

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with

Ashraf Ali Barcha, President, Anjuman Imamia, Leh

Expert Talk:

Empowering persons with disabilities: Progress and challenges in Ladakh

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Plastic waste to pave roads: Ladakh's new sustainability initiative

HUDD Ladakh and Project Himank sign MoU to combat plastic waste in Leh

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The growing issue of plastic waste in Ladakh is becoming a pressing environmental concern. The region's delicate ecosystem is under strain due to unplanned urbanization and increasing tourism, which have significantly escalated waste production. Leh town alone generates approximately 14 to 15 metric tonnes of waste daily, of which 40% is wet waste, and 60% is dry, much of it non-biodegradable plastic.



Segregation workers at Solid waste management plant in Skampari, La Sermo.

In a significant move to tackle plastic waste, the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD) of Ladakh and Project Himank (BRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on November 16. The agreement focuses on repurposing plastic waste for road construction, an innovative approach that addresses both environmental and infrastructural needs in the region.

The MoU, valid for three years, was signed at the Himank Headquarters by Sudeep Mishra, Officiating Chief Engineer of Project Himank, and Moses Kunzang, Director of Urban Local Bodies (ULB), representing HUDD Ladakh. This initiative aligns with Ladakh's broader goals of promoting sustainability while generating economic opportunities for the local community. The initiative seeks to repurpose non-biodegradable plastic waste, reduce pollution,

and create economic opportunities. Highlighting the importance of the MoU, Moses Kunzang stated, "The primary objective of the MoU is to address the plastic waste issue and ensure its scientific disposal. We will shred plastics like Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE) and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) to supply them to BRO, adhering to their specifications."

Initially, the project will supply 2 metric tonnes of shredded plastic waste, sized 5.2 mm or less, for use in road construction. Additional quantities may be procured based on feedback from the first phase.

Current waste management in Leh

At present, waste generated in Leh town is collected by the Municipal Committee

(MC) Leh and transported to the Solid Waste Management Plant located at Skampari, La Sermo. Here, waste is segregated into recyclable and non-recyclable components.

Tswang Dorjay, Manager of the Solid Waste Segregation Plant, shared insights into the facility's operations. The plant employs 12 segregation workers, one driver, and one manager. Recyclable materials are sorted and sent to designated recycling facilities both within and outside Ladakh.

However, Dorjay emphasized the importance of community involvement in waste management. "We urge the public to minimize garbage production and segregate waste at the household level. Proper segregation at the source greatly simplifies the process at the plant," he said.

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Bridging gaps: The role of Chuchot Yokma's Inclusive School in empowering differently-abled students

Nenzen Chodon

LEH: Not long ago, persons with disabilities faced discrimination, often stripped of basic rights, and in some tragic instances, denied the right to live. For centuries, society struggled to accept disability, and it took a long time for attitudes to shift. While there are still places where individuals with disabilities face exclusion, larger societies have started recognizing their struggles and advocating for change.

In India, to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and provide equal opportunities, the government passed The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act in 1995. Today, various centrally sponsored schemes benefit differently-abled individuals, schools are becoming more inclusive, infrastructure is being made disabled-friendly, and the government provides counseling, therapy, assistive devices, and other forms of assistance.

Negative perceptions of disability are gradually evolving among parents and families, who are beginning to accept and fight for the rights and opportunities of their children.

In line with these efforts, Government High Secondary School or Inclusive School, Chuchot Yokma, Leh-Ladakh, has been successfully



running for nearly 15 years, providing education to 93 students, 34 of whom are differently-abled, including 4 receiving online classes. The school ensures that students with intellectual disabilities, hearing impairments, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy receive their right to education.

The school is committed to ensuring that children with special needs, such as those with intellectual disabilities, hearing impairments, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy, have access to their right to education. According to the teachers at the school, awareness campaigns and parental counseling organized by the Education Department have led to an increase in admissions.

There are also success stories emerging from the school. Two students with hearing impairments have completed their studies, and one is now

working as a government employee. For students with intellectual disabilities, vocational training is a key focus, and self-dependence is seen as a significant achievement for both students and teachers. A student who becomes self-reliant through vocational education is seen as a significant success by the school's teachers.

Teachers also emphasize the advantages of inclusive schooling over separate institutions for children with special needs. The activities conducted at the school promote social interaction, which in turn helps students develop important social skills. Before academic work begins, the school prioritizes social skills development. Special educators have noted that patience is essential when working with students, as some may take months to adjust to the school environment. Even small progress in

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Fortnightly News

ALGA hosts conference on Pali language and Buddhism, celebrates PM Modi's support



His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche addressing the gathering during the one-day conference on the Pali language and Buddhism.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A one-day conference on the Pali language and Buddhism was organized by the All Ladakh Gopa Association (ALGA) at the Zen Hotel on November 27.

His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The conference was attended by several prominent figures, including President of LBA Chering Dorje Lakrook, President of ALGA Ven. Tsering Wangdu, National General Secretary of BJP Tarun Chugh, Founder of Mahabodhi International Ven. Sanghasena, Ven. Thupstan Paldan, Geshe Jamyang, EC Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, EC Stanzin Chosphe, Dr. Anil Ganguly, Former MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Former CEC Gyal P Wangial, Vice President of LBA Rigzen Dorje, Vice President

of LBA Women Dr. Kunzes Dolma, President of Youth Wing LBA Jigmet Rafstan, President of BJP Ladakh Phuntsog Stanzin, Vice President Dorje Angchuk, eminent scholars, and venerable monks from various monasteries.

His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for recognizing Pali as a Classical Language. He highlighted PM Modi's significant contributions to preserving and promoting Buddhist teachings and philosophy in India. Rinpoche also requested the inclusion of the Bhoti language in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson expressed his heartfelt gratitude to PM Modi for granting Classical Language status to Pali and con-

gratulated ALGA for organizing the conference. He called the recognition of Pali a landmark achievement and praised PM Modi's ongoing efforts over the past decade to promote Buddhist philosophy and teachings in the country.

Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary of BJP, congratulated ALGA for organizing the conference to thank Prime Minister Modi for the inclusion of Pali as a Classical Language. He emphasized the universal message of peace and non-violence propagated by Lord Buddha and acknowledged PM Modi's efforts to spread Buddhist philosophy globally. Chugh urged everyone to continue sharing Lord Buddha's message of peace and non-violence in today's world.

Dr. Anil Ganguly, in his speech, thanked the organizers for the

successful event and spoke on Lord Buddha's teachings and PM Modi's dedication to preserving Buddhist heritage in India.

Chering Dorje Lakrook, President of LBA, expressed his gratitude to PM Modi for recognizing Pali as a Classical Language and thanked CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson for his support in the event. He also commended ALGA for organizing the event and emphasized the importance of strengthening ties between India and Southeast Asia to promote Pali. Lakrook assured LBA's support for the recognition and promotion of Pali in the region.

Ven. Thupstan Paldan elaborated on the origins and importance of Pali, describing it as a foundational language of Buddhism, written in regional scripts.

During the event, His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche, on behalf of ALGA, presented an appreciation letter to PM Narendra Modi, conveyed through Tarun Chugh, for recognizing Pali as a Classical Language.

Additionally, a memorandum was submitted to PM Modi via Chugh, requesting the inclusion of Bhoti in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

His Eminence also submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Culture, requesting the display of Buddha's Holy Relics, currently housed in the National Museum in New Delhi, during ALGA's Diamond Jubilee celebrations scheduled for May 2025 in Leh.

Plastic waste to pave roads: Ladakh's new sustainability initiative

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Impact of the Initiative

This collaboration marks a significant step toward addressing Ladakh's waste crisis. The initiative not only provides a sustainable solution for managing plastic waste but also strengthens local infrastructure by enhancing road quality. Using plastic in road construction reduces environmental pollution and improves the

lifespan and resilience of roads, especially in extreme weather conditions like those in Ladakh.

Moreover, the project aligns with Ladakh's vision of sustainable development, balancing ecological preservation with economic growth. The integration of waste management with infrastructure development also sets a precedent for

other regions to adopt similar innovative approaches.

By turning waste into a resource, this partnership between HUDD Ladakh and Project Himank exemplifies a proactive approach to addressing Ladakh's environmental challenges while paving the way for a more sustainable future.

Bridging gaps: The role of Chuchot Yokma's Inclusive School in empowering differently-abled students

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a student's behavior is celebrated as a success.

In addition to in-person classes, the school also offers online classes, complete with homework and exams, for four students with severe disabilities who require physiotherapy.

Despite these positive developments, challenges re-

main. According to CBSE guidelines, every school should have at least two special educators, but there is a significant shortage of such staff. The unavailability of special educators for the blind and a lack of sign language teachers are major issues in Leh. If these challenges are not addressed promptly, it could result in a denial of the fundamental

right to education for these students.

Inclusive School, Chuchot Yokma is playing a crucial role in transforming the educational landscape for children with disabilities in Leh-Ladakh, but further support is necessary to ensure these children can access their full educational potential.

Ladakh Education Conclave 2024 highlights holistic approach to education

Brings together experts, teachers, and students to discuss future of education



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) addressing the gathering during the Ladakh Education Conclave 2024.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The two-day Ladakh Education Conclave 2024, organised jointly by the Higher Education Department, School Education Department, and Ladakh Skill Development Mission, took place on November 22 and 23. The conclave aimed to unite policymakers, institutions, industry leaders, experts, teachers, students, and communities to collaborate on a holistic approach to education. The event focused on aligning school education, vocational skilling, and higher education with the National Education Policy 2020 and contemporary trends.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), graced the inaugural session of the Ladakh Education Conclave 2024 as the chief guest.

During his address, the LG expressed his pleasure in seeing dedicated panelists from across the country participating in the conclave. He highlighted two key issues: the attachment and detachment of teachers, and the directive for teachers to conduct remedial classes during the winter months to benefit students. He emphasized the critical role of teachers as mentors in shaping students' character, personality, and citizenship qualities for the betterment of the region and the nation.

The LG reiterated that education must be student-centric, and stressed

society's expectation for teachers to dedicate themselves to their students. He also reflected on India's educational heritage, the systemic transmission of cultural and traditional knowledge, and the evolution of education management post-independence. He encouraged teachers to foster leadership, innovation, and diversity in their students.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, remarked that the Ladakh Education Conclave provides an excellent platform to exchange best teaching practices, highlighting the role of education in shaping lives and nurturing the potential of every child. He addressed the challenges faced by students and teachers due to the adoption of the CBSE curriculum in government schools, but also recognized the opportunities it presents to enhance educational quality and prepare students for competitive exams. He suggested introducing localized content relevant to Ladakhi students, offering vocational courses, providing hostel facilities in remote areas, and employing subject-specific teachers.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, raised concerns regarding the student-teacher ratio, inadequate teaching staff, and low enrollment in government schools. He requested the Lieutenant Governor to make government schools more

functional, ensure the availability of adequate staff, and make smart classes and Atal Tinkering Labs operational. He also called for creating posts for computer teachers and effectively utilizing resources for school infrastructure development.

The conclave concluded on a high note with engaging presentations and dynamic discussions. Experts shared insights, recommendations, and findings based on the panel discussions from the previous day. Interactive Q&A sessions allowed participants to address queries, share suggestions, and exchange innovative ideas, fostering enthusiasm and collaboration among the diverse group of attendees.

Adding a cultural touch, students performed the traditional Jabroo dance, captivating the audience and celebrating Ladakh's rich heritage, blending education and culture.

Commissioner Secretary Padma Angmo extended her appreciation to all participants, contributors, and organizers, acknowledging their efforts in making the event a success. She underscored the importance of such platforms in fostering innovation and progress in education.

The Ladakh Education Conclave 2024 has set a benchmark for collaboration and discussions, inspiring participants to drive positive change in education in the region.

Hill Council, Leh signs MoU with NCUI to develop and strengthen cooperative sector



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: LAHDC Leh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) on November 30, marking a significant milestone in the development and strengthening of the cooperative sector in Ladakh.

The MoU signing ceremony was attend-

ed by Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Executive Councillor, Stanzin Chosphe; Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; CEO, NCUI, Dr. Sudhir Mahajan; and officers from NCUI.

This collaboration aims to promote sustainable practices and improve livelihood op-

portunities for farmers, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), entrepreneurs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and cooperative societies in the region.

The partnership will focus on key areas such as training, skill development, exposure visits, market linkages, and providing comprehensive support. Special attention will be given to sectors including agriculture, horticulture, handloom, handicrafts, and animal and sheep husbandry.

By empowering local communities and enhancing their capacity to adopt sustainable practices, this initiative is expected to foster economic growth and self-reliance in Ladakh. It also seeks to improve access to markets and create opportunities for growth, contributing significantly to the region's overall development.

This MoU underscores the commitment of LAHDC Leh and NCUI to uplift Ladakh's cooperative sector and support its journey toward sustainable and inclusive progress.

Padma Dolkar receives Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar



CEC and other dignitaries cutting cake with Padma Dolkar to celebrate her achievement.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, attended a felicitation ceremony at Shenam Community Hall on November 27 to honor Padma

Dolkar, the recipient of the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar.

The event was graced by

Councillor Phunstog Nurboo, President of DCC Leh Rigzen Namgyal, Padma Shri awardees Morup Namgyal and Tsering Namgyal, President of Ladakh Theatre Organisation Mipham Otsal, Dorje Stakmo, Goba of Wanla village, local artists, and the relatives and friends of Padma Dolkar, among other prominent personalities.

CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson congratulated Padma Dolkar, her family, and friends on her remarkable achievement, extending his best wishes for her future endeavors. He emphasized that the youth of Ladakh possess immense potential to represent the region at the national level. He further noted that Padma Dol-

kar serves as an inspiration for young people in Ladakh to excel in their respective fields. Adv. Gyalson reiterated LAHDC Leh's commitment to supporting Padma Dolkar and other talented individuals, encouraging their growth and success in their respective domains.

During the ceremony, the CEC and other dignitaries felicitated Padma Dolkar and participated in a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate her achievement. In her address, Padma Dolkar shared her journey to receiving the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, and expressed her heartfelt gratitude to her mentors for their invaluable guidance and support.

L-G Ladakh raises budget concerns with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), met with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on November 26 to discuss the Government of India's decision to revise the budget allocation for the capital component to UT Ladakh for the Financial Year 2024-25.

The LG raised concerns about the potential impact of the budget revision on ongoing development projects, especially those funded by the Hill Councils, which could disrupt the region's overall development. He

requested the finance minister to maintain the current budget allocation to ensure the timely completion of crucial projects. The finance minister assured the LG that the matter would be looked into.

In addition to meeting with the Finance Minister, Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra also had discussions with Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju. The LG brought up several issues related to minority affairs affecting the people of Ladakh, including the availability of scholarships for Ladakhi students.

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Fortnightly News

Advisor Ladakh calls for fire lines to protect and promote sea buckthorn



Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal chairing a meeting on the "Constitution of UT-Level Sea Buckthorn Mission" at the Civil Secretariat, district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting on the "Constitution of UT-Level Sea Buckthorn Mission" at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on November 27, emphasizing the need for fire lines to preserve and promote the valuable Sea Buckthorn crop.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary for Agriculture and Horticulture, Lalitkuma Franklin, presented a comprehensive PowerPoint briefing on Sea Buckthorn cultivation in Ladakh. The presentation highlighted key aspects of UT schemes such as Special Development Packages (SDP) and the CSS scheme, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

Discussions revolved

around adopting modern techniques and methods to enhance Sea Buckthorn harvesting, the achievements of current schemes, and the challenges in implementation. The meeting revealed that Ladakh annually harvests 5-6% of its Sea Buckthorn crop, with 666 metric tons (MT) collected in 2024 and 315 MT in 2023.

Recognizing its economic and medicinal significance, Dr. Kotwal directed officials to establish fire lines at the earliest to safeguard Sea Buckthorn plants. He also stressed encouraging farmers in Ladakh to cultivate Sea Buckthorn and instructed the District Magistrates of Leh and Kargil to identify suitable land for establishing nurseries with favorable environmental conditions.

The Advisor further advocated introducing contract farming to formalize agreements between farmers and buyers, ensuring mutual benefits in production and marketing. Challenges faced by entrepreneurs and buyers in Sea Buckthorn processing, along with bottlenecks in harvesting tools and methods, were deliberated, with strategies suggested for resolution.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary of UT Ladakh, Commissioner Secretaries of Health and Medical Education, Agriculture and Horticulture, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, District Magistrate Leh, Director of Commerce and Industries, and other concerned officials. Director RDD and other officials joined the meeting virtually.

Union Minister Manohar Lal reviews power and housing sector in Ladakh



Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, reviewed the functioning of the power and housing departments of the Union Territory of Ladakh on November 21 during his three-day visit to the region.

The minister was briefed on the achievements and challenges faced by the departments, particularly due to Ladakh's tough terrain and extreme climate. Expressing satisfaction with their progress, he assured full support to address shortcomings and operational difficulties.

Speaking to the media, the minister emphasized the government's commitment to achieving 100% waste material processing in Ladakh. He was presented with a detailed project report on this initiative and highlighted efforts to improve the working conditions of Safai Mitras, ensuring occupational safety under the Ministry's directives.

He instructed officials to expedite the preparation

of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for water supply and sewage treatment plants (STPs) under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 in Leh and Kargil. Timely implementation of these projects, he noted, would significantly enhance the quality of life in the region.

The minister announced a survey to identify homeless individuals in Ladakh, ensuring they benefit from the PM Awas Yojana. He reiterated the Ministry's aim to eliminate homelessness in the region. Additionally, financial assistance under the PM Swanidhi Scheme has already been provided to street vendors, with efforts underway to include any overlooked beneficiaries.

Highlighting Ladakh's vast solar energy potential, Manohar Lal revealed ongoing work on a 13 GW solar power plant in the region. This project is expected to meet local energy needs while contributing to the national

power grid, addressing energy demands across the country.

The minister assured uninterrupted power supply during Ladakh's harsh winters, with additional demands being met through the Government of India's surplus energy quota. He also acknowledged manpower challenges in the Power Department and promised swift resolution.

Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, projects worth ₹1,080 crore have already been awarded, with work in progress. Plans to establish power supply and distribution lines to Nubra and Zaskar valleys are being expedited to address energy needs in these remote regions.

Manohar Lal reaffirmed the government's commitment to Ladakh's development, ensuring timely implementation of vital projects and overcoming existing challenges. He emphasized that these initiatives will not only enhance the region's infrastructure but also improve the living standards of its residents.

Diskit Angmo and Iftikar Hussain begin journey towards Paracycling nationals



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, flagged off two athletes, Diskit Angmo and Iftikar Hussain, for Paralympic training in Hyderabad.

They are accompanied by Padma Chuskit, Warden, and Mukhtar Ali, Liaison Officer.

The athletes will receive specialized para-cycling training under the guidance of the Aditya Mehta Foundation, preparing them for the upcoming Paracycling Nationals in Hyderabad.

The duo was selected through a rigorous screening and counseling process conducted earlier at

special schools for persons with disabilities.

This initiative is a pivotal step in the 2028 Paralympic Mission, a collaborative program launched by LAHDC, Leh, and the Aditya Mehta Foundation, aimed at nurturing talent for international competitions.

The council reaffirmed its commitment to empowering athletes with disabilities and enabling them to achieve excellence on the global stage.

LAHDC extended its best wishes to the athletes as they embark on this inspiring journey, representing Ladakh with pride and determination.

MP Ladakh reviews progress of KBR Airport, Leh, at Advisory committee meeting



MP Mohamad Haneefa Jan chairs the Airport Advisory Committee meeting for KBR Airport, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Member of Parliament (MP) Mohamad Haneefa Jan chaired a meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee for KBR Airport, Leh, on November 23 at the Conference Hall, DC Office, Leh, to review the progress and works of the new airport.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora; APD, AAL, KBR Airport Leh, Ramandeep Singh Saini; AOC, 21 Wing, IAF, Leh; GM Project Leh, A. Umankar; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh; station managers from Air India, SpiceJet, and Indigo Airlines; and representatives from the Hotel/Guest House Association, All Ladakh Tour Operators Association, and other stakeholders.

During the meeting, rep-

resentatives from the All Ladakh Hotel/Guest House Association and the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association presented various issues, including, expansion of bay capacity and additional bays during peak season, improved guest services and a proper waiting area for drivers and travel agents, enhanced sanitation and maintenance, particularly during winter, simplification of the tender process for local entrepreneurs, provision of adequate medical assistance for tourists and introduction of new technology to scan passports instead of requiring travelers to fill out Form C.

APD, AAL, Ramandeep Singh Saini, briefed attendees on steps taken to address these concerns and provided an update on discussions regarding Thoise Airport, involving the UT administration and

the Indian Air Force.

GM Project Leh, A. Umankar, presented a detailed status report on the new airport, highlighting that the project is targeted for completion by October 2025 but is expected to finish two months earlier, by August 2025.

AOC, 21 Wing, IAF, Leh, clarified the allocation of bays, noting that two bays are fully reserved for private aircraft, with a third bay available only for special requirements or emergencies.

The meeting witnessed active participation, with stakeholders contributing valuable suggestions and fostering collaboration. MP Mohamad Haneefa Jan expressed his intention to visit the airport site to personally assess the issues raised during the meeting.

ADC Leh conducts surprise inspections to monitor staff attendance

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Leh, Ghulam Mohd (JKAS), conducted surprise visits to various government offices in Leh to inspect staff attendance on November 29.

The ADC inspected several departments, including the Department of Information, Archives, BDO

Leh, Rural Engineering Wing (REW), Tehsildar Office, ICDS, Soil Conservation, Deputy CMO, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Command Area Development, and the Leh Development Authority.

During the inspections, the ADC emphasized punctuality and directed all concerned departments to install biometric attendance systems promptly.

Attendance registers and existing biometric attendance records were also reviewed to ensure compliance with attendance norms.

Highlighting the importance of discipline and accountability, the ADC instructed all departments to maintain regular and punctual attendance to enhance efficiency in public service delivery.

Ladakh's healthcare gets boost with new posts and expansion of SNM Hospital

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Government of India has approved the creation of 142 additional posts and the expansion of the 200-bedded SNM Hospital in Leh to a 350-bedded facility. Additionally, 103 new posts have been sanctioned for the upcoming Medical College in Leh.

Adv. Tashi Gyalson, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Leh, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister, and the

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra, for their instrumental efforts in securing these approvals.

He highlighted the crucial role played by the government in upgrading SNM Hospital and establishing the Medical College, both of which address critical needs in Ladakh.

Gyalson acknowledged the longstanding challenges faced by SNM Hospital, including increased patient loads and manpower shortages. He welcomed the expansion

and additional resources as a much-needed development.

He emphasized that the establishment of the Medical College and the sanctioning of new posts represent a significant milestone for Ladakh, not only improving healthcare facilities but also creating valuable employment opportunities for the region's youth.

This development marks a major step forward in enhancing healthcare and educational infrastructure in Ladakh, reflecting the government's commitment

Ladakh introduces e-Filing for consumer complaints via e-Daakhil portal



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd.), launched the e-Daakhil portal, an online platform for filing consumer complaints, at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on November 23.

The event was attended by CEC/Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; Executive Councillors and Councillors from LAHDC Kargil; Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal; Administrative Secretaries; and officials from the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

The launch marks a major step in digitising consumer grievance redressal in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Developed under the Consumer Protection Act 2019, which came into effect in July 2020, the e-Daakhil portal allows consumers to file complaints online with the Consumer Commissions in Ladakh. This innovative platform eliminates

the need for physical visits and enables seamless online payment of filing fees.

Officials from NIC provided a detailed presentation on the portal's functionalities and benefits.

Key features of the e-Daakhil portal:

- Online complaint filing: Consumers can submit complaints conveniently from home or office.
- Easy payment process: Simplified online payment of filing fees.
- Real-time complaint tracking: Consumers can monitor the status of their complaints online.
- Enhanced transparency and accountability: Ensures an efficient complaint redressal process.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the officials for their efforts, highlighting that the e-Daakhil portal would save consumers time, money, and energy while streamlining the grievance resolution process.

JTN submits memorandum to New Districts Committee, focuses on governance and inclusivity in Ladakh



Former MP, JTN during his meeting with New District Committee.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Former Member of Parliament (17th Lok Sabha), met with the New Districts Committee in Leh on November 23, where he submitted a detailed memorandum proposing administrative reforms tailored to Ladakh's unique social, economic, and geographical needs.

The memorandum outlines recommendations for restructuring administrative units, enhancing grassroots governance, and defining district boundaries to improve efficiency and inclusivity in Ladakh's governance.

The New Districts Committee, chaired by Pramod Kumar Jain, IAS (Retd.), includes members Kacho Asfandyar Khan, IAS (Retd.), Tsering Angchuk, IAS (Retd.), and the Deputy Commissioners of Leh and Kargil as ex-officio members. The committee's mandate is to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for Ladakh's administrative future.

Namgyal praised the committee's inclusive approach, noting its engagement with stakeholders across Leh and Kargil to ensure a participatory process. Namgyal expressed confidence that the committee's report will ensure fairness for all regions while aligning with national priorities.

This initiative marks a crucial step toward strengthening the governance framework for Ladakh, reflecting the region's aspirations while preserving its unique heritage and identity.

Ex-MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal also addressed three critical areas: Zaskar, Nubra, Changthang, Drass, Sham, Leh, and Kargil:

- 1. Administrative Restructuring:** Proposals for optimizing administrative units to ensure better governance.
- 2. Grassroots Governance:** Recommendations for enhancing inclusivity and local representation.
- 3. Boundary Demarcations:** Suggestions to define district boundaries in accordance with Ladakh's socio-cultural and geographical realities.

Namgyal also submitted supporting documents, including a 2020 file addressed to Home Minister Amit Shah and representations from various stakeholders expressing their concerns and aspirations for new districts.

The Former MP expressed gratitude to the Union Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Ladakh UT Administration, headed by Lt. Governor Brig. (Retd.) BD Mishra for initiating this transformative process. Namgyal expressed confidence that the committee's report will ensure fairness for all regions while aligning with national priorities.

This initiative marks a crucial step toward strengthening the governance framework for Ladakh, reflecting the region's aspirations while preserving its unique heritage and identity.

NOTICE



Whereas, Thupstan Chosdon D/o Ishey Gyaltsan R/o Saboo, Leh has claimed that her Adhaar No. name has been wrongly recorded as 313435168546 instead of the correct number which is 313465168546 in her Ladakh Resident Certificate bearing no. T-Leh/8469 (R) 22 duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh-Ladakh. Now, I am applying for the correction in my Ladakh Resident Certificate. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

An application has been received from Tundup Lhamo D/o Tsering Morup R/o Skurbuchan, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. LA02A-4380 for issuance of duplicate Registration Certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of the lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for the general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer ARTO within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

Expert Talk:

Empowering Persons with disabilities: Progress and challenges in Ladakh

By Stanzin Padma & Nenzes Chodon



Tashi Dolma, Director of Social Welfare Department/State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs):

Children hold immense value for their parents, and while there was once a time when children with disabilities were neglected or treated differently, society has evolved. Ladakh's traditionally conservative society used to struggle with accepting differences, but today, things are changing. Parents are now more aware and accepting of conditions such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, and other disabilities. I encourage parents and families to step out of denial, confront the issue, and seek possible treatments. Early detection and intervention can significantly aid a child's development, and in some cases, even lead to a cure. Differently-abled children often possess hidden talents like singing, painting, and writing.

On December 3, we celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities; a day to emphasize that disability is not anyone's fault. Parental acceptance is key, and it's important for them to take responsibility for giving their child a healthy and fulfilling life. Teachers play a crucial role in this journey, as do organizations working for persons with disabilities.

To prevent negligence and ensure equal rights for people with disabilities, the Government of India has implemented laws that apply nationwide. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwDs) Act, 2016 was passed to guide the implementation of various welfare schemes. In Ladakh, disability rules were introduced based on this act, providing a framework for inclusive development. A notable initiative is the Unique Disability Portal, which

provides individuals with a disability an ID card after an assessment at a hospital. This ID card allows beneficiaries to access various schemes as per their needs. The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres in both Kargil and Leh have been approved to support these initiatives.

The Social Welfare Department, State Commission for Disability, and several NGOs such as PAGIR-People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights, REWA, Munsel, and Bharat Olympic are working towards improving the lives of persons with disabilities in Ladakh. These organizations can apply for Grant-in-Aid via the Ministry of Social Justice portal.

Ladakh is home to the only government-run Inclusive School at Chuchot, Yokma, Leh, where children with special needs are provided quality education alongside extracurricular activities like cultural programs, sports, and arts. I had the opportunity to monitor this school closely, and I am proud to say that many students have graduated and gone on to achieve great things. Though delayed milestones can be challenging, with the right support, these students can reach their full potential.

As the State Commissioner for Disabilities, I have circulated notices to various organizations urging them to make newly constructed buildings disability-friendly, incorporating ramps and lifts as per universal design standards. Older infrastructures should also be retrofitted to ensure accessibility, especially in market areas. I hope that all departments will prioritize these installations promptly.

In terms of education, no school is allowed to deny admission to a child with disabilities. Government rules support inclusivity, offering accommodations such as time relaxation during exams, assistance from an escort, and the option for students to learn at their own pace. One of the ongoing challenges is the lack of special educators trained in Braille for children with visual impairments. However, the Department of District Social Welfare has prepared a proposal to recruit Braille-trained educators.

Additionally, individuals with a UDID (Unique Disability ID) and those who meet specific eligibility criteria can avail of a 5% reserva-

tion in employment.

I am pleased to announce that under the RPwD Act, pensions for persons with disabilities have been increased by 25%. Other available schemes include the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension and the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS). A newly introduced initiative is the Ladakh Marriage Assistance Scheme, which provides financial assistance of Rs. 1,00,000 to those marrying women with disabilities.

At the district level, the Kunsnyoms' Scheme will provide beneficiaries with assistive devices. Moreover, in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), the Social Welfare Department issues essential assistive devices such as tricycles, hearing aids, walkers, and wheelchairs either free of cost or at a subsidized rate for differently-abled beneficiaries.



Tsewang Dorjay, President PAGIR:

The situation for disabled individuals in Ladakh has improved slightly compared to the past. PAGIR (People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights), an NGO working for people with disabilities, has been serving as a bridge between individuals with disabilities and the government for the past 16-17 years. We strive to highlight their demands and ensure they reach the Union Territory (UT) administration.

In earlier times, many families would hide their children with disabilities due to societal stigma and a lack of awareness. Today, there has been significant progress, with parents becoming more willing to integrate their children into society. However, there is still a long way to go, especially in addressing their fun-

...continues on page 6



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Disabled Persons to provide a target to the Government and organizations for implementing the activities recommended in the World Programme of Action.

The United Kingdom government (2012) proclaimed the mandatory work for disabled persons who got welfare benefits for their improvement of lives.

According to the founder of the Susan Archibald Centre, the compulsory employment of people with disabilities is a breach of article 27/2 of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The theme for this year is "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future." This theme recognizes the important role that persons with disabilities play in creating a more inclusive and sustainable world for all. It also emphasizes the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

International Day of the People with Disabilities (IDPwD) is also known as World Disabled Day. It is observed on 3 December every year to raise awareness and develop an understanding to accept people with disabilities by the United Nations.

Since 1992, World Disabled Day is being celebrated to promote compassion and acceptance of disability issues and provide support for the self-respect, rights and better living of disabled persons. It also encompasses the increased awareness of profits to be taken from the association of persons with disabilities in every facet of political, financial, and socio-cultural life. This day focuses on altogether a different issue every year.

The United Nations General Assembly notified 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. This resulted into the creation of a plan of action at the national, domestic and international levels, with a focus on equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities.

The General Assembly had announced 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of

DID YOU KNOW



1. The moon sits at 3,400 kilometers (2,113 miles) in diameter, while Australia's diameter from east to west is almost 4,000 km (2,485 miles).
2. Wearing headphones for just an hour could increase the bacteria in your ears by 700 times.
3. Supermarket apples can be a year old. Are those apples you just bought actually a year old? Maybe! Farmers often pick apples in the fall, cover them in wax, hot-air dry them, and then put them in cold storage. This keeps them edible and ready to sell for 6 to 12 months!
4. Venus is the only planet that spins clockwise. Every 225 Earth days, Venus travels around the sun, but Venus rotates clockwise once every 243 days.
5. People used to say "prunes" when taking pictures. In the 1840s, it was considered childish to smile for pictures so it became popular for people to say "prunes" instead of "cheese" in order to keep their mouths taut.

6. Competitive art was once an Olympic sport. From 1912 to 1952, artists could earn medals for painting, music, sculpture, and even architecture.
7. The Spanish national anthem has no words. The "Marcha Real" is one of only four national anthems in the world (along with those of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Kosovo, and San Marino) to have no official lyrics.
8. Cat urine glows under a black light. Black lights can be used to detect any body fluids, but cat urine glows particularly bright under ultraviolet light primarily because it contains the element phosphorus.
9. "Kuchisabishii" is Japanese for unconscious eating. It describes the act of eating when you're not hungry because your mouth is "lonely."

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Plan your work, work your plan



One of my daily habits is to remind myself of the magical words: Plan, plan and plan! Rest assured, once you do that, you are all set to be on your 'go-and-do-it' mission.

Nothing great can be achieved without meticulous planning. Doing something without a plan is like going around a circle with no final point of reach. As someone had said that a goal without a plan is just a wish that can never be fulfilled.

And, as America's Founding Father Benjamin Franklin had said it so beautifully: "By failing to prepare with a plan, you are preparing to fail." It is this kind of wisdom that you are forced to plan and plan until you are fully convinced that the plan you have worked out will help you out of any difficult and problematic situation that might surface while you are on the go.

I am not here to say that everything can be done with planning. What I am saying is that nothing can be done without planning. And I think there is a hell of a difference between the two remarks. While the first statement is a kind of cautious warning, the latter one is a 100 pc warning that you are doomed to fail without a sound planning.

Let me also say that those of us who are not in the habit of planning their work, they have to keep on slogging without any concrete result. And the number of such people, I am afraid, is far greater than of those who plan, and plan well! And that is the unfortunate part of it.

Generally, such unplanned work can happen only with one's daily routine. And one's daily routine takes one no further to a newer success.

To give a final shot, we can bring in the great author, Napoleon Hill: "Plan your work and work your plan." That shows how much is the importance that one has to give to planning while executing one's projects to success. Let us make it clear that your work needs your planning and, similarly, it is your planning that needs an object that we can call the object of success.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Ashraf Ali Barcha, President, Anjuman Imamia, Leh

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Tell us about Anjuman Imamia, its role, and responsibilities.

Anjuman Imamia was established in 1937 with the primary goal of promoting the welfare of the Shia community. Over the years, the organization has tirelessly worked not only for the betterment of the Shia community but also for the overall welfare of Ladakh.

The core principle of our constitution emphasizes maintaining communal harmony. Since its inception, Anjuman Imamia has stood alongside every community in Leh district during challenging times, contributing to the region's development and fostering unity among its diverse populations.

I have been serving as the President of Anjuman Imamia for the past 16 years, consistently re-elected by the people. My primary focus has always been on maintaining peace and harmony, as I firmly believe that the development of a region is only possible when these values prevail.

However, I feel that ensuring harmony and peace is not just the responsibility of organizations like ours but also the duty of every individual. If we collectively work towards these goals, Ladakh can have a bright and prosperous future.

Q. You have been very active in politics as well. What are your thoughts on the current political scenario in Ladakh?

Yes, it's true that I have been deeply involved in politics from a young age. When the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) was first formed, I served as a nominated Councillor. Later, I had the privilege of serving society as an Executive Councillor, a position I assumed after the demise of Late Akbar Sahib.

The political leaders of the past were visionary, selfless, and dedicated to the welfare of the people. Ladakh has a long history of struggles, and leaders such as Kushok Bakula Rinpoche and others worked tirelessly to bring attention to Ladakh's unique needs and aspirations. Their efforts paved the way for significant progress and highlighted the region's demand for Union Territory (UT) status with a legislature.

During the time when Ladakh was under Jammu and Kashmir, the people had their own aspirations, political needs, and developmental goals. The leaders of Ladakh worked relentlessly to address these needs, and the establishment



MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“I urge everyone to stay united and remain connected to our roots for the betterment of every Ladakhi. Nothing can overcome us if we stand together and truly understand the value of our identity and culture. Let us work hand in hand to preserve what makes us unique and ensure a prosperous future for all.”

of the LAHDC was a significant milestone. With the grant of the Hill Council, developmental activities became evident, particularly in remote areas, and people began to see positive changes.

However, the demand for UT status persisted, and in 2019, the long-standing dream of Ladakh becoming a Union Territory was fulfilled. But this achievement came with mixed emotions. While there was celebration, concerns arose about safeguarding Ladakh's land, environment, employment, culture, and identity.

In response to these concerns, the Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) were formed to advocate for addressing the issues arising after the UT status. These groups are working to ensure that Ladakh's unique identity and resources are preserved while also pushing for further political and administrative safeguards.

It is essential that with growing development and challenges, our leaders exhibit political maturity. We must remain united and work together to secure a prosperous and sustainable future for Ladakh.

Q. What are your thoughts on the upcoming meeting of the High-Powered Committee scheduled for December 3?

The High-Powered Committee, formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, has a significant responsibility. Its purpose is to discuss measures to protect Ladakh's unique culture and language, ensure the protection of land and employment, promote inclusive development and job creation, and empower both the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil districts.

In the previous meeting chaired by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, members of the Apex Body and KDA presented a four-point agenda. Unfortunately, the outcomes of that meeting fell short of expectations, and no substantial progress was made.

After months of efforts, including a Padyatra to Delhi, hunger strikes, and protests, the government has finally scheduled another meeting. I am hopeful that this time, the discussions will be productive.

It is crucial that this meeting does not end in disappointment, as has happened in the past. I expect it to foster genuine two-

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



LAHDC Leh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Edutainment and Impactours of Purple People Labs. The MoU aims to curate films and media-based curricula to teach life skills education through some of the best children's entertainment content produced by the local resource persons.



The four-day commemoration of the 62nd Rezang La Memorial on 18 November, honoring the exceptional courage and sacrifice of the soldiers of 13 KUMAON, who displayed extraordinary bravery in the Battle of Rezang La during the 1962 Indo-China War.



The Constitution Day was celebrated at the UT Secretariat, Leh, on November 26, with all Secretariat officials and officers actively participating in the observance. Officers and officials from various departments took a pledge to reaffirm their commitment to the values enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India.



The Department of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums, Leh, marked World Heritage Week with an awareness program on "The Importance of Heritage in Ladakh" held at the DC Office Conference Hall on November 25. Executive Councillor for Art and Culture, Stanzin Chosphe, was the Chief Guest at the event.



In a significant crackdown on food safety violations, the Food Safety Officer, Kargil, seized 134.700 kgs of expired and unhygienic beef along with 6.500 kgs of mutton sticks during an inspection in Padum, Zaskar.



On the concluding day of Yom-e-Fateh, Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, paid tribute to the Army



The New District Committee held a meeting with delegates from the Trans Singey Lalok area on November 18 at the DC Office Conference Hall. They shared their views and expressed their desire to remain part of Leh district.



The National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh, participated in the India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from November 14-27 November 2024.

Fortnightly News

...Continuity of page 4 Empowering Persons with disabilities: Progress and challenges in Ladakh

damental needs like education and health.

Disabilities can be congenital (present from birth) or acquired later in life due to accidents or age-related conditions. For those born with disabilities, early diagnosis and treatment, including physiotherapy or surgeries, are crucial. Statistics indicate that 3-4 out of every 100 newborns are born with disabilities. There is a need for research to understand and address the causes.

Government initiatives like the Pulse Polio Campaign have significantly reduced certain disabilities, but doctors must continue to carefully identify symptoms and provide excellent healthcare services to prevent and manage disabilities effectively.

The central and UT governments have introduced schemes for disabled persons, such as the Kunsnyom Scheme ("equal for all"), which has been beneficial. However, education remains critical. If disabled children receive basic education up to the 5th grade, it can significantly reduce the challenges they face later in life.

Among the 21 recognized types of disabilities, certain conditions require teaching life skills. If done effectively, these individuals can become valuable contributors to society. Parents are encouraged to prioritize their children's education, even if it means starting school later, at around five years of age. Alongside education, physiotherapy and speech therapy should be included to maximize their learning potential.

In Ladakh, many parents keep their disabled children at home until they are older, making it difficult to provide them with proper education and therapy later. Early enrollment in schools and therapies can lead to significant improvements.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of resources for blind children in Ladakh. Despite repeated requests to the UT administration and education department, no specialized teachers have been appointed. This is a serious issue, as every child has the right to education. Without urgent action, blind children will continue to be left behind.

While there is a 4% job reservation for disabled persons, the employment opportunities provided by the Hill Council often do not meet the needs of all disability categories. Many educated individuals with disabilities remain unemployed despite holding degrees and certificates.

The government and private institutions, including NGOs and hotels, should create inclusive employment opportunities. Proper training can enable disabled individuals to perform various roles and live fulfilling lives.

Recommendations and Solutions

1. Parents must prioritize their child's education and ensure they are treated like any other child. Completing at least the 10th grade is essential for their personal and professional development.
2. For those over 18 and uneducated, vocational training centers like those run by PAGIR can provide skills in handicrafts and other areas to help them become self-reliant.
3. Parents should focus on early diagnosis and treatment of disabilities to enhance their child's quality of life.
4. Government and private sectors must collaborate to provide job opportunities for disabled persons. This will help them lead independent lives and contribute to society.

DC Kargil leads oath-taking ceremony on National Constitution Day



Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, presiding over the oath-taking ceremony.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, presided over the oath-taking ceremony and read out the Preamble of the Constitution in observance of National Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) in Kargil on November 26.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Abdul Hadi, ASP Mujeeb Ur Rehman, CMO Kargil Dr. Liyaqat Ali Khan, ACD Raziya Khatoon, ACR/District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Majeed Tantray, CDPO Sankoo Agha

Jamal, and other district officers at the District Headquarters, Kargil.

Constitution Day marks the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, which came into effect on January 26, 1950.

DC Kargil emphasized the importance of upholding the values enshrined in the Constitution, urging all officers and officials to maintain a sense of brotherhood and work towards achieving social, economic,

and political justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that National Constitution Day is an occasion to connect with the spirit of the Constitution and to better understand the rights and duties of citizens.

District officers reaffirmed their commitment to the Constitution, pledging to uphold India's identity as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, and Democratic Republic.

In Conversation with Ashraf Ali Barcha, President, Anjuman Imamia, Leh

...Continuity of page 5

way communication. While the government must listen to the aspirations and concerns of the people of Ladakh, it is equally important for them to present their plans, proposed solutions, and opinions. A collaborative approach is the only way to address the pressing issues facing Ladakh and to build trust among its people.

Q. The people of Ladakh are demanding safeguards for land, employment, and the environment. However, we also see instances of people selling land or engaging in business with big investors from outside Ladakh. Isn't this contradictory? What are your thoughts on this?

Exactly, this is an issue that every individual should deeply reflect upon. Safeguarding our land is crucial as it embodies our identity, culture, and very existence. It's impossible to speak about strengthening or preserving Ladakh's identity and culture if we fail to keep our land in our hands.

While it's true that we currently lack specific laws or policies to safeguard our land, what can be even stronger than legislation is our unity as a community. If we stand firm, united, and work towards holistic development with a vision for the future, no challenge or fear can overpower us.

At this critical juncture, when discussions and demands for safeguards are underway, the responsibility rests on each of us to protect our land, environment, identity, and shared interests. Personal greed and self-centered motives will never lead to meaningful development for the region.

We need to adopt a farsighted approach, thinking not just about today but about the future and the generations to come. Preserving our age-old existence and identity requires collective effort and dedication. Only by fortifying our foundations—unity, culture, and resources—can we ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for Ladakh.

Q. Women's reservation in the upcoming Hill Council elections has become a widely discussed topic. What is your opinion on the importance of women's role in politics and the reservation?

Women's representation in politics is crucial, and I strongly believe that women should actively participate in it. In Ladakh, women are excelling in various fields, be it sports, academics, or other professions. Reservation plays a vital role in empowering women and ensuring their presence in decision-making spaces.

In many parts of India, women still face significant challenges and are denied opportunities to assert their rights. However, in Ladakh, the situation isn't as extreme. That said, it's essential for women in Ladakh to step up and actively engage in political processes. There are no restrictions for women in Ladakh, but participation and active involvement are key.

Merely providing reservation isn't enough if there isn't a proactive effort from women themselves. It's important to work diligently and with determination. Struggling for one's rights builds character and understanding. Women should never doubt their capabilities or say, "This isn't for me." True value and responsibility come from experiencing challenges firsthand.

Ladakhi women possess immense potential, and now is the time to harness it for the betterment of the region. Their active involvement in politics will not only benefit Ladakh but also inspire future generations to follow suit.

CEC Kargil reviews physical and financial achievements under CAPEX budget



Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC, Kargil, chairing a meeting of District CAPEX Budget 2024-25.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC, Kargil, chaired a meeting on November 27 to review the physical and financial achievements under the District CAPEX Budget 2024-25. The meeting, held at the Conference Hall in Kargil, focused on the challenges faced and the corrective actions required to ensure the effective implementation of the budget.

The meeting was attended by Er. Punchok Tashi, Executive Councillor; Kacho Mohammad Feroz, Executive Councillor; Zakir Hussain, Executive Councillor; Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil; Councillors from respective constituencies; district officers from various departments; and other officials.

Abdul Hadi, CPO Kargil, provided a detailed report on the physical and financial progress achieved under the CAPEX Budget by various departments to date. The meeting was informed that the UT Administration had approved an outlay of approximately ₹34,400 lakh for the CAPEX Budget for FY 2024-25. As of now, ₹14,616.06 lakh has been spent, with an anticipated total expenditure of ₹29,008.04 lakh.

The CPO also reported that in the Engineering Sector, ₹9,528.73 lakh has been spent out of the ₹17,133.86 lakh allocated, while in the Non-Engineering Sector, ₹5,087.33 lakh has been spent out of ₹17,266.14 lakh. In his address, the CEC emphasized the need for all departments and executing

agencies to intensify efforts to maximize expenditure at the earliest. He stressed that working with dedication and integrity is crucial to serving the people and contributing to their welfare.

Dr. Akhoun also inquired about the progress of both ongoing and new projects in the Engineering and Non-Engineering sectors. The status of works and associated issues were reviewed and discussed department by department. The meeting covered various departments, including PW-DR&B, I&FC, Health, PHE, RD&PRD Kargil, Education, KDA, Mechanical Engineering, Agriculture, PDD, and others.

In addition to reviewing the status of ongoing projects, the meeting addressed various departmental issues. Officials provided suggestions and engaged in discussions to resolve these issues. The CEC urged sectoral officers to expedite the execution of works and maximize expenditure.

Emphasizing the importance of timely project commencement, Dr. Akhoun directed the officers to minimize delays, particularly in the tendering process for ongoing works. He specifically instructed that the quality of work should not be compromised.

Councillors raised several developmental issues concerning their constituencies,

and several unanimous decisions were made. Among the concerns discussed was the shortage of doctors and teachers in some areas, to which the CEC assured that necessary steps would be taken to address these issues.

The meeting also proposed the drafting of a transfer policy for the health, education, and other departments to ensure equitable staffing. Additionally, there was a focus on making projects and schemes more people-friendly. Councillors also requested the continuation of remedial classes to improve learning outcomes.

To address the drinking water shortage in Kargil town, the meeting decided to urgently procure two drinking water tankers.

CEC Kargil directed concerned officers to follow through on the decisions made during the meeting and ensure their timely implementation. The meeting also passed a resolution calling for no curtailment in the CAPEX Budget to ensure uninterrupted development.

Dr. Akhoun expressed his gratitude to the Executive Councillors, Councillors, and district officers for their continued efforts in the district's development. He urged them to work in close coordination to ensure the creation of tangible public assets on the ground.

NOTICE

An application has been received from Rinchen Tsepheh S/o Tsering Angchuk R/o Phyang, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. JK10 A 3257 for issuance of duplicate Fitness certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of the lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for the general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer ARTO within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

An application has been received from Stanzin Zatsal S/o Tashi Paldan R/o Chuchot Yokma, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. LA02A 2746 for issuance of duplicate Permit and Fitness certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of the lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for the general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer ARTO, Leh within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

Leaders and villagers present memorandum for proposed Sham district



Stakeholders discussing the establishment of the proposed New Sham District with new district committee.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, participated in the New District Committee consultation meeting on November 19 to discuss the establishment of the proposed New Sham District.

The committee, chaired by Pramod Kumar Jain, IAS (Retd.),

includes members Kacho Asfandyar Khan, IAS (Retd.), and Tsering Angchuk, IAS (Retd.), along with ex-officio member Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, IAS.

The meeting was attended by Councillors from the Sham region, including Lobzang Sherab, Smanla Norboo, Morup Dorje, Tashi Tundup, and Lundup Dorje, as well as Sub-Divisional Magistrates

(SDMs) Mohd Sharief (Khaltse) and Sajjad Hussain (Likir). Other key attendees included Tsering Nurboo, President of the LBA Sham Region; Tsewang Stobdan, President of the Nambardar Association Sham; Tsering Tsomo, President of the Women's Wing, LBA Sham; and representatives from various villages.

The committee engaged in consultations with stakeholders, in-

cluding the Sham Coordination Committee, Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) Sham Region, and the Nambardar Association Sham.

President of LBA Sham, Tsering Nurboo, expressed gratitude to the committee for their efforts and emphasized the importance of establishing a fully functional district headquarters in Khaltse.

Councillors and village representatives presented their concerns and suggestions, submit-

ting a detailed memorandum addressing key issues such as:

- Establishing the district headquarters.
 - Defining district boundaries.
 - Creating new sub-divisions, tehsils, blocks, and naibats.
 - Rationalizing panchayat halqas and revenue villages.
 - Setting up administrative posts.
- The committee assured stakeholders that their demands were noted and pledged to work towards establishing the new district efficiently and systematically.

Fortnightly News

Adoption awareness month: UT Ladakh hosts event on foster care and adoption



During the panel discussion on adoption, foster care, and foster adoption.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: As part of Adoption Awareness Month, themed 'Rehabilitation of Older Children through Foster Care and Foster Adoption', the State Adoption Resource Agency, UT Ladakh, organized a Prospective Adoptive Parents Meet at the Cultural Academy Hall on November 23.

The event aimed to raise awareness about adoption, dispel common myths, and provide a platform for prospective adoptive parents to engage with experts.

Ram Saran, Integrated Fi-

nance Officer from the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), New Delhi, attended as the Chief Guest. Tashi Dolma, Director of Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, along with prospective adoptive parents, also participated in the event.

A panel discussion on adoption, foster care, and foster adoption highlighted expert insights and shared experiences. Prospective adoptive parents voiced their challenges and addressed misconceptions surrounding adoption. Adding to the event's vibrancy, children

from the Lions Club Hostel and Rgaastal performed cultural programs, infusing energy and enthusiasm.

The meet concluded with tokens of appreciation presented to the prospective adoptive parents. The State Adoption Resource Agency, UT Ladakh, remains dedicated to fostering adoption awareness and supporting families in their adoption journey. This event marked a significant step towards creating a nurturing ecosystem that celebrates the joy of family and the importance of adoption.

New community radio station in Hanle to promote culture and empower locals



During the inauguration of Community Radio Station in Hanle.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

HANLE: Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, YSM**, VSM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) North

ern Command, inaugurated a Community Radio Station in Hanle on November 24.

The event was attended by civilian dignitaries from the Changthang region and community members from Hanle, Punguk, and Khaldo villages. This initiative aims to enhance socio-economic development in the region by extending communication reach.

The radio station will broadcast programs in Ladakhi, Hindi, and English, focusing on information, education, entertainment, and local culture. It is envisioned as a platform to promote cultural heritage, address social issues, and empower youth and women. This project highlights the Army's commitment to integration, bridging gaps in remote areas, and promoting local development.

NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'Ratnashri Cultural and Welfare Association Ladakh (RSCWA)' Leh UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.no	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation
1	Tsewang Paldan	S/o Tundup Yangphel	Targyasling,Leh	President
2	Tashi Gurmet	S/o Late Sonam Joldan	Phyang,	Advisor
3	Tsewang Dorjay	S/o Tsering Dorjay	Tingmosgang,	Vice-President
4	Tashi Phunchok	S/o Tsering Chosphele	Chuchot Yokma	Vice-President
5	Thenlis Angchok	S/o Thupstan Chotak	Chillam	Gen-Secretary
6	Konchok Tashi	S/o Late Tsering Phunchok	Khaltse	Cashier
7	Nawang Tamphel	S/o Lobzang Tsetan	Phyang	Member
8	Tashi Gyalsan	S/o Tsering Angchok	Takmachik	Member
9	Stanzin Angchok	S/o Stanzin Namgail	Tharuk	Ex Vice-President
10	Tundup Dorjay	S/o Tsering Dorjay	Yerath	Member

Objection if any, in this regard may kindly be submitted to General Manager Industries, Leh UT Ladakh within a period of 21 days from the publication of the Notice.

President

'Ratnashri Cultural and Welfare Association Ladakh (RSCWA)' Leh UT Ladakh

ADDC Leh reviews progress on telecom connectivity in vibrant villages



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Leh, Sonam Nurboo, reviewed the progress of telecom connectivity in Ladakh's Vibrant Villages during a meeting held at the VC Room, DC Office, Leh on November 29.

BSNL officials presented a detailed progress report, covering various aspects such as tower foundation completion, tower erection, electrical works, TCS I&C completion, and activation (radiating on-air). According to the report, tower foundations have been completed in 27 villages, and in-

stallation has been completed in 20 villages. Additionally, power infrastructure installation has been finalized at 10 sites. The officials assured that the remaining work is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed by next year.

Specific challenges in telecom connectivity to remote villages like Chumur and Thang were also discussed. ADDC Sonam Nurboo reviewed the progress thoroughly and directed officials to expedite their efforts to ensure timely completion of the projects.

The meeting was attended by representatives from BSNL, Jio Telecom, and the Power Development Department (PDD).

NOTICE

Stanzin Palkit D/o Nawang Stanzin R/o Stakmo (Thiksay), Leh has claimed that her name namely, Stanzin Palkit has been wrongly entered as Stanzin Palket instead of correct and actual name Stanzin Palkit in her Father No. JC588490F Naib Subedar Nawang Stanzin's service record and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA07761983851824W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Zila Sainik Welfare Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Kargil town gets major infrastructure boost with inauguration of key projects



Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Kargil inaugurating major developmental projects worth crores in Kargil town.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Kargil inaugurated major developmental projects worth crores in Kargil town on November 26.

Number of developmental works including lift irrigation scheme Dass Dethyang (Youkchoks) executed by I&FC Kargil at a cost of ₹1.51 crores under CAPEX Budget, Public Library/Community Hall at Lungmitha Dass executed by PWD(R&B) at a cost of ₹2.35 crores under District CAPEX budget, Government Middle School Building Dass executed by PWD (R&B) at a cost of ₹2.18 crores under District CAPEX budget, Model Primary School and Multi-Purpose Hall at Balti Bazar executed by RDD at a cost of ₹

2.34 crores under District CAPEX budget were inaugurated.

Speaking on the occasion, CEC Kargil congratulated the residents of Dass, Yokchoks, Dethyang and Balti Bazar on getting state-of-the-art buildings and infrastructure, which will greatly benefit the entire community, particularly the students.

He also congratulated Councilor Town, Haji Abass Adulpa for his commitment and hard work for leading all the developmental works at the forefront. Praising the efforts of Councilor Town, CEC Kargil said it is the result of Haji Abass Adulpa's vision and dedication that such developmental works have been completed with quality infrastructure.

Further he said that Haji

Abass Adulpa has always stood for most marginalized sections of the community adding that more than as a politician he is a dedicated social worker, consistently providing his services to people at their doorstep. He also hailed the planning, conceptualization, execution and judicious use of land for the construction of school building and library. He said these buildings are the model infrastructure in designs and should be replicated by the other Councilors in their respective constituencies for effective utilization of the available quantum of land and accommodating various centres of public importance.

Dr Akhoun hailed HDFC Bank's initiative of providing smart classroom at Govt. Middle School

Dass under CSR funds. He urged the bank to extend similar technological interventions to other schools in the district, highlighting its status as a leading public sector bank in India and the Asian sub-continent.

The CEC also highlighted the major projects to be started in Kargil in coming years which mainly includes renovation, upgradation and beautification of Balti Bazar Kargil as tourist spot, implementation of 24x7 water supply scheme, development of sewage treatment plant, construction of Sangam view point at confluence of Suru River and Drass River at Kharul, proper functional of Urban PHC with the deployment of staff including doctors and paramedical staff 24x7 for treatment of emergency cases, construction of mechanized multi-level parking, refurbishing of Iqbal Hydel Power Project and a number of other infrastructures of public importance.

CEC Kargil also reiterated his commitment for prioritizing the developmental works in Kargil town to provide amenities and best urban facilities to the citizens.

Meanwhile, Dr Akhoun announced ₹3 lakh for the purchase of computer and other necessary equipment for Govt. Middle School Dass and ₹4 lakh for Model Primary School Balti

Bazar Kargil from his untied fund.

While addressing the gathering, EC Tashi said that the projects are the result of hard work of Haji Abass Adulpa. The EC requested community members to treat these assets as their own and take proper responsibility to protect them.

Tashi also urged the community to encourage other parents to enroll their children in government schools. He emphasized that government schools are well-equipped with modern infrastructure and staffed by highly educated and qualified teachers.

DC Kargil Shrikant Bala-sahab Suse congratulated the community for receiving such high standard infrastructure. He also congratulated executing agencies, contractors for executing their works properly. DC Kargil also announced a grant of ₹5 lakh for Govt. Model Middle School, Balti Bazar, Kargil from his untied fund for the purchase of necessary equipment required for the school.

Councilor Town Haji Abass Adulpa thanked CEC, DC, EC and other district officers for attending the inaugural session of various buildings of his constituency. He also thanked the executive agencies, engineers, and contractors for their hard work and dedication.

NOTICE



Whereas Tsewang Namgail F/o Dawa Gyatso R/o Durbuk, UT Ladakh has claimed that his son namely Dawa Gyatso's Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 17-09-2017 instead of correct and actual Date of Birth 17-09-2018 in his school record of Govt. Middle school, Laga, Durbuk, 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 to Govt. Middle school, Laga, Durbuk, Leh-Ladakh office within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

NOTICE



Whereas Tsewang Namgail F/o Chamzin Youlo R/o Durbuk, UT Ladakh has claimed that his daughter namely Chamzin Youlo's Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 19-09-2017 instead of correct and actual Date of Birth 19-09-2016 in her school record of Govt. Middle school, Laga, Durbuk, 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 to Govt. Middle school, Laga, Durbuk, Leh-Ladakh office within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

NOTICE

Konchok Nurboo S/o Tsultim Gyatso R/o Phyang, Leh, UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly written as Konchok Norbo instead of correct and actual name Konchok Nurboo in his contractor card bearing ID no. A-62. Now, he wants to apply for the correction of his name, objection if any may be report to the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department UT Ladakh within 7 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

NOTICE

Whereas, Stanzin Namgail S/o Skarma Zangbo R/o Mudh, Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that his Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 17-10-2001 instead of actual and correct Date of Birth 17 -10-2002 in the Driving License bearing No. LA 0220220002312 and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary, UT Ladakh with Certificate No. IN-LA07824307070489W to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh, Ladakh within 7 days from the date of publication.

Advertisement



Monlam Chenmo (Great Prayer Festival)

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