

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with

Pramod Kumar Jain, IAS (Retd), Chairman New District Committee

In Focus:

Hope for Ladakh: Hunger strike ends as Govt promises talks on key demands

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केंद्र शासित प्रदेश लद्दाख
UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF UT LADAKH

BRIG (Dr) BD MISHRA (Retd)
Hon'ble Lt Governor, UT Ladakh

GI tag for Raktsey Karpo apricot, Ladakhi Pashmina, Ladakh Sea Buckthorn fruit & Wood Carving

Tourist footfall increased from 2,79,937 in 2019 to 5,25,374 in 2023; Tourist Police established for security and service of tourists

3059 Units of Ladakh Green House built to ensure availability of fresh vegetables in winter months

CT Scan Machine 128 Slice purchased for District Hospital, Kargil; 156,468 cards issued under the PM JAY/Universal Health Coverage

220 KV Srinagar-Leh Transmission Line commissioned; 220 KV Phyang-Disket & Drass-Padum Transmission Line approved by Ministry of Power

121 buildings & 41 bridges completed in last 5 years; 571.90 km length road blacktopped & 590km length fair weather road constructed under different schemes

SECI developing 25 MWp Solar Project at Taru with 50 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); NTPC developing Green Hydrogen pilot project in Ladakh; ONGC Energy Center developing country's first 1 MW geothermal power plant pilot project at Puga

Ladakh is the 1st UT in country to provide educational tablets to school students under the YounTab scheme

736 homestays shortlisted under the Ladakh Homestay Policy 2023;

4,664 passengers airlifted from Chandigarh, Leh and Thoise from Oct 2023 to March 2024 through IL/76; 4,754 passengers airlifted through AN-32 Kargil Courier Services from Jan 2024 to April 2024

1639 pregnant & lactating women given Rs 5000 under PMMVY; Decrease in malnutrition rates 1.76% in SAM, 2.25% in MAM among children under 5 under Poshan Abhiyan

With 97% literacy rate, Ladakh a fully literate administrative unit after implementation of ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram scheme

Khelo India Winter Games 2024 held with participation from 17 different states; All-weather international standard Ice Hockey Rink under-construction for benefit of local ice hockey players

68th National School Games for U-19 Boys/ Girls Table Tennis held with participation from 31 states and UTs; International standard Synthetic Track & Astro Turf football ground developed at Leh & Kargil

1,000 kid pen procured and distributed to 574 families in Changthang to mitigate neonatal mortalities

Drinking water facility provided through FHTCs to 99.32% households in Leh and 92.14% households in Kargil

EMPOWERING LADAKHI YOUTH THROUGH SKILL TRAINING, JOBS & OTHER INITIATIVES

3,159 youth provided government jobs through various Recruitment Boards

Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board constituted to provide jobs to Ladakhi youth

Recruitment Rules for various gazetted posts framed

CREATE established in Leh to accelerate rural enterprises through technology

17 Skill Centres established in Govt. Degree Colleges in collaboration with six Sector Skill Councils and NIELIT

New short-term training programmes introduced for non-college students under PMKVY

28 Ladakhi students sponsored for PG programmes at IIT Delhi, Kanpur & Bombay.

232 students of Class 10 & 12 given coaching for NEET, JEE, NDA, UG CLAT etc. under REWA scholarship scheme

Main campus of Sindhu Central University under construction

Incubation Centre inaugurated in Leh to foster local entrepreneurship

Trainees trained in Motor Mechanic, Vehicle, Electrician, Floriculture & other trades

35 apprentices engaged in different Govt departments of UT Ladakh under National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

Fortnightly News

Gazetted recruitment on hold since 2019: Ladakh's aspirants demand urgent solutions from stakeholders



Gazetted aspirants from Ladakh during press conference in Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Gazetted aspirants from Ladakh expressed gratitude to the LAHDC, Kargil, for passing a three-point resolution that includes the establishment of a separate Ladakh Service Cadre and Cadre Management by JKPS, the adoption of the Sikkim Model of Reservation for gazetted posts, and the relaxation of the upper age limit for recruitment in UT Ladakh. This resolution was passed following a series of discussions on October 19.

During a press conference on October 23, the aspirants stated

that the resolution passed by the Hill Council Kargil represents the first positive response they have received so far.

The aspirants outlined their journey, noting that they had organized a seminar in July 2024 to discuss the growing issue of unemployment and the lack of recruitment for gazetted posts. Following the seminar, a dedicated team of aspirants conducted a month-long study to develop a comprehensive blueprint aimed at addressing the issue. This blueprint was shared with key stakeholders,

including LAHDC Leh and Kargil, the UT administration, the Apex Body, Kargil Democratic Alliance, and other socio-religious organizations, seeking their feedback and suggestions. However, despite the broad outreach, the stakeholders in Leh did not respond to the proposals, leading the aspirants to believe that there was a lack of seriousness in addressing the concerns of the unemployed youths. The blueprint includes four key proposals to address the growing unemployment issue and ensure fair employment opportunities for the youth of Ladakh. These proposals are: fast-tracking the gazetted recruitment process, providing age relaxation for affected candidates, establishing a separate public service commission for Ladakh, and ensuring transparency and communication.

The aspirants expressed concern that the stakeholders in Leh seemed to show less seriousness regarding the issue of gazetted aspirants. They urged the Hill Council Leh to discuss the draft blueprint and pass a resolution before the talks with the MHA resume in December.

Padma, one of the aspirants,

stated, "We are eagerly waiting for the Hill Council Leh's stance on this issue and hope to find a solution to this burning concern."

Since the formation of the Union Territory Ladakh in 2019, recruitment for gazetted posts in Ladakh has been stalled, placing the region's youth at a significant disadvantage. The prolonged absence of recruitment processes has left many in distress, with some exceeding the eligible age for these posts. As a result, thousands of young people in Ladakh remain unemployed, with many losing out on opportunities due to age restrictions. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir has regularly conducted recruitment drives for both gazetted and non-gazetted posts, further highlighting the disparity in employment opportunities.

Phuntsog Targais, another aspirant, demanded fair and equal opportunities for the youth of Ladakh and urged stakeholders to address the issue and initiate the recruitment process at the earliest.

New District Committee begins Changthang tour, engages locals on district creation



The New District Committee during their visit to Nyoma block.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHANGTHANG: The new district committee commenced its tour of the Changthang region on October 23, starting with a visit to the Durbuk Subdivision. On October 25, the committee continued its engagement with leaders and residents from all villages within the Nyoma Block at the Nyoma Community Hall.

Chaired by Pramod Kumar Jain, IAS (Retd.), the committee is assessing the establishment of five new districts in Ladakh. Its

members include Kacho Asfandyar Khan, IAS (Retd.), Tsering Angchok, IAS (Retd.), Deputy Commissioner Leh Santosh Sukhadeve (ex-officio), and Deputy Commissioner Kargil Shrikant Balasaheb Suse (ex-officio).

During their visit to Durbuk Subdivision, the committee held a meeting at the Tangtse community hall, where they engaged with local residents, councillors, former councillors, village leaders, and the SDM. The committee attentively listened to the

concerns and opinions of the local delegations.

Chairman Pramod Kumar Jain assured the community that the committee would conduct a thorough study of their needs and concerns, carefully considering all feedback. He expressed his gratitude for the warm reception from the local residents.

In Nyoma, local leaders and residents strongly advocated for the designation of Nyoma as the New District Headquarters.

They highlighted the region's historical significance, larger population, and strategic location in the central Changthang area. A detailed memorandum outlining these points, signed by 28 local stakeholders, was presented to the committee.

Jain assured the community that their memorandum, views, and feedback would be thoroughly considered.

Committee member Tsering Angchok, IAS (Retd.), emphasized the committee's impartial approach in evaluating the needs and aspirations of the people. He encouraged the Changthang community to prepare for the opportunities a new district could bring, urging locals to focus on skill development, particularly for young women and self-help groups, to leverage future prospects.

The committee's visit follows the Ministry of Home Affairs' "in-principle approval" for new districts in Ladakh, including Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang. The meetings aim to gather local perspectives to enhance governance and improve service accessibility in remote areas.

Police Commemoration Day: Leh pays tribute to fallen heroes



Lieutenant Governor Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) laying wreath at Police Martyrs Memorial.

Nenzen Chodon

CHANGTHANG: Ladakh Police observed Police Commemoration Day at District Police Line, Choglamsar on October 21. The day honors the martyrs who lost their lives in 1959 when Chinese troops attacked a group of Indian police officers, led by DSP Karam Singh, who were on duty near a hot spring. Ten brave police officers sacrificed their lives during this incident, which is why the day is observed annually across the country.

DGP Ladakh Police, Dr. SD Singh Jamwal, IPS, recited the names of the police martyrs during the ceremony. Lieutenant Governor Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) recalled the 1959 incident, calling it a significant day. He emphasized the importance of border security, stating that without it, such incidents could recur, as adversaries continually seek to disturb the peace and harmony of the nation.

He acknowledged the crucial role of police, armed forces, and paramilitary forces in ensuring security at the borders and maintaining peace within the country. He also highlighted the Prime Minister's vision of making the country self-reliant, particularly in the defense sector, and noted that the Defense Minister encourages the domestic production and manufacture of military equipment to reduce imports.

The LG expressed hope that

the military forces securing the border would continue to serve the nation. Guests, led by the LG and First Lady, paid tribute to the police officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty in Ladakh by laying wreaths at the Police Martyrs Memorial. They also honored the families of fallen officers, including late Inspector Tsewang Namgyal, late Sub-Inspector Stanzin Nurboo, late Assistant Sub-Inspector Sonam Dorjey, late Constable Ghulam Abbas, and late Constable Shabir Hussain, along with the families of hot spring survivors Sonam Wangyal, Kunzang Dechan, and Sonam Dorjey.

Present at the event were Advisor to the LG Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS; Secretary Vikram Singh Malik, IAS; Executive Councillor of LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi; Councillors from LAHDC Leh; DIG Ladakh Police, Gaurav Sharma, IPS; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora, IPS; along with government officials, police officials, retired police personnel, families of martyrs, NCC cadets, and school students.

Leh commemorates Tashi Rabgais on his death anniversary with book launch



Dignitaries launching the book, commemorating death anniversary of Tashi Rabgais.

Nenzen Chodon

LEH: In commemoration of the death anniversary of Tashi Rabgais, Yige Publication, Tashi Rabgais Memorial Trust (TRMT), and the District Library, Leh, organized a book launch event themed Perspectives of Youth and the Way Forward at the District Library on October 28. Three reprinted books by Tashi Rabgais—Ladakh: Tradition and Change, Sustainable Spirituality in Buddhism, and Jigsten Kuntu Gawe Luu (poems and songs)—were officially launched.

A documentary film was screened, celebrating Tashi Rabgais's legacy, his contributions to Ladakhi society and Buddhism, and his achievements in literature.

On this 4th death anniversary, Chief Guest Stanzin Chospel, Executive Councillor for Art and Culture, LAHDC Leh, highlighted that Tashi Rabgais's birth anniversary is celebrated on October 17 as Ladakh Literature Day in honor of his writings and contributions. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and reviving Rabgais's work and underscored the

collective aim to support upcoming writers and encourage national-level literary achievements. He urged that Rabgais's visionary works should reach the people of Ladakh.

Dr. Sonam Wangchuk, President of the Ladakh Cultural Forum (LCF), described Tashi Rabgais as a bridge between historic and modern research in Ladakh. He expressed concern over the growing gap between youth and scholars and noted the lack of youth participation in such events. He also acknowledged LAHDC Leh for bestowing the Rpal Ngam Duston award on Rabgais, stating that he deserved even more recognition than he received in his lifetime. Dr. Wangchuk recalled Rabgais's roles in various organizations, including his position as an officer in the Information Department, where he wrote many of his journals.

TRMT President Wangyal Tsering shared that Rabgais had a profound concern for Ladakh's art, language, and culture, all of which are reflected in his writings. He emphasized

the trust's commitment to imparting Rabgais's visions and knowledge to today's youth, addressing the region's limited number of writers and readers. He also shared the trust's objectives to offer a platform for emerging scholars to share their views and thanked LAHDC Leh for financially supporting the digitization of Tashi Rabgais's composed songs.

Aligned with the event's theme, young scholars, artists, and writers shared their perspectives. Padma Angmo, an author, reviewed Ladakh: Tradition and Change; Tsewang Nurboo, a doctoral student and vocalist with Dashugs Band, analyzed Poems and Songs; Jigmet Angmo, artist and author of Dzungonma, Ladakh's first graphic novel; and Chemat Dorjey, sculptor and founder of Spindle Art Studio, presented their views.

Among those present Director of LeDeG Eshey Tundup, Nawang Tsering Shakspro, Sonam Wangchuk, SECMOL, Phuntsok Ladakhi, along with other authors, writers, artists, and distinguished guests.

Leh commemorates Tashi Rabgais on Ladakh Literature Day

Dr. Jamyang Gyaltsen receives 3rd Ladakh Literary award



Ladakh Literature Day: Dr. Jamyang Gyaltsen, a scholar, writer, receiving the 3rd Ladakh Literary Award.

Nenzen Chodon

LEH: The birth anniversary of the late Tashi Rabgais, a renowned scholar and historian, was commemorated as Ladakh Literature Day on October 19. This year's event, organized by LAHDC Leh, the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and the Tashi Rabgais Memorial Trust, celebrated his contributions to Ladakh's cultural and literary heritage.

Dr. Jamyang Gyaltsen, a scholar, writer, and recipient of the State Award in Literature, was honored with the 3rd Ladakh Literary Award for his work in preserving Ladakh's culture and literature through poetry, drama, and grammar.

Thupstan Norbu, Editor at the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, highlighted Tashi Rabgais's significant impact on Ladakh's society, urging the youth to follow his path in preserving Ladakh's language, scripture, and culture. The day not only celebrated his works but also fostered discussions among experts on preserving his literary legacy for future generations.

Deputy Chairman of LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchok, announced that the newly opened district library would be named in Tashi

Rabgais's honor. He emphasized Rabgais's influence on emerging scholars and underscored the importance of the Bhoti language. Angchok also spoke about the administration's initiatives to recruit Bhoti teachers in schools and the establishment of a research lab dedicated to the Bhoti language at DIET Leh. He noted that the day celebrated Ladakh's rich culture, history, literature, and heritage, and announced upcoming projects like panchayat libraries and a cultural center in Leh.

Executive Councillor Stanzin Chospel congratulated the writers of newly launched books and encouraged local authors to take advantage of LAHDC Leh's financial support for publishing. He also shared LAHDC's initiative to document the historical and cultural heritage of Leh's villages through digital media.

Wangyal Tsering, President of the Tashi Rabgais Memorial Trust, spoke about the Trust's efforts to revive Rabgais's writings and songs for the younger generation. He expressed gratitude to former MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and LAHDC Leh for recognizing Rabgais's contributions by commemorating his birthday as

Ladakh Literature Day. He also thanked LAHDC for their support in digitizing Rabgais's songs.

On the occasion, reprinted editions of Rabgais's works, including Ladakh Tradition and Changes (2009), Sustainable Spirituality in Buddhism (2009), and Jigsten Kuntu Gawe Luu (poems and songs), were launched by the Tashi Rabgais Memorial Trust.

Additionally, under the Tsomrig Yarsket scheme, two new publications—Ning gi rBalabs by Thinles Stanzin of Chushul and Kopong by Angdu Dorjey, documenting the history and techniques of the Kopong game—were launched, supported by the Department of Information & Public Relations and LAHDC Leh-Ladakh.

Prominent scholars, including Professor Lobzang Tsewang, Gyen Thupstan Paldan, Dr. Tsewang Yangzes, Dr. Tsewang Gyalson, Ven Tsewang Yangjor, and Dr. Konchok Gyatso, presented papers on Tashi Rabgais's works, emphasizing the significance of the Bhoti language.

The event concluded with performances of songs composed by Tashi Rabgais.

NOTICE

No 9925011F Rank Hav Nawang Dorjey Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his daughter namely Nilza Chosdon's Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 31-01-2011 instead of correct Date of Birth 31-01-2013 in the Army record of, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07611247348081W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Fortnightly News

Hemis village becomes first in Ladakh to publish digitized land records



Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh addressing the gathering on first-ever digitized land records of Hemis village.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHARU: The first-ever digitized land records of Hemis village under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) were officially published at a ceremony held at the Hemis Community Hall on October 14.

Hemis has now become the first village in UT Ladakh to have digitized land records. Three key documents were launched during the event: the Digitized Jamabandi, the Digitized Survey Map, and the Area Differential Sheet.

Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, high-

lighted the importance of modern, updated digital land records, emphasizing their role in the all-round development of UT Ladakh. He encouraged public participation in the land digitization scheme, stressing its long-term benefits for future generations.

In his address, Dr. Kotwal also spoke on the significance of Hemis Monastery, stating, "This is the world-renowned monastery. All the Buddhist religious scriptures have now been digitized." He further mentioned plans to translate these records, ensuring they are accessible in both Bodhi and oth-

er languages, making the records widely available. During the event, Dr. Kotwal inaugurated a modern record room at the newly built SDM Office. The Deputy Commissioner/CEO of Leh, along with the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Leh, and officials from the CPWD department, were also present.

Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi, and Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, were in attendance, marking this important step in land record modernization in Ladakh.

MP Haneefa Jan visits Nubra valley, discusses key issues



MP Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa Jan interacting with the villagers during his tour to Nubra valley.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: MP Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa Jan, recently toured the villages of Partapur, Hunder, Diskit, Tirith, Sumoor, and Panamik in Nubra Valley. Additional Deputy Commissioner Leh Ghulam Mohamad, CEO Tsering Angchok, and heads of various departments from Nubra Subdivision were accompanying him.

The MP received a warm welcome from Councillors Kunzang Lotus (Hunder),

Rigzen Lundup (Tiger), and Tsering Sandup (Panamik), who expressed their gratitude for his first visit to Nubra Valley since being elected. They highlighted several pressing community issues, including challenges with power supply, the need to upgrade Primary Health Centers to Community Health Centers, the status of the Shatse Takna Bridge, and mobile connectivity concerns.

Haneefa Jan also visited community and religious sites, including the Diskit mosque and Samstanglung Gonpa in Tegar, to assess local infrastructure and services.

During interactions with residents, he listened to their concerns and assured them of his commitment to address the issues raised. He expressed gratitude for the community's trust and support.

Agah Syed Ahmad sworn in as Councillor for 21-Thangdumbur Constituency



(Left to Right) Malik Shabeer Ahmad, Principal District and Sessions Judge Kargil administering oath to Agah Syed Ahmad.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Agah Syed Ahmad took the oath as the newly elected councillor of the 21-Thangdumbur constituency in the 5th Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, on October 23.

The oath ceremony, organized by the Election Authority/Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kargil, was

held at the Syed Mehdi Auditorium Hall. Malik Shabeer Ahmad, Principal District and Sessions Judge Kargil, administered the oath.

The event was attended by prominent figures, including the Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; Executive Councillor for

Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Er. Panchok Tashi; Executive Councillor Aga Syed Mujtaba Mussavi; Executive Councillor for Urban Development, Kacho Feroz; Deputy Commissioner/CEO of LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; councillors, district officers, and dignitaries from both religious and political spheres.

Fostering inclusivity: Transgender outreach program held in Leh



Don Hasar (She/They), a Queer Trans Rights Activist and Cultural Resistance Worker addressing the gathering in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Department of Social and Tribal Welfare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, organized an outreach program on Transgender Identities and Inclusion on October 19. The event featured Don Hasar (She/They), a Queer Trans

Rights Activist and Cultural Resistance Worker, as the key speaker.

The program began with an introduction to the theme by Deachen Angmo, a Gender Specialist from Mission Shakti, followed by a welcome speech from Tashi Dolma, Director of Social and

Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh. Dolma emphasized the importance of such outreach initiatives in fostering a more sensitive and inclusive society.

Padma Angmo (IIS), Commissioner Secretary of the Social and Tribal Welfare Department, UT Ladakh, stressed the need

for greater awareness on gender-related topics. She underscored the importance of engaging with the transgender community to better understand their challenges and to work towards addressing their specific needs through targeted interventions.

In her presentation, Don

Hasar explored the complexities of gender, its role in society, and how it shapes our perceptions. She also facilitated a discussion with participants, providing insights into the Transgender discourse and the Trans* Act of 2019, highlighting key aspects of the legislation. Additionally, Hasar spoke on the critical role of educational institutions and safe spaces in fostering inclusivity.

The event also featured short films, a survey documentary, and a musical performance by singer KKT. A diverse audience attended, including women's organizations from different religious backgrounds, political stakeholders, representatives from educational institutions, medical and healthcare professionals, Ladakh Police, and others who participated enthusiastically.

This outreach program marks a significant step towards promoting understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of the transgender community in Ladakh.

Kargil students embark on prestigious polo training, meet with Lt Governor Mishra



Group of students from various schools in Kargil district during their meeting with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A group of students selected from various schools in Kargil district met with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd)

on October 20, as they prepare to embark on a unique opportunity to receive horse riding and polo training with the prestigious President's Bodyguard in Delhi.

The students were given a ceremonial send-off at the LG's residence.

Present at the meeting were the Secretary of Youth Services and Sports,

Vikram Singh Malik, First Lady, Neelam Mishra, and other officials.

During the interaction, the LG expressed his strong commitment to promoting sports, particularly among female students. He encouraged the selected students to take full advantage of this invaluable training opportunity, urging them to strive for excellence. He assured them that all necessary arrangements, including accommodation and meals, had been made and emphasized the importance of discipline and proper conduct throughout their training.

Secretary YSS, Vikram

Singh Malik, reinforced the LG's message, reminding the students that they were representing Ladakh and should make the most of the training provided by the President's Bodyguard, one of the country's most prestigious regiments. He also highlighted the significance of maintaining discipline.

The students, selected for their interest and aptitude, are expected to return to Ladakh with honed skills and a greater appreciation for the sport of polo and horse riding. This initiative reflects the LG's commitment to fostering sports and providing unique opportunities for the youth of Ladakh.

MP Ladakh Haneefa Jan addresses public concerns during Zanskar tour



Member of Parliament (MP) Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa Jan visited the Lungnak Block and met with locals to hear their concerns.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: Member of Parliament (MP) Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa Jan, conducted a three-day intensive tour of the Zanskar Sub-Division, addressing public grievances and inspecting key development areas. On October 21, he visited the Lungnak Block and met with locals to hear their concerns.

Throughout his tour, the MP met with various public delegations from Pipcha, Raru, Monay Gonpa, Icher, Surlay, Yal, Testa, Kuru, Sking, Kargaik, Tangzay, Marling, and Cha, listening to their grievances and concerns. Executive Councillor (EC), LAHDC Kargil, Er. Panchok Tashi, also accompanied the MP during the tour and inaugurated the D'Julle Caffé and Restaurant at Singkula Top, along with a public park at Raru.

During his visit to Sundu, Zanskar, the MP assessed the boundary issue between Ladakh UT and Himachal Pradesh. He assured the public that this sensitive matter would be escalated to higher authorities. Additionally, he urged both the public and the governments on both sides to avoid any actions until an official decision on the boundary is reached.

The MP was accompanied by Executive Councillor Er. Panchok Tashi, Councillor of Cha Constituency Stanzin Lakpa, Nominated Councillor Panchok Namgil, ADC Kargil Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Wani, former Executive Councillor Stanzin Sonam, and other local dignitaries including representatives of the Zanskar Buddhist Association (ZBA), Zanskar Gonpa Association (ZGA), Lumbardars, and District and Sub-Divisional Officers.

A memorandum was submitted to the MP highlighting key issues in the region, including the need for improved education and healthcare facilities, as well as requests for drinking and irrigation canals.

While addressing the public, Councillor Stanzin Lakpa welcomed the MP and expressed gratitude for his first visit to the area since being elected. The EC, Er. Panchok Tashi, informed the public of various projects sanctioned by LAHDC Kargil in favor of Zanskar Sub-Division, congratulating them on the approved initiatives.

MP Haneefa Jan assured the public that their demands would be addressed on a priority basis and thanked them for their support during his parliamentary election. He reiterated his commitment to working for the overall development and welfare of the entire Ladakh region during his tenure.

Before departing for Leh via the Nimo-Padum-Darcha (NPD) road, the MP also inaugurated a 2.5 km upgraded black-topped link road in Pidmo village.

L-G Mishra inspects newly installed Pashmina Dehairing plant in Leh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) inspecting the newly installed Pashmina Dehairing Plant at the Industrial Estate in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), along with First Lady Neelam Mishra, visited the newly installed Pashmina Dehairing Plant at the Industrial Estate in Leh on October 23.

During the visit, Director of Sheep Husbandry Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Deputy Director Dr. Tundup Namgail, and Contractor Mohd Ali briefed the LG about the plant's installation and successful technician training. They also provided details about the trial run and commissioning of the plant.

The LG was informed about the entire dehairing process of pashmina wool, including feeding and carding. The plant has the capacity to process 10 kg of dehaired pashmina per hour, a significant improvement from the previous 1.5 kg per hour. The upgraded plant ensures better quality pashmina with fewer flakes,

reduced guard hair, and longer fiber length. The officials highlighted that this plant would greatly benefit pashmina goat herders and artisans in Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor Mishra commended the efforts of the Sheep Husbandry Department, All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society, and the contractor for the successful installation. He noted that the plant would save time, enhance pashmina quality, and bring significant benefits to pashmina goat herders.

Also present during the visit were Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal; Councillor of Korzok, Konchok Namdak; Commissioner/Secretary, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Dr. L Franklin; and other officials from the Sheep Husbandry Department and All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society.

In Focus:

Hope for Ladakh: Hunger strike ends as Govt promises talks on key demands

Nawang Tsering Shakspo



The 15-day hunger strike by the Path Yatris, led by environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk, has brought the four-point agenda of the Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) to the forefront. Their demands include the grant of statehood to Ladakh or constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule, two Lok Sabha seats, one Rajya Sabha seat, and the filling of over 10,000 vacancies in government departments. This hunger strike marks a historic moment in the recent political history of Ladakh.

In the past, Ladakhis, being residents of a landlocked region, would traverse long distances, reaching places like Lhasa (the capital of Tibet) and Yarkand in Xinjiang to the east, as well as Zaskar and Punjab to the south, and Kashmir and Skardu to the north, for education or trade. However, the recent month-long Path Yatra was a novel experiment and an unprecedented event in a democratic country like India.

Despite several rounds of dialogue initiated by the Government of India to address the grievances arising from the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and the creation of the Union Territory of Ladakh, these talks have stalled without any explanation from the central government. Consequently, the Apex Body and the KDA,

under Sonam Wangchuk's leadership, organized a walk from Leh to Delhi, starting on September 1, 2024, after a rally at NSD Stadium attended by people from all walks of life. The aim was to pressure the government to resume talks and address their demands. The Yatra was intended to conclude at Raj Ghat, New Delhi, on October 2, 2024, to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on Gandhi Jayanti.

The Path Yatris embarked on their journey on September 1, 2024, covering the challenging 850 km distance from Leh to New Delhi. They faced numerous hardships, including rugged roads and difficult mountain passes like Taglang La (5,328 meters) and Baralach Pass (4,850 meters). I too joined to show my solidarity with the Path Yatris but had to abandon the walk due to blisters after a few kilometers. Nevertheless, the brave Yatris pressed on, initially comprising over 300 individuals, young and old, under Sonam Wangchuk's dynamic leadership.

Throughout their journey, the Path Yatris received warm support from communities along the route, with food and shelter provided in dharamshalas, guest houses, and gurudwaras. However, upon reaching the Singhu border near New Delhi, the Delhi Police detained the Yatris under Section 144. After three days of detention and significant efforts from the Path Yatris and their leaders, they were finally escorted to Gandhi Samadhi on the night of October 2nd to pay their respects to the Father of the Nation.

Following the culmination of their walk, the Yatris sought an audience with high-ranking officials of the Government of India, including the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, to convey the hopes and aspirations of the people of Ladakh. Unfortunately, no date was provided for the resumption of talks, prompting the Path Yatris to begin an Anshan (hunger strike) at the Ladakh Bhavan in Chanakya Puri, New Delhi.

Adhering to Gandhian principles of truth (Satya) and non-violence (Ahimsa), the Yatris commenced their fast on October 7, lasting until October 21. During this time, hundreds from across India gathered to express their solidarity with those on the hunger strike. However, due to Section 144, many were turned away or prevented from meeting Sonam Wangchuk by the Delhi police. As time passed, the health

of several protesters, including Wangchuk, began to deteriorate. In Ladakh, there seemed to be a lack of strong mass rallies, which prompted me to express my concerns via WhatsApp and in the local media. I wrote, "It is distressing that the KDA and Apex Body leaders are silent on the hunger strike of Sonam Wangchuk and the 20 others who walked over 800 km from Leh to Delhi. The central government also appears uninterested in resolving the issue. Shall we allow these individuals to suffer in the streets of Delhi or urge them to end their hunger strike? On humanitarian grounds, we should not be mere spectators; we must seek an immediate solution."

This message may have served as a wake-up call for the Apex Body leaders, as a one-day hunger strike and rally were held at NSD Stadium on October 20, 2024, coinciding with the 15th day of Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike. That day, alongside Apex Body leaders, common Ladakhis gathered and called for all community leaders to rush to New Delhi to persuade Sonam to end his hunger strike, emphasizing that his life is precious for Ladakh.

On that day, even Jagat Guru Shankaryacharya Avimukteshwaranandji visited the site in Leh, urging Sonam Wangchuk and others to end their hunger strike, offering to act as a bridge between the central government and the Ladakhi protesters. Eventually, Sonam Wangchuk broke his hunger strike with the hope that a resolution would be forthcoming. This decision followed the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, issuing a letter stating that the High-Power Committee (HPC), chaired by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, would resume talks on December 3, 2024, in New Delhi.

Let us hope that this time, the discussions will proceed positively, leading to significant progress in addressing the long-standing and rightful demands of the people of Ladakh, who have endured so much over the years.

The author is the Director of the Centre for Research on Ladakh, Leh. You can mail your feedback and comments to sntsering@gmail.com



World Students Day

a profound impact on India and beyond. He was known for his humility, his belief in the potential of the younger generation, and his advocacy for science and education as pathways to national development.

World Students' Day is observed on 15 October annually to mark the birth anniversary of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. This day serves to honour students around the globe and raises awareness about the challenges they face. The day emphasises the importance of education and the role students play in shaping the future of society.

In 2010, the United Nations declared October 15 as World Students' Day in recognition of Dr Kalam's contributions to education and his advocacy for the youth.

Each year, World Students' Day focusses on a specific theme to address relevant issues concerning students and education. The theme for 2024 will be announced closer to the date, reflecting current challenges and aspirations in the field of education.

Known as the 'People's President,' Dr Kalam dedicated much of his life to inspiring and guiding young students, and his passion for teaching and learning left

Dr Kalam was born on October 15, 1931, in a Tamil Muslim family in Rameswaram on Pamban Island. Pamban Island was then in the Madras Presidency and is now in Tamil Nadu. Although Dr Kalam had average grades in his school years, he was always a bright and hardworking student with a strong desire to learn. He spent hours on his studies, especially mathematics.

Dr Kalam received numerous awards, including the Padma Bhushan in 1981, the Padma Vibhushan in 1990, and the Bharat Ratna for his contributions to research, the field of science, and his work with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The renowned scientist and teacher passed away in 2015 after suffering a cardiac arrest while delivering a speech at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.

DID YOU KNOW



1. A cloud weighs around a million tonnes. A cloud typically has a volume of around 1km³ and a density of around 1.003kg per m³ – that's a density that's around 0.4 per cent lower than the air surrounding it.

2. Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints. You can't blame your crimes on your twin, after all. This is because environmental factors during development in the womb (umbilical cord length, position in the womb, and the rate of finger growth) impact your fingerprint.

3. Your brain is constantly eating itself. This process is called phagocytosis, where cells envelop and consume smaller cells or molecules to remove them from the system. Don't worry! Phagocytosis isn't harmful, but actually helps preserve your grey matter.

4. The Universe's average colour is called 'Cosmic latte'. In a 2002 study, astronomers found that the light coming from galaxies averaged into a beige colour that's close to white.

5. The fear of long words is called Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia.

The 36-letter word was first used by the Roman poet Horace in the first century BCE to criticise those writers with an unreasonable penchant for long words. It was American poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil, possibly afraid of their own surname, who coined the term how we know it in 2000.

6. The world's oldest cat lived to 38 years and three days old. Creme Puff was the oldest cat to ever live.

7. You can actually die laughing. And a number of people have, typically due to intense laughter causing a heart attack or suffocation. Comedy shows should come with a warning.

8. The biggest butterfly in the world has a 31cm wingspan. It belongs to the Queen Alexandra's Birdwing butterfly, which you can find in the forests of the Oro Province, in the east of Papua New Guinea.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

It is great to be good but...



I wrote recently, in a tweet, that it is great to be good but the reverse may not be necessarily good. The observation in reverse will read: It is good to be great. While some of you may agree with this too, but an overwhelming number of people may like to discard it as sheer 'farcically nonsense'.

A dear reader has asked me to explain the 'observation' a bit. Here it goes. Yes, true, there may not be any two views if I say: It is great to be good; but I hesitate to say it in the reverse order. That is because there will be no 'willing agreement', a term that I had 'invented' sometime back, and then in use quite often.

There is nothing great like being good. One who is great but not good is of no use or value to any society. On the other hand, one who is good but not great can do wonders that can make a difference in the lives of the people.

Being good has several great points. As someone had said, all those who are good have the fewest fears, but they have one great fear of doing anything wrong!

A great man who is good will never show his importance to others. His humility is such that he is always willing 'to be little'. Such people want nothing but the people's love; and, for that, they seek the truth all the time. They are always on the lookout for the road to happiness for self and others. They know that unless they are happy, they can't make others happy!

Great and good men are of very few words as they know more of action than anything else. Their actions speak for them, and they are loved and admired by the people.

A good and great man has some characteristics that others lack: They are honest, have value for time, don't complain, stay positive and are hopeful.

Their biggest plus point: Love for and from people!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

**In Conversation with
Pramod Kumar Jain, IAS (Retd), Chairman New District Committee**

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Brief us about the New District Committee.

In pursuit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a developed and prosperous Ladakh, the Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to create five new districts in the Union Territory.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stated that this historic decision to strengthen administration by establishing the new districts—Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang—will enable local residents to access government schemes more effectively and benefit from them at their doorstep.

Along with granting "in-principle approval" for the formation of these five new districts, the New District Committee was established on September 25, 2024. This five-member committee is tasked with assessing various aspects related to the formation of the new districts, including headquarters, boundaries, structural organization, and the creation of posts.

The committee is expected to submit its report within three months. Upon receiving the report, the Union Territory of Ladakh will prepare a final proposal regarding the creation of the new districts based on the committee's findings and submit it to the Home Ministry for further action.

Q. The committee visited Zaskar and the Changthang region and interacted with various stakeholders. Tell us about your visit.

The demand for district status has been a long-standing aspiration of the people in the Zaskar and Changthang regions, primarily due to their geographical challenges and connectivity issues. The desire for good governance at the doorstep stems from the hardships these communities face. In this context, the announcement of district status for this region is one of the most significant decisions made by the government. We witnessed the enthusiasm and happiness among the people regarding this decision, as they view it as a major achievement in their lives.

During our interactions with the residents of Zaskar and Changthang, we specifically engaged with local representatives, including current and former councillors, Sarpanches, Nambardars, and various civil society groups. The purpose of these meetings was to gather local perspectives to enhance governance and improve service accessibility in remote areas. We aimed to solicit suggestions, grievances,



and feedback from individuals across all walks of life to gain a comprehensive understanding of their needs and aspirations.

The committee is committed to conducting a thorough study of their concerns and will carefully consider all feedback received to ensure we do justice to the people's aspirations in our work.

Q. Considering that Ladakh shares two international boundaries, how is the committee addressing border security and the needs and aspirations of the people living in these border areas while demarcating the boundaries of the new districts?

We are taking into account the needs, aspirations, grievances, and expectations of the local population, whether related to boundary demarcation, security, civil administration concerns, or any other issues. Our committee will thoroughly examine and consider factors that directly or indirectly impact the lives of the people in these border areas.

The boundary demarcation of the new districts will be determined transparently, considering all aspects such as area, demographics, distances, and geographical and cultural factors. Our sole purpose is to enhance the lives of the people, improve administration, and ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

Q. There is an ongoing border dispute in areas around Shinku La between Himachal Pradesh and UT Ladakh. How is the committee addressing this dispute while demarcating the boundaries of Zaskar district?

The border dispute at Shinku La is an interstate boundary issue. It requires the UT Ladakh and the State of Himachal Pradesh to engage in dialogue and work towards a resolution. While the committee's primary role is to demarcate inter-district boundaries, we will certainly highlight this issue in our report.

Q. Since we have two Hill Councils, one each for Leh and Kargil, how will the Hill Councils function after the creation of the new districts? Will the existing Hill Councils be empowered, changed, or will new Hill Councils be established in each district?

The future structure and function of the Hill Councils in Leh and Kargil are crucial topics of discussion as we move forward with the creation of new districts in Ladakh. We are actively engaging

MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“The committee is touring all the proposed districts, and we encourage the public to submit their memoranda, suggestions, feedback, and grievances via email or letters. This input will help us compile a concrete and people-friendly set of recommendations.”

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, LAHDC Leh with Union Home Minister, Amit Shah at his residence in Delhi.



The Health and Family Welfare Department, Leh, under the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE), celebrated the International Day of Older Persons at Sonam Norboo Memorial (SNM) Hospital. The event focused on the theme "Ageing with Dignity" and included a multispeciality health camp providing senior citizens with essential medical care.



The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench, conducted its third circuit sitting at the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center, Melongthang, Leh. R.S. Dogra (Member Judicial) and Ram Mohan Johri (Member Adm) were welcomed by Shashi Kant Bhagat, Secretary of Law and Justice, along with other law officials of the Union Territory of Ladakh.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) met Union Minister of Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, and discussed several education-related issues concerning the students and staff of schools and colleges of Ladakh.



Druk Padma Karpo School ranked India's top schools in the Education World India School Rankings (EWISR) 2024-25.



Directorate of Mission Shakti (Social and Tribal Welfare) in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GoI today conducted Training of Trainer's program on Transgender Identities and Inclusion at DIET Kargil.



Brigadier Rinchen Dorje, VSM, has made history by becoming the first Ladakhi to attain the prestigious rank of Brigadier in the Indian Army.



Kaksar Bridge renamed to Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu, in honor of Capt. Amit Bhardwaj, who sacrificed his life during the Kargil War.

Fortnightly News

Kargil introduces first-ever Arabic textbook for Government schools



During the release of the first-ever Arabic textbook for government schools.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, released the first-ever Arabic textbook for Classes 1 to 8 in government schools during a ceremony held at the Conference Hall in Baroo.

Executive Councillor Aga Syed Mujtaba, Deputy Commissioner and CEO of LAHDC Kargil Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, various councilors, Chief Education Officer Kargil, Principal DIET Dr. Abdul Aziz, Arabic teachers, representatives of religious organizations, and other officials attended the event.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Akhooon expressed his gratitude to Dr. Abdul Aziz and his team for their efforts in compiling the textbooks, calling it a historic moment for Ladakh. He emphasized the vast potential of the Arabic language, particularly in offering employment opportunities in fields such as adventure tourism, medical tourism, translation, and more. Dr. Akhooon highlighted Arabic's strategic importance, noting its widespread use across Middle Eastern countries. He emphasized that learning the language could strengthen ties between Kargil and the Middle East.

He also stressed that Arabic should not be viewed solely through a religious lens but appreciated as a global, sweet-sounding language. The new textbooks, he noted, would benefit students and others interested in learning the language.

In his address, the CEC mentioned that a committee has approached the UT Government and the Government of India to advocate for the hiring of Arabic teachers under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, similar to the recruitment patterns for Boti, Hindi, and Urdu teachers.

CHC Sankoo awarded National Quality Assurance Standards certification



Staffs of Community Health Centre (CHC) Sankoo.

Mansoor Hosain Beigh

SANKOO: The Community Health Centre (CHC) Sankoo in Kargil has been awarded the prestigious National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) Certification by the National Health Systems Resource Centre, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India on October 19.

This recognition underscores CHC Sankoo's dedication to delivering high-quality healthcare, upholding patient rights, and fostering community health awareness.

CHC Sankoo is the first healthcare facility in Kargil district

to achieve this certification, a notable accomplishment for the region. The certification was granted following a comprehensive external assessment conducted by empaneled assessors starting on September 26, 2022. The evaluation covered all 12 departments of the facility, assessing various aspects of healthcare delivery, infrastructure, and compliance with national quality benchmarks.

CHC Sankoo excelled in the external assessment, securing a top score of 97.52%, the highest among two public health facilities in the Union Territory of Ladakh for 2023. This

achievement is a testament to the center's commitment to maintaining exemplary standards in cleanliness and infection control.

Dr. Zahida Khatoon, Block Medical Officer at CHC Sankoo, expressed her deep gratitude to the doctors, paramedical staff, and housekeeping team for their dedication and hard work, which played a vital role in earning this prestigious certification. Their collective efforts have significantly elevated the quality of care provided at the facility.

First consignment of Kargil's Karkitchoo Apples exported to Dubai



Flagging off the first consignment of Karkitchoo apples for export to Dubai from Rangyul Organic Producer Company Ltd cold storage unit in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, flagged off the first consignment of Karkitchoo apples for export to Dubai on October 26 from Rangyul Organic Producer Company Ltd cold storage unit in Kargil.

This one-metric-ton consignment was coordinated by Rangyul Organic Producer Company Ltd. (ROPCL), a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) in Kargil, with support from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APE-DA) and the Lulu Group.

Councillor Shargole Mohd Javed, Chief Horticulture Of-

ficer Haji Mohd Zaffar, Accounts Officer of RDD Sajjad Hussain, CEO of ROPCL Ahmad Ali, along with district officers, farmers, and other dignitaries were present.

In his address, Dr. Akhooon praised ROPCL for its commitment to promoting Kargil's organic produce on both national and international platforms. He emphasized the role of organic farming in boosting local farmers' incomes and encouraged them to adopt sustainable, profit-oriented practices. The CEC also stressed the importance of maintaining high product quality to establish "Brand Kargil" in global markets.

Dr. Akhooon assured ROPCL of his support in providing a

refrigerated van to strengthen Kargil's cold chain infrastructure, enhancing market access for its organic products. He noted that several areas in Kargil have been certified organic by SSOCA and expressed optimism about future certifications that would further bolster Kargil's position in the organic market.

ROPCL CEO Ahmad Ali shared that this initiative marks the company's second export effort, following successful exports of lilies and apricots. He expressed hope that the unique Karkitchoo apples will resonate with international consumers, helping to put Kargil on the map for high-quality organic produce.

In Conversation with Pramod Kumar Jain, IAS (Retd), Chairman New District

...Continuity of page 5

with various stakeholders, including local leaders, community representatives, and residents, to gather diverse opinions and suggestions on this matter.

Currently, there are several proposals on the table such as amendment of the existing LAHDC Act, establishing regional councils, forming a single UT council and creating new district councils.

Our committee is committed to thoroughly evaluating all these suggestions. We aim to develop a solution that not only addresses the administrative needs of the new districts but also empowers local communities and enhances governance. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that the voices of the people are heard and that we create a framework that is sustainable, effective, and responsive to the aspirations of the residents of Ladakh.

Q. There are rising concerns regarding the establishment of district headquarters in the newly proposed districts. What do you have to say about this?

We fully acknowledge the concerns expressed by the community regarding the establishment of district headquarters in the newly proposed districts. It is vital for people to voice their views and opinions, and it is our responsibility to listen to all perspectives and seek solutions that serve the best interests of all stakeholders involved.

When considering the location for district headquarters, there are several critical factors to evaluate. These include existing infrastructure, accessibility, geographic location, and the overall area's demographics. We must also assess the specific needs of the region and identify what is lacking in terms of development and services.

Our approach will be comprehensive and collaborative, ensuring that all relevant aspects are thoroughly examined. The final decision regarding the location of district headquarters will be made with careful consideration of these factors, aiming to promote effective governance, service delivery, and community well-being in the new districts.

Q. How do you see the role of the Hill Council in this process?

I am very optimistic about the cooperation and support of the Hill Council in this process. We have yet to meet with them to discuss, but I believe their involvement will be crucial in ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the local communities are effectively addressed.

Q. What are the committee's further plans?

The committee plans to visit the Drass, Nubra, and Sham areas to continue our engagement with local communities. In the meantime, we have met with the Lieutenant Governor to seek his guidance and advice, as well as with key officials, including the Advisor, ADGP, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, and Heads of Departments, to gather diverse opinions and feedback.

We are also interacting with individuals from various backgrounds, including civil society representatives, NGOs, and media personnel. Our goal is to understand the unique perspectives of these stakeholders and to frame a concrete, reliable, and people-friendly solution that addresses the needs and aspirations of the local population.

Advisor Ladakh reviews posts apportionment and school bus accident response



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to UT Ladakh, chaired a meeting to review the action taken by concerned departments regarding the tragic school bus accident at Durbuk, Leh, on August 22, 2023, which resulted in seven deaths and 21 injuries. The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat

Leh, focused on initiatives aimed at submitting a comprehensive report to the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety.

Advisor Kotwal emphasized the importance of installing real-time speed detectors to monitor vehicle speeds and directed

officials to ensure their installation by December 30. He stressed the need to improve accident-prone areas, install camera surveillance, and adopt strict measures against traffic rule violators to reduce accidents in UT Ladakh.

In a separate session, Dr. Kotwal also reviewed the action taken report from a meeting held on July 21, 2023, chaired by the Union Home Secretary. The focus of this meeting was the ongoing apportionment issues between UT Ladakh and UT Jammu & Kashmir.

Michael D'Souza, Administrative Secretary of the General Administration Department, delivered a detailed presentation covering key apportionment issues, including posts, assets, liabilities, manpower requirements, and employees of corporations and autonomous bodies working in UT

Ladakh. During the meeting, it was confirmed that the apportionment of posts had been completed, with 14,686 employees apportioned to UT Ladakh.

These discussions, ongoing since Ladakh's separation from J&K as a Union Territory in 2019, highlight the importance of cooperation and collaboration between the two UTs to resolve pending issues and streamline administrative processes.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar; Director General of Police, UT Ladakh; Commissioner/Secretary PDM, Social and Tribal Welfare, and Health Departments; District Magistrate Leh; SSP Leh; SSP Traffic Leh; Director Finance, and other officials. District Magistrate Kargil and other officials joined the meeting virtually.

NOTICE

Whereas Tsewang Mingur F/o Stanzin Ladol R/o Nang Leh UT Ladakh has lost the Birth Certificate of his daughter which is issued by Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh with Registration No. 5436. Now he has applied for issuance of duplicate Birth Certificate in lieu of lost documents. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office of Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh within 7 days from date of publication failing which new Birth Certificate will be issued accordingly.

Registrar Birth & Death,
Municipal Committee Leh

NOTICE

No 9925011F Rank Hav Nawang Dorjey Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his daughter namely Jigmet Yangskit's Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 05-07-2007 instead of correct Date of Birth 13-08-2008 in the Army record of, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07611177333300W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

Whereas, Phuntsog Namgyal F/o Rigzen Gurmet bearing Roll No. 14271026 has claimed that his son Rigzen Gurmet's mother name has been wrongly entered as Sonam Yangzbs instead of correct and actual name Sonam Yangzes in his school record of Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi.

Whereas the Father of the candidate has produced an Affidavit duly attested by Executive Magistrate 1st Class 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 to Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi office within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

NOTICE

Whereas Stanzin Chinba F/o Stanzin Zadol R/o Leh UT Ladakh has lost the Birth Certificate of his daughter which is issued by Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh with Registration No. 3553 and Date of Birth 16-03-2018. Now he has applied for issuance of duplicate Birth Certificate in lieu of lost documents. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office of Registrar Birth & Death, Municipal Committee Leh within 7 days from date of publication failing which new Birth Certificate will be issued accordingly.

Registrar Birth & Death,
Municipal Committee Leh

Fortnightly News

Col. (Retd) Nima and Goba meet Lt Governor to discuss land for war widow and memorial at War Heroes Colony



Director of the Sainik Welfare Department and Secretary of the Rajya Sainik Board Ladakh, Colonel (Retd) Lobzang Neema, along with Goba of War Heroes Colony with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Director of the Sainik Welfare Department and Secretary of the Rajya Sainik Board Ladakh, Colonel (Retd) Lobzang Neema, along with Goba of War Heroes Colony, Tsephel, met with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on October 22. They discussed the allotment of land for Nyima Lamo, widow of the late Nyima Tenzing.

Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar, Commissioner/Secretary to the LG Dr. L Franklin, Secretary Vikram Malik, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Leh, Shabbir Hussain, were also present during the meeting.

Col. Neema informed the LG about Nyima Lamo's request for land allotment in Agling. Currently, she resides in rented accommodation with her three children. He noted that her husband, Nyima Tenzing, sacrificed his life during the Galwan clash while fighting enemy forces.

Col. Neema also brought to the LG's attention the land allotted to war widows and veer naris at the War Heroes Colony.

Additionally, Goba Tsephel requested the establishment of a War Memorial at the War Heroes Colony and land allotment for the daughter of a Veer Chakra recipient. The LG emphasized the importance of creating a policy for the allotment

of land to veer naris and war widows through a Board of Officers, which will be constituted by the Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD), UT Ladakh, within three weeks. He assured that the requests of deserving veer naris and war widows whose kin died serving the nation would be considered once the policy is in place.

Furthermore, the LG highlighted the need to identify a suitable location for a War Memorial, which would include a plaque honoring the martyrs. The memorial should be in a central area with ample parking space, allowing people to visit and pay tribute to the fallen heroes.

Over 100 athletes shine at 3rd UT Ladakh Taekwondo championship in Kargil



Athletes during the 3rd UT Ladakh Taekwondo Championship in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Over 100 athletes from Leh and Kargil showcased exceptional skills in the Kyorugi and Poomsae categories during the 3rd UT Ladakh Taekwondo Championship. Organized by the Ladakh Taekwondo Association (LTA), the event concluded at the Badminton Hall in Baroo, Kargil, on October 27.

Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, served as the chief guest, while Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports UT Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi, was the guest of honor. Advocate Khadim Hussain, Councillor of Baroo, attended as the special guest. Other dignitaries included LTA President Gulzar Hussain Munshi, LTA General Secretary Anayat Ali, SAI Centre Kargil In-charge Ghulam Mustafa, SAI Coach Parveen, along with parents, members, and players of the association.

CEC Dr. Akhoo praised the efforts of the Ladakh Taekwondo Association in organizing this large-scale event and commended its achievements on national and international platforms. He emphasized that promoting sports is a top priority, which is why he retained

the sports portfolio with in LAHDC Kargil.

Dr. Akhoo announced the recent sanctioning of the Ladakh Sports Council Headquarters for Kargil, reflecting the administration's commitment to developing sports in the region. He also shared that funds have been approved for the completion of an international-level, all-weather ice hockey rink in Kargil.

In a significant gesture of support, Dr. Akhoo announced a grant of ₹3 lakh for procuring international-standard Taekwondo mats for the LTA. He further revealed that LAHDC Kargil has allocated ₹5 crore for constructing a hostel for specially-abled children and presented a Taekwondo uniform to a specially-abled athlete on behalf of the association.

Tahir Hussain Zubdavi commended the achievements of LTA athletes and assured continued support from the UT Administration. He emphasized the focus on developing sports infrastructure and athlete support to help Ladakh athletes excel on national and international platforms.

President of LTA, Gulzar Hussain Munshi, submitted a memorandum to the

chief guest requesting key support for the association. This included a dedicated Taekwondo training hall in Kargil to provide athletes with a specialized facility for focused training and event hosting, enhanced infrastructure and equipment support, and financial assistance for national and international competitions.

Munshi also highlighted that the association will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year, marking the occasion with a grand event to honor its long-standing achievements at the national level.

The chief guest, guest of honor, and other dignitaries distributed medals, mementos, and certificates among players and members.

The 3rd UT Ladakh Taekwondo Championship not only showcased the athletic potential in Ladakh but also underscored the need for infrastructure and support to empower local athletes further. The closing ceremony concluded with a promise of future developments, leaving athletes and supporters hopeful for a strengthened Taekwondo presence in the region.

Friends Chiktan wins Captain Vikram Batra Memorial Cricket tournament in Kargil



Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo interacting with the players.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Friends Chiktan triumphed over Sheena Kings Eleven Karkit Budgam in the final of the Veer Balidaani Captain Vikram Batra Memorial Cricket Tournament, held on October 22 at the Biamathang playfield.

The tournament, organized by Skarchan Sports Club Latoo in collaboration with the Indian Army, saw Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, as the chief guest for the final match.

The event was also attended by the Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Administrative Incharge of Kargil Campus UoL, Councillor of Chuli-Skambo Constituency, Councillor of Taisuru, Deputy Commander 121

Infantry Brigade, officers from the Indian Army, other dignitaries, and a large number of cricket enthusiasts.

In his address, Dr. Akhoo congratulated both the organizers and the teams for their efforts in making the tournament a success. He praised the performances of the winners, Friends Chiktan, and the runner-up team, Budgam, urging the youth to draw inspiration from the sportsmanship and dedication displayed on the field. He emphasized the importance of sports as a tool for both personal and physical development.

Dr. Akhoo also expressed his hopes to fulfill the long-standing demand for laying artificial

grass at the Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium, Biamathang playfield, during his tenure.

Reaffirming LAHDC Kargil's commitment to supporting the youth and promoting sports as part of a healthy lifestyle, the CEC announced a grant of ₹3 lakh from the United Fund to Skarchan Sports Club Latoo for purchasing sports equipment. He further announced ₹2 lakh each to the winning and runner-up teams for similar purposes, while also sharing details of upcoming winter sports initiatives.

Councillor Taisuru also addressed the gathering, commending Skarchan Sports Club Latoo for their efforts in organizing the tournament.

1st UT Ladakh Boxing championship concludes at SAI training centre, Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The first-ever UT Ladakh Boxing Championship concluded successfully at the SAI Training Centre in Kargil on October 15, with around 100 athletes from both Kargil and Leh districts participating in the three-day event.

Organised by the Ladakh Amateur Boxing Association, the championship culminated in a grand closing ceremony, where the winners were honored for their outstanding performances.

CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, praised the Ladakh Boxing Association for their efforts in organizing the region's first boxing championship and expressed pride in the accomplishments of local athletes. Dr. Akhoo emphasized the role of LAHDC Kargil in supporting sports associations and advancing the promotion and development of sports in the region.

He also acknowledged Secretary General Tenzing Chogyal, an international referee and NTO official at the Women's World Boxing Championship, for his contributions to the sport. Dr. Akhoo further expressed pride in the growing success of Ladakh's young athletes on the national stage.

"The sports sector has witnessed significant development in Ladakh since its transition to Union Territory status, especially in Kargil, where our athletes have excelled at both national and international levels," said Dr. Akhoo. "LAHDC Kargil remains committed to addressing the challenges faced by our athletes and improving sports infrastructure to support their growth."

Dr. Akhoo also highlighted several developmental projects initiated by LAHDC to enhance sports facilities in Kargil and ensure continued support for local athletes.

He extended his gratitude to the officials, including International Referee Himanshu Chowdhary from the Railway Sports Promotion Board, Pritam Singh from Sikkim, and John from Arunachal Pradesh, for their guidance in ensuring the championship's successful conclusion.

Prof. Nasir Shabani was the special guest at the event, along with prominent figures such as Haji Mirza Hussain, Haji Mohd Ali, Syed Mehraj Uddin Shah, Anayat Ali Shotopa, and international sports player Sajjad Ali, who represented various sports associations from UT Ladakh.

During the closing ceremony, medals were awarded to the winners, while mementos were presented to participants, guests, and media personnel. Notably, the "Most Promising Player" awards were presented to Willayat Ali (male) and Nusrat Fatima (female), both from the remote village of Parkachik in Kargil, for their exceptional skills and potential throughout the tournament.

Tenzing Chogyal, General Secretary of the Ladakh Amateur Boxing Association, hailed the inaugural championship as a significant milestone for boxing in Ladakh. He emphasized that the event provided a platform for athletes to showcase their talent at both national and international levels.

Chogyal also expressed gratitude to the SAI Training Centre in Kargil, particularly Executive Director SAI Manjushree Dayandand, for facilitating the smooth execution of the championship. He extended his thanks to Ghulam Mustafa, in-charge of SAI Kargil, along with Mohd Ali, Sadiq Ali, Ghulam Abass, Dr. Ghulam and his medical team, the police, and other supporting departments.

Income Tax department hosts awareness drive for residents and businesses in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Income Tax Department of UT J&K and Ladakh, led by Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Amritsar, Lal Chand (IRS), along with Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, UT J&K and Ladakh, Vikram Sahay (IRS), and Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, UT J&K and Ladakh, Rahul Padha, organised an outreach programme on October 18 at the Conference Hall, DC Office, Leh.

Over 100 attendees participated in the event, including Lokesh Yadav, Income Tax Officer UT of J&K and Ladakh; Shruti Arora, SSP Leh; Shabir Hussain, ACR Leh; other officers, officials, and Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) from various government departments; and hoteliers, contractors, and business owners.

During the programme, participants were educated about various tax provisions, including the exemptions and deductions available under Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act, which provides specific benefits for residents of Ladakh.

Chief Commissioner Lal Chand emphasized that the purpose of the outreach was to address concerns and clarify any doubts related to income tax. He stated that the Income Tax Department aims to increase awareness about tax provisions and assist people in tax-related mat-

ters. The programme also covered key information for DDOs, including clarification of tax deduction procedures.

Joint Commissioner Rahul Padha highlighted common issues, such as outdated or unused email addresses, which can result in missed communications and significant tax deductions. He advised that emails used for verification must be kept current.

Principal Commissioner Vikram Sahay urged stakeholders to update their email addresses with their banks to ensure they receive important tax-related communications. He also announced that the TDS Division of the department would organize a workshop for DDOs and other stakeholders to address TDS-related issues specific to Ladakh.

During the interactive session, participants raised concerns regarding availing benefits under Section 10(26), tax deductions during official postings outside Ladakh, pension-related tax issues, and other tax matters. These questions were addressed by the attending officers.

This outreach programme is part of the Income Tax Department's broader initiative to engage with stakeholders, enhance taxpayer services, and promote voluntary tax compliance.

Kargil stakeholders discuss redevelopment of historic old bazaar and Silk Route



Stakeholders meeting regarding the redevelopment of the Old Bazaar and Silk Route in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A stakeholders meeting regarding the redevelopment of the Old Bazaar and Silk Route in Kargil was held at TFC Kargil on October 25.

The initiative aims to transform the centuries-old heritage site into a prominent tourist destination. Attendees included the CEO of KDA, the AO of KDA, the XEN of KDA, the president of the Ready-Made Garment and Footwear Association of Kargil, consultants from NEEDS (the architectural consultancy for the project), contractors, traders, shopkeepers, and other concerned stakeholders.

The meeting focused on strategies and action plans for the heritage conservation of Old Bazaar Kargil. Consultants presented updates on current project developments and solicited insights and suggestions from stakeholders.

Plans for the historic Old

Bazaar were outlined, including proposed designs for streets, plazas, public conveniences, drainage, and shop renovations. The consultants reported having conducted a thorough survey of each shop included in the redevelopment project.

Addressing concerns from traders and shopkeepers about potential business disruptions during renovations, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) directed contractors to ensure that renovations proceed in phases, with each shop completed within 15 days. He emphasized that any delays would necessitate compensation for business losses.

The president and other shopkeepers agreed to temporarily close their businesses for 15 days to facilitate the work, while also demanding compensation in the event of delays.

NOTICE

Whereas, Wangzes Dolma D/o Nawang Dorje R/o Basgo, Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that her name has been wrongly entered as Wangzis Dolma instead of correct and actual name Wangzes Dolma in the service record of her father Nawang Dorje, No.99250115 Rank Hav Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07636769160466W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Buddhist pilgrimage tour



20 days Buddhist pilgrimage itinerary for Bodhgaya, coinciding with the

Monlam Chenmo (Great Prayer Festival)

in December:



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Hotel Mountain Vibes where indulgence meets serenity, and every moment is an enchanting escape. Nestled in the heart of Leh city, our newly launched hotel stands as a beacon of luxury and comfort, inviting you to experience a stay like no other.

It is 500 metres far from the airport and 2km from the main bazaar. It is located in the heart of Skara village, away from the hustle bustle of the city yet it is 10 mins drive from the main bazaar. It provides ultimate comfort, tranquility and convenience at an affordable price.

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