiety, and competition, and noted that His Holiness's teachings would help students navigate these issues with peace and happiness.

Later, His Holiness visited Chowkhang Vihara in Leh, where he was welcomed by the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA). Offerings were made to His Holiness by LBA members, led by President Chering Dorje.

At a mass gathering at Chowkhang Vihara, His Holiness reminisced about his visit 47 years ago, recalling the motorable roads that once ran through the market. He emphasized the importance of ethical, natural, and genuine perceptions, stating that one does not need to be religious to understand basic moral principles.

President Chering Dorje mentioned His Holiness's Dharma centers around the world and praised him as a highly educated individual who has authored many religious books.

### Nenzen Chodon

**LEH:** His Holiness Kenting 12th Tai Situpa Rinpoche, the supreme head of the Palpung Monastic seat in Bajjnath, Himachal Pradesh, blessed the people of Ladakh during his nine-day visit.

A farewell luncheon was organized by Lamdon Society at Spituk on August 22 to formally thank His Holiness for accepting the invitation to visit Ladakh and for touring various monasteries around Leh. During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of friendship was signed between Lamdon Society and the Palpung Shrabling Monastic Seat. Geshe Thuptan was declared the Goodwill Ambassador.

Addressing the gathering, His Holiness remarked, "I am so happy and glad to see so much development in Lamdon School, and all the monasteries I visited are progressing."

Students from Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School presented various cultural programs, including dances such as Jabro, Chartses, Shodol, and Ali Yato, as well as songs accompanied by the traditional dranyen.

His Holiness also laid the foundation for Lamdon's Gumpa and inaugurated the Lamdon Fitness and Dance Centre on August 15. He was accompanied by Phuntsok Angchuk, President of the Lamdon Social Welfare Society, and Principal Kunzes Angmo.

Reflecting on his previous visit to Lamdon School in 1975, His Holiness recalled that he was just 22 years old at the time, and there were only 12-15 students. He expressed amazement at the significant increase in the number of students today. He also provided an inter-

## Sewage Treatment Plant failure: Residents raise alarm over leakages and health risks



Residents of Agling village expressing frustration over the malfunctioning of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

### Nenzen Chodon

**LEH:** Residents of Agling village have expressed frustration over the malfunctioning of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) situated at the village's end. The plant, intended to process wastewater from across the city before draining it into the river, has faced issues of leakage and overflow, causing significant problems in the surrounding areas.

The affected residents, whose homes are adjacent to the STP, have reported that the underground pipelines intended for drainage appear to be broken, leading to sewage leaks onto roads and into their neighborhoods. Nambardar of Spituk village, who visited the STP, noted that the plant is not operating as expected and highlighted the overflow issues observed during his visit.

The villagers had previously complied with LAHDC, Leh's request

to allow the installation of underground pipelines on their properties and roads, with assurances of no leakage or odor. However, these assurances have not been met, and the small canal used for irrigation has become contaminated with wastewater, posing health risks.

Phuntsok Dimbir, a local resident, reported that the STP overflows within a month or two, leading to unpleasant odors and pollution in the lower areas. Despite assurances from higher authorities that the issue would be addressed, the problems have persisted for years.

Residents are now calling on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh to address their concerns and rectify the situation, emphasizing that this issue is not new and has been ongoing for several years.

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**REACH LADAKH BULLETIN**

**Owner, Publisher & Printer:** Tundup Dorje

**Editor:** Stanzin Dasal

**Reporters:** Nenzen Chodon, Stanzin Padma

**Sales & Marketing:** Tsering Morup  
Contact: +91 9469451102

**Designer:** Stanzin Rabgyas (CAGO)

**Published at:** Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter  
Contact: +91 9858394403, +91 8899418322

**Printed at:** Ala Printing Press, 3636 Katra Dina Baig, Lal Quan Delhi -110006

**Ladakh Buddhist Association**

**3D VIEW OF CHOWKHANG VIHARA, LEH**

**J&K Bank**  
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## Fortnightly News

### His Eminence Jigme Dongyud Tenpal Lodoe recognized as the 10th Langna Rinpoche

*Festival held at Shey to honour His Eminence*



#### Nenzen Chodon

**LEH:** After approximately six years, His Eminence Jigme Dongyud Tenpal Lodoe has been recognized as the reincarnated 10th Langna Rinpoche by His Holiness the 12th Gyalwang Drukpa, Jigmet Pema Wangchen, head of the Drukpa Lineage school.

In July 2018, His Eminence the 9th Langna Rinpoche, Jigdrel Kunsang Long Yang, tragically passed away in a road accident

at Rani Nala, near Rohtang Pass.

Korzok Monastery, with support from other monasteries, organized a festival at Narro-Photang, Shey, to celebrate the reincarnation and recognition of His Eminence, the 10th Langna Rinpoche. The ritual of offerings to His Eminence was conducted by representatives of various organizations and distinguished guests.

Prominent attendees included His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche; HE Chokyong Palga Rinpoche; HE Urgyen Rinpoche; Executive Councillor Tashi Namgyal; Ravi Thakur, Former Member of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Councillors; President of LGA; Youth President of LBA; President of LBA Women's Wing; Former MP of Ladakh; and representatives from other

organizations and gompas.

His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche expressed that the people of Ladakh are fortunate to witness the reincarnation of Rinpoches and Tulkus, who spread Buddhism in the region. He emphasized that this blessing is due to the wisdom, faith, love, and compassion of the people. He highlighted the crucial role of Lamas in spreading the teachings of Buddha, guiding the path of Buddhism, and fostering peace.

Guest of Honour, EC Tashi Namgyal, shared his gratitude towards HH Gyalwang Drukpa and HE Thuksey Rinpoche for recognizing His Eminence Langna Rinpoche. He congratulated His Eminence's parents, Skarma Lakpa and Dolma Tsering, and expressed hope that the young Rinpoche would receive the education and guidance he needs from the prominent Rinpoches.

Ravi Thakur, Former Member of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, highlighted the enduring relationship between Lahaul-Spiti and Ladakh, noting their historical connections and the intermarriages between the two regions.

President of the Ladakh Gompa Association spoke on the significance of Lamas in Buddhist society, noting that most traditional ceremonies are incomplete without the prayers or rituals performed by a monk.

JTN, a former MP, emphasized the importance of Lamas, Rinpoches, and Tulkus to all sentient beings, especially to the people of the Himalayan region. He attributed the blessings of such a day to the good deeds of the ancestors.

Jigmet Rabstan, President of LBA Youth, praised the pure and virtuous faith of the people, which has brought them to this blessed day. He extended congratulations to the people of Ladakh, particularly the villagers of Korzok.

Members of SAVE Changthang, LEKA, White Lotus Band, YDA Ladakh, and women's groups from Nubra performed vibrant cultural performances, including Jabro, Mentok Stadmo, traditional songs, Tibetan dance, and the Tashispa song and dance. Ladakhi singer Phuntsok Tsokar also performed a song dedicated to His Eminence Langna Rinpoche.

### Ladakh celebrates adventure tourism with Aero Festival and Paragliding World Cup



*During the Ladakh Aero Festival and Pre-Paragliding Accuracy World Cup in Sakti.*

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**SAKTI:** The Ladakh Aero Festival and Pre-Paragliding Accuracy World Cup, held at an altitude of 14,400 feet, officially kicked off with great enthusiasm on August 25 in Sakti. Running until August 28, the festival aims to position Ladakh as a global hub for aero sports enthusiasts. Ladakh's recognition as the world's highest eco-friendly paragliding site was prominently highlighted, alongside its offering of a diverse range of adventure activities including paragliding, rafting, bungee jumping, zip-lining, mountain biking, trekking, and wildlife tours.

The festival was inaugurated by CEC Tashi Gyalson. This five-day event, which began with registration on August 24, is set to be a groundbreaking celebration of aero sports and adventure. The competition features 45 pilots across three categories: Overall Men, Overall Women, and Overall Team. Winners in each category will receive gold, silver, and bronze medals, along with cash prizes. Ten teams are competing in the team category.

In his address, CEC Tashi Gyalson emphasized the historic significance of

this event, despite its initial scale. He underscored the potential for Ladakh to emerge as a premier destination for adventure tourism and hinted at future expansions, including local paragliding accuracy competitions. CEC Gyalson also stressed the need for increased investment in adventure activities to promote rural tourism.

Chief Judge Raju Rai from Sikkim commended the efforts of the UT administration and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) for making the event possible, extending his sincere gratitude. He expressed confidence in the exponential growth of paragliding in Ladakh and announced that all participants would receive FAI awards.

The event also featured the launch of official festival T-shirts, symbolizing the spirit and energy of the festival.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Mahavir Chakra recipient Col. Sonam Wangchuk, Former CEC Gyal Wangyal, Councillor Sakti Tsering Rigzin, SDM Sonam Dorjey, AD Tourism Fesal Iqbal Tantray, and personnel from the Indian Air Force.

### 7 dead, 21 injured in Durbuk bus accident



#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** On August 22, a tragic accident occurred when a school bus plunged into a gorge in Durbuk, resulting in seven deaths and 21 injuries. The victims, staff members of Lamdon School, were traveling from Leh to attend a wedding in Durbuk village.

The LAHDC, Leh District Administration, Army, Air Force, Police, Health Department, and local civilians responded swiftly, airlifting the injured to Leh via Army and Air Force helicopters.

A candlelight march was held on August 23, drawing a large crowd in solidarity with the victims. All businesses in Leh remained closed for half a day as a mark of respect. Officials believe a technical glitch, likely a brake failure, caused the accident on a steep descent.

LAHDC, Leh announced an ex gratia payment of ₹2 lakh to the families of the deceased and ₹1 lakh to the seriously injured. Prayers were held across various locations and monasteries for the victims.

### Ladakh Zanskar Festival to be held on September 13-14

*DC Kargil oversees final plans and arrangements*



*Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant B. Suse, reviewing the preparations for the 9th edition of the Ladakh Zanskar Festival.*

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant B. Suse, reviewed the preparations for the 9th edition of the Ladakh Zanskar Festival 2024, scheduled for September 13-14.

SSP Kargil Shree Ram R, Additional Deputy Commissioner

Kargil, and other key officials including the CPO, SE PWD, SDM Zanskar, CMO, Chief Agriculture Officer, Accounts Officer to DC, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Deputy Secretary of LAACL Kargil, ARTO, and AD DIPR Kargil, attended the meeting.

The discussion focused on various aspects necessary for the successful conduct of the two-day festival, with multiple decisions made during the session.

DC Kargil instructed the relevant departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place, including security, uninterrupted power and water supply, medical facilities, ambulances, tents, and the accommodation of participants. Additionally, arrangements for archery exhibitions and departmental stalls, including banks, were discussed.

Deputy Secretary of LAACL Kargil requested transportation for tents and other equipment to the festival venue.

The DC also emphasized the importance of promoting the event through all media platforms and advertising boards.

He urged all officers to ensure that cultural and literary programs are conducted smoothly.

### Historic Pension Reform: Government introduces Unified Pension Scheme for central employees

#### Unified Pension Scheme UPS

- 1

**Assured Pension :** 50 % of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years  
Proportionate for lesser service period upto a minimum of 10 years of service
- 2

**Assured Family Pension :**  
@60% of pension of the employee immediately before her/his demise
- 3

**Assured Minimum Pension :**  
@ 10000 per month on superannuation after minimum 10 years of service

#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), marking a historic advancement in the welfare of central government employees. This groundbreaking initiative is poised to enhance pension benefits for 23 lakh central government employees, with the potential to extend coverage to around 90 lakh beneficiaries if state governments choose to participate.

The Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Union Cabinet and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their unwavering commitment in bringing this significant initiative to life.

scheme, which will come into effect from April 1, 2025.

Under the UPS, employees with a minimum of 25 years of service will receive a pension amounting to 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to retirement. For those with 10-25 years of service, the pension will be proportionate to the years served.

Additionally, the scheme guarantees a family pension equivalent to 60% of the employee's pension immediately before their demise.

The UPS also ensures a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month upon superannuation, provided the employee has completed at least 10 years of service. Further, the scheme includes provisions for inflation indexation and a

lump-sum payment upon retirement, underscoring the government's commitment to the welfare of its employees.

This decision by the Cabinet represents a significant stride toward improving the financial security and quality of life for government employees and their families. The government extends its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all Cabinet members for their dedication and support in realizing this crucial initiative.

The Unified Pension Scheme reflects the government's continuous efforts to modernize and enhance benefits for its workforce, ensuring a more secure and dignified retirement for its employees.

### Ladakh pays tribute to UT Martyrs on 35th anniversary of 1989 agitation



*Adv. Tashi Gyalson, CEC LAHDC Leh and Thupstan Chhewang, Former President of the LBA along with other guests during the UT Martyrs day.*

#### Stanzin Padma

**LEH:** Tribute paid to the trio of UT Martyrs—Nawang Rinchen from Sankar, Tsewang Dorjay from Saboo, and Tsering Stobdan from Durbuk—who lost their lives in the firing during the mass agitation demanding Union Territory status for Ladakh on August 27, 1989. The commemoration took place at Memorial Park Skytaks.

Ven. Lobsang Tsondu and Tashi Angchuk, who sacrificed their lives in 1981 for securing Scheduled Tribe status for Ladakh were also honored.

Adv. Tashi Gyalson, CEC LAHDC Leh, the chief guest of the occasion, expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs. He emphasized the importance of this day in Ladakh's history, noting that remembering the bravery of these heroes is crucial for the youth to remain responsi-

ble and committed to the region's progress. Gyalson also outlined upcoming developments at NDS Memorial Park, including plans for a new cafeteria, in collaboration with the LBA Youth president.

Gyalson paid tribute to Ladakh's great leaders, including Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, Tokdan Rinpoche, Thupstan Chhewang, and Chering Dorjay Lakrook. He stated that if a "Gandhi" title were to be given in Ladakh, Thupstan Chhewang would be the most deserving.

Thupstan Chhewang, Former President of the LBA, emphasized that this day is unforgettable for Ladakh, even if we tried to forget. While Ladakh was under J&K rule, it was also free in its spirit.

He recounted the 1989 agitation, a pivotal moment in Ladakh's history when, for the first time,

people from different religions united to fight for their common demand. He paid a solemn tribute to all the warriors who sacrificed their lives for Ladakh.

Chhewang welcomed the creation of five new districts, attributing this achievement to the unity that has prevailed in Ladakh since 1989. However, he expressed concerns about the potential implications of these new districts, particularly the possible reduction in the Hill Council's power. He noted that, according to scholars, if these districts are included under the Sixth Schedule, it would fulfill Ladakh's main demand. If not, the creation of districts would be of little value.

He urged everyone to remain united in pursuing the region's four key agenda demands, even after the creation of the districts, cautioning that this could be a tactic to divide Ladakh's unity.

Chhewang concluded by addressing the youth, stating that it is now their responsibility to carry forward these demands and ensure Ladakh's continued progress.

Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) President Chering Dorjay Lakrook, Vice President LBA Kunzes Dolma, Women Wing President LBA Syed Mukesh Shah Anjuman Imamia, and President LGA also spoke at the event.

### Preparations underway for Climate Cup 2024 Football tournament in Leh



#### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A preparatory meeting for the Climate Cup 2024 football tournament was held at the Council Secretariat, Leh. The tournament is scheduled to take place in Leh during the first week of September.

Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson led comprehensive discussions with relevant officers and officials to review the necessary arrangements for the tournament's success. He underscored the importance of meticulous planning and timely execution to ensure a smooth and impactful event. CEC Gyalson also highlighted the need for effective branding and publicity, urging promotion across various national platforms to maximize awareness and encourage widespread participation.

The meeting was attended by Dy. Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs Ghulam Mehdi, Executive Councillor for Agriculture Stanzin Chopsel, Secretary of Sports Vikram Singh Malik, DC/CEO LAHDC Leh Santosh Sukhadeve, SE PWD Leh Stanzin Gyatso, Private Secretary to Chairman Jigmet Raftan, AD Tourism Fasal Iqbal Tantray, OSD to Secretary Sports Dr. Stanzin Thekchos, Dy. Secretary Culture Tsewang Paljor, District Youth Service and Sports Officer Tsering Tashi, and officials from the Ladakh Football Association.

tral status, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability. A trophy unveiling ceremony featuring an eco-friendly design will be a key highlight, along with a climate summit held alongside the tournament to foster discussions on climate action and solutions, further underscoring the event's dedication to environmental stewardship.

## Fortnightly News

### Ladakh's Diskit C Angmo and Tsewang Chuskit represent India at 2024 Hockey Together Camp



Diskit C Angmo and Tsewang Chuskit with CEC Tashi Gyalson.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The 2024 Hockey Together Camp, hosted by the Korean Ice Hockey Association (KIHA) with support from the Official Development Assistance (ODA) program of the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the Pyeongchang Legacy Foundation, successfully concluded its 6th edition. Held from August 8 to 15, the camp has established itself as a significant initiative in the global development of ice hockey.

Diskit C Angmo and Tsewang Chuskit from Ladakh, who represented Team India expressed gratitude to CEC Tashi Gyalson for his generous funding, which played a crucial role in their participation in this transformative experience.

This year's camp featured 90 Korean U15 players, 38 Learn to Play (LTP) participants, and 37 coaches from 22 IHF

Member National Associations (MNAs). The event welcomed both returning participants from countries such as Ukraine, Serbia, Malaysia, and India, as well as newcomers from the UAE, Kuwait, Philippines, Hong Kong, and Chinese Taipei. The Hockey Together Camp continues to set a high standard for international hockey education and collaboration, fostering growth and unity within the sport.

### Land from Igoo-Phey Command area allocated to villagers in Spituk, Palam, and Pharka



During the Igoo-Phey Command Area land distribution to residents of Spituk, Palam, and Pharka villages.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**SPITUK:** Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, distributed land from the Igoo-Phey Command Area to residents of Spituk, Palam, and Pharka villages on August 20. The land was allocated through a lottery system aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities and promoting sustainable development.

Tashi Gyalson congratulated the villagers on receiving the command area land. He acknowledged the perseverance of the Gobas, Councillor, revenue officers, villagers, and other key stakeholders whose tireless efforts led to the successful land allocation. He encouraged the villagers to appreciate the long-term objectives behind the land grant and to utilize it fully for their community's

growth and prosperity.

He also mentioned that the Council is exploring the possibility of lifting water from the Indus River and pumping it into the Igoo-Phey Canal to address water shortages.

Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, also extended his congratulations to the residents, noting the long-awaited fulfillment of the Command Area land allotment. He provided insights into the historical significance of the J&K Command Area Act, highlighting its purpose of converting barren land into productive agricultural land. He emphasized that using this land for sustainable agriculture would benefit not only the local communities but also the entire Union Territory of Ladakh.

Nambardar of Spituk, Lobzang Larjay, described the day as a monumental moment for the three villages. "This land has been a dream for every villager, and today, that dream has finally been realized," he said. He also underscored the importance of the Igoo-Phey Act, which mandates that villagers cultivate and preserve the allotted land for future generations.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner/CEO Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; ACR Shabir Hussain; Councillor of Phyang Constituency, Tundup Nurbu; Tehsildar Leh, Dorjay Gyalson; Nambardar Spituk, Lobzang Larjay; Girdawars; Patwaris; and villagers from Spituk, Palam, and Pharka.

### CEC Kargil and Phande Lekjin Welfare Society collaborate to organize Eye Camp



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, convened a meeting with members of the Phande Lekjin Welfare Society on August 19 to discuss arrangements for organizing an eye camp in Kargil.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy CMO Kargil, Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Kargil, Director Khanpo Kochock Dorjay, Eye Camp Coordinator Er.

Kunzes Dolma, President Chemet Dorjay, and other representatives of the organization.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the objectives of the eye camp, which is tentatively scheduled for September/October 2024. The members of the organization requested logistical and manpower support from the CEC to ensure the smooth organization of the event.

CEC Dr. Jaffer Akhoun commended the Phande Lekjin Welfare Society for their humanitarian efforts and assured them that LAHDC Kargil would provide full support and make all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the eye camp.

He emphasized that the camp should particularly benefit marginalized sections of society who cannot afford medical expenses at private hospitals outside Kargil. He directed the Deputy CMO and Medical Superintendent to compile a comprehensive list of villages, grouping them based on proximity, to determine the locations for the camp.

Additionally, CEC Kargil instructed the CMO to inform all BMOs and Medical Officers about the final dates for the eye camp screenings, ensuring they are well-prepared and able to facilitate the event effectively.

### Weeklong social work week at EJM College centers on School Social Work opportunities



During the celebration of weeklong programme in observance of the 5th National Social Work Week at EJM College.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Department of Social Work at EJM College, Leh, celebrated a weeklong programme from August 15 to August 21 in observance of the 5th National Social Work Week, initiated by the National Association of Professional Social Workers of India (NAPSWI). The theme for this year's programme was "School Social Work: Opportunities and Challenges," reflecting the increasing recognition of the importance of school social workers as highlighted in the New Education Policy, 2020.

The event kicked off with a national webinar conducted by NAPSWI, featuring participation from state coordinators across the country. Throughout the week, various activities were organized, including webinars, workshops, and competitions aimed at enhancing the understanding and scope of social work in school settings.

Eminent Social Work Educators, Prof. Sanjai Bhatt and Prof. Asutosh Pradhan, were invited to lead webinars on the topics "Field Work Practicum and Its Scope in School Settings"

and "The Importance of Social Work Education in School Settings," respectively. These sessions provided valuable insights into the practical aspects and educational significance of social work within schools. An Inter-Department Quiz Competition was also held, with participants from five college departments: Zoology, Social Work, Sociology, Biochemistry, and Commerce. The quiz focused on general studies, covering topics such as economics, politics, social issues, science, and sports. The Department of Zoology emerged as the winner.

Additionally, a workshop on "Gender-Based Violence in School Settings" was conducted, featuring Social Workers Aamir Sohail and Hasseena Batool from the Special Cell for Women (Leh and Kargil), along with Shahida Parveen, Centre Administrator at the One Stop Centre in Leh. The workshop aimed to raise awareness among students about discriminatory practices based on gender that are often normalized in society. The speakers elaborated on the concept of gender-based violence and its various forms, including financial, physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. They also discussed the support and assistance available to victims and encouraged students to spread awareness in their communities.

Teen Challenge NGO; Monalisa Sharma, Principal of Mahabodhi School; and Hasseena Batool, Social Worker. The panelists shared their experiences and insights into the challenges and developments within school settings, emphasizing the critical role of social workers. They highlighted that the role extends beyond counseling to include responsibilities such as ensuring inclusive education, bridging gaps between parents, students, and teachers, and instilling values like honesty, compassion, and accountability.

The weeklong celebration concluded with the observance of National Social Work Day, marked by a valedictory ceremony and cultural programme. The Principal of EJM College, along with faculty members and students from various departments, attended the event. The speakers, experts, and winners of the quiz competition were felicitated during the ceremony, which was followed by vibrant cultural performances.

### CEC Tashi Gyalson inaugurates projects worth over ₹27 crore in Khaltse constituency



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson, accompanied by DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, and Councillor Lobzang Sherab, undertook a one-day tour of Khaltse constituency on August 26. The tour involved the inauguration

of several community projects and the laying of foundation stones for key developmental works, with an estimated cost exceeding ₹27 crore 75 lakh.

The delegation included Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Stanzin Gyatso; Superintendent Engineer,

PMGSY; Assistant Commissioner Development, Leh; Project Officer, ICDS, Leh; Chief Education Officer; Chief Agriculture Officer; SDM, Khaltse; XeN, PHE; XeN, PDD; and other concerned officials.

CEC Gyalson visited the villages of Ulley, Mangu, Lhardo, and Alchi, where he interacted with public gatherings. The villagers of Sham region warmly welcomed the officials during their visit.

The tour began with a visit to Ulley village, where CEC Gyalson laid the foundation stone for a new Community Hall under the district plan. Following this, the team proceeded to Mangu village, where CEC

Gyalson, alongside DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve and Councillor Lobzang Sherab, laid the foundation stone for flood protection work at Mangu Nalla.

In Lhardo village, CEC Gyalson laid the foundation stone for a new Community Hall, with DC Leh and Councillor Lobzang Sherab in attendance.

During their visit, villagers highlighted major issues, including the need for road blacktopping, improved tele-connectivity, repair of motorable bridges, and developmental needs at monasteries.

CEC Gyalson also visited Alchi village, where he

reviewed developmental requirements and addressed grievances raised by village representatives. Foundation stones were laid for the construction of a public gathering Community Hall, a Futsal ground, a link road to Alchi Dok, and an ICDS Centre.

CEC Gyalson praised the local community for their efforts in regional development and assured them that all genuine issues would be addressed. He also congratulated the people on the announcement of five new districts in Ladakh, calling the day both auspicious and historic, particularly noting the new designation of Sham as a district.

### Advisor discusses expansion of Pashmina subsidy scheme and spinning technology



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the Union Territory of Ladakh, chaired a meeting on August 19 at the Civil Secretariat in Leh to discuss the promotion of Pashmina spinning machines and subsidy schemes aimed at boosting the Pashmina industry in the region.

The meeting focused on strategies to enhance the production and quality of Pashmina products, with the broader goal of improving the livelihoods of local artisans and other stakeholders in the industry.

The President of Phobrang Cooperative Society emphasized the critical importance of maintaining high standards in Pashmina yarn and loom production. He advocated for the introduction of additional spinning machines and modern equipment to ensure the production of superior quality looms and yarns. He highlighted that these advancements would not only uplift the livelihoods of women artisans but also help pre-

serve Ladakh's rich cultural heritage.

Following in-depth discussions, it was decided that, considering the significance of the scheme in promoting local Pashmina yarn production and supporting the economic sustainability of spinning and weaving cooperatives, the subsidy for procuring Ashford-type equipment could be increased to 90%. Additionally, a training and capacity-building component would be incorporated into the scheme.

Dr. Kotwal underscored the importance of preserving traditional craftsmanship while integrating modern technology to enhance efficiency and productivity. He directed officials to develop a comprehensive plan to promote Pashmina spinning machines and subsidy schemes, ensuring that the local community receives maximum benefits. The Commissioner/Secretary of Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Dr. Laltinkhuma Franklin,

suggested that the new De-hairing plant in Leh, once operational, would supply high-quality Pashmina wool to artisans for yarn production.

Michael D'Souza, Administrative Secretary of Cooperatives, proposed the establishment of a rotating corpus fund to make de-haired Pashmina wool available to cooperative members, along with providing marketing support for the yarn they produce.

Dr. Kotwal instructed officials to replicate the successful Phobrang model across Ladakh to ensure widespread benefits to the local community. He also directed the District Magistrate of Leh to design an attractive scheme that includes a revolving fund and a training component, with the goal of implementing it as soon as possible.

This initiative aims to enhance the production and quality of Pashmina products, improve the livelihoods of local artisans, and promote Ladakh's rich cultural heritage.

### University of Ladakh launches Mobile Forensic Laboratory



Mobile Forensic Laboratory acquired by the Department of Forensic Science, University of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), flagged off the Mobile Forensic Laboratory acquired by the Department of Forensic Science, University of Ladakh, at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on August 13.

Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof SK Mehta besides officers, officials and students of the University of Ladakh were present during the flag-off ceremony.

LG commended the Department of Forensic Science, University of Ladakh for this significant advancement, highlighting the benefits that the Mobile Forensic Laboratory would bring to students. He emphasized that the introduction of such cutting-edge technology would greatly enhance students' learning experience. The HLG also reiterated the commitment of UT

Administration to support initiatives that foster innovation and technical skills among students in the region.

Dr Sonam Angmo and Dr Rigzin Dorjey informed the LG about the 14 scientific kits, viz. crime scene cordoning/protection kit, general investigation kit, evidence packing and collection kit, complete fingerprint taking kit with workstation, latent fingerprint development kit, foot and tire print casting kit, high-intensity forensic light source, blood and semen detection kit, DNA collection and sexual assault kit, explosive detection kit, narcotic kit, narcotic detection kit, gunshot residue test kit, bullet hole testing kit and arson investigation kit with gas detector.

The students also demonstrated the use and process of latent fingerprint development kit.

## Expert talk:

## The Future of Ladakh: Why Bhoti language must be preserved

Stanzin Padma



**Dr. Thupstan Nurboo, Editor, Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Leh:** Every language holds its own importance, and recognizing this value promotes linguistic diversity, cultural understanding, and global connection. The Ladakhi Bhoti language, in particular, stands out for its richness and depth. It is not only complete with its own grammar and structure but also has a unique ability to express emotions and convey thoughts effectively.

Among the 7,000 languages spoken worldwide, only a few have withstood the test of time for over 1,000 years. Bhoti is one of these ancient languages, having been established in the 7th century. We are indeed fortunate to inherit such a profound linguistic heritage.

Ladakh, as a major tourist destination, sees more visitors each year than its actual population. This constant interaction with tourists has led to an exchange of languages, which can impact the use and preservation of our native tongue.

As Ladakhis, it is crucial to cultivate a sense of belonging and love for our language. We must believe in its superiority and richness in every aspect. Ignoring our language could lead to significant challenges in preserving our cultural identity.

The decline in the use of Bhoti among the youth isn't entirely their fault. The lack of favorable conditions, such as the medium of instruction being exclusively in English, plays a significant role. This is an unfortunate consequence of British colonial rule, where English was enforced as the primary language in India. Even after independence, this trend has persisted, not just in Ladakh, but globally, with English receiving more emphasis.

Teaching in one's native language fosters a more inclusive, effective, and supportive learning environment, leading to better academic outcomes and personal growth. Emotions, feelings, and thoughts are often better understood and expressed in one's mother tongue. For example, in the past, we were taught about things that had no relevance to our surroundings, like elephants and crocodiles, which most of us had never seen. This made learning less effective, as we couldn't relate to or feel connected to these concepts.

Today, many students are sent outside Ladakh for higher education, and parents prioritize their children's education and employment prospects. As a result, these students must adapt to the languages and cultures of different societies, leading to the mixing of languages.

Additionally, modern technology introduces new concepts and terminology for which we often lack equivalent terms in Bhoti. Translating these concepts meaningfully into Bhoti takes time, but efforts are underway to enrich our language with as many new terms as possible.

However, compelling someone to speak Bhoti won't be effective unless we all understand its importance. We can cultivate a habit of using our language by listening to it on the radio and incorporating it into our daily conversations.

Another reason for the decline in the use of Bhoti might stem from historical circumstances. Although we should prioritize our own language, we were unfortunate during the rule of Jammu and Kashmir when, due to our smaller population, we had to accept Hindi and Urdu. This shift led parents and students to focus solely on achieving good exam results, often disregarding the importance of genuine knowledge. As a result, many students viewed Bhoti as an optional subject, something they could ignore without consequence.

Additionally, many parents prioritize education as a means to secure jobs for their children, with little concern for the quality of education or the acquisition of knowledge. In contrast, I have heard that in Tibetan schools, all subjects are taught in their native language up until middle school. Initially, there were concerns about the outcomes, but after a few years, it was found that these students performed better and had a stronger grasp of concepts than their peers.

Furthermore, Bhoti plays a crucial role in the development of one's inner self, as our culture and literature are deeply rooted in this language. Without knowledge of Bhoti, access to our literary heritage is effectively closed off—language is the key that unlocks these doors.

In today's world, it is essential for everyone to learn English and Hindi, as they are necessary for achieving a standard of living. However, if we prioritize our own language while also learning others, we can stay connected to our roots, culture, and literature.

**Impact on the Future of Ladakh if Bhoti is Not Preserved**

It is a fact that when a village's language becomes extinct, its culture inevitably follows, as language is the root of culture. If this root dies, the remaining branches of culture will become superficial and unsustainable. Eventually, our village and its language will lose their identity. However, it is not too late—we can still preserve our language by raising awareness and helping everyone understand its value.

**Solution**

> We often talk about the importance of identity and the value of language, but these discussions are meaningless if we lack the willingness and interest to learn our own language. Without a deep sense of

...continues on page 6



## International Day of Charity

The International Day of Charity was established with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace."

Mother Teresa, the renowned nun and missionary, was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910. In 1928 she went to India, where she devoted herself to helping the destitute.

In 1948 she became an Indian citizen and founded the order of Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata (Calcutta) in 1950, which became noted for its work among the poor and the dying in that city.

For over 45 years she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned and dying, while guiding the Missionaries of Charity's expansion, first in India and then in other countries, including hospices and homes for the poorest and homeless. Mother Teresa's work has been recognized and acclaimed throughout the world and she has received a number of awards and distinctions, including the Nobel Peace Prize. Mother Teresa died on September 5th 1997,



at 87 years of age.

In recognition of the role of charity in alleviating humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution A/RES/67/105 designated the 5th of September, the anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa, as the International Day of Charity.

Courtesy: United Nation

Courtesy: www.savit.in

## DID YOU KNOW



- The human eye has 2,000,000 working parts. All of them work in proper coordination.
- When we are born, we have nearly 300 bones. As we grow up, some of them fuse to form a total of 206 bones.
- The brain of a newborn increases three times in size within the first year of birth.
- The distance between a wrist and the elbow joint is similar to a human's foot size.
- There are 2000 thunderstorms occurring on the earth every minute.
- You will be surprised to know that a bolt of lightning is at least five times hotter than the Sun.
- Clouds look white as they reflect the sunlight from above.
- The weight of a person is six times lower on the moon than on earth.
- There are metals that can burn in water.
- A teaspoon of a neutron star can weigh nearly 6 billion tons.
- An ostrich's brain is smaller than its eyeballs.
- Dogs can smell at least 100,000 times more than humans.
- An octopus has nine brains and blue blood.
- The largest canyon in the world is the Grand Canyon. It is located in Arizona and stretches up to 445 km.
- The largest active volcano is Mauna Loa located in Hawaii.
- The Indian subcontinent is the largest in the world comprising Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

Courtesy : Vedantu

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

## The art of regaining happiness



*Do you have a problem of happiness not coming your way? And do you have the answer to the 'why' of it? Never mind, not all the people are happy all the time. Happiness is like a casual visitor, and it stays only with those who understand the philosophy of life and its ups-and-downs.*

*Regaining happiness is a serious business. First of all, you need to know what can make you happy. Chalk out a list and start working on it as if there is no way but to do*

*it. Give yourself a reasonable time, and divide your work during that period.*

*It so happens that every day will be like a pilgrim's progression, and happiness will 'start coming' little by little, day by day. The day you complete the work that you had cherished the most, you will be brimming with happiness.*

*The process has to be kept up with other things to be done. Some of them maybe as simple as doing a 'good shopping' or having a good lunch or dinner of your choice in a nice restaurant all alone; but it will give you much more of happiness if you have a 'partner' to have it together.*

*Your list of things to be achieved never ends. New wishes spring up all the time and you need to understand what can make and keep you happy upon executing them. You may eliminate many of such silly wishes that may not give you any happiness worth your labour.*

*There are other ways too to regain happiness. Some of them are to enjoy yourself under all circumstances, boost your self-esteem irrespective of your present condition of being unhappy, go for a healthy lifestyle like natural food and physical exercise, love your friends and relatives, meet them and have a hearty talk. Such activities will 'melt your worries' and you will be happy once again!*

*And then, as they say, our days are happier when we give others a slice of our heart!*

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

## Fortnightly News

### In Conversation with

# Lobzang Tsendol, Managing Director of Royal Explorer: Ladakh's First Female Travel Agent

Interviewed by Nenzes Chodon

**Q. Congratulations on receiving the award during Rpal Ngam Duston for being the first female travel agent in Ladakh. How does it feel, and did you expect this recognition?**

Thank you! The award came as a surprise to me. I was asked to send my CV, which I did, and then I received an invitation for the Rpal Ngam Duston ceremony while I was out on a family picnic. I wasn't aware of the award process and couldn't fully grasp it until I was on stage. I was thrilled to receive such recognition after years of overcoming challenges. It was especially meaningful given the stories I've heard about my role as the first female travel agent and the struggles I faced to get here.

**Q. Briefly introduce yourself, tell us about your educational background, and share when you first set up your travel agency. Were your parents and family members supportive of your decision?**

My name is Lobzang Tsendol, and I am from Gonpa village, Leh-Ladakh. I studied in Dehradun since childhood, completed my 10th grade under the ICSE board, and graduated in Arts from Hyderabad.

In 1994, my cousin sister Angmo and I, both of whom had a keen interest in tourism, decided to start a travel agency and become travel agents. We faced significant challenges early on, particularly because our family was not supportive of our choice. While family members often encouraged us to pursue government jobs, which were more conventional and secure, we chose to follow our passion for tourism instead.

**Q. What inspired you to become a part of the Tourism Industry?**

Initially, I didn't have a strong interest in the tourism industry. I spent several years teaching at Moravian Mission School in Leh. It was only while working there that I began guiding tourists. This experience sparked my curiosity about Ladakh, a region I had not explored deeply due to my long-term studies outside the area.

As I guided tourists, I had the opportunity to visit various monasteries and engage in trekking, eventually leading women's trekking groups and expeditions. This allowed me to explore Ladakh more thoroughly and piqued my interest in learning about other places and cultures.



Although guide training was rare in Ladakh at the time, I took advantage of the numerous books available to deepen my knowledge. This self-education gave me the confidence to provide in-depth guidance about Ladakh, including its monasteries, cuisines, and traditional lifestyle. My work was well-received by tourists, which further fueled my passion for the industry and made the job feel both rewarding and enjoyable.

**Q. Was it challenging to be in a male-dominated sector?**

Yes, it was challenging. There were times when people questioned our choices, often saying things like, "You've studied so much—why pursue this kind of work? Such businesses are only for men, not women." This skepticism was especially pronounced during guiding or cultural tours, which sometimes involved overnight stays. Given the conservative nature of Ladakhi society, my family was initially disappointed and concerned.

However, having confidence in our chosen profession made it somewhat easier to navigate these challenges and judgments. During expeditions and treks, I often went with my husband and cousin sister, which helped alleviate some of our family's concerns.

**Q. Do tourists or travelers exhibit gender-based prejudice during bookings and reservations?**

In the early days of tourism in Ladakh, most tourists were inbound travelers, and I found it relatively easy to work with them, as they were generally understanding. My extensive reading also helped in guiding and leading these tourists effectively.

In the 21st century, I believe that women face fewer difficulties in any sector. Women now walk side by side with men, excelling in various fields. In Ladakh, for instance, women entrepreneurs in the tourism industry, including travel agents, are thriving.

During my tenure as vice president of the Travel Agent Association, I was given equal rights and opportunities without my capabilities being questioned due to my gender. However, there were occasional instances where people questioned the idea of a woman leading an association or becoming a president. Despite this, confidence in one's own abilities can help overcome such prejudices.

### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“As Ladakh's first woman travel agent, I've learned that no dream is too big. This land has taught me that success comes from daring to dream. I hope my journey inspires you to embrace your adventures, break barriers, and pursue your passions. In a male-dominated field, let's value our unique strengths and turn challenges into opportunities. Stand tall, and pave the way for future generations. Our courage can reshape the industry and inspire others to believe in their dreams.”

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## Fortnight Highlights



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) conducting a parade inspection during the 78th Independence Day celebrations at Polo Ground.



Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with fervor and national pride. The event featured the ceremonial hoisting of the national flag by the CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson at the Council Secretariat.



All ranks of Fire and Fury Corps celebrated 78th Independence Day with zeal and patriotic fervour. LG Mishra and Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, SC\*\*, SM, VSM, General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps



Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Leh, Ghulam Mohd, convened a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Center (NCCORD) Mechanism to address the issue of drug trafficking in Leh district.



CEC Tashi Gyalson, who also serves as the Executive Councillor for Health, in collaboration with the BMO office of Leh and C-19 projects conducted health camps to provide comprehensive healthcare services to local communities and actively identify cases of Tuberculosis.



CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson accompanied by Secretary Sports Vikram Singh Malik; DC, Santosh Sukhadeve; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora visited Astro turf Open Stadium at Spituk to inspect the ongoing preparations for the upcoming "Climate Cup" Football Tournament.



Under the expert guidance of international coach Mohammad Abbas Nordak, a native of Ladakh, national skating team at the Asia Cup Trophy held in Jakarta, Indonesia made a remarkable achievements.



Stanzin Kunzes won gold in the Pre-Juvenile category, Stanzin Khundo secured gold in the Pre-Novice category, and Stanzin Famo earned silver in the Pre-Juvenile category at the U-13 National Championship 2024 in Gurgaon, Delhi NCR.

## Fortnightly News

In Conversation with  
**Lobzang Tsendol, Managing Director of Royal Explorer: Ladakh's First Female Travel Agent**

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**Q. Age is often considered a limitation when starting a business. What would you say to those who feel it's too late to begin?**

In Ladakh, women are excelling in various fields, proving that age is truly just a number. If someone has a genuine interest and passion for a particular work, age should not be seen as a barrier to success. With dedication and enthusiasm, one can overcome any obstacles and achieve their goals, no matter when they start.

**Q. How financially challenging is it to start a travel agency in Ladakh? Are there government schemes or financial services available for women?**

When we first started our business, there was limited support and knowledge available. However, today there are various government aids and schemes designed to help. For those interested in becoming travel agents or guides, there are skill training programs and low-interest loans available to support new ventures.

With these resources at hand, achieving success has become more accessible. I encourage women to pursue their business interests—it's a rewarding field to be in. I was one of the first women to conduct an all-India tour and initiate outbound tours. Today, we operate tours to numerous international destinations and have received positive feedback for our services.

**Q. How would you inspire the upcoming young generation, especially girls, to pursue careers in this field?**

The trend of pressuring people to pursue government jobs has been prevalent for a long time. However, times have changed, and there are now numerous sectors and fields to explore. While preparing for competitive exams can be challenging, it is not the only path to success.

It's essential to follow your interests and passions, regardless of the size or nature of the work. In Ladakh, local businesses are often overshadowed by outsiders. I encourage locals to engage in and promote businesses that highlight homegrown and handmade products. This approach not only supports local industries but also offers significant potential for growth and export once validated in the market.

Ladakhi women have unique opportunities to excel in various fields. By pursuing interests with dedication and striving for excellence, they can achieve success and make a meaningful impact.

### Expert talk: The Future of Ladakh: Why Bhoti language must be preserved

...Continuity of page 4

belonging and love for our language, there can be no real progress.

> Regardless of whether we gain recognition or identity from it, we must cultivate a genuine love and sense of belonging towards our own language.

> In schools, Bhoti should be made compulsory rather than optional. The New Education Policy 2020 emphasizes that primary education should be conducted in students' native languages. If these policies are implemented effectively and on time, they will lead to success in preserving our linguistic heritage.



**Ven. Stanzin Nurbu, Bhoti Resource Person:** If we introspect deeply, language has been a vital tool for human survival throughout history. For the people of Ladakh, protecting our language and literature from extinction is crucial for our survival over thousands of years. Our identity is intrinsically linked to our language and literature.

Scholars warn that when the language and literature of a place disappear, the population's cultural identity also fades. To ensure our continued existence on this earth for generations to come, we must prioritize the preservation of our language and literature. We must be mindful of the increasing use of mixed language, as it is a significant factor in the potential extinction of our language. While it may be easier to communicate using a blend of languages, this practice leads to misconceptions and erodes the purity of our native tongue. Thanks to our ancestors, our language has survived because they used it in its purest form. However, our generation's tendency to mix Bhoti with English and Hindi is already having a significant impact. If this trend continues, many words from the Bhoti language will disappear, and over time, Ladakh's cultural identity may also fade.

For Ladakhi students, schools are the primary medium for learning language and literature. When there are obstacles in this process, such as Bhoti being an optional subject, it creates barriers to language learning. Although Bhoti is taught up to class 8, it becomes optional thereafter, which is a major factor in the declining use of the Bhoti language among students.

This issue requires deep consideration from both the administration and scholars. While some may argue that Bhoti does not offer direct pathways to government jobs, it is essential to think wisely for the future of society. A balanced solution that preserves our linguistic heritage while addressing practical concerns must be found for the people of Ladakh.

#### The Future of Ladakh

- Firstly, if we do not provide education in the Bhoti language, the cultural and linguistic identity of Ladakh may eventually disappear. This loss would not only impact Ladakh but also have a ripple effect on the world. Our literature and culture, which promote love, harmony, and compassion, could vanish, depriving the world of these valuable teachings.

- The fading of the Bhoti language would have global repercussions. We must think ahead and take action to preserve our language for future generations.

- Out of approximately 6,000 languages in the world, only about 15 have their own script, and Bhoti is one of them. Given the preciousness of this language and its script, we should consider the immense loss and guilt we would feel if it were to become extinct.

#### Solution

- To promote our language, the most effective method begins with children. From the time they are toddlers, they should be taught Bhoti (Ka Kha) instead of Hindi or English as their first language.

- Parents play the most crucial role in this process. They should prioritize using Bhoti at home. If parents are not familiar with certain words, they should make an effort to learn them. As the first teachers of their children, parents have a significant influence, and their language use will be naturally adopted by their children.

- There should be a system in place to offer Bhoti as a subject from nursery through the 10th grade. Unfortunately, in some private schools today, students are taught subjects like Hindi, Math, and English, but not Bhoti. This is something I have observed, and many parents are unaware of it.

- Finally, I urge the current generation of youth to use and speak our language regularly. By doing so, you will set an example for future generations, helping to preserve our rich literature, language, and culture.

### CEC Kargil holds consultation with cultural scholars on tableaux theme for January 26, 2025



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhooon hold a meeting with cultural activists/scholars of Kargil on August 19 to discuss theme for the tableaux to be showcased on January 26, 2025, on Republic Day parade.

The meeting was attended by poets, cultural activists and scholars including Bashir Ahmed Wafa; Raza Amjad Budgami; Kacho Ahmed Khan; Mohd Shafi Sagar; Mohd Issa Sabri; Taqi Khan Nayab representing various tribal identities of Kargil including Balti, Sheena and Purgi.

The representatives/scholars discussed with CEC Kargil the importance of culture identity representation of Kargil in the tableaux of Ladakh to be represented on the Republic Day (2025) parade in New Delhi.

CEC Kargil said representing diverse

cultures of Kargil and providing space for their representation at a national platform is important in terms of imprinting the identity mark in the national consciousness of the country.

He said Kargil being such a diverse district in culture and identity becomes imperative and deserves to get space to represent the cultural identity at a national platform.

CEC Kargil asked scholars/poets and writers to hold a brainstorming session and come up with an inclusive theme representing the diverse culture of Kargil.

Meanwhile, Dr Jaffer Akhooon appreciated the efforts of cultural activities from different tribal identities for persistently working in different fields of culture and identity to keep alive the diverse cultural identities in the form of language, culture and literature.

### Education department Kargil distributes laptops and tablets to meritorious students in Zanskar zone



During the two-day training program for teachers in the Zanskar Zone.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** The Education Department of Kargil recently organized a two-day training program for teachers in the Zanskar Zone, focusing on UDISE Plus and PFMS modules under the Samagra Shiksha initiative.

Mohd Shabir, in charge of Samagra, and Mohd Ali, UDISE in charge, led the training sessions. The program also saw the participation of S.D. Namgyal, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kargil. The Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Zanskar expressed gratitude to the CEO Kargil and the experts for organizing such a beneficial program.

During the valedictory function, CEO Kargil distributed laptops to meritorious students of Class 10th and 12th under the subsidy component of LAHDC Kargil and educational tablets to Class 9th students of the Zanskar Zone under the Yountab scheme of the UT Administration. The distribution ceremony was held in the presence of the Principal of HSS Padum, ZEO Zanskar, and teachers from the Zanskar Zone.

In his address, CEO Kargil emphasized the commitment of the Department of Education, LAHDC Kargil, and the Administration to providing essential facilities in terms of infrastructure, technology, and human resources. He encouraged students to use the laptops and tablets effectively to achieve their educational goals and urged teachers to work with sincerity and dedication to help students meet their learning objectives.

Mohd Shabir, Program Coordinator, thanked ZEO Zanskar and the trainees for their active participation, which contributed to the program's success. Following the training, CEO Kargil visited schools, KGBVs, Netaji Hostel, and various construction sites of buildings being executed under different schemes.

The CEO also interacted with teachers, community members, VECs, SMDCs, and contractors, urging the contractors to expedite the construction process given the short working season in the area.

### 10-day woolenization of Jute project begins in Kargil with support from National Jute Board



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Handicraft Department Kargil in collaboration with National Jute Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and M/S IRM Handicraft and handloom Kargil started a 10-day trial project focused on woolenization of jute.

The initiative seeks to soften jute to a wool-like texture while also exploring the blending of jute with wool to create innovative, sustainable craft products.

At the program's inauguration, Assistant Director, Handicrafts Kargil, Raziya Khatoon (JKAS) welcomed the distinguished guests, including the trainer from the National Jute Board, Swapan Dutta; Nahida Shah CEO M/S IRM Handloom and Handicraft Kargil; participating artisans, officers and officials of Handicraft Department Kargil.

She expressed gratitude to the National Jute Board for accepting their proposal to conduct this unique trial project in Kargil. Raziya Khatoon also appreciated the dedication of Nahida Shah in facilitating and making this project possible in the region.

In her remarks, the AD, Handicrafts underscored the significance of the project, noting that wool-

enization of jute presents new opportunities for the local handicraft sector by making jute softer and more versatile.

Additionally, she emphasized that blending jute with wool could lead to creation of unique, high-quality products. She praised the enthusiasm shown by artisans and hoped that this experience would pave way for new possibilities in their craft.

The 10-day training program will now continue, offering hands-on learning and skill development sessions for the participating artisans. As the project progresses, it is expected that these techniques will be refined, setting the stage for broader adoption in the future.

In conclusion, Raziya Khatoon requested that the National Jute Board consider organizing further specialized training sessions to deepen the artisans' expertise and expand the scope of their skills.

The event marked the beginning of an exciting journey for the artisans, with more in-depth training sessions scheduled over the next several days, promising to open up new creative possibilities for local crafts.

#### NOTICE

**No 9927003F Rank Nk Tundup Paldan Unit 5 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his son namely PUNCHOK NAMGYAL has been wrongly entered as Phuntsog Namgail instead of PUNCHOK NAMGYAL in the Army record of, Unit 5 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07305261373241W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 5 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.**

## Fortnightly News

### CEC, MP visit proposed site for new Kargil airport construction at Wakha



Officials during their visit to the proposed site for the construction of the new Kargil Airport at Wakha.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Chairman/Chief Executive Councilor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, along with Member of Parliament Ladakh, Mohmad Haneefa Jan, visited the proposed site for the construction of the new Kargil Airport at Wakha on August 13.

The CEC was accompanied by Councillor Shargole, Mohd Javed; BDO

Shargole, and local representatives from the adjoining villages of Wakha. CEC Kargil and the MP Ladakh inspected and assessed the land's feasibility for the airport's construction.

It was noted that a team of officers and officials from the Airport Authority of India, Indian Air Force, and Directorate General of Civil Aviation had visited

sites at Wakha, Kargil, and other areas of the district in 2021 to evaluate the feasibility of constructing airports in these locations. CEC Kargil stated that he, along with the MP Ladakh, would take up the matter with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, LG Ladakh, and other relevant authorities. He further added that the next steps will be taken accordingly.

### Leh district initiates survey to count transgender population



ADC Leh, Ghulam Mohd convening a meeting regarding identification of numbers of transgender individuals in Leh district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** ADC Leh, Ghulam Mohd convened a meeting regarding identification of numbers of transgender individuals in Leh district on August 17 at main Conference Hall.

A PIL was registered at High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh seeking a data on the number of transgender person in the district. A committee was constituted by Deputy Commissioner consisting of District Social Welfare Officer, SDMs of different blocks, Chief Medical Officer from Health Department, District Statistical

and Evaluation Officer and representatives of District Legal Service Authority, Leh to evaluate the information at district level.

During the meeting, discussion took place on how to identify any transgender person in the community and how to get a collective data. SDM Nubra, suggested to involve stakeholder such as Nambardars and Asha workers collectively with different departments to do a survey at village level. After which the identified transgender will be provided with certification. Additionally, it was

also discussed to ensure their safety and security in every aspect.

It was further discussed that there should be a clear definition for the term 'Transgender' so that it would be easy for the workers to identify the person or to help them come out. A time frame of one month was decided to come up with a survey format with a proper guideline and identify the numbers of transgender in Leh district.

The meeting was attended by all the members of the committee.

### FCS&CA Ladakh Director assesses LPG services in Kargil, orders improved delivery and online booking system



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Tahir Hussain, Director of the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department (FCS&CA), UT-Ladakh, conducted a review of LPG cylinder distribution in Kargil district during a meeting with representatives and distributors from IOCL and HPCL Kargil on August 21.

The meeting was also attended by Khanzada Mohd Usman, Assistant Director of FCS&CA Kargil, along with the AO & AAO to the Director of FCS&CA UT-Ladakh, and other concerned officials.

Distributors provided an update on the status of LPG cylinder distribution, pricing, and home delivery services within the district.

The Director emphasized the need to strengthen and streamline the home delivery service, in line with government directives, to better serve consumers. He instructed the distributors to release monthly home delivery schedules in advance and directed the AD, FCS&CA Kargil, to ensure wide publicity of these schedules to keep consumers well-informed. Highlighting the importance of online booking,

Tahir Hussain urged distributors to explore the phased introduction of this service using the Dealer Authentication Code (DAC), starting with Kargil town.

To ensure consumer protection, the Director also instructed distributors to strictly adhere to government-regulated LPG cylinder rates.

The LPG distributors assured the Director of their full cooperation in enhancing home delivery services and maintaining compliance with government pricing.

### Zanskar declared new district: EC Tashi hails historic decision



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** of Zanskar Sub-Division, Executive Councilor of LAHDC Kargil, Er. Punchok Tashi expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and his government for the historic decision to declare Zanskar as a new district within the Union Territory of Ladakh.

"We are deeply thankful to the Prime Minister and his government for recognizing the unique needs of our region and taking this transformative step. The establishment of Zanskar as a district will undoubtedly pave the way for a brighter future for our people."

"This monumental announcement, made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 26, 2024, marks a significant step towards enhancing governance and development in the region," EC Tashi said.

The people of Zanskar eagerly anticipate the positive changes and opportunities this new district will bring and remain optimistic about Ladakh's continued development under the visionary leadership of the Modi government.

He noted that the creation of Zanskar as a new district demonstrates the government's commitment, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, to bringing prosperity and opportunities to every corner of Ladakh.

"This move is expected to bolster local administration, improve infrastructure, and provide better access to essential services for Zanskar's residents," added EC Tashi.

"The long-standing struggle of the people of Zanskar since 1978 has finally been acknowledged and addressed by the Prime Minister," Tashi concluded.

On Monday, the Union Home Minister announced the creation of five new districts in UT Ladakh, increasing their number to seven. The new districts are: Zanskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.

### Lt Governor highlights soldier welfare at veterans rally & pension adalat in Leh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) addressing the gathering during the the Veterans Rally and Pension Adalat 2024 at Rinchen Auditorium.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), along with First Lady Neelam Mishra, attended the Veterans Rally and Pension Adalat 2024 organized by the Fire & Fury Corps at Rinchen Auditorium on August 22.

In his address, the LG emphasized that no country can remain stable without respecting its soldiers, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris. He highlighted the priority given by developed nations, such as the United States, to their soldiers and war heroes. The LG also noted that since Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India, the welfare and benefits of soldiers, ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, and war heroes have been a priority. He commended the Indian Army for its commitment to the welfare of these individuals.

The LG praised the implementation of the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme by the Government of India, stating that it has ensured financial stability for retired Army personnel. He urged ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, and war heroes to remain grateful for the nation's support and to continue contributing to national security and development. The LG also encouraged current Army officials to prioritize the welfare of ex-servicemen,

reminding them that they, too, will retire one day.

Highlighting the importance of the Agniveer/Agnipath scheme in keeping the Army young and dynamic, the LG urged soldiers, ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, and war heroes to promote the scheme among Ladakhi youth and encourage them to join the Indian Army for the benefit of Ladakhi society and the nation. He expressed his displeasure over misinformation being spread about the scheme.

The LG underscored the ultimate sacrifice made by martyrs for national security and stressed that it is the duty of the Administration and the Army to care for them. He commended the Indian Army for fulfilling this responsibility with diligence. He encouraged ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, war heroes, and widows to take full advantage of the Veterans Rally and Pension Adalat and to continue contributing to the nation's progress with the same vigor and dedication.

The LG also informed the audience about his recent meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, during which he requested the addition of a new Army battalion for Ladakh, expressing hope that this would happen soon. During the event, the LG

felicitated Veer Naris and war heroes.

GOC 14 Corps, Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, stated that the main objective of the Veterans Rally and Pension Adalat was to address the issues faced by ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, war heroes, and widows. He highlighted various initiatives taken by the UT Administration and the Indian Army to support these individuals and reiterated the Fire & Fury Corps' commitment to providing all possible assistance.

Earlier, GOC Sub-Area, Major Gen Ravinder Kumar, welcomed the guests, while President of the Ex-Servicemen League, Hon Captain Sonam Morup, gave the vote of thanks.

The event was attended by GOC 14 Corps Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla; Chief of Staff 14 Corps Maj Gen VK Singh; GOC Sub-Area Maj Gen Ravinder Kumar; Ashok Chakra recipient Chering Morup; Director of Sainik Welfare Department, Col (Retd) Lobzang Neema; Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Kargil, Arvind Kumar Pawar; President of the Ex-Servicemen League, Hon Captain Sonam Morup; as well as ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, war heroes, and widows from various parts of Ladakh.

### Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) Launches Skill Up-Gradation & Certification Programme in Compliance with CEA Regulations



The Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) has launched the Lineman Certification Program under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiative in association with BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) aligned with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Safety Regulations. This strategic program aims to enhance the skill sets of BYPL's workforce, particularly those engaged in electrical operations, ensuring adherence to the highest safety standards.

Created with a mandate to facilitate skill development across the Power Industry (covering Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewable Energy and Pow-

er Equipment Manufacturing), PSSC has been actively engaged in the task to deliver on the objectives with active support of industry stakeholders.

This recently launched program of PSSC is significant for all distribution, transmission and generation companies of the power sector as it aligns with the government's commitment to safety and quality in electrical operations. This program also benefits the employees in getting National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) aligned certifications along with Skill India, which is approved by National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Under the provision of Para 9 of Dte Gen LW&E/Land (Policy & ANC), QMG Branch, IHQ of MoD (Army), New Delhi letter No B/89915/AP-2/2003/Land (Policy) & ANC/75 dt 28 Sep 2017 that the right of occupancy of shop shall be fixed for a period not exceeding five years.

2. Sealed applications are invited from War Widows/Widows of defense personnel killed while on duty (Priority- I), Disabled Soldiers (Priority - II), Ex-Servicemen (Priority - III) and spouses/Widows of ESM (Priority - IV) for allotment of Snacks Shop through auction at Siachen Base Camp on lease and license agreement.

3. The allotment procedure through auction will be conducted as per above mentioned LW&E Dte Policy letter and the priority of allotment through auction as specified by Dte Gen LW&E/Land (Policy & ANC), QMG Branch, IHQ of MoD (Army), New Delhi letter No B/89915/AP-2/2003/Land (Policy & ANC) dt 05 Jun 2020 will be strictly adhered to. The license period is for five years with a three-year cooling off/break period. Auction will be conducted after scrutiny and vetting of applications received. Incomplete applications will be rejected and not considered for participation in the auction.

4. Once the shop is allotted, it must be made functional within 10 days of acceptance and signing of the contract/lease and license agreement. The successful applicant who has been allotted the shop must sell the items/commodities at legislated rates. The Snacks Shop has traditionally been functioning as a welfare measure in far flung areas. It should not be made into a profiteering enterprise. To that extent, a Board of Officers would decide the commodity and rates of items being sold over the counter. Failure to comply with the directions of the Board of Officers would forfeit the right to run the shop.

5. Rent & Allied charge, electricity and water charges will be levied as per Military Engineering Service (MES) regulations as laid down by the Govt of India & paid by the allottees.

6. The application form for the above shop can be collected from TCP Gate, Siachen Base Camp with effect from one week from the date of publication between 0900hrs to 1400hrs on all working days. (Monday to Saturday).

7. The completed sealed application along with all documents be dropped in the tender box placed separately at TCP Gate, Siachen Base Camp. The same would be made functional within 10 days of acceptance and signing of the contract/lease and license agreement. No application will be accepted after \_\_\_\_ Aug 2024. The auction of the above-mentioned shop shall be conducted at Base Camp III on \_\_\_\_ Aug 2024 with effect from 1000hrs to 1400hrs by Board of Officers.

Commanding Officer  
Northern Glacier Battalion  
Siachen Glacier

#### NOTICE

Service No 13140216 Rank SI/GD Tsering Wangail S/o Tsering Dorjay R/o Ney Leh UT Ladakh Unit 13 BN SSB DIGNABAL (J&K) has claimed that his name Tsering Wangail has been wrongly entered as Tsering Wangyal instead of Tsering Wangail in the service document of, Unit 13 BN SSB DIGNABAL (J&K) and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07289242855432W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 13 BN SSB DIGNABAL (J&K) within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

#### NOTICE

No 9925305P Rank HAV Chamspal Deskyong George Unit 1st Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his wife namely Tsering Chorol has been wrongly entered as Tsering Chorol instead of Tsering Chorol in the Army record of, Unit 1st Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07269393195851W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 1st Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.



# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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**Venue- Eco Park Leh (Ladakh)**



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