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DECEMBER 16-31, 2024

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with

Padma Ladol, First woman Rap artist of Ladakh

People's Voice:

December 3rd meeting's impact on Ladakh

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Changthang's first football astro turf ignites football passion in Nyoma block

Students swap rough grounds for smooth turf, reigniting their passion for the game

Nenzen Chodon



Students of Chumathang High school playing at Highest Football Astro Turf.

CHUMATHANG: In a landmark development for sports in the Changthang region of Eastern Ladakh, Royal Enfield, Ayesha Group Foundation and LAHDC, Leh have built the world's highest Football (Futsal) Astro Turf in Chumathang. This initiative is sparking a surge in football enthusiasm among the region's youth, particularly in Chumathang and surrounding villages.

Historically, Changthang has been home to a nomadic lifestyle, with harsh winters and extreme climatic conditions. However, modern sports infrastructure has now reached this remote area, offering young football enthusiasts a chance to explore their talents on a professional-grade surface for the first time.

Students from PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School, Chumathang have already embraced the facility. They shared their excitement, noting that playing on the smooth turf has significantly reduced injuries compared to the rough outdoor grounds they previously used. The turf has rekindled their passion for football, with many setting their sights on upcoming tournaments and dreaming of lifting trophies for Changthang. The school now fields six football teams: Hot-Spring, Jabro-Rangers, Kopong-Kings, Rebo-Risers, Lena-Power, and Dark Sky.

Thinles Nurboo, Councillor of Kungyam, emphasised the influential role of His Eminence Khamtak

Rinpoche, whose passion for football inspired youth, students, and villagers to embrace the sport. This vision culminated in the creation of a football ground, transforming the local sports landscape.

The journey began in 2019 when the Student Association for Village Education (SAVE) launched the Changthang Football Initiative. By 2022, Royal Enfield and the Ayesha Group Foundation had sponsored tournaments and training sessions. Witnessing the initiative's positive impact, the foundation extended support for a larger-scale project.

As a result, a FIFA-approved turf, valued at ₹22 lakh, was procured through CSR funding. To comple-

ment this, LAHDC Leh contributed ₹50 lakh for the necessary civil works.

Today, approximately 28 schools in Nyoma Block benefit from structured football training programs funded by the Ayesha Group Foundation, fostering a new era of sports development and opportunities in the region.

A village elder observed that, before this initiative, students and young people had little to no access to proper football shoes and jerseys. The collaborative efforts have garnered immense support from the community, significantly benefiting the youth of Chumathang and nearby villages.

The turf has done more than ignite a

love for football; it has introduced students to the joy of donning proper football gear and playing under professional conditions. Villagers expressed their gratitude for the facility, noting its role in steering children toward outdoor activities and away from excessive screen time.

The Chumathang Football Astro Turf is not just a game-changer for football enthusiasts; it is also fostering dreams, resilience, and a renewed sense of community in one of the remote parts of the world.

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Ladakh Women Welfare Network and Chespa Foundation celebrates 33% Reservation in LAHDC

Stanzin Padma

LEH: The Ladakh Women Welfare Network and Chespa Foundation celebrated the historic announcement of 33% reservation for women in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) of Leh and Kargil. The celebration took place at Balkhang Chowk in Leh's main bazaar.

The decision was made after December 3 meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). However, an official notification or release has yet to be issued by the government.

The Chief Guest of the occasion, Rinchen Lhamo, Member of the Minorities Commission of India, congratulated all the women of Ladakh. She stated, "On December 3, our leaders held a meeting with the High Power Committee regarding four demands, which have long been sought after. This meeting brought unexpected yet positive outcomes, particularly discussions about youth-related issues. I extend my gratitude to everyone who has tirelessly worked toward this demand over the years."

She further encouraged women to actively participate in po-



litical processes, saying, "It doesn't matter whether you win or lose; it's essential to have women in the council to make decisions and raise their voices on women's issues. Their presence will bring significant weight to women's perspectives."

Rinchen Lhamo also expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, LG BD Mishra, and CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson for their roles in supporting this initiative.

Kunzes Dolma, Vice President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, stated, "On December 3, in addition to job reservations and 33% women's reservation, Bhoti and Urdu were declared as official languages of UT Ladakh. Many women's religious organizations have worked tirelessly for this reservation, and today we see the results. This celebration signifies our hope that the policy will be implemented in the upcoming 2025 elections."

The celebration concluded with a vibrant dance performance by the YAYA Cultural Group.

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Fortnightly News

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju launches L-G Mishra's book on Sri Lankan conflict



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The book 'Battles Against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (L.T.T.E.) in Sri Lanka', authored by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), was officially released by Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, on December 11 in New Delhi.

The 320-page book, published by Prabhat Prakashan, documents the author's experiences and insights during his time as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka.

The release event was attended

by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, as well as First Lady Neelam Mishra, among other dignitaries.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju congratulated the Lieutenant Governor for authoring a significant and long-awaited book. He described it as a work born of duty and passion, calling it "a must-read" for those seeking to understand the events and sacrifices associated with the LTTE conflict in Sri Lanka.

The Minister also paid heartfelt tributes to the soldiers who made supreme sacrifices during the mission. He emphasized the

importance of remembering the contributions and sacrifices of the Indian Army jawans and saluted Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) for his leadership and dedication.

Speaking at the occasion, Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) shared that the idea for the book emerged from a desire to honor the soldiers who fought valiantly under his command during the IPKF mission. He highlighted that the book is dedicated to these brave soldiers and their families, who endured the pain of separation and loss with courage and dignity.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that many soldiers did not return from the battlefield, sacrificing their lives for the mission. He expressed hope that the book would serve as a tribute to their unwavering commitment and bravery.

The book offers a firsthand account of the induction of Brigadier Mishra's brigade into Sri Lanka on October 11, 1987, as part of the IPKF. It details the brigade's experiences and fierce battles against the LTTE, providing valuable historical insights and personal reflections from the author.

Ladakh to host 2025 Khelo India Winter Games from January 23



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Union Territory of Ladakh is set to host the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) from January 23 to 27. This marks the second year that UT Ladakh will host a segment of these prestigious games. Previously, all events were exclusively held in Jammu and Kashmir until 2024.

The Khelo India Winter Games began in 2020, with nearly 1,000 athletes, including 306 women, participating in the inaugural edition. Since then, the event has seen increasing participation, with over 1,350 athletes in 2021 and more than 1,500 in 2022, underscoring the Games' growing popularity.

The 2024 edition witnessed over 1,200 participants, including 700-plus athletes, 141 support staff, 113 technical officials, and more than 250 volunteers. A total of 136 medals were contested, according to an official from KIWG. For the first time, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India, managed the technical aspects of the Games, working alongside the National Sports Federations and the Indian Olympic Association.

"We are looking forward to another exciting season of the Khelo India Games. The Winter Games are crucial for identifying India's top athletes

who can represent the nation at the 2026 Winter Olympics," said Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandavira.

He further added, "Our goal is to promote winter sports and inspire more athletes to pursue skiing and skating. It is encouraging to see participants from remote Himalayan villages actively taking part in these events."

The Khelo India Winter Games aim to foster a strong winter sports ecosystem in India while offering a platform for athletes to showcase their talents on a national stage.

CEC, Leh meets Union Minister Kiren Rijiju to discuss key issues



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, accompanied by Executive Councillor Stanzin Chosphe, met with Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, at his office in Parliament on December 3.

During the meeting, CEC Gyalson submitted a memorandum requesting the Minister's support in bringing the Holy Rel-

ics of Lord Buddha to Ladakh during the upcoming summer. He emphasized that such an initiative would not only highlight Ladakh's rich Buddhist heritage but also strengthen its cultural significance.

CEC Gyalson also addressed several issues concerning minority communities in Ladakh, underscoring the need for continued support in addressing their unique challenges. He

expressed heartfelt gratitude to Minister Rijiju for his ongoing contributions to the region and emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration.

In response, Minister Rijiju assured his commitment to extending all possible support for the matters raised, reiterating his dedication to the development and welfare of Ladakh's diverse communities.

National Panchayat Awards: Sumoor and Khaltse Panchayats bring pride to Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Sumoor Gram Panchayat in Panamik Block and Khaltse Panchayat in Khaltse Block have been honored with the prestigious National Panchayat Awards 2022-23 on December 11. The awards were presented by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.

Sumoor Panchayat received the Clean and Green Panchayat Award for its exceptional commitment to cleanliness, sustainability, and environmental conservation. Meanwhile, Khaltse Panchayat was conferred the Panchayat

with Good Governance Award in recognition of its excellent governance practices and dedication to community development.

The awards were received by Santosh Sukhadeve, Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh; Junaid Amin Bhat, District Panchayat Officer; and Lawang Tashi, Panchayat Secretary, Sumoor.

CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson extended heartfelt congratulations to both Sumoor and Khaltse Panchayats for their

outstanding achievements. He expressed pride in the recognition these Panchayats brought to Ladakh and remarked that the awards are a testament to the dedication and hard work of the local communities. The accolades highlight the region's commitment to progress and sustainability.

CEC Gyalson also congratulated Executive Councillor for Rural Development, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve; Director Rural Development, Sajad Qadri; concerned Councillors; DPO Leh; and the entire team of RDD Leh for their leadership in driving rural development initiatives.

Adv. Gyalson emphasized the importance of LAHDC's role in supporting these achievements. He stated that this recognition sets a strong precedent for others, as the teamwork and vision of all involved have paved the way for a sustainable and prosperous Ladakh. These awards not only honor the individual efforts of Sumoor and Khaltse Panchayats but also serve as a symbol of the region's broader commitment to sustainable governance and com-

Ladakh to harness winter water resources through Automated Ice Reservoirs



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, convened a meeting on the launch of the Automated Ice Reservoir Artificial Ice Glacier Project in the presence of Executive Councillor Stanzin Chosphe on December 13.

The meeting was attended by Thinles Dawa, Chief Agricultural Officer; Ali Raza, Chief Horticulture Officer; and Murtaza Ali, Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Division, to discuss an innovative solution aimed at solving the region's growing water scarcity issues.

The Automated Ice Reservoir Artificial Ice Glacier

Project is a groundbreaking initiative designed to address persistent water shortages in Ladakh, particularly during the summer months when water is insufficient for irrigation and daily consumption. This project aims to harness winter water resources, which otherwise go unused due to low seasonal demand.

The project involves creating automated ice reservoirs that collect and store water during the winter months. Water is sourced from higher altitudes, where it is sprayed and frozen to form ice reservoirs. The system is automated, with a weather station in place to monitor temperatures.

The project will be implemented under Capex. Three sites have been identified for this initiative, with work already underway in a few villages. The project is slated to begin in Kuri soon.

CEC Tashi Gyalson remarked that the project is both innovative and highly beneficial for the region, emphasizing its potential to address Ladakh's water challenges. He further stated that LAHDC remains fully committed to exploring and implementing forward-thinking solutions to tackle the unique environmental and infrastructural challenges faced by Ladakh.

DC Leh reviews preparedness for Good Governance Week 2024



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, reviewed the preparedness for Good Governance Week 2024, themed 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur', with various departments at the VC Room, DC Office, Leh, on December 13.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the officers on the Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur programme, scheduled to take place from December 19 to 24, 2024. He directed the officers to organize service delivery camps, grievance redressal camps, awareness programs, and other initiatives at various

locations to address public complaints and ensure efficient governance.

He further instructed the officers to submit their daily achievement data to the DC office for uploading on the designated portal. Additionally, the Medical and Rural Departments were directed to identify and submit their top three achievements by Monday.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Tsewang Gyalson and Heads of Departments (HoDs) from various departments.

Secretary and MD SIDCO chairs introductory and review meeting

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Bhupesh Chaudhary, Administrative Secretary and Managing Director of SIDCO, chaired an introductory and review meeting with board officials on December 4 at his office chamber in the Agriculture Office, Leh.

The meeting began with a comprehensive presentation by Sonam Norboo, Senior Manager of SIDCO, who outlined the organization's structure, functions, and operations. The presentation detailed the activities of various divisions, including Transport,

Energy Hub, Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP), SC/ST & OBC Corporation, the Project Wing, and the SIDCO Head Office.

Secretary Chaudhary reviewed the performance of these divisions and emphasized the need to enhance revenue generation, particularly in the transport sector. He directed officials to develop actionable strategies to revitalize the Projects Wing, stressing the importance of identifying and expanding profitable routes to bolster SIDCO's financial stability. He further called for comprehensive monitoring and

efficient functioning of all divisions to strengthen SIDCO's role as a key driver of economic development in Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Safdar Ali, General Manager (Finance), SIDCO; Sonam Norboo, Senior Manager, SIDCO; Er. Tashi Namgyal, Executive Engineer, SIDCO; Dr. Owais Qadir Jaan, Accounts Officer, SIDCO; Stanzin Pasang, District Manager, SIDCO (SC/ST & OBC Wing); and Er. Mohd Hussain, Traffic Manager, SIDCO. Officials stationed outside Leh participated virtually.



Bhupesh Chaudhary, Administrative Secretary and Managing Director of SIDCO.

Fortnightly News

Advisor reviews winter air services and airport upgrades in Ladakh



Meeting to review and address critical aspects of air connectivity and airport infrastructure in Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a high-level meeting to review and address critical aspects of air connectivity and airport infrastructure in Ladakh, with a focus on ensuring smooth and efficient operations during the winter months.

The Advisor underscored the significance of air connectivity as a lifeline for Ladakh during winters when road access is severely restricted. Discussions covered the operation of AN-32 courier services for the Kargil-Srinagar-Jammu sector, the deployment of AN-32 and IL-76 flights from Thoise and Leh to Chandigarh, and the implementation of the UDAAN Scheme at Kargil and Thoise airports.

During the meeting, he also reviewed the status of Kargil Airport and the progress of the new terminal at Leh Airport. Dr. Kotwal directed that priority be given to passenger movement, ensuring that 70% of the air cargo capacity is allocated

for passengers and the remaining 30% for essential cargo. To address challenges faced by residents in securing tickets, particularly during emergencies, he instructed officials to reserve a quota of seats for genuine and urgent passengers. This measure aims to assist those encountering difficulties with online ticket bookings or requiring immediate travel.

Additionally, the Advisor directed the advocacy and promotion of regular services under the UDAAN Scheme using 19-seater aircraft to enhance connectivity. He emphasized the need for regular and reliable services under this scheme, which can play a pivotal role in addressing Ladakh's connectivity challenges and benefiting residents.

The Advisor also stressed the importance of implementing a transparent and efficient ticket allocation mechanism to ensure fairness and accessibility for all passengers. He urged officials to streamline operations, address logistical challenges, and

enhance the efficiency of winter air services.

Regarding infrastructure, he called for expediting the development of Kargil Airport to make it operational for commercial flights and ensuring timely progress in the construction of the new terminal at Leh Airport to meet the growing demands of the region.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner/Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, Dr. Franklin; Chairman/Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Leh; Dy Chairman LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councilor Kargil Kacho Feroz Khan; ADC Leh, ADC Kargil; Air Officer Commanding (AOC), Airforce Station, Leh; Air Officer Commanding (AOC), Airforce Station, Thoise; Sr. Superintendent of Police, Leh; Sr. Superintendent of Police, Kargil. (Through V.C.); Airport Director, (AAI), Leh; GM Project, Airport Leh and other concerned officials. The officials stationed outside joined the meeting virtually.

CEC urges timely completion of Ladakh Buddha Vihara upgradation project



Meeting on progress of the Ladakh Buddha Vihara upgradation project.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, reviewed the progress of the Ladakh Buddha Vihara upgradation project in a meeting attended by Chering Dorjey Lakrook, President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA); Dorjey Gyatso, Superintendent Engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD); and Imran Khan, Executive Engineer of the Construction Division.

During the meeting, Adv. Gyalson expressed serious concerns about the slow pace of work on the project, which is focused on enhancing the infrastructure and facilities of the revered Buddha Vihara that serves as a shelter for patients, pilgrims, and students. The delays, primarily caused by contractor negligence and challenges related to Delhi's pollution control measures, have significantly hindered progress.

The CEC emphasized the critical need to complete the project within the revised timeline. He instructed the concerned authorities and contractors to prioritize and expedite the work, ensuring adherence to the updated schedule.

Justice Bansi Lal Bhat submits ALC reservation report to LG BD Mishra



Justice Bansi Lal Bhat, Chairman of the Reservation Commission for the Actual Line of Control (ALC) in the Union Territory of Ladakh with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Justice Bansi Lal Bhat, Chairman of the Reservation Commission for the Actual Line of Control (ALC) in the Union Territory of Ladakh and former judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, submitted the final report of the one-member commission to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), on December 10 in New Delhi.

The report marks the completion of the Commission's mandate to identify areas adjoining the Actual Line of Control in UT Ladakh for reservation purposes under the J&K Reservation Act, 2004.

The primary objective of the Justice Bansi Lal Bhat-led Commission was to evaluate the feasibility of providing reservations to residents of areas adjoining the ALC

for recruitment to various posts under the Ladakh Administration. This task included ensuring administrative efficiency and maintaining minimum job recruitment standards.

Additionally, the Commission was tasked with formulating criteria for classifying any area in UT Ladakh as an "Area Adjoining the Actual Line of Control" and using these criteria to assess the inclusion of Ladakhi villages in the ALC-adjointing list.

Justice Bansi Lal Bhat briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the Commission's findings.

The Lieutenant Governor commended Justice Bansi Lal Bhat for his dedication and timely report submission, highlighting its importance for the Union Territory's governance and administrative policies.

Awareness program on plastic, e-Waste, and solid waste management rules held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant move towards environmental sustainability, the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC) organized an awareness program on December 6, focusing on Plastic Waste, e-Waste, and Solid Waste Management Rules.

The program aimed to educate the community about the environmental hazards associated with improper disposal of plastic waste, e-waste, and solid waste. It emphasized the importance of recycling and adopting eco-friendly practices to reduce environmental footprints. To discourage the use of non-woven carry bags, LPCC distributed jute bags and other Information, Education, and Communication (IEC)

materials among participants.

Mandeep Mittal, IFS, Regional Director-LPCC, highlighted the detrimental effects of plastic waste and the critical role of recycling in mitigating these impacts.

Ruksana Parveen, District Officer - LPCC Leh, urged the audience to manage and dispose of e-waste in accordance with the e-Waste Management Rules, 2016. She stressed the need for greater awareness and collective responsibility to effectively address the growing challenge of e-waste.

President of the Women's Alliance of Ladakh (WAL) shared insights

into their efforts to ban polythene carry bags in the region.

The President of the Merchant Association Leh emphasized the urgent need to prevent the entry of single-use plastic items into Ladakh, while representatives from Ama Tsokspa (Sankar, Housing Colony), Anjumam Moin-ul-Islam, and Anjuman Imamia Leh discussed their initiatives to eliminate single-use plastic items, such as cups and plates, during functions, religious gatherings, and other events.

The program underscored the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders to achieve a sustainable and plastic-free Ladakh.

DC Leh reviews draft guidelines for housing for all scheme by LAHDC Leh



Deputy Commissioner Leh reviewing the formulation of guidelines for the allotment of houses under the Housing for all scheme.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, convened a meeting on December 5 to review the formulation of guidelines for the allotment of houses under the Housing for All scheme of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh. The meeting was held in the VC Room at the DC Office, Leh.

During the meeting, Assistant District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Leh presented a draft guideline outlining the framework for house

allotments under the scheme. Detailed discussions were held regarding the selection criteria, verification processes, allotment fees, and other terms and conditions essential to ensure fair and effective implementation of the scheme.

DC Santosh Sukhadeve instructed the concerned officers to incorporate necessary modifications into the draft and expedite its finalization. He emphasized the importance of obtaining approvals from LAHDC Leh and the Union Territory ad-

ministration of Ladakh. It was also resolved that the Housing and Urban Development Department would serve as the controlling authority for the scheme's infrastructure.

Key officials in attendance included ADDC Leh Sonam Nurboo, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shabir Hussain, Chief Planning Officer Tsewang Gyalson, Chief Controller of Finance Dr. Zulfikar Ali, AD RDD Leh Tsetan Angmo, AD FCS & CA Department Ruth Mary, and Executive Engineer R&B PWD Leh.

DC Leh approves 30 cases under state marriage assistance scheme



During the meeting of the State Marriage Assistance Scheme at DC office, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, approved 30 verified cases under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme during a meeting held on December 9 in the VC Room of the DC Office, Leh.

District Social Welfare Officer, Inzaar Rana, provided an overview of the scheme's progress, including the number of applications received post-Union Territory status, the applications sub-

mitted this year, verified cases, and the current guidelines. He highlighted the lack of a standardized Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for verifying cases under the scheme.

DC Leh instructed officials to complete the verification process for the remaining cases promptly. He directed the District Social Welfare Officer to send a letter to the Secretary to expedite the release of funds for old

pending cases. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of creating a proper SOP to streamline the identification and verification process under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ghulam Mohd., District Programme Officer ICDS A.G. Zargar, District Social Welfare Officer Inzaar Rana, President Mahila Mandal Leh Sarla Chhewang, and other officials.

CEC reviews preparations for Losar, Christmas, and New Year festivals



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In preparation for the upcoming Losar, Christmas, and New Year festivals, CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, convened a meeting at the Conference Hall of the Council Secretariat, on December 12 to review necessary arrangements.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councilor for Minority Affairs Ghulam Mehdi; Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Leh, Shruti Arora; Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Sonam Deachen;

Additional District Divisional Commissioner, Leh, Sonam Nurboo; Executive Engineers from PDD, PHE, and R&B; Chief Medical Officer, Dolma Chuskit; Deputy Registrar Cooperatives; Assistant Director of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, Leh; Range Officer of the Forest Department; Vice President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, Rigzen Dorjey; President of the Christian Association, Leh, Sonam Parvez; and President of the Merchant Association, Tsering Angchuk.

The meeting aimed to take stock of preparations to ensure smooth and successful celebrations. Discussions focused on a series of events planned in Leh market

from December 20 to December 31, marking the festive season for Losar and the New Year. Activities include cultural performances, choirs, and market promotions designed to engage the community and visitors alike.

Key issues were addressed to ensure the uninterrupted availability of essential commodities in the market and cooperative stores. Critical services such as water supply and power management will be closely monitored to meet increased demand during the celebrations, with backup generators on standby to prevent disruptions. Medical safety remains a top priority, with well-equipped first-aid teams positioned throughout the venue.

Fire safety protocols will also be rigorously enforced to ensure the well-being of all participants and spectators.

A particular concern raised during the meeting was the non-availability of juniper, a plant of significant cultural and ritualistic importance during the Losar festival. Steps are being considered to address this issue to uphold the festival's traditions.

This collaborative meeting underscores the commitment of all stakeholders to organize well-coordinated celebrations, fostering a festive and harmonious atmosphere for the community.

Outreach programme on Income Tax (TDS) awareness held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Income Tax Department (TDS), led by J.S. Kahlon (IRS), Commissioner of Income Tax (TDS)-1 Chandigarh, along with Priyanka Singla (IRS), Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, Range TDS Ludhiana, and Gulzar Ahmed, Income Tax Officer (TDS), Srinagar, organized an outreach programme on Income Tax (TDS) awareness at the Conference Hall, DC Office Leh.

The programme included a detailed presentation on Correction Statements, New Tax Provisions, and the TRACES Portal, the primary online platform for TDS-related activities. Participants were given an online demonstration of the TRACES Portal to enhance their understanding of its features and functionality. The event aimed to educate participants about Income Tax and Tax Deducted at Source (TDS).

J.S. Kahlon, Commissioner of Income Tax (TDS), emphasized that the initiative is part of the Government of India's efforts to enhance awareness about Income Tax and TDS among stakeholders. He explained the importance of sensitizing Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) about Correction Statements, new tax provisions, and related con-

cerns. He noted a general lack of awareness about the TRACES Portal and expressed confidence that the online demonstration provided during the programme would significantly benefit the DDOs. He assured participants that all their queries were addressed during the session.

The Commissioner also shared contact details for addressing future queries online or via phone. He assured that the department is ready to revisit and resolve any issues that require physical intervention in the future.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, where participants, including stakeholders from various departments and organizations, raised issues and concerns related to tax deductions, Income Tax, and other TDS-related matters.

The event witnessed active participation from DDOs, Accounts Officers, Assistant Accounts Officers, Accountants, Accounts Assistants, and representatives from other departments, reflecting the Income Tax Department's commitment to fostering awareness and resolving stakeholder concerns.

People's Voice:

By Stanzin Padma



PT Kunzang, BJP spoke person: Firstly, I would like to congratulate and thank the Ministry of Home Affairs, Hon'ble Minister Nityanand Rai, the Home Secretary, Joint Secretary, and the leaders of the Apex Body and KDA. After a gap of nine months, talks have resumed, and it was a very positive beginning, giving us high hopes for the future.

During the first round of talks, one of the key issues discussed was the recruitment for gazetted posts, which has been pending for five years. This is a critical issue for unemployed youth, and the leaders of the Apex Body and KDA rightly prioritized it. If this matter is not resolved in a timely manner, many candidates will exceed the age limit for recruitment, and the academic continuity of recent graduates and postgraduates could be disrupted. Therefore, the focus of the first meeting was on addressing this issue, including discussions on the Public Service Commission (PSC).

I am hopeful that other demands will be taken up in the next meeting, with positive outcomes. Furthermore, the BJP remains committed to supporting all the demands of Ladakh and will continue to stand with the Apex Body and KDA in this process.



Rigzin, President Congress party: The meeting between the Apex Body, KDA, and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on December 3 appears to have resulted in slightly positive progress. This meeting was of

December 3rd meeting's impact on Ladakh

significant importance, as we had been waiting nearly a year for the talks to resume.

Our leaders, particularly Sonam Wangchuk, took a proactive role in making this meeting happen. He led a Padayatra to Delhi with hundreds of supporters, enduring detention and a 16-day hunger strike. Their efforts have now led to the outcomes we are seeing today, and I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to this movement and struggled for the betterment of Ladakh.

Regarding the discussions on the Gazette issue and women's reservation, I want to address the rumors circulating, particularly those based on Ka Thupstan Chewang's briefing. We must resist jumping to conclusions or seeking quick resolutions. It is essential that we rely on official reports for clarity. While we have all longed for this dialogue, and are happy that it has taken place, we must be patient for the final outcome.

This is not the first time Ladakhi leaders have engaged in discussions with the government. Since 1989, under the guidance of Thupstan Chewang, Chering Dorjay Lakrook, and Nawang Rigzin Jora, our leaders have consistently raised the issues of Ladakh. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and experienced leaders who have always prioritized Ladakh's needs, regardless of whether the ruling party is BJP or Congress. Their leadership continues to benefit Ladakh, and we remain steadfast in our support for them.

The issue of women's reservation is incredibly important, as women make up half of our population. Without their active participation in politics, there can be no real development for women. The Congress Party has always supported women's reservation, and during our time in power, we worked diligently to secure 33% reservation for women in Panchayats. We will continue to advocate for women's rights and representation in all spheres of public life, ensuring their development and empowerment.



Rinchen Dolker, State President Mahila Morcha BJP:

On December 3, a meeting was held between the Government of India and representatives of Ladakh to address key issues concerning

the region. I am pleased to share that significant progress was achieved during the very first round of discussions, surpassing expectations.

One of the most notable outcomes is the decision to allocate 95% job reservation for local students of Ladakh, which addresses a longstanding demand of our youth. This is a momentous step forward, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Ladakhi community, especially our youth, for this much-awaited victory.

As the State President of Mahila Morcha BJP, I want to address the issue of women's representation in politics, particularly in the Ladakh Hill Council. For decades, women have faced discrimination in this sphere, with no elected women representatives in the council since its formation 30 years ago. This lack of representation has been deeply shameful and a glaring inequality, especially in a society where there has been no discrimination between men and women in other fields.

I have been advocating for women's reservation for years. My journey began with the Women's Alliance, continued with the Congress Party, and now, as the Women's President of the BJP, I have consistently worked to ensure this demand is addressed. On International Women's Day, women from all political parties, along with religious organizations' women wings, united to pass a resolution advocating for women's reservation. This appeal was presented to the former MP, CEC, EC, opposition leaders, and even the Governor, all of whom expressed their support. Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, the CEC, also assured us of action. Today, this effort has borne fruit, and I congratulate every woman in Ladakh. For true societal development, men and women must be treated as equals, and this milestone is a step in the right direction.

The meeting also touched upon various other critical issues, including matters related to wildlife conservation zones and the inclusion of Bhoti and Urdu as official languages of Ladakh. These discussions underscore the comprehensive approach being taken to address Ladakh's unique challenges and priorities. This meeting marks a significant moment for Ladakh, and I am hopeful that continued efforts will lead to even more positive

...continues on page 6

The World of Juniors

The World Day of War Orphans was proposed and started by the French organisation SOS Enfants en Detresses. The primary concern of this organisation is to protect children from all forms of abuse and mistreatment. It highlighted the suffering and trauma war orphans face - including displacement, malnourishment and disease.

The theme for World Day of War Orphans 2024 is centered around the concept of "Orphan Lives Matter", derived from the "Black Lives Matter" movement in the context of racial justice in the United States. The theme asserts the need for support and protection for vulnerable individuals who have been orphaned in regional conflicts.

UNICEF estimated that there were 140 million orphans across the world by 2015. Nearly half of the people who died in the wars fought in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries were civilians. This number grew to two-thirds in the Second World War and by the 1980s, almost 90% of the victims were civilians.

Therefore, the estimated number of orphans has increased from 1990-2001.



However, the number has declined slowly at a rate of 0.7% each year, said the UNICEF, but there is much to do in this regard, as newer conflicts are emerging with each passing year. The need to protect orphans is also becoming more dire.

Children become the silent targets of such attacks and often go unnoticed. They grow up with a life of turmoil, displacement, racial turmoil and lack of resources. In war situations, a lot of children are also subjected to sexual assaults, forced labour and human trafficking. The World Day of War Orphans becomes important in raising all the injustices and challenges they face in leading their lives.

DID YOU KNOW



India is the Bengal tiger capital of the world with 60% of the wild tiger population

India has 3,167 wild tigers, the only country with more than 1000. India's tiger population accounts for 60% of all the remaining tigers worldwide. The Bengal tiger is India's national animal. The largest populations live in reserves like the Corbett Tiger Reserve and the Bandipur National Park in Karnataka.

India produces 75 out of 109 recognized spice varieties

India produces 75 of the 109 varieties of spices listed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). With all that spice, it's no wonder Indian cuisine is so popular worldwide. While some cuisines don't use much more than salt and pepper, recipes for Indian food can include up to 15-20 different spices.

The Kumbh Mela Festival in Northern India is the largest religious gathering in the world

The Kumbh Mela festival in Northern India is a popular pilgrimage in the Hindu religion that occurs once every 12 years and is attended by more than

100 million people over the 55-day festival. Before COVID, the 2019 Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj set a record with 200 million participants, 50 million of whom gathered on a single day.

India is the second largest English-speaking country in the world

There are 129 million English speakers in India making it the country with the second-most English speakers in the globe. The United States is number one—well, at least when it comes to English speakers.

In the city of Varansi in Uttar Pradesh, frogs are married to appease the rain gods

The city of Varanasi has a tradition rooted in folklore and ancient farming practices that hosts a wedding for frogs. Frogs are closely tied to rainfall in India, so when there is a drought, the community gathers a pair of would-be Mr. and Mrs. and throws a wedding. Miniature wedding attire and a normal-sized feast included.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Why do we say WHY!



Why do we say 'Why' in a very routine way? We know that it is one of the few most-commonly-used words in our daily life, and that is because we are too inquisitive for various reasons explained in the following paragraphs. You may call it a good or bad habit, but we never take anything without a WHY.

And, WHY is also, at times, an indication of one being in a denial mood, and not a matter of mere curiosity.

At other times, we use WHY as an expression of indignation or surprise. For instance: Why, that is absolutely baseless.

Sometimes, you can also use WHY to emphasise someone's response. For instance, you think so, why?

Besides, if someone is uncertain, he or she uses the word WHY so that one gets a clear idea of what had been said, and was not quite clear. If we get into the ordinary definition of WHY, we can say that it is loaded heavily. For instance: It could mean: Tell me for what purpose, reason or cause?

Interestingly, we, as highly intelligent guys, are in constant race to question ourselves, maybe thousands of times daily, though we maybe doing that quite unconsciously, most of the time. When we do so consciously, then we are in a sort of debate with ourselves over the pros and cons of an issue that needs a solution.

Actually, and normally, anyone of us gets irritated if someone uses WHY all the time. That is because it could mean, sometimes, that the person does not believe that what is said is correct, and hence an explanation of sort has to be coming forth. I, for one, for instance, question myself more than others. Even when I need to use the word WHY with others, I do so in a manner that the guy is not offended. One such polite way is to say: Excuse me, I could not understand you. Can you please let me know why you are saying that?

And that works quite wonderfully and magically with any normal guy. There will be, always, a few exceptions who will question you back after you question them!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Padma Ladol, First woman Rap artist of Ladakh

Interviewed by Nenzes Chodon

Q. Brief us about yourself. Ladakh is a small place where rap culture is new. How and when did you start writing and rapping?

I am Padma Ladol, a songwriter, composer, and rapper from Basgo village. My journey into rap began in 2018-19 when I first encountered the rap culture. I was introduced to Desi Hip-Hop, where artists expressed their thoughts, emotions, and messages through their music. This creative form of storytelling fascinated me, as it wasn't confined to having a traditionally "good" voice or perfect tune.

Intrigued, I began exploring rap further by watching performances and doing cover songs. I also started writing and memorizing published lyrics, which I later performed and shared on social media.

As I gained confidence, people around me noticed my rhythm, flow, and breath control. Their encouragement motivated me to start writing my own songs and performing them. That's how my journey as a rapper truly began.

Q. You often highlight social issues in your songs. How many songs have you written, and what causes have you addressed?

Honestly, I can't write about something on the spur of the moment, which I consider one of my limitations. However, I prefer focusing on themes like environmental issues, social and political concerns, and youth-related challenges, such as unemployment.

To me, rap is a revolution—activism in action. It allows us to shine a light on ongoing social injustices, giving a voice to matters that need attention and presenting them to the world through music.

So far, I've written around 18-19 songs, though I've officially published only 4-5 on YouTube. I've also shared short songs and clips on Instagram. One of my notable works is a song I wrote and performed about the tragic incident at R.J. Kar Medical College in Kolkata, where a woman was raped. In addition to full-length songs, I frequently compose and share short pieces online.

Q. Ladakh is working hard to preserve traditional and folk songs and along with it Rap or Hip-Hop culture, which is Western, has been welcomed by society. What challenges do you and other rappers in Ladakh face in spreading awareness about this culture?



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“**To all talented youths: step out and showcase your skills! The internet offers endless opportunities—share your work and let the world see it. If routine jobs don't excite you, explore the arts. It's a fulfilling path with great potential for success.**”

Rap is a non-violent medium through which social issues can be highlighted and brought to public attention, inspiring action. In Ladakh, I see the rap industry gradually evolving, with the potential to become a thriving and influential platform.

There are many talented young rappers in Ladakh, such as Lil Thun, No Chen, Deldan, Jigmet Mar-C, Tsedup, Buda-Gyatso, Togochey, and others. They possess remarkable skills in writing and composing songs that captivate audiences, often addressing social causes.

Hip-Hop is a broad cultural movement, and rap as a genre within it is gaining the attention it deserves globally. In Ladakh, it has become extremely popular among the youth, who are well aware of its potential. However, it still faces resistance from older generations, who often dismiss it as mere entertainment or a "time pass," finding it unconventional and strange.

I believe this perception will change over time as rap earns recognition and appreciation. I see a bright future for rap in Ladakh's society. I hope that social and governmental organizations will begin treating rap and the rapper community on par with other art forms. Traditional arts often have organized groups, and they perform at festivals and concerts. I hope that rap will soon be given similar platforms, acknowledging its significance and contribution to cultural expression.

Q. Has the government taken any initiatives to recognize rap culture and provide platforms to showcase talent?

As an individual, I've had the opportunity to perform on several occasions. One notable experience was performing on Women's Day, an event organized by the Social and Tribal Welfare Department. My performance was personally appreciated by many women officers and members of the audience, which was very encouraging.

However, there hasn't been any specific initiative from the government to support or promote the entire rapper community in Ladakh. We remain hopeful that, in the future, platforms will be created where rappers can formally showcase their talent and contribute to the cultural landscape of the region.

Q. How do you see the future of rap culture in Ladakh?

Rap culture is rapidly growing across the country. Reality shows like MTV's Hustle are dedicated to discovering and

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Fortnight Highlights



A delegation comprising members of All Ladakh Students Welfare Association Chandigarh met Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) in New Delhi. The members raised several issues regarding the welfare of students from Ladakh studying in Chandigarh.



Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, Member of Parliament Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa, with the Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi at New Delhi. did you know



The Department of School Education UT Ladakh flagged off six new school buses at the Secretariat Premises, UT Ladakh. These new school buses are part of the department's ongoing efforts to enhance transportation facilities for students ensuring safe and reliable access to education institutions.



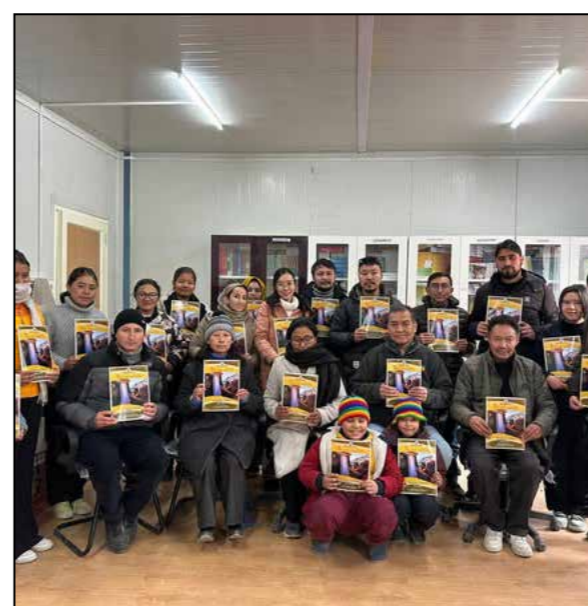
The Ladakh Football Association (LFA), in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) and Acosa Sports, officially launched the KNVB World Coaches Program in Leh. Supported by the LAHDC Leh, this groundbreaking initiative is designed to empower local coaches with world-class expertise, while fostering personal development, life skills, and social cohesion through football.



As part of his ongoing commitment to promote sports and healthy living among the youth of Khatse, Councillor Lobzang Sherab distributed 25 sets of archery equipment to local students.



Aisha Malo re-elected as the President of the Women's Wing, Anjuman-e-Moin-ul-Islam.



Professor Deskyong Namgyal, the Controller of Examinations at the University of Ladakh, visited Government Degree College (GDC) Khatse and released its inaugural newsletter titled Ser-Gyi-Mayon.



A workshop on archival box-making and archival binding was recently organised by Department of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums in Leh. This initiative was conducted as part of the ongoing archival conservation efforts in collaboration with Indra

Fortnightly News

...Continuity of page 4 December 3rd meeting's impact on Ladakh

outcomes for our region.



Deachen Angmo, Women Wing President, Congress Party:

After a prolonged wait, the meeting on Ladakh's 4-point agenda finally resumed. While there was limited discussion on three of the demands, some progress was made on the recruitment issue for gazetted posts. However, it would be premature to say the matter is fully resolved.

Interestingly, an issue not originally part of the 4-point agenda — 33% reservation for women in politics — was discussed by the High-Powered

Committee. As a woman, I am personally grateful for this consideration, though no permanent declaration has been made yet.

It's important to remember that the push for women's reservation is not new. During the UPA government in 2008, the Women's Reservation Bill was introduced, but it failed to pass due to a lack of opposition support. Fast forward to September 2023, the bill was finally passed under BJP's leadership, with support from the opposition. However, the unfortunate part is its delayed implementation. Despite being passed, it has been stated that it will only come into effect after five years, which is disheartening.

Women have consistently excelled in all fields, often outperforming men in academics and professions. However, their lack of representation in politics remains glaring. Without women in decision-making roles, their voices and perspectives are absent from critical governance matters.

Through your platform, I urge all political parties to ensure 33% reservation for women in the upcoming elections. This step is essential for balanced and inclusive decision-making that reflects the interests of half the population.

Women have waited long enough, and now is the time to ensure their rightful place in politics.



Gelek Phunchok, Member of Apex Body:

The recent discussions between Ladakh's Apex Body and the Government of India were held in a positive and cordial environment, according to our leaders. Among the four key demands, immediate attention was given to the issue of recruitment. While a permanent solution, such as establishing a Public Service Commission (PSC), will take time, some progress has been made.

The introduction of 95% job reservation for local candidates is a significant step forward, providing relief for gazetted post aspirants and unemployed youth in Ladakh.

An update has been received that the next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025. Considering the long wait for dates over the past year, this swift follow-up within a month indicates a positive trajectory for future discussions.

As a member of the Apex Body, I am optimistic about the progress being made and the commitment shown by both parties to address Ladakh's pressing concerns through continuous dialogue.

DC Kargil reviews AN-32 courier service plans for winter connectivity



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Shrikant Balasubrahmanyam Suse chaired a meeting through virtual mode on December 10 to discuss the operational arrangements for the AN-32 Kargil Courier Service for the 2024-25 winter season.

Key attendees included SSP Kargil, Director of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) Srinagar and Jammu, Senior Commandant CISF for Jammu & Srinagar airports, Er. Aamir

Ali, Chief Coordinator AN-32 Courier Service, General Manager AIASL, officers from the Indian Air Force, and other stakeholders.

The discussions revolved around the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), facilities for passengers and crew, security protocols, infrastructure maintenance at Kargil airport, deployment of liaison officers from the district administration, and the introduction of an

online ticket booking facility to ensure smooth operations of the courier service during winters.

It was emphasized that close coordination with all concerned authorities would be ensured well in advance for the courier service's effective functioning.

Deputy Commissioner Suse expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their efforts in successfully operating the flights, which provide a lifeline to locals during the closure of the Zojila Pass. He appreciated their support in easing the challenges faced by residents during the harsh winter months.

All stakeholders assured their full cooperation and commitment to making the AN-32 service operational this winter as well.

In Conversation with Padma Ladol, First woman Rap artist of Ladakh

...Continuity of page 5

showcasing rapper talent. Rap is now being integrated into various creative fields, including web series, movies, advertisements, and OTT platforms. Observing this national progress, it's clear that rap has the potential to thrive in Ladakh as well in the coming years.

Recently, Ladakh's rapper community collaborated with Acoustive-Ladakh to organize a concert, giving all rappers an opportunity to perform. Unfortunately, the event faced challenges due to an electrical malfunction and was not as successful as we had hoped.

Despite this setback, we are optimistic about organizing more concerts in the future. These events aim to spread awareness of rap culture while attracting a larger audience. With persistence and support, I believe rap will secure a significant place in Ladakh's evolving cultural landscape.

15-day campaign to revive Balti language and literature held



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A 15-day campaign aimed at the revival and preservation of the Balti language and literature, organized by the Association of Baltis in Himalaya Ladakh & Territories of Indus (ABHLTI), concluded on December 12 at the Cultural Academy Hall, Kargil.

The event was graced by Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, as the chief guest. Other dignitaries included Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports, Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi; Joint Director of Information, Ladakh, Imteaz Kacho; and Padma Shri awardee Dr. Akhona Asgar Ali Basharat.

The campaign focused on instilling the importance of Balti language and culture among the youth, training over 200 participants from Drass to Kargil. Eighteen finalists competed in the concluding event.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Akhoo commended ABHLTI's efforts and emphasized the significance of reviving the Egay script, a cornerstone of languages in Ladakh, including Balti, Purgi, and Ladakhi. He highlighted that cultural preservation goes beyond music and dance, encompassing language and heritage.

To support this initiative, Dr.

Akhoo announced a grant of ₹3 lakh from the Untied Fund of LAHDC Kargil. He assured further assistance for similar efforts and proposed an annual event calendar by the Cultural Academy and the tourism department to sustain such activities.

Joint Director Youth Services and Sports, Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi, praised the association and individuals like Sadiq Ali Hardasi for their dedication to promoting Balti culture. He emphasized the importance of unity in preserving traditions and commended the leadership of ABHLTI President, Bashir Ahmad Wafa, for revitalizing the association's initiatives.

Joint Director of Information, Ladakh, Imteaz Kacho, encouraged the use of indigenous scripts on banners and suggested integrating drama and other creative methods to promote the Balti language. He urged people to incorporate the language into their daily lives and lauded the association's contributions to preserving Ladakh's linguistic heritage.

In his address, ABHLTI President, Bashir Ahmad Wafa, acknowledged the challenges posed by the pervasive influence of social media on preserving the Balti language. He stressed the importance of initiatives like this campaign to encourage the everyday use of Balti language and literature.

The concluding event featured a final competition judged by esteemed poets Syed Rizvi and Akbar Ali Shaheen. Yasir Abbas Budgami secured first place, followed by Imran Ali Lungbithang in second, and Zulfiqar Ali Dass in third. The results were announced by judge Akbar Ali Shaheen. Consolation prizes were distributed among participants and position holders to encourage and recognize their talent.

Promoting Bhoti language: UT-level Bhasha Utsav celebrated in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The School Education Department of UT Ladakh organized a UT-level Bhasha Utsav at DIET Leh on December 11, highlighting the region's rich linguistic heritage and promoting the preservation of local languages.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including the Chief Guest, Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary for School Education. Other notable guests included Bhanu Prabha, Secretary for School and Higher Edu-

cation; Tsering Paldan, Director of School Education; Dr. Thupstan Nurbo, Editor of Bhoti Language; Cultural Officer Leh S.D. Namgail; CEO Kargil; Sonam Wangchuk, CEO Leh; Sayeeda Bano, Principal of DIET Kargil; and Deldan Angmo, Principal of DIET Leh.

The program witnessed active participation from principals of Higher Secondary Schools, headmasters of High Schools, and students from HSS Boys Leh and HSS Girls Leh.

The event commenced with a welcome address by CEO Leh, followed by a presentation by Dr. Thupstan Nurbo on the significance of the Bhoti language in Ladakh. Dr. Nurbo delved into its historical origins and emphasized the need for its preservation alongside the promotion of modern languages. Using the metaphor of a bird flying with two balanced wings, he highlighted the importance of learning both local and global languages. He also urged students to take pride in preserving their mother tongue and cultural heritage.

Students from HSS Boys Leh and HSS Girls Leh contributed meaningfully to the event. Padma Yangdol from HSS Girls Leh spoke about the significance of languages in Indian culture, while Gonbo Dorjay from HSS Boys Leh reflected on the importance of the Bhoti language and the essence of the Bhasha Utsav. Mehvish Jahan from HSS Girls Leh emphasized the importance of the mother tongue, and Tsering Nurbo from HSS Boys Leh recited a poignant poem in Bhoti, un-

derscoring its cultural value.

In his closing remarks, the Chief Guest, Sanjeev Khirwar, commended the students for their insightful contributions. He remarked on India's linguistic and cultural diversity, calling it a national treasure, and noted that Ladakh's unique heritage must be preserved while embracing the learning of other languages. He announced plans to invite language experts from outside Ladakh for knowledge sharing and to send Bhoti language specialists to other regions for further promotion.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Principal DIET Leh, Deldan Angmo, followed by high tea, providing warmth amidst Ladakh's freezing temperatures.

This celebration marked a significant step towards raising awareness about the importance of language preservation, particularly Bhoti, as a vital aspect of Ladakh's cultural identity.

International Mountain day: Mountain ecosystems take center stage at Tangole celebration



During the International Mountain Day celebration at Tangole, the base camp of Mt. Nun.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, participated in the International Mountain Day event held on December 11 at Tangole, the base camp of Mt. Nun. The event was organized under the theme "Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future" by the Tourism Department Kargil to emphasize mountain ecosystems and promote sustainable tourism in the region.

Dignitaries present at the event included Executive Councillor for Tourism, Kacho Mohd Feroz; Councillor, Parkachik; Assistant Director of Tourism, Kargil, Rehmattullah Bhat; Block Development Officer, Rukhsar Ahmad; Incharge Tehsildar, Panikhar; former Councillor, Parkachik, Ghulam Mohd; General Manager of Topline; High-Altitude Skill Trainer from GDC Sankoo, Ananika Bisht; members of the Ski Mountaineering Association Ladakh, students, and local villagers.

Dr. Akhoo congratulated the villagers on Suru Valley's recognition as one of the "Top 25 Destinations" by National Geographic and praised the Tourism department for organizing the event at the iconic Mt. Nun base

camp. He emphasized the mountain's significance as a symbol of regional pride and stated that he has sought special attention for Suru Valley from various ministries. He announced plans for a grand event in Suru Valley next year to boost tourism and committed ₹2-3 crore from the Council Capital Expenditure budget for tourism development.

The CEC instructed the Tourism Department to install attractive signages at the base camp and release a new tourism calendar focusing on Suru Valley. He also informed attendees that the mountaineering policy has been finalized and encouraged stakeholders to complete the registration process.

Highlighting various developmental initiatives undertaken by LAHDC Kargil, particularly in education and other sectors, Dr. Akhoo assured continued support from the Hill Council. He announced ₹3 lakh from the untied grant to purchase mountaineering equipment through the Tourism Department.

Executive Councillor for Tourism, Kacho Mohd Feroz, encouraged youth to active-

ly engage in the region's development. He acknowledged the achievement of Tangole resident Mohd Hussain, the first civilian to summit Mt. Nun without supplemental oxygen, and announced plans to felicitate him during the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

Councillor Parkachik urged the Tourism Department to prioritize mountaineering training for youth to create employment opportunities for locals.

Assistant Director of Tourism, Kargil, Rehmattullah Bhat, emphasized the importance of mountains for biodiversity, freshwater systems, and combating climate change. He urged youth to adopt sustainable practices to preserve ecosystems, stressing their role as key stakeholders in these efforts.

The event featured speeches by students highlighting the significance of International Mountain Day. Prizes and mementos were distributed to students and individuals contributing to the promotion of tourism and culture in the region.

Fortnightly News

GDC Khaltse organizes admission drive across feeder schools in Sham region



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: In an effort to boost student enrollment, Government Degree College (GDC) Khaltse conducted a series of admission drives in various feeder schools across the Sham region.

On December 7, a team of Assistant Professors visited Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Temisgang, engaging with over 20 Class 12 students. The team provided a comprehensive overview of the college's facilities and the range of academic programs available.

On December 9, around 50 Class 12 students from GHSS Khaltse were welcomed to the college campus. Assistant Professor Deachen Angmo extended a warm welcome, fol-

lowed by an informative presentation delivered by Sonam Yangdol and Mephram Dolker, third-semester students at GDC Khaltse. The presentation highlighted academic programs, campus infrastructure, and student life.

The session included a lively Q&A segment, where students raised queries about courses, campus life, and other concerns, which were addressed by the faculty members.

Following the session, students toured the college facilities, including the library, Girls' Hostel, and Sports Room, providing them with a first-hand experience of the campus. Senior students also shared their personal college experiences, adding a relatable touch for

prospective applicants.

Earlier, Senior Assistant Professor Konchok Chorol, who serves as the In-Charge Principal, delivered a detailed presentation on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. She emphasized the importance of utilizing the higher education opportunities now available in UT Ladakh and encouraged students to enroll in the college without delay.

The college admission committee plans to hold a similar drive at GHSS Skurbuchan on December 12, 2024. The initiative has been well-received, sparking interest among students and promising an increase in enrollments for the upcoming academic session.

District Police Kargil hosts entrepreneurship workshop under civic action program



Entrepreneurship workshop by District Police Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Under the leadership of SSP Kargil, Shree Raam R, District Police Kargil organized an entrepreneurship workshop on December 10 to promote entrepreneurship and support start-ups in the region.

The event, held as part of the civic action program, saw active participation from aspiring entrepreneurs, trainees from the Handloom sector, and students from ITI Kargil.

Experts and resource persons from leading banks, including J&K Bank and HDFC Bank, as well as representatives from government departments such as Handlooms, Handicrafts, and Industries, shared valuable insights on government schemes and financial loans available for start-ups. Informative stalls set up by various departments and banks further enhanced the participants' understanding of available services and resources.

Deputy Superintendent DAR, Tundup, attended the workshop as the chief guest. SHO Kargil, Kacho Sadat Ali, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the critical role of entrepreneurship in driving the socio-economic development of the region.

Throughout the event, resource persons provided in-depth presentations on government initiatives designed to support budding entrepreneurs. Interactive sessions equipped participants with practical knowledge and opportunities to build networks, creating a solid foundation for future ventures.

In his closing address, Deputy Superintendent DAR expressed gratitude to the participants and resource persons, commending their dedication. He reiterated District Police Kargil's unwavering commitment to supporting the people of Kargil in every possible way.

This initiative underscores the District Police's dedication to fostering community development and strengthening ties with the local populace.

Administrator MC Kargil inspects Solid Waste Management Plant at Kurbathang



Administrator of the Municipal Committee (MC) Kargil, Inteeaz Kacho, inspecting the Solid Waste Management Plant at Kurbathang.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Administrator of the Municipal Committee (MC) Kargil, Inteeaz Kacho, conducted an inspection of the Solid Waste Management Plant at Kurbathang on December 4 to review its operations. He was accompanied by Executive Officer Aarifa Iqbal and other municipal officials.

Project Manager of 3R Management Limited, Kapil Kant Niranjani, provided a detailed briefing on the plant's waste management processes, including waste segregation, shredding, mixing, curing, storage, recycling, and packaging. He also demonstrated the conversion of garbage into manure and highlighted that the plant processed 123

tonnes of waste in November 2024.

Key discussions included the manpower requirements, the potential for solar energy use to power the plant, and challenges posed by non-compliant waste, such as stones and sharp materials, which risk damaging the machinery. The Administrator emphasized the importance of creating public awareness to encourage better waste practices. He assured the implementation of measures to bring about behavioral changes among citizens, including social media campaigns.

Exploring the introduction of waste segregation at the source as a pilot project was also considered.

During the visit, the Administrator and the Executive Officer interacted with the plant workers, commending their efforts toward efficient waste management and environmental conservation. Concerns regarding the landfill site and its operations were also discussed in detail.

Inteeaz Kacho lauded the scientific waste disposal measures adopted at the plant and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly waste management practices.

School of Agricultural Science and Technology celebrates World Soil Day, highlights sustainable soil management



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The School of Agricultural Science and Technology (SAS&T), Leh Campus, University of Ladakh, celebrated World Soil Day on December 5 with a program aimed at raising awareness about the importance of healthy soil and advocating for its sustainable management to ensure food security and environmental conservation.

Dr. Padma Angmo provided an insightful briefing on World Soil Day and the significance of soil testing. She outlined the benefits of the Soil Health Card Scheme implemented by the Agriculture Department of Ladakh and emphasized its advantages for farmers. Highlighting the 2024 theme, "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, and Manage," Dr. Angmo

stressed the need to adopt practical measures for soil preservation and sustainability.

Dr. Anwar Hussain spoke on the importance of integrating traditional farming practices with modern agricultural techniques. He discussed traditional irrigation methods like Khakchu and cultural practices such as Stonlok (autumn ploughing), which play a vital role in maintaining soil fertility and supporting sustainable agriculture in Ladakh's unique climatic conditions.

Dr. Lobzang Stanzin delved into the intricate process of soil formation, emphasizing that it takes centuries to form just one centimeter of soil. He encouraged students to spread awareness among farmers

about soil health, soil testing, and sustainable management practices, underlining their importance for long-term agricultural productivity.

The event served as a platform to inspire students to appreciate soil as a vital natural resource and to equip them with knowledge to advocate for sustainable soil management in their communities.

World Soil Day, celebrated annually on December 5, focuses on raising global awareness about soil health and sustainable soil resource management. SAS&T's observance of the day reaffirms its commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural practices and environmental stewardship in Ladakh.

Training programme organised for 11th agriculture census at Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A one-day training programme for Phase II and Phase III of the 11th Agriculture Census was held at the Conference Hall, DC Office Leh on December 13. The programme was conducted online by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Delhi, through video conference and was chaired by Chief Planning Officer, Tsewang Gyalson.

The primary objective of the training was to enhance the skills and knowledge of enumerators and officials in conducting accurate and efficient data collection at the district level. Key techniques in data collection methodologies, procedures, and the use of technology were imparted during the session.

During the training, the Chief Planning Officer emphasized the importance of accuracy and reliability in data collection. He highlighted that the data will provide a comprehensive assessment of the agriculture sector's contribution to the economy and serve as the basis for formulating various plans and policies. He urged officials and enumerators to gain a thorough understanding of the hands-on training, which included fieldwork, data recording, and handling digital tools. He further stated that the programme will help streamline census operations, enhancing overall efficiency and accuracy.

The training programme was attended by Nodal Officer Mushtaq Ahmed, along with enumerators and officials from various departments. Officers and officials stationed outside joined the session through video conference.

CEC, Leh reviews key development initiatives in Leh



CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson with Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam and Brij Mohan Sharma.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a review meeting with Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam, Principal Secretary of Forest and Health, and Brij Mohan Sharma, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) on December 11.

The meeting focused on ongoing development projects and initiatives aimed

at improving healthcare, education, and wildlife management in the region.

CEC Gyalson termed the recent approval of 265 posts for SNM Hospital and Medical College as "historical," appreciating the UT Administration's efforts. He told the Principal Secretary to initiate the recruitment process at the earliest and make the degree college infrastruc-

ture ready to run it at the earliest by summer.

The Principal Secretary Health informed about the recent advertisement for engaging specialist doctors under NHM for UT Ladakh, minimizing the requirement for specialized care.

CEC Gyalson appreciated the approval for establishing a Nursing College in Leh, providing students with local access to BSc and MSc Nursing courses. This initiative will foster local capacity-building in the healthcare sector.

During the meeting, the rationalization of wildlife boundaries was also discussed, and CEC was informed that it is nearing completion, with significant progress made in a short time, contributing to the region's overall development.

The review meeting acknowledged the significance of these initiatives in driving growth and development in the region.

NOTICE

An application has been received from Tashi Paldan S/o Tsering Motup R/o Ibex Colony, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. LA02 A -4918 for issuance of duplicate Route 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 within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Urgeen Chokling S/o Thinlas Thirchan R/o Skindiyang, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as Thinlas Tharchen instead of correct and actual name Thinlas Thirchan in my ST Certificate duly issued by Khaltse Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 513-15/ BCG/ ST/ K/ 2021 and Dated on 11-02-2021. Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Khaltse Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

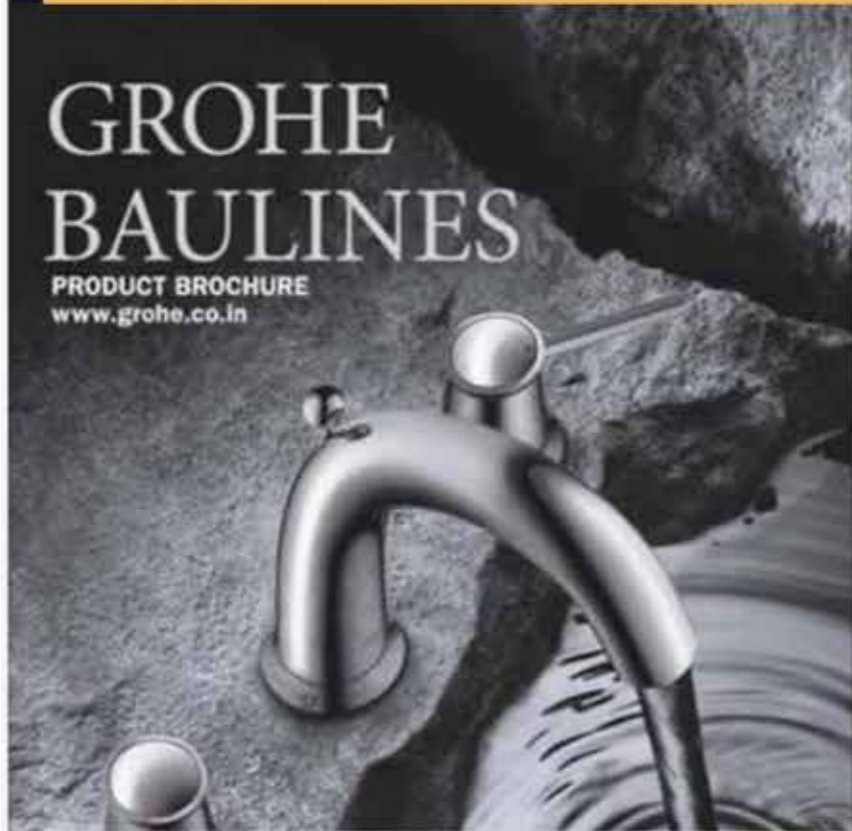
I, Rigzen Nurboo S/o Konchok Angchok R/o Phyang, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK1020170019339 and I am applying for duplicate driving license. Objection if any may be conveyed to Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh, Ladakh within 10 days from the date of publication.

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I, Deachen Lzawa D/o Thinlas Thirchan R/o Skindiyang, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as Thinless Tarchen instead of correct and actual name Thinlas Thirchan in my ST Certificate duly issued by Khaltse Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 513-15/ BCG/ ST/ K/ 2021 and Dated on 11-02-2021. Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Khaltse Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.


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