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Deldan Angmo I/C Principal DIET, Leh

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सत्यमेव जयते

The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh



Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor,
Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.)

Conveys warm greetings to all dear brothers & sisters of Ladakh on the

76th

REPUBLIC DAY



Adv. Tashi Gyalsen
Hon'ble Chairman / CEC,
LAHDC, Leh



Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoun,
Hon'ble Chairman/CEC,
LAHDC-Kargil

गणतंत्र दिवस
की शुभकामनाएँ

Fortnightly News

Late Lama Lobzang awarded Padma Shri posthumously for his life-long service to humanity



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Late Lama Lobzang, Founder and Former President of Ashoka Mission, has been posthumously honored with the prestigious Padma Shri Award, the fourth highest civilian award in India. This recognition celebrates his tireless service to humanity, particularly his contributions to the people of Ladakh.

The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, expressed its deepest gratitude to the Government of India for honoring the enduring legacy of Lama Lobzang with the Padma Shri.

CEC Tashi Gyalson extended sincere thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for recognizing Lama Lobzang's remarkable achievements. CEC Gyalson also conveyed his heartfelt congratulations, saying, "We are deeply honored to see Lama Lobzang's lifelong commitment to humanity celebrated with this prestigious award. His legacy will continue to inspire us all. My sincere congratulations to his family during this moment of immense pride."

Tashi Motup Kau, representing Ashoka Mission, expressed immense gratitude, saying, "It is with deep humility that I share that Late Venerable Lama Lobzang, who served as President of Ashoka Mission for over 50 years, has been posthumously conferred the Padma Shri." He also thanked LAHDC, the institutions and organizations of Ladakh, and

the people of Ladakh for their support, as well as the Government of India for this recognition.

Lama Lobzang was a prominent figure in the global Buddhist movement and played a key role in establishing the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), aimed at promoting Buddhist values worldwide. He served for over 20 years as a member of the High Power Panel on Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Weaker Sections, as well as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the Government of India.

Additionally, Lama Lobzang initiated a Medicare program with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for over 25 years, providing super-specialist treatment for thousands of patients suffering from complex and advanced diseases. He also organized free medical camps across Ladakh. His notable healthcare contribution included facilitating cancer treatment for Ladakh patients at AIIMS, a program that now extends free accommodation for cancer patients and their attendants.

Lama Lobzang's lifelong humanitarian service is a testament to his mission of creating a more compassionate society. His extraordinary achievements were made possible through the unwavering support and encouragement he received throughout his journey.

PAGIR President urges L-G to facilitate Ladakh team's participation in Para Ice Hockey Girls tournament



Tsewang Dorjay, President of the People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights (PAGIR), meeting with Lieutenant Governor Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Tsewang Dorjay, President of the People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights (PAGIR), met Lieutenant Governor Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on January 29.

During the meeting, he sought the Lieutenant Governor's support in preparing for the upcoming Para Ice Hockey Girls Tournament.

Also present at the meeting were Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; OSD to the Secretary of Youth, Services, and Sports, Dr. Stanzin Thakchos; and the President of PAGIR, Tsewang Dorjay.

Tsewang Dorjay informed the LG that the Para Ice Hockey Girls Tournament is scheduled to take place in Korea in June and July. He requested assistance in facilitating the participation of the Ladakh Para Ice Hockey Girls Team, including the registration of

the Para Ice Hockey Association as a society and the procurement of essential training equipment.

In response, the Lieutenant Governor instructed the OSD to the Secretary of Youth, Services, and Sports to visit the training sessions, assess the standard of practice and equipment, and oversee the selection and preparation of the team. He also directed the OSD to initiate the formation of a federation and assist with the association's registration through the Sports Authority of India and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Additionally, the LG assured that a formal request would be sent to the Ministry to facilitate the team's participation in the tournament in Korea.

The LG further directed OSD Dr. Thakchos to submit a detailed report on the matter to the Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor by February 18, 2025.

Khelo India Winter Games 2025: Ladakh tops the medal tally



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In their second year as hosts, the Union Territory of Ladakh emerged at the top of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025, with the first chapter concluding at the NDS Stadium on January 27. The second and final phase of the KIWG 2025 will be held in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir, from February 22-25.

In the Men's Ice Hockey final, the Indian Army secured a 2-1 victory over ITBP, while UT Ladakh triumphed in the women's final, defeating ITBP with a commanding performance. Himachal Pradesh won the bronze.

Army coach Rinchen Tundup shared with SAI Media: "Our team has been playing back-to-back matches, starting with the CEC Cup, followed by the LG Cup, and now the Khelo India event. Despite limited practice time, I am thrilled with the team's performance. We've won all three cups, and I'm proud of their efforts. A special thanks to the ITBP team for providing strong competition in today's final."

In the mixed relay for Ice Skating, the quartet from Ladakh—Stanzin Jampal, Skarma Tsultim, Mohammed Saquaf Raza, and Padma Angmo—set a record time of 3:02.19 seconds to win the gold. Maharashtra clocked 3:03.78 seconds for the silver, while Telangana finished third with 3:04.85 seconds.

Padma Chorol, a senior

member of the UT Ladakh women's ice hockey team, reflected: "It feels amazing, and this moment means a lot to our team. Last year, we lost to ITBP, but this year we made a strong comeback. A big thank you to our coach and the Khelo India administration for bringing this event to Ladakh and making it possible for us."

In the final skating event on January 27, the 500m women's long track at Gupuks, Tamil Nadu's Yashashree claimed the gold with a time of 58.00 seconds. Riya Vilas Gayakwad from Maharashtra won silver (1:04.31), while Srijia S Rao of Karnataka took bronze (1:04.93) in a tightly contested finish.

The medal tally for KIWG 2025 saw Ladakh at the top with 7 medals, including four golds. Tamil Nadu followed with five medals, three of which were gold. Maharashtra finished third with 10 medals but only two golds, compared to their dominant performance in KIWG 2024, where they won 20 skating medals, including six golds. Telangana, with two golds, came fourth, while Karnataka, with one gold, secured fifth place in KIWG 2025.

On the inaugural day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir for organizing this significant national sporting event, showcasing the regions as hotspots for winter sports.

In his message, PM Modi emphasized the government's commitment to promoting sports across India and highlighted how Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir are elevating the country's sporting culture, boosting tourism, and presenting India's beauty and diversity on the global stage.

"Our government prioritizes sports development in Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. With 100 Khelo India Centres in Jammu & Kashmir and three in Ladakh, including a State Centre of Excellence in Leh for athletics, archery, and boxing, we are shaping the region into a hub of sporting excellence," PM Modi stated. He added, "KIWG 2025 will play a pivotal role in taking our sporting achievements to new heights."

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, though unable to attend the ceremony, expressed his support for the initiative through a message, calling India a "4D Sports Nation." "Our diversity allows us to host a variety of sports: winter games in Leh, adventure sports in the Northeast, beach games in South India, and popular sports along the west coast. This makes India a true 4D sports destination," Dr. Mandaviya said.

Reflecting on India's recent successes in chess, cricket, the Olympics, and the Paralympics in Paris, the minister expressed optimism about the country's sporting future.

Lt Governor Brig (Dr) BD Mishra unfurls national flag at Republic Day celebration in Leh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) during the Republic Day celebration held at Polo Ground, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), unfurled the national flag and extended heartfelt wishes to the people of Ladakh during the Republic Day celebration held at Polo Ground, Leh.

The event was attended by CEC, LAHDC-Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS; 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Hitesh Balla; DGP Ladakh, Dr. SD Singh Jamwal, IPS; Executive Councillors of LAHDC-Leh; Secretaries of the UT Administration; Deputy Commissioner Leh; SSP Leh; Councillors of LAHDC-Leh; district officers, community and religious representatives, and a large gathering of the general public. In his address, the LG expressed immense happiness over the post-humous recognition of Late Lama Lobzang, who was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri Award for his invaluable contributions. He stated that this honor reflects the dedication of Ladakh's people to social welfare and development.

The LG highlighted the strides Ladakh has made in multiple sectors, focusing on the vision of a prosperous and sustainable region. He elaborated on initiatives such as the creation of five new districts, progress toward carbon neutrality, and advancements in education, health, tourism, and infrastructure.

Key achievements mentioned in his speech included the reduction of diesel generator use across Ladakh,

ongoing work on the 220 kV transmission system, and the establishment of the Green Corridor project. The LG also emphasized efforts to enhance educational opportunities, skill development programs, and the promotion of winter sports, which are integral to Ladakh's growth.

He acknowledged progress in employment generation, health management, and rural infrastructure, underscoring the impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission, the establishment of a medical college, and initiatives such as the Khelo India Winter Games, which promote Ladakh as a prominent destination for tourism and sports.

The LG congratulated the winners of the newly instituted UT Awards, recognizing five awardees each from Leh and Kargil districts for their exceptional contributions to the region's growth and development. These awards aim to honor and inspire individuals making a significant impact in their communities.

Calling for unity and cooperation, the LG urged citizens to work together towards a "corruption-free and delay-free" administration. He encouraged the youth to pledge their efforts to make Ladakh the most developed Union Territory in the country.

In conclusion, the LG reaffirmed his commitment to the welfare of Ladakh's people, pledging to collaborate with both Leh and Kargil districts to ensure the region's continued progress and prosperity.

CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo unfurls national flag on Republic Day



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo during the 76th Republic Day celebration at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium, Biamathang.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 76th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium, Biamathang, on January 26. Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, unfurled the National Flag and presided over the celebrations.

Dr. Akhoo inspected the parade and took the salute from contingents of the Ladakh Police, police band, ex-servicemen, and students from various schools.

In his address, Dr. Akhoo congratulated the people on Republic Day, reflecting on the significance of January 26, 1950, when the Indian Constitution was enacted, establishing India as an independent democracy. He highlighted the principles of equality enshrined in the Constitution, ensuring equal rights for all citizens regardless of religion, nationality, color, or race.

He urged the people to actively contribute to the development of villages, cities, and the nation with a spirit of patriotism. Paying tribute to veteran soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation, he reaffirmed the Hill Council's commitment to advancing the district's development and fostering growth across all sectors.

Dr. Akhoo detailed ongoing initiatives, emphasizing a clean, transparent, and corruption-free administration. He highlighted significant projects in health, tourism, urban development, and infrastructure:

- Health Sector:** Installation of a ₹2.5 crore mammography machine and approval for a Tesla MRI-3 for District Hospital Kargil this year. A ₹141.50 crore funding has been sanctioned for constructing addi-

tional hospital blocks, with ongoing upgrades at other healthcare facilities.

- Tourism Development:** Plans to promote tourism include infrastructure development, creating tourist circuits, and introducing a tourism helpline at Sonamarg. The inclusion of 500 new beneficiaries under the Home Stay Policy and upcoming festivals such as the Neuroz Festival and Apricot Blossom Festival were also announced.

- Urban Development:** Projects like multi-level car parking, sewage treatment plants, and a 24x7 water supply scheme are in progress.

Dr. Akhoo highlighted significant progress on the Zojila Tunnel Project, with 10.5 km of the 13 km completed, and expected emergency opening by December 2025. He also announced that 180 km of the 230 km Kargil-Zaskar National Highway (NH-301) is completed, with the remaining stretch set for completion this year.

Addressing unemployment, he stated that LAHDC Kargil is working to fill vacancies in various departments, with recruitment for gazetted posts commencing this year. He also emphasized education initiatives such as providing laptops to meritorious students and free boarding facilities during winter vacations.

The event concluded with vibrant cultural programs and patriotic performances by artists and students from different schools. Dignitaries led by Dr. Akhoo distributed mementos and certificates to recognize exceptional contributions to public welfare. Prizes were awarded to participants of the march past and cultural programs, adding to the celebratory spirit.

Leh commemorates Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo's legacy on his 7th death anniversary



Deskrit Angmo

LEH: Late Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo, former Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the LAHDC, Leh, was remembered on the occasion of his 7th death anniversary at Dr. Dawa Memorial Park, Diskit Tsal, on January 29. The event was organized by LAHDC Leh in collaboration with the Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo Memorial Committee.

The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Chering Dorje, President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA); Tashi Namgyal, Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh; Ghulam Mehdi, Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh; Sonam Norboo, ADDC, Leh; Phuntsog Stanzin, State President of BJP; Gyal P Wangyal, former CEC of LAHDC, Leh; LAHDC Councillors; representa-

tives from religious organizations; and family members.

Chering Dorje, President of LBA, highlighted Dr. Dawa's unwavering dedication to the people of Ladakh. He emphasized Dr. Dawa's instrumental role in advancing the region's healthcare system during his tenure as Chief Medical Officer, particularly in the development and improvement of the Sonam Norboo Memorial (SNM) Hospital, which made quality medical services accessible to all. Dorje remarked, "Dr. Dawa was not only an excellent administrator but also an honest person."

Durbuk Lonpo Dorje Stanzin, a close cousin of Dr. Dawa, fondly recalled his qualities, saying, "He was disciplined, a great administrator, and above all, an honest person. I have never

seen anyone like him."

Executive Councillor Tashi Namgyal Yakzee also paid tribute to Dr. Sonam Dawa, underscoring his key role in the development of Ladakh. Yakzee spoke about Dr. Dawa's vision for a progressive and inclusive Ladakh, which continues to shape the region's growth. He emphasized the importance of preserving Dr. Dawa's legacy and carrying forward the values he instilled in the region's socio-political fabric for future generations.

The ceremony included a prayer session, during which attendees reflected on Dr. Dawa's significant contributions to Ladakh's development. His legacy remains a source of inspiration for current and future generations working towards the betterment of the region.

Fortnightly News

Bailey Bridges inaugurated to boost connectivity between Shyok and Nubra valley



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: Two Bailey bridges were inaugurated over the Shyok river near Shatse Taknak in the Diskit Sub-Division of Leh, connecting the Shyok and Nubra Valley on January 22.

The bridges were jointly inaugurated by Brigadier VS Salaria SC, SM, Commander of the Siachen Brigade, and Tsering An-

gchuk, Deputy Chairman of LAHDC, Leh.

The inauguration was attended by various dignitaries, including military officials, Mukul Beniwal IAS, SDM Nubra, and community members from Charasa, Burma, Kuri, and Murgi villages.

The construction of these bridges addresses a key need for the local communities, significantly improving access to essential services, especially during the harsh winter months. The villages of Charasa, Burma, Kuri, and Murgi in the Siachen region will particularly benefit from this initiative.

These two Bailey bridges, with lengths of 50 ft and 100 ft, were constructed by the Fire and Fury Corps Engineers across the Shyok River. They reduce the travel distance by approximately 40 km and cut down travel time by about two hours, connecting the farthest village

Leh celebrates 10 years of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign



Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson inaugurating the 10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, a flagship initiative aimed at improving the status of the girl child and promoting women's education across India, was celebrated at the Cultural Academy in Leh.

The event brought together key stakeholders to reflect on the progress made over the past decade and to discuss future goals for women's empowerment in the region.

The occasion was graced by Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson as the chief guest. Other dignitaries included Shashanka Ala, IAS, Secretary of UT Ladakh; Santosh Sukhadeve, DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh; Shruti Sinha, SSP Leh; A.G. Zargar, ACD Leh; Tsewang Paljor, Deputy Secretary for Culture; Nasreen Maryam, President of Anjuman Imamia Women Wing; Tsewang Chuzin, President of the Women Alliance; Dr. Kunzes Dolma, Vice President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA); Captain Jigmet Palmo of the

Ladakh Women's Football National Team; Amir Sohail, Social Worker, Special Cell for Women; and staff members, including Anganwadi workers and directors.

Amir Sohail highlighted the challenges faced by women in Ladakh, particularly gender-based violence and the lack of legal awareness. He emphasized the urgent need for expanded legal education and awareness programs, especially in remote areas.

Leaders such as the Vice President of the LBA, the President of the Anjuman Imamia Women Wing, the President of the Women Alliance, and Captain Jigmet Palmo also addressed the gathering. They passionately spoke about the importance of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, advocating for sustained efforts in promoting gender equality, expanding women's education, and creating opportunities across various fields.

Shashanka Ala shared her deep connection with the campaign, stating, "It's

not just about empowering women but about building a culture of gender equality for future generations." She applauded the significant strides made in girls' education in Ladakh and called for continued efforts to provide equal opportunities for women, particularly in leadership roles. "We must teach the next generation the value of gender equality and create a future where women can succeed," she added.

Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson underscored the significant progress achieved under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, particularly in advancing women's education and empowerment in Ladakh. While celebrating these milestones, he stressed the need for continued improvements in women's safety and representation. He also highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the LAHDC in health, education, sports, and politics, reaffirming the Council's commitment to enhancing women's rights and opportunities in the region.

As a gesture of gratitude, tokens of appreciation were presented to key officials for their invaluable contributions to women's empowerment.

The event served as a powerful reminder of the progress achieved over the past decade while emphasizing the need for sustained efforts to ensure a brighter and more equitable future for women in Ladakh.

SNM Hospital introduces dedicated elder helpdesk with HelpAge India

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a noteworthy step toward enhancing healthcare services for senior citizens, Ghulam Mehdi, Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, inaugurated the Elder Helpdesk at SNM Hospital Leh on January 27.

The initiative, managed by HelpAge India in collaboration with SNM Hospital, aims to provide elderly patients with personalized support, ensuring they receive healthcare services with dignity and care.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Rajesh Kumar, State Head of HelpAge India; Dr. Tashi Thinles, Director of Health; Dr. Dolma Chuskit, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Leh; and Dr. Jigmet Wangchuk, Deputy Medical Superintendent.

The Elder Helpdesk is specially designed to assist senior citizens in navigating the healthcare system efficiently. It addresses

their unique needs by offering timely and compassionate support.

The helpdesk team, comprising a Team Leader, a Government Scheme Coordinator, and an Elderly Assistant (Vridhi Mitra), is dedicated to ensuring a seamless experience for the elderly during their hospital visits.

This service will provide various forms of assistance to elderly patients, such as mobility support, including wheelchair services, to help them move around the hospital. The team will also guide senior citizens through different OPD departments, particularly those who come without an attendant. Additionally, the helpdesk will facilitate the collection of diagnostic reports and medicines for elderly patients, making their experience more convenient. For those in need of further care or shelter, the helpdesk will establish connections with



During the launch of Elder Helpdesk at SNM Hospital, Leh.

old age homes and other resources. Furthermore, the helpdesk will assist in identifying and linking elderly patients with relevant government schemes, ensuring they have access to all available benefits.

The Elder Helpdesk is a vital initiative that seeks to make healthcare more accessible and compassionate for the senior citizens of Leh. Its launch reflects a strong commitment to addressing the needs of the elderly and ensuring they receive adequate support in their medical journeys.

Steering Committee approves Ladakh State Action Plan on clean air

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal launches online consent management & monitoring system



Launch of pictorial guide on Bio-medical Waste Segregation and Disposal, developed by the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Union Territory of Ladakh has achieved a significant milestone with the approval of the State Action Plan on Clean Air and the launch of the Online Consent Management & Monitoring System (OCMMS) by the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India. Additionally, a Pictorial Guide on Bio-medical Waste Segregation and Disposal, aligned with the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, was unveiled to promote effective waste management practices.

In a key meeting held at the Civil Secretariat in Leh on January 29, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to UT Ladakh and Chairman of the State Action Plan on Clean Air, granted approval to the plan, which was developed by the Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) and finalized after extensive deliberations with the Steering Committee.

Dr. Kotwal acknowledged that Ladakh enjoys relatively better air quality than other parts of the country. He directed the LPCC to install digital display boards in Leh

including air pollution data for Leh and Kargil. The analysis, covering particulate matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5) levels from 2019 to November 2024, indicated that air quality levels have remained consistent over time.

Following the discussions, Dr. Kotwal officially launched the OCMMS, a single-window digital platform that streamlines the process for public and private stakeholders to obtain pollution-related consents and authorizations without paperwork.

He also unveiled the Pictorial Guide on Bio-medical Waste Segregation and Disposal, developed by the LPCC, to enhance awareness and compliance with the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. This initiative aims to foster sustainable waste disposal practices across the region.

The meeting and launch event was attended by Dr. Vasanthakumar, Commissioner/Secretary of Forest, Ecology & Environment; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Member Secretary LPCC; Bhupesh Chaudhary, Secretary of Transport; Santosh Sukhdeve, Deputy Commissioner Leh; Mandeep Mittal, Regional Director LPCC; Tsewang Paljor, Chief Engineer PDD, and other senior officials. Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary of Industries & Commerce, and Srikanth Suse, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, also participated via video conferencing.

CEC reviews progress on LAHDC heritage documentation and mapping initiative

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a review meeting on January 25 at the Council Secretariat's Conference Hall to assess the progress of the Heritage Documentation and Mapping Initiative undertaken by LAHDC Leh.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman Tsering Angechuk, Executive Councillors Ghulam Mehdi and Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, and Deputy Secretary Culture Tsewang Paljor.

Representatives from Plannable Consultants, including Executive Director Konchok Tashi, Project Director Stanzin Otsal, and Research Manager Jigmet Katpa, provided

updates on the initiative. They announced the successful completion of the pilot project in the Singey Lalok Block and the official launch of the main project.

Plannable Consultants highlighted key components, including drone mapping for heritage and cultural documentation, audio tours for major monasteries across various regions, and a collection of books focused on heritage preservation. It will also feature a new website dedicated to heritage sites, cultural videos, 3D virtual tours, and audio guides. Additionally, a coffee table book showcasing Losar celebrations in Ladakh will be published, alongside the launch of podcasts

featuring renowned historians and local experts. CEC Tashi Gyalson commended the progress and expressed optimism about the project's potential to preserve and promote Ladakh's cultural heritage. He emphasized the importance of expediting the initiative's implementation to benefit the community and enhance Ladakh's global cultural presence.

The strong support for the project from the Deputy Chairman, Executive Councillors, and other key stakeholders underscored the commitment to protecting and documenting Ladakh's rich heritage for future generations.

Fire and Fury Corps celebrates 76th Republic day with patriotic fervor



Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh paying tribute at Hall of Fame, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 76th Republic Day was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm by all ranks of the Fire and Fury Corps on January 26.

The celebration began with a wreath-laying ceremony at the iconic Hall of Fame War Memorial, Leh, to honor the bravehearts who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the nation's borders. The solemn tribute was led by Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, along with Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla, SC**, SM, VSM, General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps; Major General Dinesh Kumar Singh, SM, Chief of Staff, Fire and Fury Corps; and Ma-

ajor General Ravinder Kumar, SM, General Officer Commanding, Leh Sub Area.

Addressing the gathering, Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) commended the Indian Army for its unwavering dedication and indomitable spirit while serving in the challenging and arduous conditions of the Ladakh region. He lauded the army's invaluable contribution in maintaining the sanctity of the nation's borders with courage and resilience.

The celebration reflected the pride and gratitude of the nation toward its armed forces, emphasizing their critical role in safeguarding the sovereignty of India.

L-G chairs governing body meeting of State Health Society NHM



Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) chairing the Governing Body meeting of the State Health Society (SHS), NHM UT of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) chaired the Governing Body meeting of the State Health Society (SHS), NHM UT of Ladakh, on January 24 at the Governor's Secretariat. The meeting reviewed progress on various healthcare initiatives and deliberated on future plans to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by CEC, LAHDC-Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; CEC, LAHDC-Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhon; Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Hanifa Jaan; Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS; Commissioner/Secretary, Dr. Vasantha Kumar, IAS; and other officials and members of the Governing Body.

During the meeting, significant emphasis was placed on reducing the infant mortality rate (IMR) in Ladakh, with a steadfast commitment to achieving a single-digit IMR. Strategies to meet this ambitious target included conducting facility-level death audits to identify and address gaps in healthcare delivery.

A key development highlighted was the establishment of Catheterization Laboratories (Cath Labs) for cardiac procedures at SNM Hospital, Leh, and District Hospital, Kargil. These facilities, slated to be operational by May 2025, are expected to greatly enhance access to critical cardiac care for Ladakh's residents.

To address the shortage of specialist medical professionals, several proposals were approved to increase their availability in the region. This will be achieved through the

introduction of diploma courses and upskilling programs for existing doctors.

In a significant effort to alleviate the financial burden on patients, the UT government has implemented a policy offering free diagnostic services, including CT scans, MRIs, and lab tests, at government hospitals. This initiative has already led to a substantial reduction in patients' out-of-pocket expenses.

The progress toward achieving universal health coverage in Ladakh was also discussed. The government is actively enrolling all eligible residents under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission scheme to ensure comprehensive healthcare coverage for the population.

Additional initiatives discussed included upgrading maternity healthcare facilities, training paramedics and doctors, establishing pediatric care centers, and expanding telemedicine services. These measures aim to further strengthen Ladakh's healthcare infrastructure and improve accessibility, especially in remote areas.

The meeting also addressed challenges such as manpower shortages and internet connectivity issues in remote areas. Public representatives were urged to encourage community participation in preventive healthcare programs and annual checkups.

The Governing Body expressed satisfaction with the progress made and reaffirmed its commitment to improving healthcare outcomes for the people of Ladakh through a collaborative and inclusive approach.

Deputy Commissioner Leh chairs district-level NCORD meeting to combat drug abuse



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhdeve, who also serves as the Chairperson of the NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) Leh, presided over a district-level NCORD committee meeting at the DC Office. The meeting brought together committee members to address the escalating issues of drug and substance abuse and to formulate effective prevention and awareness strategies.

Superintendent of Police, Shruti Arora, commenced the meeting with updates on drug-related cases, including the seizure of illegal substances and the tracking of offenders' histories. She presented a detailed overview of police efforts to curb drug trafficking and substance abuse within the district.

The meeting highlighted the growing prevalence of drug abuse and stressed the need for enhanced inter-departmental coordination. Participants emphasized the importance of involving key stakeholders, such as merchants' associations, schools, and local communities, in awareness campaigns and preventive measures.

Dr. Padma Angmo, Psychiatrist at SNM Hospital, underlined the increasing use of various drugs in the region. She advocated for addition treatment to be conducted within the hospital to address societal stigma, which often discourages individuals from seeking help at standalone de-addiction centers.

Under the COPTA Act, significant quantities of

illegal substances have already been seized. Efforts to involve schools and villages in COPTA-related actions were also discussed, showcasing the importance of grassroots participation in tackling the problem.

Expressing concern over the rising involvement of youth in substance abuse, DC Sukhdeve stressed the need to protect the younger generation from the adverse effects of drugs and alcohol. He called for proactive engagement from organizations like Yato Club and other local groups to counter the menace.

"This generation is being spoiled because of drugs, and we must act now. As administrators and as a society, we cannot allow this problem to escalate further. With collective efforts, especially from our youth, we will fight against this challenge," stated DC Sukhdeve.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous commitment to developing actionable solutions, which will be reviewed and refined in the next session.

Expert Talk:

NGOs paving the way for Stray Animal Welfare in Leh

By Nenzes Chodon

Leh-Ladakh, a region unique in its culture and ecology, has witnessed a gradual shift from traditional rural practices to urbanization. This transformation encompasses modern housing, clothing, technologies, and a departure from traditional practices that once maintained ecological balance.

Agriculture, for instance, was historically carried out using primitive methods involving oxen, bulls, donkeys, and horses for ploughing, which enriched soil fertility and supported sustainable crop production. However, urbanization has introduced machinery, replacing animals in agricultural and household tasks for efficiency and convenience.

Similarly, dogs, once integral as guardians stationed at the entrances of homes, are now increasingly abandoned. The rise in popularity of exotic dog breeds has contributed to the neglect of local breeds, resulting in an uncontrolled surge in their population despite preventive measures by animal welfare organizations. Stray dogs now proliferate across colonies, roads, riversides, and waste dumps, posing threats to public safety and causing frequent, often unreported, accidents. In some cases, harmful practices such as poisoning and culling have been used to manage their numbers.

Other domestic animals like oxen, donkeys, and horses also face neglect, often abandoned during non-agricultural seasons and later reclaimed for farm work. Many are injured or killed in road accidents while scavenging for food in urban areas.

In response to these growing issues, organizations such as Chamba Animal Welfare Society and Semchan Welfare Society in Leh have stepped in, advocating for the welfare of stray and abandoned animals while raising awareness about responsible animal care.



Phuntsog Wangial, President, Chamba Animal Welfare Society, Thiksey:

Chamba Animal Welfare Society was established on 7th July 2024, inaugurated by renowned animal activist Maneka Sanjay Gandhi in the presence of His Eminence Thiksey Rinpoche and His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche. The society visions to provide care for sick and injured animals, rescue them from distress, and rehabilitate. It aims to work on sterilization programs and fight against animal cruelty while raising awareness about animal welfare among the public.

The organization currently looks after around 280 stray dogs, rescued due to sickness or accidents. Recently, the shelter has also decided to accommodate stray bulls and donkeys, found neglected and abandoned, particularly during the harsh winter months. Surprisingly, complaints about abandoned cats are also increasing, thus the organi-

sation is planning to extend its care to them as well. Stray dogs, however, remain the most abandoned animals in Leh throughout the year.

The abandonment of domestic animals and the increasing dog population are alarming concern in Leh, possessing threat to both animal welfare and public safety despite initiatives like sterilization by Animal Husbandry which has been carried on successfully. A comprehensive approach involving mass sterilization, better coordination among stakeholders, and proper allocation of responsibilities is an urgent need to address this issue effectively. Community involvement is essential to support sterilization programs, especially by assisting dog catchers and ensuring stray dogs are made friendly within their respective territory.

NGOs play a critical role in supporting animal welfare in filling the gaps where government initiatives may lack. They provide shelter, medical care, and rehabilitation for abandoned and injured animals while actively participating in sterilization programs, promoting awareness about animal welfare, and combating animal cruelty. Their efforts not only benefit animals but also contribute to community health and safety by addressing issues like overpopulation and disease among stray animals.

Stray dogs often succumb to diseases such as canine distemper virus (CDV), canine parvovirus, and severe infections caused by untreated wounds. These diseases are highly contagious and can be fatal if not addressed promptly. When such cases are reported, the society conducts rescue operations and brings the affected animals to the shelter for treatment. With the help of veterinarians and staff, the animals receive medical care, rehabilitation, and continuous monitoring until recovery.

Seeing the rising population, especially of dogs in the localities, cases of animal cruelty, such as beatings, neglect, and abandonment, have become common. Many strays also suffer from injuries caused by road accidents, which highlights the urgent need for public awareness campaigns. Addressing these issues requires stricter enforcement of animal protection laws and a shift in public attitudes toward compassion and responsibility for animals.

Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, animal exploitation, including mistreatment and killing of stray dogs, is punishable

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World Cancer Day

In 2000, World Cancer Day originated at the first World Summit Against Cancer and was held in Paris. At this Summit, several leaders of government agencies, and cancer organizations from around the world signed the Charter of Paris Against Cancer. It was a document of 10 articles that outlined a cooperative global commitment to improving the quality of life of cancer patients and to the continued investment in and advancement of cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Article X of the charter formally declared February 4 as World Cancer Day.

Every year World Cancer Day is celebrated on 4 February. The purpose of the UICC is to support the World Cancer Declaration. The primary purpose of celebrating this day is to reduce the number of cancer patients and to reduce the death rate causing due to it.

At the same time, make people aware of how to identify the symptoms of cancer, educate people, as well as to prepare government and non-governmental organizations to help in fighting this deadly disease all over the world.



Not only this, the aim of celebrating World Cancer Day is to reduce misconceptions about cancer and to help people in getting the right information about it. There are several myths related to this disease as people behave with cancer patients unapproachable, they think that if people will live with cancer patients they will also get cancer. This day is celebrated to remove these kinds of social myths. Therefore, people must know how and what type of treatment is given to cancer patients. Cancer people have all the right to live like normal people and they must feel self-respect and should get a normal environment in their home and society.

DID YOU KNOW



The tongue is covered in about 8,000 taste-buds, each containing up to 100 cells helping you taste your food!

You produce about 40,000 litres of spit in your lifetime. Or to put it another way, enough spit to fill around five hundred bathtubs – yuck!

You are about 1cm taller in the morning when you first get up than when you go to bed. This is because during the day the soft cartilage between your bones gets squashed and compressed.

The entire surface of your skin is replaced every month, which put another way means you have about 1,000 different skins in your life!

Wearing a tie can reduce blood flow to the brain by 7.5 per cent. A study in 2018 found that wearing a necktie can reduce the blood flow to your brain by up to 7.5 per cent, which can make you feel dizzy, nauseous, and cause headaches. They can also increase the pressure in your eyes if on too tight and are great at carrying germs.

Mount Everest isn't the tallest mountain on Earth. Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa in Hawaii, the twin volcanoes, are taller than Mount Everest due to 4.2km of their heights being submerged underwater. The twin volcanoes measure a staggering 10.2km in total, compared to Everest's paltry 8.8km.

Snails have teeth. Between 1,000 and 12,000 teeth, to be precise. They aren't like ours, though, so don't be thinking about snails with ridiculous toothy grins. You'll find the snail's tiny 'teeth' all over its file-like tongue.

Sound can be minus decibels. The quietest place on Earth is Microsoft's anechoic chamber in Redmond, WA, USA, at -20.6 decibels. These anechoic chambers are built out of heavy concrete and brick and are mounted on springs to stop vibrations from getting in through the floor.

(Courtesy: Penguin books and BBC Science Focus)

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Take the best of the worst



When I say that we need to do the best of the worst, several questions may arise. But the main issue could be the obvious one: But why? Yes, quite a legitimate question. The answer I have may or may not be to everybody's taste, but that does not matter as one can't convince everybody at any given time. There will always be a few who will jump in to reject your stand even if that is the best possible.

The whole logic behind the saying that one should do the best of the worst is that since you have no option but to deal with the worst, it is always better to try and do something about it rather than giving it up without a trial. Even if you fail to get something out of it, you will have the satisfaction of having done a 'go' on it. Without an attempt at all, you may have to repent a lifetime because you would be feeling guilty, and remorse may take over your state of mind.

I have a Yiddish proverb that goes well with the topic: "It is better to have the best of the worst than the worst of the best!" This gives us quite a good point in understanding the philosophy of life that you have always a chance to choose the best of the worst.

I believe most of us fail to achieve success in life only because we waste most of our time looking forward to an ideal time and situation to deal with our problematic issues. It is quite possible that such an ideal time may never come. Issues and difficulties are to be sorted out as and when they crop up. If not, such issues may 'blow up' beyond the proportion of our strength and ability to deal with.

That is why Oscar Wilde had said: "It is always with the best intention that the worst work is done." That tells us that we must get ready with a mindset charged with positivity to tackle the worst of things and situations that may come our way.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

**In Conversation with
Deldan Angmo I/C Principal DIET, Leh**

Interviewed by Stanzin Padma

Q. Brief us about yourself

Julley! My name is Deldan Angmo. I completed my primary education at Government Higher School Sumoor, followed by grades 6 to 12 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Leh. I pursued both my graduation and post-graduation at Jammu University.

I have been serving in the education department for the past 23 years, during which I have worked as a lecturer in several high schools and have also held the position of principal. Currently, I am the In-Charge Principal of DIET, Leh.

Q: What is the mission and vision of the DIET department? How does it align with the NEP?

The mission of the DIET department is to enhance the quality of education in schools across districts by training teachers and equipping them as valuable resources for schools. DIET Leh has recently been elevated to a Centre of Excellence, receiving additional grants from the central government to strengthen its existing infrastructure and facilities. This upgrade is expected to bring significant improvements in terms of infrastructure, buildings, and overall development.

All training programs at DIET are aligned with the guidelines of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Recently, training sessions were conducted for headmasters of primary and middle schools, covering 174 teachers. These sessions included in-depth discussions on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), holistic progress report cards, Vidya Pravesh, and other key initiatives under the NEP.

The NEP 2020 emphasizes joyful learning, learning by doing, and eliminating the compulsion for rote study. It advocates for teaching children in their mother tongue and promoting local languages to enhance comprehension and cultural connection.

Thanks to the initiative of Adv. Tashi Gyalson, CEC, LAHDC Leh, a state-of-the-art multimedia studio has been established at DIET Leh. This studio creates educational content tailored for the PM eVidya channel, with Ladakh being allotted 5 out of 200 channels. These channels are used to broadcast curated content to benefit students.

Aligned with the NEP, the textbooks for grades 1, 3, and 6 have been revised. Teachers are being trained to contextualize the updated content and develop engaging resources in the multimedia studio. The faculty has also been trained to



MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“DIET Leh is providing quality training for teachers, and we urge them to apply these skills in schools. We also invite parents, especially from remote areas, to bring their children’s hidden talents to our multimedia studio, where we will create videos and showcase them on our channels.”

manage and utilize the studio effectively, allowing students to showcase their talents.

Through this platform, I encourage parents, especially those in remote areas, to recognize that children possess diverse talents beyond academics. Parents are urged to support their children and bring them to the studio to explore and nurture their abilities.

Q. What types of courses and training programs does the DIET department offer for teachers, and how often are they conducted?

While a B.Ed. course is available, it is offered as a distance education program under Kashmir University, not directly through DIET. However, the contractual program for the course is facilitated by DIET faculty, with approximately 300 students currently enrolled.

Previously, the DIET department conducted D.El.Ed. (Diploma in Elementary Education) programs, which provided training for in-service teachers. All training for in-service teachers under this program has been successfully completed.

Looking ahead, the DIET department is planning to introduce pre-service D.El.Ed. courses to further enhance teacher training opportunities in the near future.

Q. What initiatives have been taken to promote innovative and effective teaching practices in schools?

We are committed to providing high-quality training for all teachers. With the transition from the JK Board to CBSE, we have made efforts to bring in resource persons from NCERT, CBSE, and ASCRT to enhance the quality of education. Additionally, we send our faculty members to renowned institutions such as RI Ajmer, NCERT, and other training centers for professional development.

Under the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyaan, science training is conducted, including TLM (Teaching Learning Material) Melas and science exhibitions held at the zone, district, UT, and national levels. Many students from Ladakh have reached the national level through this initiative.

In line with the NEP 2020, we have focused on promoting mother tongue languages. This year, we organized a Bhoti TLM Mela, which was a significant step in encouraging the use of the local language in teaching. Additionally, folk dance

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Fortnight Highlights



Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and First Lady Smt Neelam Mishra, visited the starting point of the Chader Trek at Chilling on January 29. During the visit, LG conducted a thorough review of the Chader Trek operations and interacted with the officials present at the site.



Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Mohmad Hanifa, flagged off the Fit India Cycling Drive at Sindhu Ghat, Leh. The event, organized by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Regional Centre Zirakpur, was part of the Fit India Movement, envisioned by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle across the nation.



Tsering Lhanzes, a well known children's book author, illustrator, and animation filmmaker from Sumur, Nubra Valley met with Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, to discuss her creative journey and upcoming projects.



LAHDC, Leh celebrated India's 76th Republic Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson unfurls the national flag at the Council Secretariat, Leh.



CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun visited Delhi Haat INA and interacted with artisans from Leh and Kargil participating in the ongoing exhibition.



150 enthusiastic participants join Ice Hockey Camp organised by Youth Services and Sports Drass at Ice Hockey Rink Goshan.



A delegation from the All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association (ALHGHA), led by President Rigzin Wangmo Lachic, along with Vice Presidents Ghulam Mustafa and Nawang Tashi, met with Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi.



Ladakh Scouts emerged victorious in the 4th LG Ice Hockey Cup Championship, defeating ITBP with a score of 2-1 in a thrilling final held at the Ice Hockey Rink, Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium, Biamathang, Kargil.

Fortnightly News

...Continuity of page 4

NGOs paving the way for Stray Animal Welfare in LehLadakhi?

by fines and imprisonment. In severe cases of cruelty toward stray dogs, the punishment can extend upto 5 years of imprisonment. However, such cases are rarely reported in Leh, hence no significant legal action has been recorded against offenders. This highlights the need for better enforcement of animal protection laws and increased awareness among the public to report such incidents.

Chamba Animal Welfare Society, with the support of various student unions, organized a week-long awareness campaign in July 2024 at Leh Market and Thiksey. The campaign aimed to educate the public about animal welfare, sterilization programs, and the prevention of cruelty to animals. This initiative was well-received, and the society plans to conduct a similar campaign in 2025 with even greater effectiveness.

Administration, including Animal Husbandry Leh, supports sterilization efforts, but there is an urgent need to increase funding and coordinated action. Government need to stress upon implementing a two-year mass sterilization program across Leh, by assigning animal welfare organizations specific areas of responsibility. This collaborative approach requires a special budget allocation to effectively control the stray dog population and ensure proper care for animals in the region.



Jigmet Nurzin, President, Semchan Welfare Society, Leh:

In 2022, I had the privilege to meet Madam Deena, who became my mentor and a key figure in advocating welfare of dogs in Leh. She was already working individually to help the dogs in the region, our common vision instantly brought us together. We both wanted to create something truly special for dogs—an amazing shelter to give them care, safety, and love. Madam Deena's encouragement and support were pivotal in turning the vision into a reality. She inspired

me to take actions immediately, instead of waiting for the 'perfect time.' Her belief in the cause pushed me to start the shelter without any hesitation. All the credit for this initiative goes to Madam Deena for not only being a mentor but also for motivation and inspiration".

The organisation started with a prime focus on rescuing dogs, providing them a safe environment, particularly to address the growing population of feral dogs in Leh hence it started with an aim to control dog population and offer them a haven.

"While working, we've seen a disturbing trend: a declination of compassion towards animals. A pervasive mindset where some people believe they own the earth, forgetting that it is a shared home for all species. We have also noticed an alarming pattern of animal abandonment, particularly puppies and male calves (bulls). Sadly, such cases rise during the harsh winters, with a significant rise in the number of puppies left behind, often shivering in the cold or thrown out onto abandoned roads. It's heart wrenching because the shelter cannot accommodate all, puppies abandoned without their mothers causes deep emotional pain for both the puppies and the mothers. Having lived with dogs and observed them closely, I can say with certainty that they experience emotions just like us".

Our mission goes beyond just rescuing animals; it's about changing how people view and treat animals, understanding that they deserve love, care, and respect just as much as any human being.

Abandoning dogs, specially puppies any where undermines the sterilisation effort conducted by municipality, animal husbandry and veterinary services. For example, sterilisation was conducted on all the feral dogs in Skara, new puppies show up after a gap, proves that they have been dumped or abandoned. These puppies aren't sterilised, so they eventually reproduce, and the cycle continues. Dog population cannot be controlled successfully without public awareness. Every individual needs to understand their role and responsibility in tackling the issue.

NGOs play a crucial role in promoting compassion, protecting animal rights, and creating a sustainable environment. They have wide ranging functions such as rescuing and rehabilitating; controlling their population; protecting Animal Rights; promoting compassion and empathy;

educating public and many more. Most of the NGOs in often focus on controlling dog population due to its crowd.

Diseases like Parvovirus, Distemper, Rabies, Leptospirosis, Canine Hepatitis, Kennel Cough, Tick-Borne diseases, Transmissible Venereal Tumour(TVT) can affect dogs. The most concerning diseases we deal with are parvovirus, distemper and TVT. These illnesses are highly contagious, making it essential to take strict precautions while handling infected animals. Staff handling infected animals should take precautions to avoid cross-contamination. Preventive measures that can be considered are, wearing protective gloves and masks, discarding any clothing or equipment used during rescue process. Additionally, the rescued dog should be kept completely isolated from other animals until it has fully recovered.

"Thankfully, our team is well-versed in administering the right medications and providing the necessary care".

In a place like Leh, where people are known for compassion, humanity and kindness, encountering dogs poisoned and fall victim to this cruelty is heartbreaking and devastating. In 2023, during the first teachings of the Dalai Lama in Leh, we found four dogs poisoned at the same location. The pain and suffering they endured are beyond words, and tragically, all four of them passed away. How could anyone lose their humanity to such an extent? Poisoning is so lethal that dogs have very little chance of survival. A miracle happened when one victim survived, who was poisoned at that same location. Surviving it is a powerful reminder of the resilience and strength animals have, even in the face of the worst cruelty. Most of our rescue missions involve dogs run over by vehicles, especially during the summer. We find dogs with broken legs or hips, left unable to walk for the rest of their lives. The emotional toll is heavy, but we do everything we can to give them a chance for a better life.

Laws protecting animals are becoming stricter globally, but in India, the penalties for animal cruelty are relatively mild. Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, those found guilty of animal cruelty may face a fine as low as ₹50 or up to 3 months in prison. In more severe cases, the fine can rise to ₹1,000 and imprisonment can extend to 2 years. For killing an animal cruelly, such as poisoning or beating, Section 429 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) may result in up to 5 years in prison and/or a fine. "I truly believe India needs stricter laws to protect animals. Animal lovers have to face harassment for showing some kindness like feeding stray dogs. It's crucial for people to understand that animals have the right to live peacefully among us, and those who harm them should face serious consequences. It's time we push for better enforcement, stricter laws, and greater public awareness about animal welfare. Ladakh Police assists us in taking action but there haven't been any convictions for these crimes yet.

Semchan Welfare Society is still in the early stages of our journey, work tirelessly every day to rescue and provide care for those in need. The organisation is yet to launch large-scale awareness campaigns, it is the daily challenges and struggles that drive us forward and define our unique approach. Our goal is to leverage platforms like yours and other resources to educate the public about animal welfare. We have also initiated several discussions with government officials regarding animal safety, feeding programs, and sterilisation efforts.

The administration has been incredibly active and supportive when it comes to animal care in Leh. They are consistent in ensuring a better environment for animals, being evident of their commitment. The issue of feral dogs is highly challenging, but the administration has been doing its best to control their population through various initiatives. NGOs were provided with essential support in the form of medical supplies, food, ambulance vans, and more. They provided us 200 bags of rice for the winter feeding program, helping us care for around 800 stray dogs, shade tint sheets for our shelter, making it more comfortable for the animals. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our Principle secretary, DC Sir, and the Municipal heads for their tremendous support. This collaboration has been vital to our efforts, and we are grateful for their continued partnership in ensuring the well-being of animals in Leh.

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In Conversation with Deldan Angmo I/C Principal DIET, Leh

and song competitions were held at the national level, with our students currently competing in Bhopal. These initiatives provide both students and teachers with valuable opportunities to engage in modern educational practices while preserving local culture and traditions.

Q. What challenges is the DIET department facing and how are they addressed?

After formation of UT government there is no such problem in funds and all. But the main challenge is that the faculties, teachers and members of DIET department are not permanent staff as they are brought from education department as deputation for 3 months. So, our training for years inside and outside DIET department get into waste as we have to again go back to education department and work as lecturer or teacher.

Q. Apart from training, the DIET department also conducts examinations. Can you brief us about it?

The DIET department conducts exams for classes 3, 5, and 8. Additionally, following the shift of government schools to the CBSE system, pre-board exams are also conducted in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education.

In alignment with the NEP guidelines, starting this year, we are planning to implement a Holistic Progress Report Card. This report card will provide a comprehensive assessment of students, covering their cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development.

What sets this report card apart is its emphasis on a shared responsibility for the student's progress. While teachers will continue to assess students, parents will also play an integral role. A dedicated space will allow parents to reflect on their child's progress. In cases where parents are uneducated, they can communicate with teachers to have their observations documented. Additionally, peers and the students themselves will have the opportunity to provide input and mark progress.

This 360-degree approach ensures a more holistic and inclusive assessment, recognizing not only academic performance but also hidden talents and skills that contribute to the overall development of the student.

Q. What do you think about the importance of strengthening government schools?

In my perspective, government schools play a crucial role in shaping the future of society. They provide inclusive and equitable education, offering opportunities for all children regardless of their socioeconomic background. Strengthening government schools can bridge the gap of inequality in education.

Traditionally, wealthier families send their children to private schools, while children from poorer backgrounds attend government schools. If we succeed in strengthening government schools, we can reduce the divide between the rich and the poor, ensuring more equal opportunities for all.

The government is actively working to enhance the quality of education in these schools, focusing on digital literacy and the integration of technology. ICT labs are being set up in schools, and smart interactive boards have been installed. To complement these technological advancements, the DIET department is providing training to teachers, equipping them with the skills to effectively use these technologies in the classroom.

Q. How does the department engage with the local community and stakeholders to promote educational development?

As per the NEP guidelines and the National Curriculum, community participation plays a vital role in the educational process. Education is not just about academics; it also includes the development of life skills and an understanding of civic responsibilities.

To foster this, every school has a School Management Committee (SMC), which includes key stakeholders from the local community. These committees regularly hold meetings with parents to discuss school activities and decision-making processes.

The DIET department actively engages with schools to promote the inclusion of the community in education. We provide training to school staff on how to effectively involve the community in the educational development of students, creating a collaborative environment for both academic and social growth.

NOTICE

Whereas, Jigmat Thupstan S/o Sonam Tundup R/o Harker, Leh has claimed that his name has been wrongly recorded as Jigmat Thukstan instead of the correct name which is Jigmat Thupstan in his Ladakh Resident Certificate bearing number T-Leh/12365(R) 24 Dated 07/03/2024 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

I, Tashi Namgail S/o Tsering Dorjey R/o Skurbuchan, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as Tsering Dorjay instead of correct and actual name Tsering Dorjey in my ST Certificate duly issued by Khaltse Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 216-18/BCG/ ST/K/2019 and Dated on 23-06-2019. 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, Sonam Angchuk F/o Sonam Chospal R/o Matho, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my son's name has been wrongly recorded as Sonam Chospel instead of correct and actual name Sonam Chospal in his ST Certificate duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 591-95157-Leh and Dated on 09-06-2018. Now, I'm applying for changes in his ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

Fortnightly News

CAZRI-RRS organises winter exhibition on vegetable cultivation and diversification



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

STAKNA: ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Regional Research Station (RRS), Stakna, Leh, successfully organized a Winter Exhibition on "Cultivation and Diversification of Vegetables under Protected Structures" on January 28. The event aimed to promote scientific vegetable cultivation techniques and ensure food security during the harsh winter months in Ladakh.

Tashi Namgyal, Executive Councillor for Animal/Sheep Husbandry, LAHDC, Leh, emphasized the importance of winter vegetable cultivation for food security in Ladakh. He officially inaugurated the event and visited all the stalls, appreciating CAZRI's efforts in organizing the exhibition during such a challenging season. He highlighted winter cultivation as crucial for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Ladakh's cold-arid climate.

Tsewang Phuntsog, Director of Horticulture, Ladakh praised

CAZRI's ongoing initiatives and acknowledged the contribution of horticulture schemes in improving farmers' livelihoods.

Dr. Nasrin, Heads of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) from Nyoma, Leh, Kargil, and Zaskar, along with Dr. Dorje Namgyal, Associate Director of SAST, University of Ladakh, attended the exhibition, highlighting the collaborative efforts to improve agricultural practices in the region. Other notable attendees included officials from the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture, scientists from SAST-Leh, KVK-Leh, DIHAR-Leh, and Skalzang Dorje from Ladakh Agri-clinic Centre, Leh.

The exhibition saw enthusiastic participation from farmers representing various regions such as Hemis, Matho, Ranbirpur, Stakna, Shang, and Kharu villages. Farmers from Kargil, Leh, Nubra, Zaskar, Sham, and Changthang also participated by submitting videos show-

ing their greenhouse vegetable cultivation practices.

The exhibition featured a range of stalls displaying diverse vegetables cultivated during the winter season across Ladakh. Government organizations, including KVK-Leh, SAST-Leh, and the Agriculture Department of Leh, also showcased their initiatives. Awards were presented to the best greenhouse cultivation efforts and the best stalls among participating farmers, recognizing their contributions to advancing agriculture in the region.

The Winter Exhibition provided an essential platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation, helping address the unique agricultural challenges of Ladakh's cold-arid climate. It brought together farmers, researchers, and various stakeholders, fostering unity and commitment to sustainable agricultural practices.

PM Modi virtually distributes property cards to Sani village residents under SVAMITVA scheme



Residents of Sani village in Tehsil Zaskar with property cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme to Abadi Deh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: In a landmark step towards empowering rural communities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually distributed property cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme to Abadi Deh owners across various states and Union Territories on January 18. Among the beneficiaries were residents of Sani Village in Tehsil Zaskar, marking a transformative milestone in the region's development.

The event, organized under the Panchayati Raj framework by the Block Development Department, saw enthusiastic participation. It commenced with a welcome address by the Block Development Officer (BDO) Zaskar, who un-

derscored the significance of the occasion and its potential to strengthen rural governance.

Tehsildar Zaskar delivered an insightful address, highlighting the objectives of the SVAMITVA Scheme, which include establishing a legal framework for rural land ownership and promoting economic empowerment. He also provided an update on the ongoing LLARMA survey, describing it as a groundbreaking step toward digitizing land records and enhancing transparency.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zaskar elaborated on the long-term benefits of the scheme, including its role

in reducing land disputes, fostering economic activity, and improving access to financial services. He congratulated the beneficiaries and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure and governance. The SDM also emphasized the critical role of the LLARMA survey in ensuring accurate and transparent land record management.

The event was graced by the presence of the Nambardar, other respected members of Sani Village, and officials from the Revenue and Block Departments, reflecting strong community support and collective dedication to the region's development.

A total of 73 property cards were distributed virtually to Abadi Deh owners of Sani Village, including five female beneficiaries, highlighting the government's focus on gender equity and inclusive development.

This initiative is poised to bring transformative changes to the lives of rural landowners by securing their land rights, reducing disputes, and enabling access to loans and developmental schemes. The distribution of property cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme underscores the government's unwavering commitment to fostering a self-reliant and progressive rural India.

L-G chairs key meeting on education, healthcare, and sports in Kargil



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), chairing a meeting at Raj Niwas Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), chaired a meeting at Raj Niwas Kargil on January 21 to discuss the continuation of Winter Residential Classes in Kargil.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; Executive Councillors Kacho Mohammad Feroz, Er. Punchok Tashi, and Zakir Hussain; Principal Secretary of School Education/Housing and Urban Development/Industries and Commerce, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Balasahab Suse, IAS; SSP Kargil, Shree Ram R; and Councillors of LAHDC Kargil. At the outset, the CEC, Executive Councillors, and other Councillors requested the Lieutenant Governor to ensure the continuation of Winter Residential Classes and approve funds for the program.

Lieutenant Governor Mishra reviewed the outcomes of the previous year's Winter Residential Classes. The CEC and Executive Councillor for Education highlighted the program's success,

emphasizing its notable impact on students' academic performance. They informed the Lieutenant Governor that 950 students from various parts of Kargil had shown interest in this year's classes.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the attendees that the program would continue this year and directed the Principal Secretary of School Education, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, to expedite the sanctioning of funds for its timely implementation.

He also advised the Executive Councillor for Education to ensure student participation and maximize the benefits of the classes. Additionally, he recommended the rationalization and training of Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers posted across Kargil.

The Lieutenant Governor further instructed CEC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, to make teacher training mandatory through DIET to enhance the quality of education. He urged for the training to commence at the earliest. In response to a request for the transfer of ReT teachers, the Lieutenant Governor suggested that the matter be ex-

amined. Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, assured that the issue would be discussed with the Director of School Education, Ladakh.

To address complaints of favoritism in teacher transfers, the Lieutenant Governor announced plans to implement a six-month transfer system across Ladakh. He proposed opening a transfer portal for 15 days, during which requests would be reviewed by designated officers for action.

During the meeting, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun also raised concerns regarding the installation of an MRI machine at the District Hospital in Kargil. The Lieutenant Governor immediately contacted Commissioner/Secretary of Health & Medical Education, Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam, IAS, who confirmed that the installation would be completed next month.

The CEC also sought intervention regarding the grading of doctors. The Lieutenant Governor advised submitting a formal letter for further consideration.

Executive Councillor Er. Punchok Tashi requested the establishment of a winter sports academy in Zaskar. The Lieutenant Governor promptly discussed the matter with Administrative Secretary for PDD, Tourism, Culture, Youth Services, and Sports, Vikram Singh Malik, IAS, and directed him to take necessary steps.

Concluding the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized the importance of dedication and accountability among all officers. He reiterated that negligence or misconduct by any official would not be tolerated.

Kargil hosts book launch of Kalam-i-Shina and Bazm-i-Shina celebrating Shina literature commences



During the launch of books Klam-i-Shina and Bazm-i-Shina, authored by Yaseen Ansari.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The books Kalam-i-Shina and Bazm-i-Shina, authored by Yaseen Ansari, were officially launched on January 25 by the Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun.

The launch event was attended by Councillor Altaf Hussain, Chief Medi-

cal Officer Kargil, Padma Shri Awardee Akhoun Asgar Ali Basharat, President of the Hotel Association Kargil, as well as writers, poets from Shina, Balti, and Purgi, alongside a large audience of residents.

Dr. Akhoun, speaking on behalf of the Hill Council Kargil, congratulated Yaseen Ansari for his significant contribution to Shina literature and language. He praised the author's efforts and emphasized the pivotal role of writers in shaping the future of society. Dr. Akhoun also extended his thanks to the Writers Association Kargil for recognizing Ansari's literary work and organizing the book launch event.

The CEC reiterated the Hill Council's commitment to promoting local literature and providing writers with the platform and opportunities to present their works. He encouraged local authors to offer their suggestions to further enrich

the region's literary scene.

Dr. Akhoun assured the attendees of continued support from the Hill Council to empower local writers, describing Ansari's books as invaluable resources for future writers and researchers interested in the local culture and languages. During the event, Dr. Akhoun announced a grant of Rs 5 lakh from his untied fund for the Writer's Association in the 2025-26 budget. Councillor Altaf Hussain also contributed Rs 20,000 as a token of appreciation, while Rangul Ali, President of the All Kargil Hill Association, donated Rs 30,000 to Yaseen Ansari.

Later, Yaseen Ansari shared his personal experiences in writing the books and highlighted the importance of literature in society. He expressed his gratitude to CEC Kargil for attending the launch event despite his busy schedule.

OFFICE OF THE JOINT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR J&K AND LADAKH
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Notice for Vacancy Circular Dated: 14-01-2025

No: JERC/Estt-67/2023/10

Notice for Inviting applications for the post of Independent Member(s) to the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum(s) (CGRF), one each for Kashmir Power Development Corporation Ltd. (KPDCL) and Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD).

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh (JERC-JKL) invites application from suitable person(s) for the appointment of Independent Member(s) in the Consumers Grievances Redressal Forum(s), one each for the Consumers of the KPDCL and LPDD to discharge various functions relating to Redressal of Consumer's Grievances against Distribution Licensees as per the provisions of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh (Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum, Electricity Ombudsman and Consumer Advocacy) Regulations, 2023.

The Independent Member(s) will be engaged as per following terms & conditions:-

- The Consolidated monthly remuneration shall be **Rs. 30000/- (Thirty Thousand Only)**.
- The candidate must have at least **05 years** working experience in power sector related matters.
- The candidate must possess a minimum bachelor's degree preferably in Engineering (Electrical /Mechanical/ Electronics/ Computer) Law/ Public Administration/ Journalism/ Economics / Political Science or equivalent.
- The Independent Member shall be a retired civil servant of Additional secretary level of UT of J&K / Deputy Secretary level in Govt. of India (i.e. of Level 12) or a retired Electrical Engineer not below the rank of Superintending Engineer having experience in distribution of electricity.
- Shall be appointed initially for a period of **one year** and shall be extendable up to further **four years** or till attaining the age of **65 years** whichever is earlier.
- However, each extension shall be accorded for **one year** after performance review done by the Commission.
- Shall be entitled to 12 days casual leave in a calendar year.
- Shall also be entitled for TA/DA (as applicable to the level-12 officer of UT of J&K) for any official tour conducted by him and duly approved by the Chairman of CGRF.

All other terms and conditions for the appointment of the Independent Member to CGRF shall be such as may be determined by the Commission.

Appointment of Independent Member shall be purely on a contract basis and such appointment shall not confer any right whatsoever to claim for regular appointment or continued contractual appointment in the distribution licensee or the commission. **Scope of work** and other detailed **terms and conditions** are contained in **Annexure I**.

Eligible and willing candidates may submit their applications in the prescribed Proforma attached at **Annexure-II** along with the supporting documents through registered post at the following address:

Secretary,
 Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UTs of J&K and Ladakh,
 Railway Road, Ambedkar Chowk Jammu (J&K) 180016

Application form along with **Terms of Reference (ToR)** and **General Terms and Conditions** for engagement of Ombudsman are available on the website of the commission i.e. <https://jercjkl.nic.in/>

The last date for receipt of applications, in the prescribed format is **17-02-2025 (up to 5 PM)**. Applications received after due date/time or without supporting documents will not be considered. No TA/DA shall be admissible for attending interview/ joining the assignment or on its completion.

[Signature]
 Secretary, JERC
 J&K and Ladakh

NOTICE



Whereas Hassan Ali S/o Mohammad Ibrahim, Date of Birth 11-01-1956 R/o Chuchot Shamma (Garu Pa House), District Leh UT Ladakh, has claimed that his father name has been wrongly entered as Abraham instead of actual and correct name which is Mohammad Ibrahim and also my Date of Birth has been wrongly written as 12-05-1957 instead of correct and actual Date of Birth 11-01-1956 in my passport bearing Number M1466072 date of issue 25-08-2014 having validity upto 24-08-2024 and I'm applying for the correction in the passport. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Regional Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE



Whereas Mohd Ramzan S/o Mohd Hussain R/o Chuchot Shamma, Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that his name has been wrongly recorded as Mohammad Ramzan instead of the correct name which is Mohd Ramzan in his Ladakh Resident Certificate bearing no. 2678/NTC(R)/22 Dated 16-06-22 duly issued by office of the Naib Tehsildar Niabat Chuchot, Leh-Ladakh. Now, I am applying for the correction in my Ladakh Resident Certificate. Objection, if any may be conveyed to office of the Naib Tehsildar Niabat Chuchot within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

I, Mohd Ramzan S/o Mohammad Hussain R/o Chuchot Shamma, Leh UT Ladakh do hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded as Mohammad Ramzan instead of correct and actual name Mohd Ramzan in my ST Certificate duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh with Registration No. 1060/ ST-Leh / 2014 and Dated on 01-03-2014. Now, I'm applying for changes in my ST Certificate and objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 07 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

Whereas, Mohd Ramzan S/o Mohd Hussain R/o Chuchot Shamma, Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that his Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 10-06-1997 instead of correct and actual Date of Birth 15-08-1997 in the Driving Licence bearing No. LA02 20210000200 and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary, UT Ladakh with Certificate No. IN-LA08184218857950X 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.

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In C. Ali Moh.

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