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SEPTEMBER 16-30, 2024

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with
Ali Mohammad, Surna Player

In Focus:

Historic decision: Ladakh's five new districts spark mixed reactions

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Ladakh Marathon draws 6,200 participants in its 11th edition, showcases commitment to sustainability

Nenzen Chodon

LEH: The Ladakh Marathon, one of the world's highest and most challenging marathons, attracts participants from around the globe, testing not only physical endurance but also the ability to compete at high altitudes. This year marked the 11th edition of the event, which saw approximately 6,200 registrations from 24 countries and 28 Indian states. Held from September 4 to September 8, the marathon was organized by RIMO Expeditions in collaboration with AIIMS, FIT India, Abbot World Marathon Majors, and various local and national partners.

The event placed a strong emphasis on environmental consciousness, with notable initiatives such as the use of steel plates, reusable glass bottles donated by Bisleri, and a ban on single-use plastic. Runners were encouraged to bring their own hydration packs to reduce waste, and students were able to register for free by contributing 20 used plastic bottles.

At the closing ceremony, Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor, Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.), expressed his desire to see Ladakh's youth excel in sports and highlighted his commitment to supporting the region's athletes. He also congratulated the participants and winners, expressing hope for increased participation and improved performance in future editions.

Chewang Mutup, founder and race director of the Ladakh Marathon, thanked the various stakeholders for their contributions to the event's

success, noting the achievement of important safety milestones with no serious medical incidents reported. He also acknowledged the UT Administration and LAHDC, Leh, for increasing the total prize money to ₹41,60,000 from last year's ₹13,50,000, which is expected to inspire greater participation.

The marathon offered a range of events, from the grueling Silk Route Ultra Challenge (122 km at 17,618 ft) and the Khardungla Challenge (72 km at 17,618 ft) to a Full Marathon, Half Marathon, and shorter races.

Rigzin Gyurmeth, last year's Khardungla Challenge winner, secured first place in the Silk Route Ultra Challenge (Men's Open, 122 km) with a record-breaking time of 13:19:16, surpassing the previous record by 2 hours, 8 minutes, and 37 seconds. He was followed by Tsewang Kundan, who finished in 15:14:11, and Jigmet Stobdan, who took third place with a time of 15:53:12.

In the Women's Open category, Tenzin Dolma clinched the top spot with a time of 17:03:15, also breaking the previous year's record by 2 hours, 8 minutes, and 37 seconds. She was followed by Shikha Pahwa in 19:25:39, and Sufiya Sufi Runner, who finished third with a time of

20:36:19.

In the Men's Veteran category, Kailash finished first with a time of 19:44:53. He was followed by Ankush P. Lokhande in 20:23:13, and Shivendra Singh Bisht, who took third place with a time of 21:41:33.



Jigmet Namgial, a previous position holder in last year's full marathon, secured 1st place in the Khardungla Challenge Men's Open with a time of 5:41:36. He was followed by Stanzin Wangchuk, who finished 2nd in 6:57:32, and Nawaz Hussain, who took 3rd place with a time of 7:07:24. In Women's Open, Namgyal Lhamo finished 1st with a time of 9:26:59. She was followed by Skalzang Dolma, who took 2nd place in 10:45:27, and Anja Wolf, who finished 3rd with a time of 11:26:19.

In the Khardungla Challenge Men's Veteran category, Shivanand Dang-

wal claimed 1st place with a time of 9:00:55, followed by Marco Kuehhirt in 2nd place with a time of 9:10:55, and PK Seetaram, who took 3rd with a time of 10:32:12. In Women's Veteran category, Asha Singh finished 1st with a time of 11:27:02. Andrea Ricarda Witzel secured 2nd place in 12:14:10, and Sharvari Raja Kher took 3rd with a time of 12:52:05.

Participants also had the option to compete in shorter distances, including the 42.195 km Full Marathon, which is the world's highest AIMS-IAAF certified marathon; the 21.097 km Half Marathon; and the 11.2 km Run

Open. These races took place in and around Leh city, extending to its outskirts. The "Run for Fun" Challenge, the shortest race at 5 km and held at an altitude of 11,500 ft, saw large numbers of participants, including many beginners.

In the 42 km Full Marathon Open Female category, Disket Dolma from Nidar Nyoma emerged as the winner with a time of 03:33:41. She was followed by Jigmet Dolma in 2nd place with a time of 03:59:16 and Namgyal Lamo in 3rd place with a time of 04:22:11. In the Full Marathon Open Male category, Nawang Tsering secured 1st place

with a time of 02:44:06. Anil Jindal finished 2nd in 03:02:28, and Manzoor Hussain took 3rd place with a time of 03:06:42.

In the Veteran Female category, Shamala Manmohan finished 1st, with Monika Rohrlack and Mary Joshy taking 2nd and 3rd places, respectively. In male category, Yaswant Rawat finished 1st with a time of 04:23:46. Ashok Popli and Randeep Arora secured 2nd and 3rd places, with a gap of just one minute between them.

For the 21.97 km Open Female category, Tashi Ladol from Skindyang village won with a time of 01:29:52. Stanzin Chondol came in 2nd at 01:34:03, and Stanzin Dolkar finished 3rd with a time of 01:34:11, just 9 seconds behind the 2nd place. In Open Male category, Tsetan Namgyal and Tsewang Nangdan from the Indian Army finished 1st and 2nd, respectively, with times of 01:17:35 and 01:17:59. Anurag Konkar secured 3rd place with a time of 01:18:27.

Vidya Sundareswara took 1st place in the Veteran Female category with a time of 02:08:34. Sumita Baloon finished 2nd in 02:23:11, and Dr. Antje Kramer took 3rd place with a time of 02:53:45. In the Veteran Male category, Sukhjinder Jaspal finished 1st with a time of 02:04:15, followed by Swapan Das in 2nd place with a time of 02:05:48, and Deepak Raja in 3rd with a time of 02:06:06.

...continues on page 2

'Delhi Chalo Padyatra' launched to push for Ladakh's key demands amid MHA delays

Nenzen Chodon

LEH: Amidst the ongoing delay by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in resuming talks with the Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Ladakh's 4-point agenda—Statehood, Sixth Schedule status, a dedicated Public Services Commission (PSC), and two Parliamentary seats for Ladakh—around 80 people in support of Apex body Leh are on foot march to national capital. The march, 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra' organised by Apex Body Leh is headed by Ramon Magsaysay awardee Sonam Wangchuk.



Volunteers of Delhi Chalo Padyatra.

On August 24, the Leh Apex Body announced the start of a Padyatra (foot march) to Delhi, aiming to raise awareness about Ladakh's demands and urging the government to resume stalled dialogue. The Padyatra is scheduled to reach Delhi by October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The journey began on September 1 from Martyrs Memorial Park in Leh, with numerous volunteers participating and others coming out to see them off.

A larger number elderly participants were seen in the march and a lesser number of youth participants. Most of the participants are highly encouraging the youths to join as unemployment is one of the reasons that has led to the movement along with other agendas.

Despite the Padyatra being for the greater good of Ladakh, the absence of KDA members has raised concerns among many. KDA has assured that it will join the Yatra at the Delhi borders. However, the ques-

tion remains: why couldn't KDA join the Padyatra from Leh itself, given that its members could have participated conveniently? On the third day, as volunteers completed 75 km, KDA held a press conference announcing their plan to join the Yatra in Delhi on September 30 and participate with Sonam Wangchuk at Rajghat on October 2.

Upon reaching Taglang-la, one of Ladakh's highest passes, Sonam Wangchuk highlighted the impact of climate change, noting the rapid melting of glaciers even at high altitudes. He appealed to the Prime Minister of India to protect the fragile ecosystem under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and made a global appeal to reduce carbon emissions, as the climate clock indicates less than five years before reaching a point of irreversible damage.

On the 11th day of the march, the Padyatra participants reached Serchu and Bharatpur (Himachal Pradesh), where

they received a warm welcome, including shelter and food. As they descended from the 15,910 ft height, the residents of Zing Zing Bar (Himachal Pradesh) greeted them traditionally, presenting Khataks and performing a Smoke Offering ritual.

During their ten days with in Ladakh's UT territory, the administration and Hill Council of Leh did not address the participants' health concerns. In contrast, the Keylong and Lahaul-Spiti administration in Himachal Pradesh providing medical aid and check-ups, sending doctors and an ambulance to care for the volunteers. Sonam Wangchuk, on behalf of everyone, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Himachal Pradesh administration for their support and initiative. Sonam Wangchuk expressed disappointment with the Ladakh administration's attitude toward its citizens but conveyed sincere thanks to the Keylong and Lahaul-Spiti administration for their concern and assistance.

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Fortnightly News

Union Home Secretary discusses developmental challenges and initiatives in Ladakh



Union Home Secretary, Govind Mohan convening meeting with the officials of UT Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Union Home Secretary, Govind Mohan, in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), reviewed the progress of developmental works and Central Flagship Schemes in the Union Territory of Ladakh on September 8.

LG Mishra highlighted the unique geographical and climatic challenges faced by the people of Ladakh, noting the extreme conditions and the short working season of just five to six months. Despite these constraints, he assured that the Ladakh Administration remains committed to completing all developmental projects within the limited working season. He further emphasized

the Administration's year-round efforts to ensure the well-being and development of Ladakh's citizens.

Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, expressed his gratitude to Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan for his visit and delivered a detailed presentation on the implementation of three new criminal laws in Ladakh, enforced from July 1, 2024. He highlighted the workshops and awareness programs conducted across the region to familiarize the people of Ladakh with these laws, alongside extensive publicity campaigns via electronic, print, and social media. Dr. Kotwal also informed that the first FIR under the new laws was registered in Kargil on the day

they came into effect.

Additionally, key issues related to infrastructure and manpower in Ladakh were presented. Dr. Kotwal underscored the region's need for additional personnel and the creation of new posts, while also discussing public safety measures implemented by the UT Administration to ensure the security and well-being of Ladakh's residents.

The Advisor elaborated on the administrative setup of Ladakh, including steps taken to empower the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in local governance and decision-making. He also provided an overview of the UT

administration's initiatives to improve governance, promote transparency, and deliver efficient public services. Moreover, he highlighted the progress and impact of the Government of India's flagship schemes in Ladakh, particularly in infrastructure development and public services.

Public employment challenges were also addressed, with Dr. Kotwal outlining efforts to create job opportunities and resolve employment-related issues in the region. He highlighted Ladakh's ongoing carbon-neutral initiatives, designed to promote sustainable growth while minimizing environmental impact. Updates were also provided on road projects aimed at improving connectivity in Ladakh's high-altitude, rugged terrain.

The Advisor further discussed various initiatives led by the UT Administration in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, dairy, handloom, and handicrafts, which are vital for Ladakh's economic development and the promotion of its cultural heritage. He informed about the proposed 24x7 water supply project in Leh and Kargil to provide uninterrupted water supply to residents, as well as the latest developments on the establishment of a Medical College in Leh to enhance health-

care in the region.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan instructed the Home Department to expedite the issuance of remaining notifications for the new criminal laws in Ladakh. He urged the concerned administrative secretaries to ensure timely completion of targets for various Central Flagship Schemes. Additionally, he emphasized the need for a meeting with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to assess the progress of road infrastructure projects.

Recognizing the cultural significance of Ladakh, Govind Mohan directed the Secretary of the Culture Department to collaborate with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for the protection, preservation, and renovation of ancient monuments in the region. He also spoke with the Director General of Tourism regarding the development of Chumathang hot springs as a site for international-level medical tourism, leveraging the traditional Sowa-Rigpa healing system.

He concluded by stating that he would convene a review meeting with the Secretaries of relevant ministries to address and resolve the issues highlighted by the UT administration.

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Ladakh Marathon draws 6,200 participants in its 11th edition, showcases commitment to sustainability

For the 11.2 km Open Male challenge, Sonam Stanzin emerged as the winner with a time of 00:44:05, followed by Skarma Tharchen in 2nd place with a time of 00:46:33 and Phurbo Dorjay in 3rd place with a time of 00:47:10. In Open Female category, Skarma Lanzes secured 1st place with a time of 00:48:26 and Stanzin Samstan in 2nd place with time of 00:49:19.

In the Veteran Female 11.2 km category, Rinchen Wangmo took 1st place with a time of 01:36:52. Gopa Ganguly finished 2nd in 01:38:08, and Pushpa Bhat secured 3rd place with a time of 01:39:16. Maik Becker won the Veteran Male 11.2 km challenge with a time of 01:01:31, followed by Naccarato Michele in 2nd place with a time of 01:04:15, and Capt Cheri Jacob in 3rd place with a time of 01:22:03.

India's traditional archery team joins 5th World Nomad Games in Kazakhstan



Archers from Ladakh at 5th World Nomad Games.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 5th World Nomad Games, recognized as the largest and most prestigious event celebrating nomadic culture, officially commenced in Astana, Kazakhstan. The grand inauguration ceremony marked the start of the games, which will take place from September 8 to 15.

India's Traditional Archery team, representing the Traditional Archery Society of Ladakh, is set to compete against some of the world's finest archers. This year's games feature participants from 92 countries and 4,000 athletes competing across various disciplines. In the Traditional Archery category alone, 120 players will demonstrate their skills in three distinct distance categories: 70 meters, 60 meters, and 30 meters.

The inauguration ceremony highlighted the cultural richness and historical significance of the event, setting the tone for a week of spirited competition and global camaraderie.

The Indian archery team is poised to showcase their expertise and contribute to the colorful and diverse atmosphere of the World Nomad Games.

Ladakh wins best performing state award under PM Svanidhi

First Lady Neelam Mishra distributes Praise awards



First Lady Neelam Mishra distributing 'Praise Awards' to beneficiaries, acknowledging their success under the PM Svanidhi Scheme.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Housing and Urban Development Department organized the 'Praise Awards 2023-24' ceremony on September 9 at Eco-Park, Main Market Leh. The event recognized

Ladakh's achievement as the Best Performing State in the Small State & UT category under the PM Svanidhi Scheme at the national level.

Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh, Stanzin Rabgyas, highlighted that Ladakh secured the top position within four years of the scheme's inception. He encouraged

more beneficiaries to take advantage of the scheme to support and expand their small businesses.

First Lady of Ladakh, Neelam Mishra, served as the Chief Guest, while Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi was the Guest of Honour. The event was also attended by Principal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Department, Sanjeev Khirwar, Director of Urban Local Bodies, Moses Kunzang, along with other distinguished guests.

In his welcome address, Director Moses Kunzang briefed the audience on the PM Svanidhi Scheme and encouraged street vendors to participate. He emphasized the department's efforts to empower local vendors, assist them in branding their products,

and collaborate with banks to ensure the scheme's success. Additionally, he announced the development of winter-friendly bus stops in Leh and Kargil, featuring cafes run by Self Help Groups and public toilet facilities.

Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi lauded the achievements of the Housing and Urban Development Department, stating that the PM Svanidhi Scheme has significantly supported small street vendors. He also noted that such initiatives will contribute to Ladakh's long-term economic independence.

First Lady Neelam Mishra underscored the vital role street vendors play in society, particularly focusing on the importance of empowering women entre-

preneurs. She advocated for the formation of Self Help Groups and Cooperatives to further upgrade businesses and enhance product quality, which in turn would increase sales and contribute to the vendors' independence.

To commemorate the occasion, the First Lady distributed 'Praise Awards' to beneficiaries and banks, acknowledging their success under the PM Svanidhi Scheme. Students from New Millennium School and Upper Leh performed cultural presentations, and a nukkad natak by the Women's Theatre and Cultural Group raised awareness about the scheme among the general public. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the local commu-

CEC and DC review progress of new domestic terminal at KBR Airport, Leh



Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson during an official visit to the construction site of the new Domestic Terminal Building at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (KBR) Airport in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson and DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve undertook an official visit to the construction site of the new Domestic Terminal Building at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (KBR) Airport in Leh on September 11. The visit was aimed at assessing the advancement of geothermal works and reviewing the final touches being applied to the terminal, which is anticipated to become a model of sustainable airport infrastructure in India.

Abhishek Kumar Singh, AGM of Engineers India Ltd., delivered the presentation. The meeting was attended by Vinayaka Moorti, Engineer In Charge at the Airport Authority of India; Ramanand, APD of Leh; and representatives from the working agency M/s SP-CPL.

The new terminal, spanning 23,810 square me-

ters, is designed to handle up to 3.2 million passengers annually. It features comprehensive facilities to manage peak hour traffic and includes a modern check-in counter and security system.

During the visit, the officials noted that the utility buildings have seen significant progress, with RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) works completed across all floors and AAC (Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) block walls finished.

Additionally, cable tray installations in these buildings are complete. In the terminal building itself, RCC work has been finalized for all levels. Interior AAC block work is mostly done, with some modifications still pending. Roofing work is nearing completion, with 95% of the bottom liner sheets installed. Cable trays have been laid in the utility tunnel, which is also fin-

ished, and other essential structures, such as the STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) have been completed. The terminal will feature an advanced geothermal-based HVAC system, which will contribute significantly to its sustainability. Excavation work is ongoing for the city side terminal building roof.

CEC and DC also planted a tree at the new airport complex as part of the symbolic "Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam" campaign initiated by the Prime Minister. This act continues to support and promote the campaign's objectives.

This ambitious project is poised to set a new benchmark for airport infrastructure, combining modern design with sustainability. The visit highlights the commitment to ensuring the project's successful and timely completion.

Outstanding achievements honored at District award ceremony in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The LAHDC Leh hosted the District Award Investiture Ceremony on September 9, after a two-year hiatus, to honor individuals whose exceptional contributions have significantly impacted the community and their respective fields.

The event was graced by Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson; Dy. Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi; Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor for Culture, Stanzin Chospheh; Councillors of LAHDC Leh; DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; Councillors of different constituencies; ADDC Leh, Sonam Norbu; ADC Ghulam Mohd; CPO Tsewang Gyalson; Accounts Officer, Leh Zulfikar Ali, along with officers, officials, awardees, and their families.

ed for his dedication to educating and inspiring students. Cyclist Lekzes Angmo, recognized for her numerous sporting achievements, was celebrated for her excellence and dedication to athletics.

CEC Tashi Gyalson emphasized the significance of the District Awards in recognizing individuals whose contributions positively impact society. He noted that this year's ceremony marks the beginning of future events aimed at expanding the scope to honor more deserving individuals. The CEC also paid tribute to Inspector Tsewang Namgyal, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, highlighting the importance of acknowledging exceptional service and dedication.

DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, praised the officers and workers of Ladakh for their hard work and commitment, adding that the region's strong work culture is a testament to their dedication. He expressed hope that recognizing these individuals would inspire others to strive for excellence and innovation in all sectors.

The District Award Investiture Ceremony was a fitting celebration of dedication and excellence, reaffirming the community's commitment to fostering and honoring exceptional talent and achievements.



32nd Empowered Committee meeting for framing and review of Recruitment Rules for various Gazetted and Non-Gazetted posts within the UT Administration.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, chaired the 32nd Empowered Committee meeting on September 12, focusing on the framing and review of Recruitment Rules for various Gazetted and Non-Gazetted posts within the UT Administration.

During the meeting, the committee deliberated on amendment proposals and the mapping of posts submitted by various departments for consideration. The Technical Education Department, Social Welfare Department, Agriculture Department, and Drug Control Organization submitted amendment proposals, all of which were recommended by the committee for the Lieutenant Governor's approval. Additionally, the committee recommended the Staffing Regulations proposed by the Ladakh Autonomous Councils, to be filled through deputation from relevant UT Administration departments.

The meeting also reviewed the mapping of posts as proposed by the Technical Education Department, Fisheries Department, Animal and Sheep Husbandry

Department, Industries and Commerce Department, Public Health Engineering Department, and Finance Department. Advisor Kotwal praised the efforts of these departments in post mapping, describing it as a valuable practice for ensuring proper accounting of posts.

Key aspects of the recruitment process were thoroughly discussed, including amendments, standardization, addressing vacancies, simplifying procedures, regular monitoring, and timely completion of recruitments. Administrative Secretaries provided updates on the progress of recruitment rules and regulations for both gazetted and non-gazetted posts, along with details about vacancies within their departments. Advisor Kotwal stressed the importance of a fair, transparent, and efficient recruitment process to enhance governance and service delivery in Ladakh. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to maintaining integrity in all recruitment processes, ensuring the welfare and progress of the people of Ladakh.

Fortnightly News

Gokulam Kerala FC claims victory in Climate Cup 2024



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Gokulam Kerala FC emerged victorious in the Climate Cup Football Tournament 2024, defeating J&K Bank FC with a 4-0 scoreline. The final match took place on September 7 at the Astroturf Open Stadium, Spituk.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), attended the final and extended his congratulations to the winning and runner-up teams, as well as all the participating teams. He expressed his appreciation to the Chairman of LAHDC Leh and the organizers for successfully conducting the tournament.

The Lt. Governor lauded the initiative to name the event the 'Climate Cup,' highlighting its role in raising environmental awareness through sports. He reiterated his commitment to environmental conservation, mentioning his personal efforts, including planting approximately 1,000 trees around Raj Niwas in Leh to combat climate change. He

encouraged the people of Ladakh to actively participate in climate preservation and affirmed his dedication to protecting the region's delicate ecology.

The Lt. Governor also announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a 13 GW solar power project for Ladakh, aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability and economic growth in the region. He discussed his consultations with experts about cultivating fodder around the solar power plant and their positive feedback on the feasibility of such agricultural practices. He highlighted that this project would provide additional resources and support renewable energy development in Ladakh.

Emphasizing the importance of sports for mental and physical well-being, the Lt. Governor encouraged Ladakhi youth to engage in sports and participate in tournaments. He urged the football community and the Chairman/

CEC of LAHDC Leh to strive for the Ladakh team's advancement to the final in future tournaments. He expressed hope that Ladakh's team would compete in the final next year and assured that the UT Administration would provide necessary support.

At the conclusion of the event, the Lt. Governor and other dignitaries presented awards to the winning and runner-up teams. Gokulam Kerala FC received a cheque for Rs 2.50 lakhs and a special Climate Cup crafted with Ladakhi woodcarving techniques, while J&K Bank FC was awarded Rs 1.50 lakhs. The tournament featured six teams—Gokulam Kerala FC, North East United FC, Ladakh FC, Tibetan National Team, J&K Bank FC, and Skalzang FC—providing a platform for players to showcase their skills and promote environmental responsibility.

University of Ladakh hosts national conference on environmental sustainability

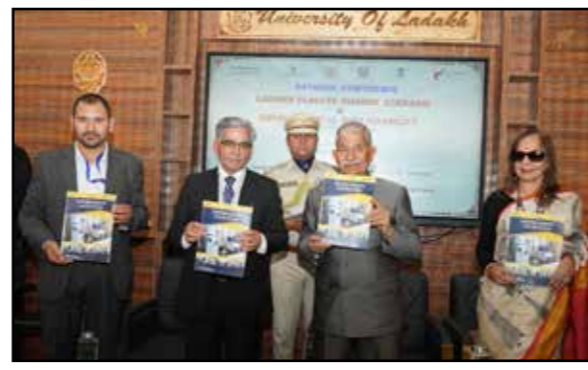
Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), inaugurated the two-day National Conference on the Ladakh Climate Change Scenario and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Ladakh, Taru Campus, on September 12.

The conference was organized by the University of Ladakh (UoL) in collaboration with NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute, Silvassa. It was supported by the State Climate Change Center, UT Ladakh, and sponsored by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Expressing his appreciation for being part of such an important event, the LG commended the University of Ladakh for taking the initiative to address climate change. He emphasized the significance of the conference, which gathered prominent scholars from across the country and internationally, as a step toward mitigating climate change. The LG highlighted the proactive efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in addressing climate change on the global stage, particularly through the solar power project aimed at reducing its impacts. He also reiterated the Prime Minister's vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047, emphasizing how the current generation's sustainable actions will benefit future generations.

The LG remarked that the University of Ladakh was the ideal venue for such a conference, given Ladakh's unique climate challenges.



L-G along with other officials releasing publication during the two-day National Conference.

He expressed hope that the discussions and outcomes of the event would significantly contribute to mitigating climate change in the region and assured full support for any climate initiatives.

In his address, the LG also underscored the importance of education, health, and the holistic development of students. He stressed that effective teaching and learning processes shape students into responsible citizens. He further encouraged students to embrace accuracy in their work and develop it as a habit, highlighting the value of extra-curricular activities and discipline.

During the event, the LG released several publications, including Instructional Facilities at UoL; Women Entrepreneurs in Ladakh: A Booklet on Ladakhi Startups; Westernisation and Modernisation in Contemporary China: Its Impact on the Millennial Generation by Tsumtim Zangmo; and Digital Marketing Strategy and Analytics by Dr. Mohd Rafee and Arvind Gupta. Vice-Chancellor of UoL,

Prof. SK Mehta, spoke about various initiatives aimed at positioning UoL among the top universities in India. Dr. Mohd Hussain, Coordinator and Assistant Professor at the Department of Zoology, UoL, delivered the vote of thanks.

The LG also visited the UoL Science Block, where he interacted with students and faculty from the Political Science department. He toured the Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS), XRF, and Genome Sequencing labs.

Notable attendees included Nand Kishore Agrawal from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Prof. Talat Ahmad from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Director of ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal, Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Superintendent of Police, UTDRF Leh, Pardeep Singh, along with prominent officials, research scholars, and students from various universities in India.

MHA Secretary assesses Border infrastructure and vibrant village development in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. Rajendra Kumar, chaired a review meeting on the progress of Border Infrastructure Works and the Vibrant Village Programme in UT Ladakh at the DC office conference hall, Leh, on September 7.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner/Secretary Planning, Dr. Laltinkhuma Franklin; Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; Sr. Superintendent of Police, Shruti Arora; and officers from BRO (HIMANK), Project Vijayak, CPWD, NHIDCL, ITBP, along with officials from various departments.

Presentations were delivered by the Chief Engineer of BRO (HIMANK), Project Vijayak, CPWD Ladakh, and the Executive Director of NHIDCL Ladakh, outlining the status of their respective projects. Each officer provided detailed reports on the progress, timelines, and challenges faced in completing the work, including difficulties related to weather, machinery, and equipment.

Deputy Commissioner Leh also presented a report on the status of the Vibrant Village Programme and the Changthang Border Development Package. He highlighted that 35 border villages have been adopted under the Vibrant Village Programme in Ladakh, focusing on areas such as economic growth, road connectivity, housing, telecom infrastructure, skill development, financial inclusion, and tourism.

He raised key concerns that require the attention of the MHA, including the high cost of construction, timely approval of proposals considering the short working season, inclusion of skill development and procurement of machinery under the VVP guidelines, and the non-release of funds under the Border Area Development Programme. Commissioner/Secretary, Dr. Laltinkhuma Franklin, also highlighted the need for gap funding in centrally sponsored schemes for the border areas.

In his review, Dr. Rajendra Kumar discussed ongoing projects under the ICBR schemes aimed at improving border infrastructure. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the limited working season and assured that the MHA would consider addressing these concerns. Dr. Kumar also emphasized the need to resolve poor connectivity issues in border regions, stressing the importance of completing connectivity projects to provide seamless communication, especially in today's digitally-driven age.

He instructed the local administration to ensure timely clearance of projects, including wildlife clearances, to facilitate progress in developing border areas within the given timelines. He urged a unified approach to achieving the set targets to secure the nation's borders. Dr. Kumar added that his visit helped him gain a deeper understanding of the ongoing projects and the specific needs of the border areas.

Hill Council, Leh focuses on upgrading monastery security measures



Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson of LAHDC, Leh, convening a meeting to address security challenges affecting monasteries and to discuss measures for enhancing safety.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson of LAHDC, Leh, convened a meeting on September 12 to address security challenges affecting monasteries and to discuss measures for enhancing safety. The meeting was attended by Dy. Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillor for Culture Stanzin Chospel, ADC Ghulam Mohd., LBA Youth President Jigmet Raftan, tourism official Fesal Iqbal Tantry, Dy. SP (HQ) Regzin Sangdup, as well as lama uchos and chakzot from 16 monasteries.

was on strengthening security measures around the monasteries. Discussions included strategies to prevent future incidents, such as upgrading CCTV systems, improving street lighting, and installing halogen lights to enhance visibility and security.

Dy. SP (HQ) Regzin Sangdup assured that the police are committed to apprehending the perpetrators and provided an update on the situation. He highlighted the need for an upgraded CCTV system to improve monitoring.

The meeting also reviewed tourism management

strategies to better regulate tourist entry and exit. The LBA Youth Wing has pledged to support night-time security efforts.

The Chairman assured that a phased upgrade of the CCTV network will be implemented, incorporating advanced motion sensors and alarm features to bolster nighttime protection. This upgrade will begin with an assessment and initial installation, followed by a review and additional enhancements. The possibility of hiring private security personnel under specific conditions was also considered.

The Chairman emphasized the council's commitment to these upgrades and announced that a detailed survey will be conducted to assess the exact requirements for CCTV and other security systems. He urged all local communities and monastery authorities to remain vigilant and assured that efforts to enhance the safety and security of monasteries are a top priority.

District review meeting held in Leh to assess bank performance and government schemes



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Leh, Sonam Nurboo chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for Leh district for the quarter ending June 2024, held on September 10 at the DC Office Conference Hall, Leh.

Lead Bank Manager, Tsering Angmo, convened the meeting and presented the ADDC with an overview of the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio. As of June 2024, total deposits stood at ₹5994.71 Cr, with a CD ratio of 49.71%, compared to ₹5637.82 Cr as of March 2024, reflecting a credit growth of ₹105.90 Cr on a quarter-on-quarter basis. This resulted in a 2.04% increase in the CD ratio for the June 2024 quarter.

The meeting reviewed bank-wise performance under different sectors, including priority and non-priority sectors, which were further subdivided into sub-sectors. Disbursements under the priority sector amounted to ₹344.75 crore, while ₹351.23 crore was disbursed under the non-priority sector by the quarter-end of June 2024.

Performance of banks under various Government Sponsored Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), MUDRA, Stand-Up In-

dia, PM Vishwakarma, PM SVANidhi, National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Enterprises (PMFME), Weaver Mudra Scheme, Vibrant Village Programme, and Social Security Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), and Financial Literacy Initiatives were also reviewed during the DLRC meeting.

District officers from relevant departments provided updates on the progress of various government schemes in Leh and highlighted challenges faced by applicants in accessing benefits. ADDC Sonam Nurboo emphasized the importance of regular monitoring and coordination between banks and departments to ensure that beneficiaries can easily avail of these schemes. The bank-wise performance on Social Security Scheme saturation was also reviewed, with the ADDC directing all banks to meet the target of 60% coverage in the next quarter.

Regarding the operations of the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL), a project funded by RBI and NABARD and implemented by the CRISIL Foundation, the ADDC instructed an increase in outreach efforts and the saturation

of social security schemes. CRISIL Foundation officials briefed the chairperson on their convergence efforts with line departments to improve financial literacy and inclusion services. The ADDC also urged CRISIL officials to finalize a mass outreach strategy focused on vibrant villages.

Banks operating in Leh District were also encouraged to take concrete steps to enhance their digital infrastructure and connectivity to onboard all eligible customers onto digital platforms, thereby improving the efficiency of the financial ecosystem.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer Leh, Lead District Officer of the Reserve Bank of India, District Development Manager of NABARD Leh, Senior Manager T&CB CRISIL, General Manager DIC Leh, Chief Animal/Sheep Husbandry Officer Leh, Chief Agriculture Officer Leh, Chief Horticulture Officer Leh, Incharge of PM SVANidhi & NULM from the Municipal Committee office Leh, Programme Manager NRLM Leh, and Branch Managers from various banks, including State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, JK State Cooperative Bank Ltd, JK Grameen Bank, IDBI, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, YES Bank, Bandhan Bank, and the Area Manager CFL Ladakh.

Foundation stone laid for Ladakh's SLDC-cum-renewable energy monitoring centre



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), laid the foundation stone for the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC)-cum-Renewable Energy Monitoring Centre (REMC) at the Power Development Department (PDD) Complex in Choglamsar on September 9. This significant project, approved by the Ministry of Power under the Power System Development Fund (PSDF), is valued at Rs 153.96 crore and will be implemented by POWERGRID.

Calling the occasion "historic," the Lt. Governor emphasized that the project will significantly enhance power distribution and internet connectivity in Ladakh. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his continued support in Ladakh's development and noted that this project represents a key step towards the region's overall progress. He also acknowledged the challenges faced by the Administration in completing projects due to Ladakh's short working season.

The Lt. Governor stressed the importance of adhering to project deadlines, directing the Chairmen/CECs of both Hill Councils to complete projects within a three-year timeframe. He urged officials to avoid delays and compress the project schedule, ensuring timely completion for the benefit of La-

dakh's citizens. Chairman and Managing Director of POWERGRID, RK Tyagi, explained that the SLDC will manage real-time grid operations, enabling secure and economical dispatch of electricity. He noted that the centre would be responsible for balancing electricity supply and demand across Ladakh's vast and sparsely populated areas, playing a crucial role in ensuring reliable power management.

The project will be executed in four key packages:

- 1. Establishment of SLDC-cum-REMC** – SCADA/EMS and REMC systems at the Main and Backup Control Centres, and RTUs at sub-stations.
- 2. OPGW Package** – Fiber optic-based communication infrastructure.
- 3. Communication Equipment Package** – Critical hardware for smooth communication.
- 4. Civil Building Package** – Construction of the SLDC-cum-REMC (Main Control Centre in Leh and Backup Centre in Kargil).

Present at the event were Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson; Advisor to the Lt. Governor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Secretary of PDD Ladakh, Vikram Singh Malik, IAS; CMD POWERGRID, RK Tyagi, along with officials from PDD and POWERGRID.

DC Leh reviews promotions and compassionate appointments, approves 97 cases



Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, reviewing departmental promotions and compassionate appointments.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson of LAHDC, Leh, reviewed departmental promotions and compassionate appointments under SRO-43 during a meeting held on September 12 at the VC Room, DC Office, Leh.

During the meeting, DC Leh approved a total of 97 time-bound promotions

and 3 functional promotions across various departments. The promotions included 52 cases in the Medical Department, 25 in the Education Department, 10 in ICDS, and 4 in the Sheep Husbandry Department, among others. Additionally, 6 cases of compassionate appointments were referred for further review with the applicants.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all Heads of Departments (HoDs) to ensure timely submission of promotion cases to avoid delays.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director Employment Leh, Delex Namgyal, Headquarter Assistant Nilza Angmo, and heads of various departments.

In Focus

Historic decision: Ladakh's five new districts spark mixed reactions



Nawang Tsering Shaks-po, Director, Centre for Research on Ladakh.

In a surprising move, the Central Government recently announced the creation of five new districts in Ladakh, in addition to the existing districts of Leh and Kargil. This decision was historic, as hopes were primarily focused on the creation of only two new districts—Zaskar and Nubra. There had been no significant demand for the creation of Drass, Sham, and Changthang as separate districts.

Therefore, the BJP Government deserves congratulations from the people of Ladakh. However, on the day of the declaration, there was not much jubilation among the people in Leh town, though it was natural for BJP workers to celebrate the occasion.

It is important to note that before 1979, the Ladakh region had only one district with its headquarters in Leh. To meet the aspirations of the people of Kargil, the Sheikh Abdullah Government later bifurcated Ladakh into Leh and Kargil districts, granting Zaskar special Sub-Divisional status within Kargil. Before this, Zaskar had only been administratively overseen by a revenue officer, or Tehsildar, due to its isolation from the rest of Ladakh for five to six months each winter.

With the creation of five new districts, several questions arise: What will be the shape and scope of these new districts? Will they have autonomous hill development councils like Leh and Kargil, or will they function as subsidiary districts with only a Deputy Commissioner and a Superintendent of Police? These hard questions will undoubtedly emerge in the coming months as the Union Territory ad-

ministration, given a three-month timeline, works to sort out the administrative implications, including creating posts and locating the headquarters for each new district..

Ladakh is a sparsely populated region, primarily due to its harsh climatic conditions and barren mountains and deserts. Over the years, the government has invested significantly in improving the living standards of the region's people. However, due to limited job opportunities for the educated and semi-educated youth from the region's more remote areas, they often struggle to compete with job seekers from other parts of the country where better educational facilities



and coaching are available. This, coupled with the shrinking population of border areas as people migrate to affluent towns like Leh, has led to environmental challenges and traffic congestion in Leh.

In the past two and a half decades, Ladakh's administration has seen significant changes. After more than fifty years of struggle post-Independence, two Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC)—Leh and Kargil—were established in 1995. However, the government did not create a sufficient number of posts in the government departments, leading to dissatisfaction among the peo-

ple. Consequently, there were demands for a separate revenue or administrative division called Ladakh Division.

In response to popular demand from the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, the Government of India appointed a three-member interlocutor to study the region's administrative grievances. The interlocutor's report recommended that Ladakh be separated from the Kashmir Division and made a separate Division. Despite the lack of immediate action on this recommendation, I personally advocated for Ladakh's division status, including raising the issue at the 2013 bi-annual colloquium of the International Association of Ladakh Studies in Heidelberg, Germany. My writings on the subject were also published in prominent newspapers like the Daily Excelsior (Jammu), Greater Kashmir (Srinagar), and Kashmir Times (Srinagar/Jammu). In 2019, the government granted Ladakh Divisional status and subsequently declared Ladakh a Union Territory.

Today, Ladakh is experiencing multiple administrative and political upheavals. I doubt that the creation of five more districts will satisfy the people of Ladakh or the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, which are leading agitations and hunger strikes for statehood for Ladakh, Constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule, two Lok Sabha and one Rajya Sabha seats for Ladakh, and the filling of 10,000 to 12,000 government vacancies.

I see no reason why the Government of India would grant statehood to Ladakh, especially since the 10 Councilors in the Autonomous Councils of Leh and Kargil already enjoy ministerial status with all the accompanying privileges. However, I am puzzled as to why the government is reluctant to bring Ladakh under the purview of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The people of Ladakh are among the most loyal citizens in the country, committed to the unity and integrity of India.

You can send your review and feedbacks on sntsering52@gmail.com



International Day of Sign Languages



International Day of Sign Language is celebrated on 23 September.

The International Day of Sign Languages is a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. During the 2024 celebration, the world will once again highlight the unity generated by sign languages. World leaders and other government officials are invited to sign this year's theme "Sign up for Sign Language Rights" in their national sign language. Sign up for sign language rights by working with your local and national associations to announce the achievement of a concrete goal for deaf communities today.

According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

Sign languages are fully-fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from the spoken languages. There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when travelling and socializing. It is considered a pidgin form of sign language that is not as complex as natural sign languages and has a limited lexicon.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes and promotes the use of sign languages. It makes clear that sign languages are equal in status to spoken languages and obligates states parties to facilitate the learning of sign language and promote the linguistic identity of the Deaf community.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.

Courtesy: United Nation

DID YOU KNOW



Courtesy: www.savit.in

- When many cultures were only nomadic forest dwellers over 5000 years ago, Indians established Harappan culture in Sindhu Valley (Indus Valley Civilization)
- The name 'India' is derived from the River Indus, the valleys around which were the home of the early settlers. The Aryan worshippers referred to the river Indus as the Sindhu.
- The Persian invaders converted it into Hindu. The name 'Hindustan' combines Sindhu and Hindu and thus refers to the land of the Hindus.
- Chess was invented in India.
- Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus are studies, originated in India.
- The 'Place Value System' and the 'Decimal System' were developed in India in 100 B.C.
- The world's first granite temple is the Brihadeswara Temple at Tanjavur, Tamil Nadu. The shikhara of the temple is made from a single 80-tonne

piece of granite. This magnificent temple was built in just five years, (between 1004 AD and 1009 AD) during the reign of Rajaraja Chola.

- India is the largest democracy in the world, the 7th largest country in the world, and one of the most ancient civilizations.
- The game of Snakes & Ladders was created by the 13th century poet saint Gyandev. It was originally called 'Mokshapat'.
- The world's highest cricket ground is in Chail, Himachal Pradesh. Built in 1893 after levelling a hilltop, this cricket pitch is 2444 meters above sea level.
- India has the largest number of post offices in the world.
- The largest employer in India is the Indian Railways, employing over a million people.

Courtesy : Vedantu

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Find out your best self



Finding out your own 'best self' is like having a new life that comes along with prosperity and success. It is in this context that this write-up will be built up. Everybody has a winner hidden deep inside, and to find that winner, one needs desire, willpower and patience.

Your 'best self' is one that gives you the maximum potential to materialise your dreams and plans.

And it is within your power to let it come up and do the best of things for you. All that is needed is what American author Earl Nightingale had said: "That you need a plan, the roadmap and the courage to press on to your destination." This will automatically command for your 'best self' to come up and give you a winning help.

Actually, I have my own quotes and phrases on almost every subject that one can think of, and I like to quote them at all appropriate time and places. As such, here is one of those quotes of my own that may go well with this write-up: Challenging yourself on a daily basis, with the best of you in full force, is the surest way to be on the progressive path of success.

We need to understand and realise that unless we find out our real and the best self, we can't be in a position to do anything that can be something solid and great. What is the fun in going about life in a daily chore that takes you nowhere?

All the good and great things of life have happened, and will continue to happen, only because of one bold step in the beginning and then its continuation over a long period of time. Perhaps, it was in this context that Italian mystic ad poet Francis of Assisi had this to say: "Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible; and suddenly you will see that you are doing the impossible."

Lesson: Great goals can be achieved only after you find out your best self.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Ali Mohammad, Surna Player

Interviewed by Stanzin Padma

Q. Can you share the story of how your journey with the surna began and at what age you discovered your passion for playing it? Please brief us in detail.

Julley! I would like to thank the Reach Ladakh team for this interview. My name is Ali Mohammad, and I was born in Spituk. My father, Abdul Ali, and my grandfather, Ibrahim, played a significant role in my upbringing. I received a wealth of knowledge and education from them.

The surna's journey to Ladakh is quite intriguing. It arrived here with Gyal Khatoon from Skardo Gilgit as part of her dowry, and our tribe also migrated around the same time. Our ancestors played the Larna (tune) 360 at the palace, and they passed down all 360 melodies to me, which became the foundation of my learning.

I was just 4 years old when my father gave me a linyu (flute), and I played it for eight years. Subsequently, I was introduced to the surna and trained for twelve years. It was only after this extensive training that I started to play the surna professionally.

At the age of 25, I secured a job at a radio station where I served for 45 years until my retirement in 2012. During my career, I had the opportunity to explore places like Switzerland, Paris, France, Italy, and Bombay. I was honored with several awards, including the State Award, Bharat Jyoti Award, and Art Culture Award. Now, at 74 years old, I continue to cherish and celebrate the art of playing the surna.

Q. Have you ever had to overcome any obstacles or difficulties while learning or playing the surna?

Yes, I faced several challenges early on. Initially, many people discouraged me from playing the surna due to social stigma and caste-based discrimination. There was a perception that playing the surna was associated with lower social status, which led to resistance and criticism.

Despite these obstacles, I persevered. I formed an association with others who played traditional instruments, like the drum, even though they faced similar social biases. My commitment to teaching my tribe and preserving our cultural heritage remained strong.

The social stigma associated with our traditional music has been a significant hurdle, but it has gradually diminished over time. Today's generation is more accepting and appreciative of our cultural traditions, and I continue to teach and



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ I urge everyone to embrace and wear our traditional attire, Sulma and Kos, and participate in traditional dances such as Kompa Sumsrtsags and Shondol. These practices are vital for preserving our cultural heritage and preventing them from fading away. To the youth, I make a special request: carry forward our rich traditions, culture, and heritage. Your involvement and commitment are essential in keeping our legacy alive. ”

share the art of playing the surna, dedicated to preserving our heritage until my last breath.

Q. What kind of music do you enjoy playing on the surna?

One of the most special pieces I enjoy playing on the surna is a traditional song called Gying Lu. This piece is reserved for special occasions and was historically performed only in the presence of kings, nobles, and the royal family. It is played very rarely and holds a significant place in our musical heritage.

Additionally, during wedding ceremonies, after lighting the butter lamp, we traditionally play a specific melody known as Larna. Following this, three other pieces of music are played, which are considered both auspicious and essential for the ceremony. Unfortunately, these traditions are becoming less common, and there is a growing need to preserve and continue these musical practices to maintain our cultural heritage.

Q. How many aspiring surna players have you mentored or taught so far?

I have mentored and taught around 200-300 aspiring surna players. Among them, 20 have become professionals, having completed the full course and excelling in their performances. My students come from diverse backgrounds and classes, and they learn with great enthusiasm and skill, free from any discrimination.

Q. As the surna and drum are integral to Ladakhi culture, tradition, and heritage, what changes have you noticed in Ladakh from the past to today?

In the past, the surna and drum were central to our cultural practices, but there were also certain challenges. One significant issue was caste-based discrimination, which led to stereotypes that discouraged people from touching or playing the surna. However, I'm pleased to see that attitudes have changed over the years. Today, students from all backgrounds are actively learning and playing the surna, reflecting a more inclusive and open-minded approach to our cultural heritage.

Another positive development is the preservation of traditional melodies. All the traditional tunes have been meticulously documented in a book at the Ladakh Cultural Academy. This book serves as a valuable resource for teaching and maintaining our musical traditions. The continuity of these melodies is crucial for keeping our cultural heritage alive and passing it on to future generations.

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



A delegation from Shakar Chiktan including Nominated Councillor Hakima Khatoon, President Kacho Shameem Mandal, General Secretary Haji Hussain, Senior Leaders Own Ali, Sajjad Hussain, Ghulam Qadri, and Younus Ali, as well as Senior Workers Khalil Khan and Mohd Ismail Khan met Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson.



In response to the drowning incident involving a UT Disaster Response Force (UTDRF) boat in the Indus River, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson and Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi, visited SNM Hospital to meet with injured patients during the rescue operation.



The Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) jointly organized a daylong seminar on the Preservation and the Promotion of the Bhoti language at Chowkhang Vihara, Leh.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, ceremoniously laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new Culture Centre and Dharmasala for Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, Leh marking a significant milestone for this important project.



A grand celebration was held in Tangtse Community Hall and Watse Naga Cricket Ground, Nyoma, to mark the creation of the new Changthang District on Sept 5.



A memorial event was held to mark the fifth anniversary of former Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, late Dorjay Motup at the Dorjay Motup Memorial Park at Housing Colony, Leh.



The 13th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Ludhiana, Punjab, in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kargil, conducted a comprehensive mock exercise on earthquake and cloudburst scenarios at Higher Secondary School, Chiktan.



A group of farmers from the Khaltse block embarked on an exposure tour to the Kashmir Valley, flagged off by Executive Councillor for Agriculture, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphele.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with
In conversation with Ali Mohammad, Surna Player

...Continuity of page 5

Overall, the evolution from past practices to today's inclusive and preservation-focused approach highlights the progress Ladakh has made in embracing and celebrating its rich cultural heritage. idea of a woman leading an association or becoming a president. Despite this, confidence in one's own abilities can help overcome such prejudices.

Q. How does the surna differ from other instruments?

In my view, modern instruments like the guitar, harmonium, and various bands are wonderful in their own right, but they risk overshadowing and eventually leading to the extinction of our traditional and cultural instruments if we're not careful. My primary goal is to preserve and strengthen the use of traditional instruments such as the Dimjang, Linyu (flute), Damnyan (a string instrument), Pivang, Khakong (sitar), and Daph (Dafli).

Each of these instruments, including the surna, plays a unique role in our cultural practices. For instance, the surna and daman are essential for wedding ceremonies, and without them, these events would feel incomplete. The surna's distinct sound and its role in our traditional music make it special compared to other instruments. It embodies our cultural heritage and is integral to our ceremonial and festive occasions.

By focusing on preserving and promoting these traditional instruments, we ensure that our cultural heritage remains vibrant and continues to be an important part of our community.

Q. Are folk music and traditional musical instruments on the brink of extinction? What is your opinion?

In the past, there was a significant risk of our folk music and traditional instruments facing extinction. However, I am optimistic that this will not happen if we recognize and appreciate the value of instruments like the dhap, pivang, and linyu.

It is crucial that we move beyond caste-based discrimination and focus on preserving and valuing our traditional instruments such as the drum, surna, and flute. These instruments are integral to our cultural heritage and are central to various traditional dances and ceremonies, including Chabs Kyan rtsas, shondol, and Kompa sumrtsags. By promoting and celebrating these traditions, we can ensure that they continue to thrive for future generations.

Q. According to you, what are the solutions to promote and preserve folk art and music?

To promote and preserve folk art and music, several measures can be implemented:

- 1. Regular Training Programs:** Establish comprehensive training programs at cultural academies and other institutions. These should be conducted regularly to ensure that traditional skills are continuously taught and refined.
- 2. Professional Instructors:** It's crucial to provide high-quality instruction. This means employing skilled and professional teachers who are experts in traditional instruments like the daman and surna.
- 3. School and Community Engagement:** Expand initiatives to include more schools and village associations. Sponsoring instruments and offering training in these communities can help foster interest and preserve traditional practices.
- 4. Cultural Events and Festivals:** Organize cultural events and festivals that highlight traditional music and art. These platforms can showcase the richness of folk traditions and encourage participation from younger generations.
- 5. Documentation and Research:** Support efforts to document traditional music and folk art. This includes recording performances and maintaining archives that can serve as educational resources for future generations.

By implementing these strategies, we can better ensure the preservation and promotion of our rich cultural heritage.

Q. How do you balance traditional surna with modern innovations and experimentation?

The primary challenge is that modern instruments like the guitar, violin, and harmonium are designed for contemporary music and cannot easily incorporate traditional folk melodies. Traditional instruments like the surna, daman, and dhaps are specifically crafted for playing folk songs and Jabro. To preserve their unique sound and cultural significance, it's important to keep these traditional instruments distinct from modern innovations. This ensures that the essence of folk music remains intact while also allowing space for modern experimentation in other genres.

Q. How can young surna learners avoid common mistakes and stay motivated?

My advice to young surna learners is to focus on preserving the traditional tunes and melodies while practicing diligently. It's important to respect and learn from their teachers to maintain a strong connection with the heritage of the surna. While exploring modern music is valuable, they should always keep the essence of traditional music at heart. Consistent practice and a deep appreciation for their cultural roots will help them avoid common mistakes and stay motivated.

Seminar on 'Preserving Our Past: Conservation of Cultural Heritage' held

150 participants attend seminar focused on rock art and indigenous language preservation



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

TANGTSE: The Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), in collaboration with Ten Friends of Lalok, successfully organized a one-day seminar titled "Preserving Our Past: Conservation of Cultural Heritage (Rock Art and Indigenous Language) for Future Generations" at Tangtse Community Hall on September 8.

The seminar attracted around 150 participants, including gobas (village leaders), local residents, and students and teachers from various schools, such as Centralized Residential School Tharuk, Govt. Middle School Tharuk, KGBV School Tangtse, Govt. High School Kargyam, and Govt. Middle School Shachukul.

Thinles Angchuk, President of LBA Lalok, emphasized the importance of preserving Ladakh's rich cultural and linguistic heritage for future generations. He welcomed the speakers from the LBA Language Committee, including Ven. Ugyan Dadul and Tundup Dorjay (Stakmo), along with representatives from the LBA Heritage Committee, Dr. Sonam Wangchok, and Prof. Tashi Dawa.

Ven. Dr. Ugyan Dadul shared the LBA Language Committee's slogan, "Rang-zan Zo, Rang-gos Gon, and Rangskat Kol", during his talk on the importance of the Bhoti language. He showcased the richness of Bhoti grammar and literature through examples from Kangyur and Stangyur. He encouraged residents of Durbuk Block to use the Bhoti script for business and restaurant names and urged teachers to instill pride in their students for their ancestral language.

Renowned Ladakhi folk singer, Tundup Dorjay Stakmo, gave a presentation on "The Role of Folk Songs in Preserving Indigenous Language." He encouraged children to learn traditional songs, explaining their meanings and cultural significance. His live performance of traditional songs captivated the audience.

Dr. Sonam Wangchok delivered a presentation on "Cultural Preservation and Challenges," stressing the importance of understanding the values of cultural and natural heritage. He advised villagers against using modern materials like cement when restoring ancient monuments and encouraged consultation with experts for heritage conservation.

Prof. Tashi Ldawa highlighted the significance of rock art in his presentation and urged students to protect ancient petroglyphs from destruction. He emphasized the importance of safeguarding these artifacts as they are vital links to Ladakh's past.

Khenpo Tashi Dorjay, Guest of Honour and Umzad of Shachukul Monastery, spoke about the role of the Bhoti language in preserving Ladakh's spiritual and cultural identity. Tashi, the Tehsildar of Tangtse, assured attendees that the administration would work to protect the region's rock art and prevent it from falling into private hands.

Chief Guest Rigzin, Vice-President of LBA Ladakh, praised the collaborative efforts of LBA Lalok, village gobas, and Ten Friends of Lalok in organizing the seminar. He pledged full support for future initiatives aimed at preserving Ladakh's cultural and linguistic heritage.

Dr. Stanzin Namgail introduced Ten Friends of Lalok, highlighting the organization's activities and their focus on engaging young students to foster cultural awareness. Later, the participants went on a guided field visit to the petroglyph sites around Tangtse, led by Prof. Tashi Ldawa. Students performed traditional Dyamman songs during the excursion, accompanied by Dorjay Stakmo, enriching the hands-on experience of the region's rock art heritage.

4-day puppetry and stop-motion animation workshop held at EJM college



Student-led puppetry show at EJM college. Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In collaboration with Charkha Communication Network, Delhi, the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism at Eliezer Joldan Memorial College, Leh, successfully concluded a 4-day puppetry-making and stop-motion animation workshop on September 6.

Held from September 3-6, the workshop

aimed to enhance journalism students' creative and technical storytelling skills. The final day featured a student-led puppetry show addressing significant social issues such as eve-teasing, menstrual awareness, climate change, agriculture, and lack of transportation.

The workshop was attended by over 30 students from various departments, along with faculty members. Principal Dr. Samina Iqbal commended the efforts of the Mass Communication & Journalism students and the Charkha Foundation for their commitment to addressing meaningful topics through creative mediums.

Assistant Professor Mohammad Ali Khan expressed gratitude to the resource persons, students, and faculty for their contributions to the workshop's success.

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal chairs 1st State-Level meeting of Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 and Green Leaf Rating System



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired the first state-level meeting to discuss the "Swachhata Hi Seva 2024" campaign and the "Swachhata Green Leaf Rating System for Safe Sanitation." The meeting focused on the planning and execution strategies for these initiatives across the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The "Swachhata Hi Seva 2024" campaign, a nationwide cleanliness initiative, is scheduled to run for two weeks, starting on September 17, 2024, with preparatory events and a curtain-raiser on September 14. The campaign will culminate on October 2, marking a decade since the campaign's inception on Gandhi Jayanti in 2014.

Director of the Rural Development Department, Sajjad Qadri, gave a presentation on the campaign and the Green Leaf Rating System for Safe Sanitation. The presentation covered key objectives, proposed activities, achievements, and strategies to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment.

The "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign is built on three key pillars:

- 1. Swachhata Ki Bhagidaari** – Public participation, awareness, and advocacy.
- 2. Sampoorna Swachhata** – Including Swachhata Lakshit Ekayi (complete sanitation initiatives).
- 3. Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs** – Preventive health check-ups and social security coverage for sanitation workers.

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal stressed the importance of improving the equipment and uniforms for Safai Karamcharis under the "Swachhata Hi Seva" initiative. He emphasized using refuse collectors in rural areas to improve waste management and the implementation of a segregated garbage collection system in peri-urban areas to promote cleanliness and healthy waste management practices.

Dr. Kotwal also highlighted the environmental sensitivity of Ladakh and urged the use of alternatives to plastic. He encouraged schools to shift from plastic items and supplies to sustainable options like steel, jute, or other eco-friendly materials.

A representative from the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) provided a detailed presentation on the activities planned under the "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign, emphasizing citizen participation. Schools, residential associations, and market vendors are targeted for involvement to align with the campaign's goals of promoting cleanliness and hygiene.

Discussions also focused on the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating System for Safe Sanitation, an initiative by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism. This program aims to ensure world-class hygiene standards, particularly for tourists, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of sustainable tourism.

ALTOA seeks financial aid from Lt. Governor for international travel fairs



A delegation from the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation from the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA), led by President Tsewang Dorjey, met with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on August 31. The meeting was also attended by Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Commissioner/Secretary L Franklin, and Secretary of Tourism Vikram Malik.

In response, the Lieutenant Governor advised ALTOA members to engage with leading travel agents and tourism agencies across various states and Union Territories to promote Ladakh as a tourist destination. He also outlined a strategy to approach international embassies and ambassadors to enhance global promotion of Ladakh tourism. Additionally, the LG emphasized the importance of regulating tourist numbers to prevent tourism saturation and ensure a sustainable visitor experience in Ladakh.

NOTICE

Namgail Tsering S/o Changchok Raftan R/o Chubi Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Namgyal Tsering instead of Namgail Tsering in service record of, All India Radio, Leh and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07394973550084W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, All India Radio Leh within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Fortnightly News

DC Leh chairs meeting on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana implementation



District Level Committee meeting for the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, led a District Level Committee (DLC) meeting on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana on September 11 at the mini conference hall, DC office Leh. applications submitted on the national portal for the scheme. Of these, 29 projects have been commissioned, and inspections for 15 are ongoing. Additionally, 10 vendors have registered on the national portal from UT Ladakh.

The Power Development Department reported 275 DC Leh directed the Power Development De-

partment to identify high electricity consumers through recorded data and encourage them to utilize the scheme. He also recommended setting up a meeting with registered vendors to increase outreach.

The UT Ladakh Administration has approved a top-up subsidy of ₹20,000 per KWp for the first 2 KWp of rooftop solar capacity, and ₹10,000 per KWp for additional capacity up to 3 KWp. No subsidy is available for capacity beyond 3 KWp from either the central or UT government.

Several public and private sector banks are offering loans at competitive interest rates to support consumers in accessing this scheme.

The meeting was attended by officials from various departments and banks.

13th Battalion NDRF holds disaster preparedness exercise in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 13th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Ludhiana conducted a district-level Table Top Exercise (TTEX) on earthquake, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), and cloudburst scenarios at the Conference Hall in Baroo, Kargil. The exercise saw the participation of Assistant Commandant Javed Iqbal from the 13th Battalion NDRF, senior NDRF officers from Ludhiana, Executive Engineer R&B Kargil, Sadiq Ali; HQ to DC Office, Arifa Iqbal, along with other concerned officers and officials.

Assistant Commandant Javed Iqbal elaborated on the crucial role and responsibilities of the NDRF in effectively managing disasters and incidents. The TTEX focused on key aspects such as immediate response requirements, necessary actions, and damage assessments in the event of an earthquake.

Participants discussed the presumed earthquake scenario, exploring the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders during disaster responses. The exercise aimed to enhance knowledge and skills necessary for efficient disaster management, strengthening the capacity of local communities and institutions to respond effectively to emergencies.

This Table Top Exercise serves as a prelude to a full-scale mock drill on earthquake response, scheduled to take place on September 10 at Government Degree College (GDC), Kargil. The mock drill will further sensitize stakeholders and reinforce preparedness for disaster response mechanisms during seismic events.

International Year of Camelids celebrated in Nubra



During the felicitation ceremony for double-humped camel farmers in Diskit.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: In celebration of the International Year of Camelids 2024, a felicitation ceremony for double-humped camel farmers was organized in Diskit on September 9 by ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Leh.

The event's theme was "Heroes of Deserts and Highlands: Nourishing People and Culture."

Prominent attendees included Deputy Director General of ICAR-Animal Science, Dr. Raghendra Bhatta; Director of NBAGR Karnal, Dr. B.P. Mishra; Director of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Dr. Mohd Ismail; Colonel S.S. Bhardwaj from DIHAR; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Leh, Dr. Mohd Ibrahim; Technical Officer, Dr. Tsewang Dorje; Block Veterinary Officer Nubra, Dr. Zadon; along with officials from the Animal Husbandry Department, SDM Office, and camel herders from Nubra.

During the event, more than 50 double-humped camel owners were felicitated by Dr. Bhatta, DDG Animal Science. He highlighted the need to explore new avenues for camels beyond tourism, suggesting that camel products from the region could qualify for Geographical Indication (GI) status, enhancing their market value.

Dr. B.P. Mishra, Director of NBAGR, congratulated all the camel owners and shared that NBAGR has been working in the Ladakh region for the past 15 years, documenting valuable genetic resources of animals from the high-altitude areas. The guests also addressed concerns regarding inbreeding of the double-humped camels, with plans to introduce superior germplasm to mitigate this issue.

Kisan Mela cum Fruit exhibition highlights horticultural success in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: LAHDC Leh hosted the Kisan Mela Cum Fruit Exhibition 2024 at the Horticulture Complex, Agling, Leh, on September 10. The event was graced by Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, as the Chief Guest, and Executive Councillor for Horticulture, Ghulam Mehdi, as the Guest of Honour. Director of Horticulture UT Ladakh, Tsewang Phuntsog, also attended.

The exhibition displayed an impressive array of horticultural produce, including various apple varieties, chuli (a local apricot), watermelons, and a vibrant selection of flowers. The event highlighted the region's rich horticultural heritage and the remarkable efforts of local farmers. Each exhibit underscored the quality and diversity of Ladakh's produce, reflecting advancements in agricultural tech-

niques and the dedication of the farming community. With over 450 exhibits of fruits, flowers, and value-added products, the exhibition was a testament to how modern farming practices are transforming local agriculture. More than 200 farmers attended the event.

In his address, CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson emphasized the importance of events like the Kisan Mela in showcasing the progress of local farmers. He stressed the vital role of collaboration between farmers and government departments to ensure access to the necessary support and equipment. Gyalson encouraged farmers to fully utilize the resources and subsidies offered by LAHDC to improve their agricultural practices, especially for horticulture tools. He also expressed a desire to expand such events to remote regions like Sham,

Changthang, and Rong to raise awareness about agricultural advancements and provide broader support. The CEC commended the Horticulture Department for organizing the event and fostering collaboration between farmers and scientists.

Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi highlighted the benefits of adopting modern farming technologies and emphasized the need to continue innovating in the horticulture sector. He underlined how integrating new methods could enhance productivity and better support farmers in Ladakh.

The Kisan Mela Cum Fruit Exhibition 2024 not only celebrated the agricultural achievements of Ladakh but also promoted further development and cooperation in the horticultural sector.

Consultative discussion on Ladakh's elderly policy held in Leh



During the consultative discussion on State Policy on Older Persons of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A consultative discussion on State Policy on Older Persons of Ladakh themed, 'Working towards an Age Friendly Ladakh' was held at HelpAge India, Shey on September 3. Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalson presided as the chief guest.

The consultative discussion began with an inaugural address by the Guest of Honour Commissioner Secretary, Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, Padma Angmo.

The panel discussion witnessed viewpoints from concerned stakeholders, experts and community representatives. These included Director, Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, Tashi Dolma; Councillor, Thiksey, Stanzin Chosfail and

Former Chief Secretary, J&K, Chewang Phuntsog (IAS). The panel highlighted the need for a state policy for the older persons of Ladakh. It included discussion points like reimagining eldercare, working towards an age-friendly Ladakh, and what kind of facilities the elderly in Ladakh need.

The draft formulation discussion included field-level experiences, community representatives' suggestions, and data and research insights on elderly issues by HOD, Department of Social Work, Ladakh University, and Dr Jigmat Deachen. Additionally, Director MIMC, Leh, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena and President, PAGIR, Tsewang Dorje presented their in-

puts on the catalytic role of local civil societies in eldercare.

CEC Tashi Gyalson in his address highlighted the importance and need for a policy for the elderly of Ladakh and thanked the panelists for their valuable inputs in drafting a much-needed state policy for the elderly. Further, he assured the full support of LAHDC, Leh, and underscored the upcoming schemes by the Council towards providing for the elderly. Additionally, he suggested that all the stakeholders can work collaboratively to provide for the elderly so that there is maximum efficiency which will help in providing the best facilities to the elderly.

Indian Army and FICCI to host HIM Tech symposium 2024 in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), will be organizing the HIM Tech Symposium 2024 at Rinchin Auditorium and Grounds in Leh on September 20-21, 2024.

The symposium will focus on technological advancements and innovations for defence and military applications, particularly in high-altitude areas. Over 75 Indian defence manufacturers have already registered to participate, with more expected as registrations continue. These companies will showcase their latest products, accompanied by technical experts and marketing teams to highlight the unique features of their innovations.

This year's theme, "Harvesting Defence Technology for High Altitude Areas," is highly relevant to Ladakh's challenging terrain. Areas like the Siachen Glacier and the Kargil and Dras sectors present extreme challenges to troops, with low oxygen levels, freezing temperatures, and disrupted road connectivity, especially in winter. The symposium will feature equipment designed to address these challenges, enhancing operational effectiveness in such difficult conditions.

Senior military and civilian dignitaries are expected to attend the event. According to Army sources, the symposium will be open to the general public of Ladakh from 2 PM on September 21, 2024. College and school students, academic institutions, civ-

il society members, entrepreneurs, and community members are encouraged to attend and witness the exhibition.

A key highlight of the HIM Tech Symposium will be the technology showcases. Demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies and military solutions, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and unmanned systems, are expected to draw significant attention. Various stalls and pavilions featuring the latest equipment from defence and technology companies will offer visitors a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In addition, expert discussions and panel sessions are scheduled, where leading figures in defence technology, military strategy, and industry will share their insights. These sessions will offer hands-on experiences and in-depth knowledge about specific technologies and their applications in defence, providing an invaluable opportunity for networking and building business relationships.

Hosting this event in Leh is also expected to provide a boost to the local economy and tourism. While offering exposure to the defence industry for the people of Ladakh, the symposium will also position Ladakh as a potential business destination for the defence sector. Expectations are high for HIM Tech Symposium 2024, both for its impact on defence innovation and its contributions to the local community.

Para-Veterinarians from Kargil flagged off for 10-day specialized training in Jalandhar



Para-veterinarians and trained attendants from the Animal Husbandry Department, Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: On September 7, a group of 15 para-veterinarians and trained attendants from the Animal Husbandry Department, Kargil, was flagged off for a 10-day specialized training program at the North Regional Demonstration and Training Centre, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Jalandhar.

The training, starting on September 9, 2024, will focus on artificial insemination techniques and animal health management—key skills for enhancing

livestock productivity and health in the region.

Dr. Gulzar Hussain, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer of Kargil, who flagged off the team, emphasized the importance of this training in advancing the technical capabilities of para-veterinarians and attendants. He noted that the skills gained from this program will be vital in improving breeding practices and overall animal healthcare services in Kargil, thereby benefiting local farmers and the livestock sector.

This training marks the first of three planned groups. Two additional batches of para-veterinarians and attendants will follow, ensuring a broader base of trained personnel to implement advanced techniques in the district.

The initiative is a significant step in the department's efforts to enhance animal husbandry services in Kargil, focusing on sustainable livestock development and farmer welfare.

NOTICE



Whereas, Tsering Dorje S/o Phunchok Wangchok R/o Khaltse, Leh has claimed that his name has been wrongly recorded as Tsering Dorjay instead of the correct name which is Tsering Dorje and also his father name has been wrongly recorded as PUNCHOK ANGHOK instead of the correct name which is Phunchok Wangchok in his Ladakh Resident Certificate duly issued by Tehsil Office, Khaltse Leh-Ladakh. Now, I am applying for the correction in my Ladakh Resident Certificate. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Khaltse within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE



Whereas Stanzin Angchuk F/o Tsering Paldan R/o Tharuk (Tangtse-Durbuk), Leh, UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Stanzin Angchuck instead of correct name Stanzin Angchuk in his son Tsering Paldan's school record of St. Peters School Chuchot Yokma Leh-Ladakh.

Whereas the Father of the candidate has produced an Affidavit duly attested by Notary Public Leh to this Office for making necessary correction in the school record.

Hence, notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this regard report St. Peters School Chuchot Yokma Leh -Ladakh office within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Jamyang Tashi S/o Ishay Lundup R/o Matho, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. LA02 2024000580 and I am applying for 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.

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