

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



**In Conversation with**  
State Awardee Dr. Konchok Dorje

**Expert Talk:**  
Groundwater Crisis in Leh: Challenges and Solutions

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## Ladakh's underground water quality under threat

Researchers detect cancer-causing elements in groundwater

Nenzen Chodon

**LEH:** Ladakh's journey of water consumption has evolved from drinking directly from streams and springs to relying on PHE tankers, shared public taps, and now, privately owned water supplies.

Historically, Ladakh's water sources—including springs, rivers, and glacial streams—were considered safe for daily use, including drinking and cooking. The region primarily receives water from glaciers that accumulate on the mountains during winter and melt into the valleys in summer, providing one of the purest natural water sources.

However, over the years, urbanization has disrupted these traditional water sources. Increased human activity has led to the pollution of surface water bodies, making them unsafe for consumption. This has driven a shift towards groundwater extraction, a system that now poses significant risks to Ladakh's natural water resources.

Glacial retreat due to black carbon emissions—mainly from vehicles crossing high-altitude passes—has accelerated, causing premature melting and further impacting water availability. Meanwhile, groundwater extraction has surged dramatically. Studies indicate that Leh town had



Photo Caption: Overview of the Leh town.

only 10 bore wells in 1997, a number that skyrocketed to approximately 2,650 by 2020 and continues to grow.

Dr. Lobzang Chorol, who has been researching groundwater quality in Leh for the past eight years, warns that the town's underground water is heavily contaminated. She rates its quality as "average" due to high levels of bacteria and heavy metals, some of which have cancer-causing properties. Alarming, 90% of Leh's population relies on groundwater.

One major contributor to contamination is improper wastewater disposal. Many properties use unregulated dry soak pits instead of proper septic tanks. These pits fail to contain waste effectively, allowing contaminants to seep into the groundwater. Unlike septic tanks, soak pits cannot be cleaned or maintained easily, leading to long-term degradation of water quality.

Dr. Chorol, who collected water samples from 28 locations in Leh, noted that con-

tamination levels peak during the summer months when tourism-related construction activities intensify.

Tests have detected hazardous heavy metals such as Cadmium, Chromium, and Nickel in Leh's groundwater. These elements are toxic to humans and pose severe health risks, including cancer. Additionally, improper disposal of electronic waste, construction materials like paint and cement, and excessive use of agrochemicals further degrade water quality. Dr. Chorol pointed out that

consuming water from contaminated sources can lead to severe gastric and intestinal issues.

Nitrate levels in Leh's groundwater are also alarmingly high. The standard limit is 45 mg per liter, but samples from Leh have recorded levels as high as 65 mg per liter. This increases the risk of blue baby syndrome in infants and other waterborne diseases.

To mitigate these risks, Dr. Chorol suggests the following measures:

- Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides to prevent contamination of water bodies.
- Strictly enforce guidelines to protect natural water sources.
- Replace dry soak pits with proper septic tanks to prevent groundwater contamination.
- Limit the number of bore wells—properties should not exceed the necessary amount.
- Revive traditional water-fetching methods from natural streams and springs, which were once considered sacred and kept away from pollutants.
- Emphasize environmental responsibility, as every action taken today will impact future generations.

She also acknowledged the UT Administration's recent ban on bore well extraction but stressed that the absence of alternative water sources remains a major concern.

Restoring Ladakh's traditional water conservation practices is now more critical than ever, as modernization threatens the region's delicate ecosystem. Ensuring sustainable water management will be essential to preserving Ladakh's environment and public health.

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**REACH LADAKH BULLETIN**

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**Designer:** Stanzin Rabgyas (CAGO)

**Published at:** Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter  
Contact: +91 9858394403  
+91 8899418322

**Printed at:** Ala Printing Press  
3636 Katra Dina Baig  
Lal Quan Delhi -110006

## Ladakh Buddhist Association backs demand for Buddhist control over Mahabodhi temple

Demands repeal of Bodh Gaya Temple Act of 1949



Ladakh Buddhist Association during the press conference on demand to repeal the Bodh Gaya Temple Act of 1949.

Stanzin Dasal

**LEH:** Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) has expressed solidarity with the hundreds of Buddhist monks and followers who launched an indefinite relay hunger strike on February 12, demanding the transfer of the Mahabodhi Mahavihara Temple's management to the Buddhist community.

Addressing a press conference on February 23, the LBA reiterated its demand to repeal the Bodh Gaya Temple Act of 1949. The Act established a nine-member Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC) to oversee the temple's administration, but only four mem-

bers are Buddhists, while the remaining five, including the chairman (the District Magistrate), are Hindus.

LBA President Cherring Dorje Lakruk criticized the current arrangement, stating that placing the temple under a Hindu-majority committee is unjust and deprives Buddhists of their right to manage their holiest site, where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

"The All India Buddhist Forum, led by Akash Lama, along with its supporters and volunteers from Ladakh, has been on a hunger strike for the past 13-14 days, demand-

ing Buddhist ownership of the temple and the repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Act," he said.

The LBA President further announced that its members are also participating in the hunger strike in Bodh Gaya. Additionally, in solidarity with the protestors there, Ladakh will continue the hunger strike after Dosmochey.

Jigmet Raftan, President of the LBA Youth Wing, emphasized that the demand for Buddhist control of the temple has been longstanding, and the All India Buddhist Forum has consistently raised awareness about the issue across the country.

The Mahabodhi Temple holds immense significance for Buddhists worldwide, making it crucial that its management be entrusted to the Buddhist community. However, under the Bodh Gaya Temple Act of 1949, the committee's chairman is the District Magistrate (a Hindu), further underscoring the urgent need for the Act's repeal and re-enactment to ensure Buddhist oversight.

The protest has garnered support from several Buddhist organizations across India, including the Buddhist Society of India, as well as international Buddhist associations from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Japan, and Mongolia. However, the government has yet to take concrete steps to address the issue.

## Third edition of Pangong Frozen Lake marathon champions "Save Water, Save Glaciers"

Over 300 runners from across the world join the high-altitude challenge to raise awareness about melting glaciers



Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon: Runners from across the world join the high-altitude challenge to raise awareness about melting glaciers.

Nenzen Chodon

**PANGONG:** The Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon, held at an altitude of 4,225 meters, was recorded in the Guinness World Records as the world's highest frozen lake marathon when it was first introduced. This year, the marathon returned for its third edition on February 24 and 25, drawing over 300 participants from the USA, Nepal, Korea, Australia, and India. The event aimed to raise awareness about climate change, the melting of glaciers, and the pressing need to conserve water resources.

Runners competed in five categories: 55 km, 42 km, 21 km, 10 km, and the 5 km "Run for Fun." The event was organized by the Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh, powered by The Thin Ice Adventures and the PHE Department, with support from the UT Administration, LAHDC,

the Indian Army, ITBP, and other stakeholders.

The final day of the marathon witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including GoC Uniform Force, IG ITBP Dr. Akun Sabharwal, Secretary of Agriculture/Transport/Animal Husbandry/SIDCO UT Ladakh Bhupesh Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner Leh Santosh Sukhdeve, LAHDC Councillor Konchok Stanzin, Sangha Councillor Konchok Tsepel, SP UTDRE, and other dignitaries.

Chamba Tsetan, the pioneer of the Frozen Pangong Lake Marathon, emphasized that the event continues to grow while staying true to its original objectives—promoting winter tourism and raising awareness about climate change. He highlighted Ladakh's potential to expand its tourism industry beyond

the summer months, with the marathon serving as a key initiative to encourage winter tourism.

LAHDC Councillor Konchok Stanzin, representing the Chushul constituency, pointed out that such events significantly benefit local homestays and hotels. Many native businesses struggle to compete with larger chains and non-local service providers during the peak summer season. He expressed optimism that initiatives like these would gain more attention and a broader platform to promote winter tourism in the future.

Participants shared their excitement about the adventure and underscored the marathon's mission to advocate for urgent environmental and climate action.

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## Fortnightly News

### Chuchot Alchidong residents perform traditional “Sherim” prayer for world peace



People hoisting religious banners, flags, and “Tarchen” during the Sherim prayer at Chuchot.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**CHUCHOT:** Residents of Chuchot Alchidong gathered at the historic stupa on February 24 to perform the centuries-old “Sherim” prayer, seeking world peace, progress, an end to war and famine, as well as the timely arrival of snow and rain.

This sacred prayer ritual, passed down through gen-

erations, has been conducted uninterrupted for centuries, even in today’s scientific era. The tradition brings together people from Olu to Chugar, fostering unity and devotion.

To perform the prayer, venerable monks from Druk Gon Chang Chub Zong Chuchot assemble at the sacred site to conduct the “Stor Gya” and “Storma Go Soom” rituals. Additionally, both men and women participate in the “Doh Mangs” prayers while hoisting religious banners, flags, and “Tarchen.”

Following the ritual of throwing the Storma, offerings known as “Srang Thuk” are presented to the venerable monks, Doh Mangs readers, and other participants.

The community urges the younger generation to uphold this sacred tradition for the collective welfare of all.

### CEC Tashi Gyalsen reviews execution plan for Ladakh’s largest solar power project



During the meeting on discussion of the planning and execution of Ladakh’s largest solar power project.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen chaired a meeting on February 25 to discuss the planning and execution of Ladakh’s largest solar power project—the LPDD 12MW AC / 15MWp DC Solar Photovoltaic Project in Phey.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer PDD Tsewang Paljor, representatives from Ecoteq Green Energies Foundation and M/s Oneindig Technologies Limited, as well as Thiksey Councillor Stanzin Chosphele and Khalte Councillor Lobzang Sherab.

Funded under the Special Development Package

(SDP), with land allocated by LAHDC Leh, the ₹65 crore project aims to enhance power availability and significantly reduce carbon emissions in Leh and its surrounding areas.

CEC Tashi Gyalsen stressed the importance of timely execution and urged all stakeholders to ensure its successful completion. He highlighted that the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of making Ladakh a carbon-neutral region.

By promoting clean and renewable energy, this project marks a significant step in Ladakh’s transition towards a sustainable and eco-friendly future.

### CEC Kargil expresses gratitude to LG Ladakh, officers for extending benefits to Daily Rated Workers



CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra, Chief Secretary, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Administrative Secretary, GAD, Michael M. D’Souza Ladakh and Director Finance, Ladakh Dr. Safdar Ali for their efforts in extending benefits to the Daily Rated Workers (DRWs)

of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Acknowledging the step taken for the welfare of the DRWs, the CEC congratulated all daily-rated workers and extended his appreciation to the concerned stakeholders for their collective efforts in resolving the long-standing issues in the shortest possible time.

He added that the decision is expected to bring much-needed relief and stability to the lives of numerous DRWs who play a vital role in the region’s workforce.

The CEC further emphasized that LAHDC Kargil will continue to work closely with the administration to ensure the well-being and rights of all workers across the district.

### Third edition of Pangong Frozen Lake marathon champions “Save Water, Save Glaciers”

...continuity of page 1

Among the 300 runners, several stood out as champions in their respective categories:

Category	Position	Name	Time
Men’s Full Marathon (42 km)	1st	Vlad Ixel	3:22:48
	2nd	Tsewang Tamchos	3:29:29
	3rd	Jigmet Nurboo	3:32:26
Women’s Full Marathon (42 km) (First Edition)	1st	Tsewang Chuskit	5:55:07
	2nd	Skalzung Dolma	6:10:42
	3rd	Stanzin Kunzang	6:34:00
Men’s Pangong Ice Ultra (55 km) (First Edition)	1st	Sonam Stanzin	4:56:16
	2nd	Stanzin Phuntsog	4:56:34
	3rd	Lobzang Tharchen	5:19:10
Men’s Pangong Ice Ultra (10 km)	1st	Vishnu Nandan Rathore	0:45:32
	2nd	Tsering Stobgais	0:46:29
	3rd	Pawan Kumar (Bib No. 120)	0:50:52
Women’s Pangong Ice Ultra (10 km)	1st	Tsering Ladol	1:25:45
	2nd	Sonam Angmo	1:28:36
	3rd	Rigzin Yangdol	1:57:08
Men’s Pangong Ice Ultra (5 km)	1st	Jigmet Chotak	0:13:11
	2nd	Sonam Tsewang	0:34:19
	3rd	Gopa Kumar	0:34:21
Women’s Pangong Ice Ultra (5 km)	1st	Vandana Tewari Yadav	1:00:45
	2nd	Stuti	1:05:41
	3rd	Rigsal Dolma	1:05:41

The third edition of the Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon successfully combined adventure sports with environmental advocacy, further solidifying Ladakh’s reputation as a premier winter tourism destination.

### CEC, Air Force officials discuss Ladakh’s air connectivity and regional development



CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen with Air force officials.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, met with Air Commodore Sanjay Prabhu VSM, AOC 21 Wing AFS Leh, and Group Captain Ajay Kumar, C Adm O 21 Wing AFS Leh on February 19.

The meeting was also attended by Councillor Tiger Rigzen Lundup, Tehsildar Leh Attaullah Khan, and L.P. Namgyal, President of LBA Nubra.

CEC Tashi Gyalsen officially welcomed the new AOC, recognizing the Air Force Station’s crucial role in enhancing connectivity and supporting Ladakh’s development.

In the meeting, the offi-

cial discussed a range of important issues aimed at improving the region’s infrastructure and services, including challenges surrounding air connectivity, organizing more medical camps in remote areas, and exploring options to increase the frequency of civil flights to boost tourism, including late evening flight operations. They also addressed other matters related to ongoing initiatives and concerns for regional development.

CEC Tashi Gyalsen also expressed the Council’s intent to convene a follow-up meeting with the Indian Air Force and the Airport Authority of India to plan for the early commencement of civil flights in Nubra.

He further acknowledged the Indian Air Force’s vital contributions to Ladakh’s development and reaffirmed LAHDC Leh’s continued support for strengthening infrastructure and services in the region.

### Daily Wagers receive job security boost, thank CEC Tashi Gyalsen



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, with Phunchok Angchuk, President of All Ladakh Daily Rated Workers (DRWs), and Stanzin Dorjey, Vice President.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen, met with Phunchok Angchuk, President of All Ladakh Daily Rated Workers (DRWs), and Stanzin Dorjey, Vice President, on February 25.

The representatives expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the CEC on behalf of all 1,900 Daily Rated Workers in various departments across UT Ladakh for the extension of bene-

fits under the consolidated guidelines of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT). This significant decision acknowledges the invaluable contributions of DRWs in maintaining essential services, providing them with enhanced job security, improved working conditions, and well-deserved recognition for their dedication.

CEC Tashi Gyalsen extended his deep appreciation to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.), for their support in realizing this long-awaited decision.

He also congratulated the workers and reaffirmed LAHDC Leh’s commitment to ensuring fair and progressive policies that uplift and empower Ladakh’s workforce.

### Ladakh’s winter sports scene expands with first kids’ snowboarding camp



Kids during the first-ever snowboarding camp at South Pullu.

Disket Angmo

**SOUTH PULLU:** The Ladakh Snowboarding Association, in collaboration with 4 Ladakh Scouts under Operation Sadbhavana, organised the regions’ first-ever snowboarding camp. The 10-day-long event, held at South Pullu near Khardung La, aimed to introduce young students to snowboarding, develop their skills, and promote winter sports culture in the region.

A total of 50 students participated in the camp, where they received training from experience coaches. The initiative provided a golden opportunity for young sports enthusiasts to learn and practice snowboarding. The event showcased live music performance by renowned Ladakhi rap artists Padma Ladol, Lil Thun and Buda Gyatso. Their energetic performances kept the spirit of the event high, making it a memorable experience for all attendees.

Speaking about the success of the event, Stanzin Dorjey, Ladakh Snowboarding Association said, “We had this idea three years ago, but it wasn’t

successful at that time. Now, with everyone’s support, we have made it happen. However, we faced challenges this year due to the weather and less snowfall. Our goal is to take Ladakh forward in this sport, and we are excited to conduct another batch once this one ends.”

The students who attended the camp also expressed their excitement and gratitude. One of the participants said, “The coach was very friendly while teaching us. They arranged everything for us, and I will definitely come again next time.” Another student shared, “It’s been nine days, and it has been such an exciting experience. Now, I can snowboard! I will surely come again next year.”

The snowboarding camp marks an important step toward making Ladakh a hub for winter sports. With continuous support and enthusiasm from the local community and authorities, initiatives like these can help shape a bright future for young athletes in the region.

### 4th Winter Holistic Development Program bridges traditional wisdom and contemporary learning



Disket Angmo

**LIKTSEY:** 4th Edition of Winter Holistic Development of Ladakh Program, initiated by His Eminence Drubpon Khamtak Rinpoche, was successfully held from February 12 to February 24 in Liktsky village. This enriching 12-day program brought together 200 participants from different regions, including Zanskar, Nubra, Changthang, and Sham side, to learn and grow through a mix of traditional wisdom and modern education.

The event commenced with a captivating performance of the traditional Larna by the local musicians. The participants actively engaged in various cultural performances, where children showcased their talents by playing musical instruments like the piano, guitar, and ukulele. They also sang songs and performed traditional dances, adding to the vibrant spirit of the program.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Stanzin Chosphele, Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh expressed his heartfelt gratitude to His Eminence, Drubpon Khamtak Rinpoche for continuing this initiative. He also commended the leader of Liktsky village for effectively organizing and managing the event. Encouraging other village heads, he urged them to host similar holistic development programs in their own villages. Furthermore, he declared that in the coming years, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) would provide support for such initiatives, ensuring their growth and success.

His Eminence Drubpon Khamtak while addressing the gathering on the concluding day of the 4th Winter Holistic Development Programme in Liktsky village, emphasized the importance of abstaining from alcohol and drug consumption. He highlighted the negative impact of substance

abuse on individuals and society, urging the community to uphold healthier lifestyles and moral values. His message resonated with attendees, reinforcing the need for awareness and collective responsibility in promoting a drug-free society.

Thinles Nurboo, Councillor Kungyam emphasized the importance of sharing the knowledge gained from the program. He urged participants to spread their learnings in their own villages, as this would contribute to the overall development of Ladakh while also helping in the preservation of culture and traditions.

Tsewang Paljor, Deputy Secretary of the Cultural Academy Leh, acknowledged the contributions of His Eminence and the villagers in making the event a success. He stressed that education, knowledge, and wisdom should be imparted in an environment that makes learning easy and enjoyable. He noted that while many programs focus on specific areas like agriculture or medicine, this holistic development program integrates different aspects of learning, making it unique and beneficial for the overall growth of Ladakh.

Thinly Nurboo, a villager from Liktsky, shared that the program provided a platform for participants to learn about religion, Sanskrit, modern education, and English. It served as a bridge between traditional knowledge and contemporary learning, making it beneficial for people of all ages.

The 4th Edition of the Winter Holistic Development Program successfully brought together people from different parts of Ladakh to learn, share, and grow. This annual event aims to foster intellectual growth, spiritual well-being, and the preservation of local traditions and culture among the residents of Ladakh.

## Fortnightly News

### CEC, Leh reviews progress of housing for all scheme



CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chairing a review meeting on the Housing for All schemes at the Conference Hall, Council Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a review meeting on the Housing for All scheme at the Conference Hall, Council Secretariat, on February 18 to assess progress and finalize key aspects of the initiative.

The meeting was attended by DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; CPO Leh, Tsewang Gyalson; CCF, LAHDC Leh, Zulfikar Ali; Tehsildar Leh, Attaullah Khan; AD FCS & CA, Ruth Mary; Assistant Director Planning (Rural), Ghulam Mohd; Executive Engineer (Construction), Imran Khan; and TSWO Leh, Thinlas Dorjay.

Joining the meeting online

were ADDC Leh, Sonam Nurboo; Director Garages, Dr. Tundup Namgail; Director NIELIT, Phuntsog Toldan; and MC Leh Executive Officer, Stanzin Rabgais.

The CEC emphasized the need to fast-track the ongoing process and directed officials to prepare a final draft for approval. He also proposed introducing an exceptional circumstances category, subject to committee approval, to address special cases.

The discussion focused on coordinating with the UT administration to ensure the timely finalization and approval of the scheme. Once thoroughly reviewed, the proposal

will be submitted to the UT administration for final clearance.

Additionally, the meeting included a review of the Khorlo Scheme, an initiative aimed at promoting green mobility in Leh. Dr. Tundup Namgail, Director of Garages, and Phuntsog Toldan, Director of NIELIT, provided updates on the Khorlo App's progress. The CEC instructed that the app should be ready for launch by the first week of March.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment to expediting the Housing for All scheme and ensuring its efficient implementation in Leh.

### MD SIDCO reviews public transport operations in Ladakh

*Calls for circular route design to enhance connectivity & efficiency*



The Managing Director of Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO), Bhupesh Chaudhary.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Managing Director of Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO), Bhupesh Chaudhary, chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on February 21 to assess public transport operations, review ongoing projects, and plan future developments.

At the meeting's outset, Senior Manager, SIDCO, presented a detailed report on the current operation of diesel and electric buses across UT Ladakh. It was noted that the region operates a fleet of 19 diesel and 19 electric buses covering various routes.

To improve accessibility and operational efficiency, MD SIDCO directed officials to design circular routes with a well-structured timetable. This initiative aims to maximize public transport coverage and benefit a larger population across Ladakh. Emphasizing the need for revenue generation in the transport sector, he urged the development of a sustainable circular route model to enhance

connectivity and optimize resource utilization.

Highlighting the significance of hydrogen buses, the MD instructed officials to address existing operational challenges and designate specific routes for hydrogen-powered buses. This move is expected to increase ridership and boost tourism, particularly during peak seasons.

To further promote eco-friendly transportation, the meeting decided to introduce dedicated e-buses and hydrogen buses for tourist routes, ensuring seamless connectivity to key destinations. The MD stressed the importance of well-planned routes and schedules to enhance tourist convenience while strengthening SIDCO's financial position and contributing to Ladakh's economic growth.

Discussions also focused on resolving key transport-related issues, including insurance, road tax, vehicle registration, and fitness certification. The MD emphasized that no bus should operate in

Ladakh without proper documentation and called for strict compliance with transport regulations. He also instructed officials to establish a robust monitoring mechanism to improve coordination and overall efficiency in the transport sector.

Additionally, MD SIDCO directed officials to expedite loan disbursement to eligible beneficiaries to support entrepreneurs, businesses, and stakeholders involved in infrastructure and economic development projects in Ladakh.

The review meeting was attended by Sonam Nurboo, Senior Manager, SIDCO; Er Tashi Namgyal, Executive Engineer, SIDCO; Dr. Owais Qadir Jaan, Accounts Officer, SIDCO; and Stanzin Pasang, District Manager, ST/SC/BC. Other concerned officials from SIDCO were also present. Additionally, ARTO Leh, Inzar Ahmad Rana, and Traffic Manager, SIDCO, Er Mohd Hussain, joined the meeting virtually.

### DC Kargil reviews progress of PM Vishwakarma Scheme implementation



Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Suse.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Suse, convened a meeting on February 25 to review the progress of PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme aimed at supporting traditional artisans and craftsmen in the district.

The meeting was attended by General Manager of District Industries Centre (DIC) Kargil, Abdul Hadi (CPO), Joint Director MSME DFO Jammu (virtually), FM DIC Kargil, Lead District Manager Kargil, Cluster Head J&K Bank Kargil, and the PMU

Team (virtually).

The agenda covered several vital aspects of the Vishwakarma Scheme, including a review of the implementation of the Vishwakarma Scheme, the status of training for artisans, disbursement of loans to artisans, awareness camps and outreach initiatives and the status of identified training centers in the Sub-Divisions.

DC Shrikant Suse conducted a detailed review of these aspects, emphasizing the need for timely loan disbursement, increased awareness

initiatives, and the swift establishment of training centers to equip artisans with essential skills and financial support.

He also directed officials to organize special loan disbursement camps in subdivisions and at the district headquarters to facilitate financial aid for local artisans.

The meeting reinforced the administration's commitment to ensuring the effective execution of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and enhancing its impact on the artisan community in Kargil.

### Zanskar Buddhist Association raises developmental issues with Lt. Governor



A delegation from Zanskar with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A delegation from Zanskar, led by President of Zanskar Buddhist Association, Pasang Lhawang, met Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on February 25 to discuss key developmental concerns in the region.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Sanjiv Khirwar, Commissioner/Secretary to LG Dr. L Franklin, Secretary Education Bhanu Prabha, and officials from various departments.

Pasang Lhawang and other delegates raised several issues, including establishing a dedicated examination centre to conduct CBSE board exams in Zanskar; ensuring the smooth flow of traffic at Shingku-La without any inconvenience to the public; financial initiative for grazing of livestock in Zanskar; ensuring fire emergency service in Zanskar; uniform distribution of subsidiary component from the

concerned councillor for procurement of feed for animals and the need to take immediate steps for sterilisation of stray dogs in Zanskar, etc.

LG assured to take action on the issue of establishing a dedicated examination centre in Zanskar for CBSE board exams and sterilisation of stray dogs, with necessary instructions given to the officials to engage NGOs from outside Ladakh and increase the financial incentive provided to volunteers to take part in the initiative. He asked DGP Ladakh to place a fire tender in Zanskar with trained policemen to tackle fire incidents in the sub-division. He instructed Chief Engineer of Project Yojak to look into the issue of the traffic movement on Shingku-La.

The LG asked the delegates to take up the matter of procuring feed for animals from the subsidy component with the concerned area Councillor as well.

ensuring fire emergency service in Zanskar; uniform distribution of subsidiary component from the

### 45-day winter camp at Maan village concludes, promoting holistic learning



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**CHANGTHANG:** The 45-day winter camp at Maan village, Pangong, successfully concluded on February 18, marking a significant step towards alternative education and holistic development for local students. The camp was organized by Royal Enfield and SLC, with the support of Councillor Chushul Constituency, Konchok Stanzin, and executed by Youth Accord Maan Pangong.

Held from January 5 to February 18, the camp provided a unique educational platform beyond traditional classroom learning, incorporating experiential and skill-based activities. The closing ceremony was attended by Councillor Konchok Stanzin, who praised the initiative for its impact on youth empowerment and community engagement.

Students actively participated in various co-curricular activities aimed at

enhancing skills and fostering personal growth, including, Singing and dancing to enhance artistic expression, Team-building exercises to develop leadership and collaboration skills, Personality development workshops to boost confidence and self-awareness, Ice hockey training to promote physical fitness and sportsmanship, Exploration of Ladakh's flora and fauna to deepen environmental awareness, Field visits and border tours to highlight the region's cultural and strategic significance and Cultural activities to preserve and celebrate Ladakh's rich traditions

The camp served as a transformative learning experience, encouraging hands-on engagement and practical skill development. Key outcomes of the initiative included, Introduction of ice hockey training, inspiring students to embrace a new sport while fostering teamwork

and discipline. Field visits and border tours, offering deeper insights into Ladakh's rich history, geography, and strategic importance and Cultural activities, playing a crucial role in preserving and promoting local traditions among the younger generation.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Councillor Konchok Stanzin praised the collaborative efforts of Royal Enfield, SLC, and Youth Association Maan Pangong in making this initiative a reality. "This camp has provided a much-needed platform for our youth to learn, grow, and connect with their heritage while developing essential life skills," he stated.

Encouraged by the camp's success, stakeholders hope to expand similar initiatives in the future, ensuring continued opportunities for holistic education in Ladakh.

### Vice Chancellor UoL, Prof. Dr. Saket Kushwaha visits EJM College Leh



Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, Prof. Dr. Saket Kushwaha during its visit to EJM College Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, Prof. Dr. Saket Kushwaha, visited EJM College Leh on February 25, engaging with faculty and students to

discuss key academic initiatives and the future of higher education in the region. During his visit, Prof. Kushwaha participated in insightful discussions on

curriculum development, research opportunities, and interdisciplinary studies. He emphasized the importance of institutional collaboration to enhance educational standards and provide students with a holistic learning experience.

"Educational institutions must adapt to the evolving landscape of higher education. Engaging directly with students and faculty helps us understand their needs and aspirations better. Our commitment to fostering academic excellence is unwavering," said Prof. Kushwaha.

A key highlight of the visit was the announcement of postgraduate (PG) courses at EJM College Leh and GDC Kargil, marking a significant step towards expanding higher education opportunities in Ladakh.

The Student Council of EJM College also had an interactive session with the Vice Chancellor, where they shared concerns and suggestions regarding ac-

ademic programs and campus facilities. Prof. Kushwaha also toured the college library and laboratories, reinforcing the university's commitment to providing a conducive learning environment.

Welcoming the Vice Chancellor, Principal Dr. Sameena Iqbal expressed gratitude for his visit, stating, "The Vice Chancellor's insights will significantly contribute to our ongoing efforts to enhance academic offerings and better serve our students. His expertise will help take higher education in Ladakh to new heights, strengthening both the academic and administrative environment of our college."

She also provided a brief overview of the courses currently offered at EJM College. The visit was attended by Director of Colleges, Prof. Tashi Ldawa; Assistant Registrar, UoL, Nawang Tundup; and Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Tashi Joldan, among other dignitaries.

### Leh marks the sacred Dosmoche festival with mask dances and rituals



Monks of Hemis monastery performing the sacred mask dance, 'Chaams,' in the courtyard of Leh Palace.

Stanzin Dasal

**LEH:** The two-day Dosmoche festival was celebrated with great religious fervor on February 26 and 27 in Leh and Likir, continuing a centuries-old Ladakhi tradition.

The highlight of the festival was the sacred mask dance, 'Chaams,' performed in the courtyard

of Leh Palace. Monks from various monasteries took turns participating in the ritual dance, with this year's performance led by the monks of Hemis Monastery. The monks of Takthok Monastery crafted the sacred 'Dhos' thread crosses, while the monks of Korzok Monastery created the 'Storzok' ritual effigy, both essential elements of the festival.

On the second day, the ceremonial burning of "Storma" took place, a symbolic ritual to ward off evil spirits and misfortunes in the coming year, ushering in peace and prosperity for the people.

The Dosmoche festival was initiated by the rul-

ers of Ladakh, inspired by the Mon-Lam, the "Great Prayer" ceremony of Lhasa. The tradition dates back centuries, with monks from different monasteries gathering in the courtyard below the Leh Palace gate to perform the sacred mask dance.

Dorjay Tsering, a member of the Leh Phu Dho Cultural Welfare Society, emphasized the festival's deep-rooted historical significance, stating that Dosmoche has been observed since the time of King Singey Namgyal. He also noted that the festival is believed to mark the transition from the harsh winter season and the beginning of the Tibetan lunar new year.

Throughout the festival, people from across Ladakh flocked to the Leh market, enjoying traditional Ladakhi cuisine, shopping, tambola, ring games, and lotteries. The festival not only preserves Ladakh's spiritual heritage but also brings the community together in a vibrant cultural celebration.

## Expert Talk:

## Groundwater Crisis in Leh: Challenges and Solutions

By Stanzin Dasal

Water is the most essential resource for life, yet its availability and quality are becoming increasingly threatened in Leh due to rapid urbanization, climate change, and the growing demands of tourism. Once a region sustained by traditional water management practices, Leh is now facing severe groundwater depletion and contamination.

Over the years, fields and farms in Leh have been replaced by mushrooming commercial establishments, drastically altering land use patterns. While modernization and development bring economic growth, they also accelerate environmental degradation. Age-old sustainable practices that once ensured water conservation have been largely abandoned, pushing the region into a water crisis.

One of the most significant shifts contributing to groundwater stress is the replacement of traditional dry compost toilets with Western-style water-based toilets. Traditionally, dry compost toilets helped recycle waste into manure while conserving water. However, with increasing modernization, people have moved toward flush toilets, leading to a dramatic rise in water consumption.

Additionally, many households and establishments have opted for soak pits instead of septic tanks. Unlike septic tanks, which are designed to prevent direct seepage of waste into the ground, soak pits allow wastewater to percolate freely into the soil, leading to groundwater contamination. Harmful pollutants, including heavy metals, nitrates, and bacteria like *E. coli*, are now commonly found in Leh's groundwater.

As groundwater levels decline, the extraction of water through borewells has risen alarmingly. The convenience of borewells has led to their unchecked proliferation, further exacerbating the depletion of natural springs that once sustained the region.

According to official records, Leh had only 10 borewells in 1997. However, by 2020, this number had surged to 2,659—an average increase of 115 borewells per year. By 2025, this number is estimated to have grown even more drastically. The overuse of borewells not only reduces groundwater levels but also affects the recharge capacity of natural springs, leading to their gradual disappearance.

In response, the government has taken measures to curb illegal groundwater extraction. Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, recently reviewed restrictions on borewell usage, which have been in effect since December 1, 2024. It was declared that using borewells without prior approval in restricted areas—including Gonpa Gangles, Sankar, Yourtong, Leh, Skara, Choglamsar, Saboo, Spituk, Phay, and Phyang—would be considered illegal.

Dr. Lobzang Chorol, a researcher who has spent seven years studying Leh's water quality, has highlighted alarming trends in groundwater contamination.



**Dr. Lobzang Chorol, Researcher:**

My studies focus on groundwater quality, health risk assessment, and prediction. In Leh, 90% of the population depends on groundwater, but its quality is deteriorating, especially during the summer.

This is a serious concern that demands urgent attention.

From 2017 to 2024, I collected water samples from 28 locations, extending from Gangles to the Airport, and found that groundwater quality is poor, posing significant health

risks. One of the major factors behind this deterioration is the widespread use of dry soak pits instead of septic tanks. Due to a lack of awareness, many people have opted for soak pits without maintaining the necessary distance from borewells, increasing the risk of contamination.

Before digging a borewell, crucial assessments—such as soil quality testing—should be conducted to prevent contamination. The increasing number of hotels, guesthouses, and other establishments in Leh has also contributed to groundwater pollution. The use of detergents, toilet cleaners, and other chemicals has led to seepage into the groundwater. Additionally, the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides further degrades water quality.

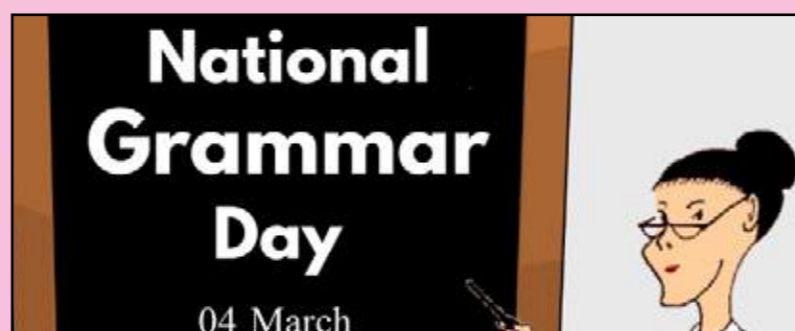
One of the most concerning findings is the rising nitrate concentration in groundwater. Ideally, nitrate levels should not exceed 40 mg/liter, but in Leh, the concentration has already reached 60 mg/liter. In 2024, the nitrate concentration was 55 mg/liter, and projections indicate that it could rise to 75 mg/liter by 2030 if preventive measures are not taken. High nitrate levels are particularly harmful to children and pregnant women, increasing risks of methemoglobinemia (commonly known as “blue baby syndrome”).

Additionally, the concentration of heavy metals such as Chromium and Cadmium—both classified as carcinogens—has been

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## National Grammar Day



Grammar in the English language is the backbone. It decides the structure of the sentence, the tone of the words and how things are meant to be communicated. Minor differences in the grammar of the language can change the entire meaning of the sentences. In fact, the grammar in any language forms the structure of the language. Grammar nazis sometimes have a difficult time navigating through the grammatical errors and may find it difficult to understand the things that are meant to be communicated. Since language is the medium of communication, grammar forms the rules and regulations of the language that we should follow.

Every year, National Grammar Day is celebrated on March 4.

**History:**

In the 5th Century BC, an early grammar was used in the Sanskrit language, however, the traditional grammar and the alphabetical system was developed lot later by the early Greek people. Dionysius Thrax, Greek Grammarian defined grammar as the mode

that allows a person to speak and express in a language and its components with relation to each other. Noam Chomsky, American Professor and public intellectual, who is known for his contributions in the space of linguistics, contributed heavily to the grammar of English language, making it undergo dramatic changes. In 2008, Martha Brockenbrough, the founder of the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar established National Grammar Day to be celebrated every year on March 4.

National Grammar Day is a special day to understand grammatical theories, learn the loopholes in the language and thank our editors. The best way to celebrate the day is by hosting a grammar party and getting our red pens out to find grammatical errors in day-to-day things such as newspapers, magazines, etc.

Courtesy: hindustantimes.com

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

## Turn a shade better every day



There is a lovely phrase, ‘the compound effect’. And the author, Darren Hardy, has this as the title of his famous book. *THE COMPOUND EFFECT*, in simple terms, means that small things done at a time get ‘converted’, after months and years, into what you call *BIG, GREAT, SUCCESS* etc.

In other words, nothing great happens overnight. It is small steps taken every day that accumulate, ultimately, into a means that helps you get to your goal. Darren Hardy has this to say: “You will never change your life until

you change something you do daily.”

That means that your routine needs innovation on a daily basis so that it gives you the key to a better life.

In going about such a routine, one needs to be highly careful to take it as more than a daily routine. In other words, make your daily routine a challenging effort so that the purpose of your efforts takes a better meaning and shape. Your attitude, decision and your willingness to experiment on a daily basis go a long way as a steady step towards success. It all depends on how you respond daily.

Someone had this to say on the topic: “The strategy of reaping huge rewards from the small, and seemingly insignificant actions, ultimately lead you to the ‘compound effect’ that has the potential to give you big gains.”

If we quote one of the brainiest guys in history, Albert Einstein, we get: “The most powerful force in the universe is compound interest.” What that means is that compound effect can give one immense potential to create some kind of an experimental growth.

All great achievers attribute their success to their daily routine compounded over the years. Such a ‘process’ demands, on your part, honesty, sincerity, single-mindedness, and a missionary zeal with a clear vision. One has to be highly determined so as to be able to keep one’s wishes alive until the very point of success.

Lesson: A good and beautiful life can happen only if you put ‘compound effect’ into play.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

## DID YOU KNOW



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

2. The largest piece of fossilised dinosaur poo discovered is over 30cm long and over two litres in volume. Believed to be a *Tyrannosaurus rex* turd, the fossilised dung (also named a ‘coprolite’) is helping scientists better understand what the dinosaur ate.

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

4. Animals can experience time differently from humans. To smaller animals, the world around them moves more slowly compared to humans. Salamanders and lizards, for example, experience time more slowly than cats and

dogs. This is because the perception of time depends on how quickly the brain can process incoming information.

5. Water might not be wet. This is because most scientists define wetness as a liquid's ability to maintain contact with a solid surface, meaning that water itself is not wet, but can make other objects wet.

6. A chicken once lived for 18 months without a head. Mike the chicken's incredible feat was recorded back in the 1940s in the USA. He survived as his jugular vein and most of his brainstem were left mostly intact, ensuring just enough brain function remained for survival. In the majority of cases, a headless chicken dies in a matter of minutes.

Courtesy: BBC Science Focus

## Fortnightly News

### In Conversation with State Awardee Dr. Konchok Dorje

Interviewed by Nenzes Chodon

**Q. Jullay! Congratulations on receiving the state award under Teaching and Academics! Briefly tell us about you and from where did you pursue your educational degrees?**

Thank you and Jullay! I am Dr Konchok Dorje from Wanla village, located about 120 km from Leh city. I spent my childhood in the village, assisting my parents with farming and livestock rearing.

I completed my primary education at Government High School Wanla. From 6th to 10th standard, I studied at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Leh, followed by my higher education at JNV Pathankot, Punjab. I earned bachelor's degree in science from GGM Science College Jammu, and master's degree in Botany from the Department of Botany, University of Jammu. During my master's program, I qualified for the National Eligibility Test (NET) twice and was awarded CSIR-JRF (Junior Research Fellowship) in Life-science. Subsequently, I completed my doctorate (Ph.D.) in Botany from the University of Jammu in the year 2015.

In 2017, I was selected as an Assistant Professor in the Higher Education Department. Since then, I have served at several colleges, including Women's College Sopore, Kashmir, and Eliezer Joldan Memorial College Leh. Currently, I am serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany at Govt. Degree College Nubra. With over seven years of experience teaching undergraduate students, I am committed to guiding and inspiring them with my knowledge and passion for botany and plant sciences.

**Q. How many books and research papers have you published so far, and how many of them are related to Ladakh?**

I have published one book, 16 research papers in various national and international journals, and nine articles in magazines and newspapers.

My book, Plants of Ladakh – A Photographic Guide, published in 2021, is a comprehensive, full-color photographic guide featuring more than 200 plant species, including medicinal, edible, and fodder plants. It serves as an essential resource for students, teachers, tourists, and anyone interested in the rich botanical diversity of Ladakh.

My research publications focus on various aspects of high-altitude wild mushrooms and flora that hold immense



**MESSAGE TO THE READERS**  
“Education is more than degrees—it is about knowledge, wisdom, and critical thinking. Work hard, stay committed, and no challenge will be too great.

**As a nature lover and conservationist, I urge everyone to protect Ladakh's unique flora and fragile ecosystem. By embracing sustainable practices and respecting traditional wisdom, we can create a better future for Ladakh.**”

ecological, medicinal, culinary, and socio-cultural significance in Ladakh. Recognizing my pioneering work in fungal diversity and ethnobotany, I was honored with the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Award for Scientific Excellence – 2020 and the InSc Award for Research Excellence – 2020 in 2021.

**Q. Alongside Botany, your studies extend to Mycology as well. Can you explain what a mycologist does and highlight your research in this field?**

Mycologists study fungi, including yeasts, molds, and mushrooms. Their work involves exploring fungal taxonomy, structure, physiology, growth, and interactions with the environment, as well as understanding both the beneficial and harmful roles fungi play in ecosystems.

I have conducted pioneering research on the mushroom diversity of Ladakh, focusing on fungal taxonomy, diversity, and ethnomycology. I am the first mycologist from Ladakh to initiate systematic research on high-altitude fungal diversity, with a particular emphasis on the mushroom species of the Ladakh Trans-Himalaya. During my doctoral research, I discovered and documented 70 fungal species that were reported for the first time from the Ladakh region.

**Q. Tell us about your paper “Mushroom folklore in Ladakh: Myths and Beliefs surrounding wild mushrooms” which was selected for presentation at 18th Colloquium of International Association for Ladakh Studies in Poland.**

My paper presents a pioneering ethnomycological study on wild mushrooms in Ladakh, exploring how perceptions of fungi have evolved within Ladakhi society. It examines the cultural and folkloric significance of mushrooms, shedding light on how they have been traditionally utilized or avoided.

The study delves into indigenous beliefs, superstitions, myths, and folk traditions surrounding mushrooms in Ladakh. It highlights the region's folk taxonomy of mushrooms, as well as supernatural myths, social beliefs, and taboos associated with them. Additionally, the paper discusses the ethnomedicinal use of mushrooms, their role as good omens, and the presence of naturally occurring mushroom-shaped rock formations in the region. Field photographs of important mushroom species were also included to provide a visual reference.

**Q. You qualified NET twice in a year. What advice would you like to pass to students preparing for it?**

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## Fortnight Highlights



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, in the presence of Executive Councillor, Stanzin Chosphe extended heartfelt congratulations to Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Tsewang Gyalson for receiving the District Award for Outstanding Performance in Public Service for the year 2024-2025.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, felicitated the newly appointed Thiksey Councillor Stanzin Chosphe as the Leh District President BJP, Leh and Nyoma Councillor Ishey Spalzang as the Changthang District President BJP, Nyoma.



The General Administration Department of the Union Territory of Ladakh has issued an Office Memorandum announcing the re-designation of the post of Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor as Chief Secretary, UT of Ladakh. This decision follows the notification dated January 3, 2025, issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Government of India and has been approved by the Competent Authority in the Ministry of Home Affairs.



In an effort to promote cleanliness, hygiene and environmental sustainability, the JETBUSTERS of Fire and Fury organised cleanliness drive in Spitik.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a meeting to discuss the proposal for creating various departmental posts in the newly formed districts of Nubra, Changthang, Sham, Zaskar, and Drass.



The India Ice Hockey team has returned to Leh after participating in the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China. Executive Councillor Tashi Namgyal Yakzee welcomed the team on behalf of LAHDC and congratulated the players.



The 23rd Col Rinchen Memorial T20 Cricket Tournament concluded with an exciting final match between the Pathan club Bogdang VS united Panamik Cricket Team. Panamaik team won the match by 33 run.



400 bags of cattle feed to launch the “Milk Belt” initiative in Leh district was flagged off

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## Groundwater Crisis in Leh: Challenges and Solutions

increasing over the past five years. Other harmful metals like iron and nickel have also been detected in significant amounts. The prolonged consumption of contaminated water can lead to severe health issues, including cancer, kidney diseases, and developmental disorders in children. Another alarming trend is the improper disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Much of this waste is directly discarded into rivers and streams, gradually contaminating water sources. This practice must be addressed immediately to prevent further degradation of water quality.

### Potential Solutions

To mitigate the ongoing groundwater crisis, a multi-pronged approach is needed. Both governmental interventions and community participation are essential to reversing the current trends. The use of fertilizers and pesticides should be minimized. Converting soak pits to properly designed septic tanks is essential to prevent groundwater contamination. The availability of groundwater is meaningless if its quality is compromised.

Reviving traditional dry compost toilets, which are both sustainable and water-efficient, should be encouraged, especially as water scarcity becomes a growing concern. Additionally, guest-houses and hotels should be required to install water meters and implement mandatory grey-water treatment systems. Introducing a water conservation fee can further promote responsible water usage among commercial establishments.

Preserving and reviving age-old traditions and customs is crucial for protecting water sources. In the past, communities maintained water bodies with reverence, often guided by cultural and religious beliefs. Reintroducing these practices can foster a sense of responsibility and ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources.

Leh's groundwater crisis is a pressing issue that requires immediate action. The combination of rapid urbanization, increased tourism, and unsustainable water use has placed immense pressure on groundwater resources. If the current trends continue, the region may face severe water scarcity and health crises in the near future.

However, through proactive measures—such as regulating borewell usage, improving wastewater management, reviving traditional practices, and promoting sustainable farming—this crisis can be mitigated. Both government authorities and local communities must work together to protect Leh's groundwater for future generations.

Only by adopting sustainable water management practices can we ensure that this vital resource remains available for generations to come. The time to act is now.

## ICAR-CAZRI, Leh conducts training cum input distribution programme under tribal sub plan



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Regional Research Station, Leh, organized one-day Training cum Input Distribution Programme under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) to promote sustainable farming practices in Ladakh.

The program began with a wel-

come address by Stanzin Landol, who provided an overview of the training objectives. Dr. Maheshwar Singh (Head, CAZRI-Leh) delivered an insightful lecture on "Nursery Raising of Vegetable Crops," emphasizing techniques such as line sowing and pre-sowing seed treatment through soaking to enhance early germination.

In the subsequent technical session, Ankesh Kumar conducted training on "Pruning and Training in Apple and Apricot," explaining proper pruning methods to improve fruit yield and tree health. Additionally, Stanzin Landol led a practical session on "Preparation and Application of Waste Decomposer," highlighting its role in soil health improvement, compost decomposition, and increased crop productivity in Ladakh's high-altitude conditions.

The event saw active participation from over 26 farmers from Ram-birpur village. Concluding the program, essential farming inputs such as waste decomposer and black mulching polythene were distributed under the Tribal Sub Plan, supporting eco-friendly and cost-effective agricultural practices in the region.

## CEC Kargil, Dr. Akhoon inspects ongoing development projects



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, conducted an inspection of various ongoing developmental projects in the district on February 18.

He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports, Ladakh, Executive Engineer of R&B, Tehsildar Kargil, Councillor Abdul Wahid, Councillor Alfat Hussain, and other concerned officials.

Dr. Akhoon visited several sports infrastructure projects at Kurbathang, including the AstroTurf football ground and synthetic track. Officials informed him that the total cost of the project is approximately ₹18.21 crore. While the ground is complete, the pavilion remains unfinished. The CEC directed the Executive Engineer of R&B to expedite the pavilion's completion and instructed the Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports to facili-

tate football matches.

Inspecting the International Ice Hockey Rink, Dr. Akhoon lauded the quality of work and was briefed that the total project cost is ₹37.97 crore. While most construction is complete, the installation of chilling machines is pending. He directed the R&B Department to temporarily maintain the rink's flooring and install lights at the earliest to enable matches. He also assured that if needed, funds from the CAPEX budget would be allocated for ground maintenance.

Dr. Akhoon also visited the Shelter Home for recovered missing children, constructed at a cost of ₹1.68 crore. Officials reported that 100% of the work is complete, except for some minor tasks, which will be finished soon.

At the site of the 300-bed Girls' and Old Age Home in Kurbathang, the CEC inspected ongoing construc-

tion and reviewed progress.

During his visit to the Ice Hockey Rink in Biamathang, he emphasized the need to expand seating capacity for spectators. The Joint Director informed him that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for pavilion construction and other necessary maintenance work has been submitted.

Highlighting the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh's commitment to sports infrastructure development, Dr. Akhoon directed officials to ensure high construction standards and maintain material quality.

Later, he inspected District Hospital Kargil, including the construction sites of the MRI room, prayer room, and pre-fabricated attendant shelter. Officials informed him that the DPR for the prayer room has been submitted and that the MRI room construction is near completion. The CEC instructed that the attendant shelter be equipped with essential amenities like electricity and water.

Additionally, Dr. Akhoon directed the Project Director of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) to install four solar streetlights at key locations within the hospital premises. He also assured funding for high-mast solar lights under the untied budget.

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## In Conversation with State Awardee Dr. Konchok Dorjey

Clearing National Eligibility Test (NET) requires a dedicated and strategic approach, consistent study and concept clearance in general aptitude and the concerned subject. Students should focus on understanding the basic concepts rather than memorizing, prepare self-written notes and flowcharts and most importantly practice and revision required at least 2-3 month before the exam.

**Q. Besides teaching, how do you contribute to the intellectual and academic environment of the college community?**

I took the initiative to establish the Mushroom Cultivation Centre at EJM College, Leh, in 2021 with limited resources. This center, the first of its kind at the college, focuses on oyster mushroom cultivation, providing students with job-oriented and skill-based education in sustainable farming.

To enhance teaching and learning about plant sciences, I introduced a unique herbarium concept called the "Wall of Herbarium" at EJM College. This initiative simplifies plant taxonomy and identification by displaying dry plant samples preserved and illustrated on walls, making botanical studies more accessible and engaging for students.

I have also organized various workshops and seminars to foster a strong academic and research culture within the college. Recently, I organized a National Seminar on 'Himalayan Medicinal Plants – Present and Future Prospects' from October 26-28, 2024, at EJM College, Leh. Funded by NMPB, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, the seminar played a crucial role in enhancing awareness, research, and conservation efforts related to medicinal plants in the Ladakh Himalaya.

Beyond academics, I have been actively involved in the development of the college, serving as a convener and member of several key committees. As Programme Officer (PO) of the National Service Scheme (NSS), I have led various community service initiatives, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under my guidance, Padma Angmo, an NSS student of EJM College, made history by representing Ladakh for the first time at the Republic Day Parade 2020 in New Delhi.

Through these initiatives, I strive to contribute to the academic excellence, skill development, and community engagement of the college and its students.

**Q. During research studies, what are the plants found in Ladakh that are rare and beneficial but under-mined?**

My research on plants focuses on the conservation of threatened species, exploring their potential medicinal uses and understanding plant folklore, traditional practices and the relationship between plants and people in Ladakh and the Himalayas.

I believe that every plant species growing in the mountains of Ladakh is rare and beneficial to both our ecology and economy. At present, most potential plants remain underutilized, except for a few well-known ones like seabuckthorn. Take, for example, the Black Goji Berry (*Lycium ruthenicum*), locally called Khi-tser, a medicinal plant found abundantly in Nubra Valley. The plant bears darkly pigmented black berries known for their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-aging, anticancer, anti-diabetic, radiation injury protection and immune-modulating properties, offering immense health benefits. However, this plant is yet to be fully explored and commercialized. Similarly, many other medicinal plants remain undervalued and need further research and utilization.

**Q. Many plants are considered threatened in Ladakh. What are the key strategies used in plant conservation to protect the threatened plant species.**

Yes, many plants and trees in Ladakh are highly threatened due to overexploitation, habitat destruction and climate change. For instance, medicinal herbs such as the Himalayan Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*), Aconite (*Aconitum heterophyllum*), Ratanjot (*Arnebia euchroma*), Himalayan Mayapple (*Podophyllum hexandrum*), and Himalayan Blue Poppy (*Meconopsis aculeata*) are endangered or critically endangered due to excessive uprooting and overexploitation for medicinal use. Similarly, tree species like Juniper (*Juniperus sp.*) and Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis*) are highly threatened due to overharvesting for timber and religious purposes.

Conventionally, there are two major strategies for plant conservation: In-Situ Conservation – Preserving plants within their natural habitat by establishing protected areas such as national parks and biosphere reserves. Ex-Situ Conservation – Conserving plants outside their natural habitat by cultivating them in botanical gardens and nurseries, as well as preserving them through seed banks and cryopreservation.

However, the protection and conservation of plants and trees is the responsibility of every one of us in the society. Every individual can contribute to plant conservation in many ways, like planting trees, gardening and farming, protecting plants and supporting organizations working on conservation. Protect plants for our food, medicine and shelter, and air we breathe. As I often say, "If we protect plants today, plants will protect us tomorrow."

## 45-day winter camp in Kanji wraps up with cultural & sports events



Students performing during the concluding ceremony of the 8th edition of the Winter Camp in Kanji.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KANJI:** The 8th edition of the Winter Camp, organized by the Youth Association Kanji (YAK), concluded with an enthusiastic closing ceremony at Kanji village on February 15. Councillor Lamayuru Constituency, LAHDC Leh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The Kanji Winter Camp, initiated by YAK in 2017, has successfully run for the past eight years. The 2025 edition, spanning 45 days, saw the participation of 55 registered children from Kanji village.

The camp provided an array of learning experiences, including alternative skill-based education, STEM learning, Social, Emotional, and Ethical (SEE) Learning, cultural preservation, IT training,

leadership and confidence-building classes, ice hockey coaching, and academic counseling.

The event was supported by Royal Enfield and the Eicher Group Foundation, in collaboration with their NGO partners—Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLCIT) and Leh Nutrition Project (LNP). These organizations assisted in facilitator training and the ice hockey camp.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Dr. Morup Dorjey, Hon'ble Councillor of Lamayuru Constituency, LAHDC Leh, congratulated the youth of Kanji for their unwavering dedication to their village. He assured full support to YAK Kanji in its future endeavors and high-

lighted his contributions towards the development of remote villages like Kanji.

The President of Youth Association Kanji remarked, "With each passing year, we continue to learn alongside the children. This motivates us to keep organizing such camps, where children not only learn and have fun but also reconnect with their roots, away from the hustle of modern life. Our efforts over the last eight years have led to an increase in school admissions at MS Kanji, nurtured more confident youth, and even produced ice hockey players who have represented the region at the UT level and India at the international level."

Thinles Angmo, Education Head of Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust, and Tsering Dolker, Program Coordinator at Eicher Group Foundation (Royal Enfield) Leh, were also present and addressed the gathering.

The closing ceremony featured an exhibition ice hockey match between the Under-15 YAK Black and YAK White teams, along with a unique on-ice cultural dance performance by children under 12. Additionally, students showcased self-composed cultural programs and class projects developed during the 45-day camp.

### NOTICE

**No 9925920M Rank Hav Jigmet Wangur Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his wife namely Sonam Ladol Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 20-05-1989 instead of correct and actual Date of Birth 20-05-1988 in the Army record of, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA08318061313407X to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.**

## Fortnightly News

### WWF-India distributes conflict mitigation tools to pastoralists in Kargyam belt



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGYAM:** In a significant step towards mitigating human-wildlife conflict in Ladakh, WWF-India distributed essential conflict mitigation tools, including FoxLights and Flashlights, to 127 pastoral beneficiaries in the Kargyam belt, covering villages such as Barma, Kherapulu, Sato, and Chibra. The distribution event, held in Barma village on February 18.

Councillor of Chushul and Ex-Executive Councillor, Konchok Stanzin was the chief guest. The initiative, led by WWF-India's Western Himalayas Conservation Programme, aims to help local herders protect their livestock from predators such as wolves, snow leop-

ards, lynx, and feral dogs.

Rigzin Dawa, Senior Programme Officer, WWF Western Himalayas Conservation Programme, along with his team, ensured effective outreach and implementation.

Councillor Chushul applauded WWF-India's conservation efforts under Rigzin Dawa's leadership and emphasized the need for continued support in the future.

FoxLights, mounted on livestock corrals, act as a deterrent against nocturnal predators, effectively reducing livestock losses and fostering coexistence between wildlife and local communities. Meanwhile,

FlashLights will assist pastoral households in safely navigating pasture routes and protecting their livestock, enhancing both security and efficiency.

This large-scale distribution reflects WWF-India's ongoing commitment to conservation and community welfare in Ladakh. In the coming months, WWF-India plans to introduce additional initiatives, including the installation of predator-proof corrals and other mitigation measures to further support pastoral livelihoods.

The participation of dignitaries and local leaders highlighted the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing human-wildlife conflict. Their continued support, coupled with WWF-India's sustained conservation interventions, is expected to yield long-term benefits for the pastoral communities of Ladakh.

Photo Caption: During the distribution of essential conflict mitigation tools, including FoxLights and Flashlights, to 127 pastoral beneficiaries in the Kargyam belt, covering villages such as Barma, Kherapulu, Sato, and Chibra. The distribution event, held in Barma village on February 18.

### DC Kargil reviews proposed citywide CCTV surveillance project



Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Balsaheb Suse chairing a meeting on proposed Kargil City CCTV Surveillance Project.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Suse chaired a meeting on February 24 to review the proposed Kargil City CCTV Surveillance Project.

The meeting was attended by ASP Kargil Mujeeb Ur Rehman, ADC Ghulam Mohiuddin Wani, Executive Engineer R&B Sadiq Ali Wazir, GM NHIDCL, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Arifa Iqbal, ACD Razia Khatoun,

AD Tourism Rehmatullah Butt, along with officials from BRO and other concerned departments.

A detailed discussion was held on various aspects of the project, which aims to install CCTVs at key locations such as major roads, highways, hospitals, markets, schools, and other critical areas in the city.

A consultant from KPMG, designated by the Ladakh Police

Department to design the IT architecture for the project, gave a comprehensive presentation on the initiative.

He highlighted advanced video analytics solutions using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), which will automate monitoring for, Traffic violations, Law and order maintenance, surveillance against antisocial elements, improper garbage disposal, Disaster and fire incidents.

As part of the project, a state-of-the-art Command and Control Centre will be developed to oversee the entire CCTV surveillance system in Kargil.

DC Shrikant Suse instructed all stakeholder departments and officials to assess the proposed CCTV locations and submit their requirements and suggestions within two days. These inputs will be considered for inclusion in the final project plan.

### CEC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon attends graduation ceremony of rISE fellows

Royal Enfield Social Mission supports holistic child development in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The graduation ceremony of rISE (rZamba Initiative for Sustainable Education) fellows—a program supported by the Royal Enfield Social Mission to promote holistic child development in Ladakh—was held on February 26.

Addressing the gathering, CEC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, congratulated the graduating fellows and commended rZamba for its dedication to improving the education system in the region. He highlighted the organization's "learning by doing" approach and emphasized the need to equip students with practical skills that ensure both societal relevance and economic independence after their education. He also praised the confidence displayed by students from remote areas, attributing their growth to rZamba's impactful initiatives.

Dr. Akhoon acknowledged Royal Enfield's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, noting their contributions extend beyond rZamba to benefit the broader student community in Ladakh. He urged other corporate sectors to invest in Ladakh's education system and recognized various initiatives undertaken by corporate entities in Kargil to enhance educational standards.

Guest of Honour, Joint Director of Information Ladakh, Imteaz Kacho, also lauded rZamba's efforts in providing sustainable, high-quality education in rural areas. He emphasized the initiative's role in bridging educational gaps and bringing learning opportunities to students at their doorsteps. He further noted the significant progress in female education across Ladakh and stressed the need to strengthen teaching stan-

dards. Additionally, he advised students to adopt smart preparation techniques to manage academic stress effectively.

During the event, students from various government schools supported by rZamba showcased innovative models on different themes, demonstrating their creativity and practical learning skills. A documentary highlighting the contributions of rISE fellows was also screened.

State Lead of the Royal Enfield Social Mission, Tsewang Lhamo, briefed the audience on Royal Enfield's commitment to investing in high-quality education programs for children and supporting teachers through professional development, mentorship, and competitive compensation.

Meanwhile, CEO of rZamba, Stanzin Saldon (Shifah), provided insights into the organization's initiatives and the invaluable role of the fellows in building a sustainable and inclusive education system in Ladakh.

The event was attended by Councillor Baroo Minjee Adv. Khadim Hussain, Principal DIET Sayeeda Banoo, Deputy Secretary of Culture Nazir Hussain, NHPC Kargil Manager, and other dignitaries.

Later, certificates and mementoes were presented to all graduating rISE fellows in recognition of their contributions and achievements.

### DCPU Kargil conducts inspection and awareness drive on child abuse in hostels



During the inspection and awareness drive at various private residential hostels in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Kargil, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Child Helpline (1098/112), conducted an inspection and awareness drive from February 12 to 15 at various private residential hostels in Kargil to address child physical abuse.

The initiative was launched in response to a reported child

abuse incident at a private residential coaching center in Kargil. The drive focused on assessing hostel facilities, interacting with students and staff, and raising awareness about child protection laws.

During inspections, the team found that while most hostels provided basic amenities, some required improvements in sanitation and infrastructure. Officials engaged with students and hostel staff to ensure a child-friendly environment and strict compliance with child protection laws.

The DCPU emphasized the importance of child-friendly policies and reinforced awareness of child rights and legal protections.

The drive was led by Habibullah Rizwani, Protection Officer (Institutional Care), DCPU Kargil, along with officials from DCPU, CWC, and Child Helpline.

### Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Sankoo, hosts awareness program on traffic rules in Kargil



During the awareness program on "Traffic Rules and Regulations" in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Sankoo in collaboration with Traffic Police Kargil, Assistant Regional Transport Office Kargil, and All Transport Associations Kargil organized an awareness program on "Traffic Rules and Regulations" at Auditorium Hall Kargil on February 21.

The event was presided by Chairman, Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Sankoo/Special Judicial Mobile Magistrate, Kargil, Deldan Angmo. DySP DAR Kargil, DySP Traffic Kargil, ARTO Kargil and President all Transport Associations Kargil were guests cum speaker on the occasion.

The programme aimed to educate the public, especially drivers and transport operators, on the significance of adhering to traffic laws for safer roads and a disciplined transportation system.

DTI, Kargil, Insp. Mohd Nissar briefed about traffic regulations in Kargil. Dy SP DAR Kargil, Tundup Dorjay presented a power point presentation on rate of accidents in Kargil.

President all Transport Association, Kargil, Advocate Reyaz Ahmad Khan stressed upon the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal cases in Kargil.

Deldan Angmo, Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Sankoo/Special Judicial Mobile Magistrate, Kargil addressed the audience with traffic laws and rules and presented some video clips to aware the audience about negligence of drivers in causing accidents.

ARTO, Kargil, Khadim Hussain spoke about significance of vehicle documents and responsibilities of drivers in making a safer society.

The program witnessed active participation from transporters, drivers, and the general public, fostering a collective commitment toward safer roads in Kargil. The initiative was appreciated by attendees, who acknowledged the necessity of such awareness campaigns in promoting a culture of road safety and legal compliance.

### EC Tashi chairs meeting on promotion of winter sports in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Executive Councillor, Er. Punchok Tashi, chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall, LAHDC Kargil, to strategize the promotion of winter sports in the region.

The meeting focused on strengthening Zanskar and Drass Winter Sports Academy and reviewing the proposed installation of a chair lift to boost winter sports infrastructure.

The session was attended by Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi; Councillor Bhimbat, Abdul Wahid; Councillor Cha, Stanzin Lakpa; Executive Engineer R&B, Sadiq Ali; and DYSO Leh/Kargil. Additionally, local winter sports promoters participated, marking the first meeting of its kind with

stakeholder involvement.

During the meeting, participants highlighted the need for a dedicated Winter Sports Academy in Ladakh to provide structured training and boost the region's winter sports development.

Key suggestions included the formation of a committee comprising local sports promoters, ex-Army personnel with national and international winter sports experience, and other key stakeholders from Leh and Kargil.

EC Tashi stressed the importance of swift action and directed the Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, to establish the committee. The team will conduct on-site assessments, slope evaluations, and a feasibility study to guide the development of winter sports infrastructure.

Stakeholders expressed concerns over the three to four-year delay in implementing these plans and urged authorities to accelerate the process to unlock Ladakh's potential for winter sports tourism and athlete development.

### Animal Husbandry and Welfare awareness month extended in Kargil until March 13



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, has extended the Animal Husbandry and Welfare Awareness Month until March 13 in its inaugural year to maximize outreach and impact.

The initiative, which began on January 14, was initially set to conclude on February 13. However, to further promote ethical animal husbandry practices, animal health, and welfare, the campaign has been extended nationwide for another month. The DAHD, in collaboration with State Animal Husbandry and Welfare Departments, continues to organize activities to raise awareness and support livestock farmers.

In Kargil, the Animal Husbandry Department is actively celebrating Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare Month – Pashu Kalyan Pakhwada across various villages and blocks, including Zanskar, Sankoo, Drass, Kargil, TSG, Shargole, and Shakar Chiktan.

As part of the month-long

celebration, a series of awareness camps, veterinary health camps, vaccination drives, deworming programs, and farmer awareness sessions are being conducted.

The initiative aims to promote better livestock management, disease prevention, breed improvement, and overall animal welfare. Livestock farmers are being sensitized about scientific animal husbandry practices, government schemes, like KCC, dairy and poultry farming and modern techniques to enhance productivity and sustainability in the sector.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Kargil, Dr. Gulzar Hussain in his message emphasized the importance of livestock in the rural economy and reiterated the department's commitment to supporting farmers with essential veterinary services, training, and welfare programs.

He urged farmers to take full advantage of the initiatives being implemented under Pashu Kalyan Pakhwada for the betterment of their livestock and livelihood.

The celebration has received an overwhelming response from farmers and livestock breeders, reflecting their enthusiasm for adopting improved animal husbandry practices. The department remains dedicated to working closely with the farming community to ensure sustainable livestock development in the region.

### Two BRO workers lose lives in tragic incident on NPD road



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANGSKAR:** Executive Councillor, Er. Punchok Tashi extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the team of 13 BRITF Project YOJAK (BRO) following the tragic loss of a machine operator and a laborer while on duty in the Cha and Neraq sector of the Nimmu-Padum-Darcha (NPD) road.

On behalf of the people of Zanskar, EC Tashi expressed deep sorrow over the incident and acknowledged the sacrifices made by BRO personnel

in ensuring connectivity in remote regions.

In his message, EC Tashi stated that the loss of dedicated workers in the line of duty serves as a solemn reminder of the risks faced by those working in extreme conditions. He commended the commitment and bravery of BRO personnel and assured the organization of continued support from the local administration.

"May the departed souls rest in peace, and may the entire team of the Border Roads Organisation find the strength to continue their vital work with the same dedication," he said.

He further emphasized the significance of BRO's contributions to infrastructure development in Ladakh and extended his support to the affected families during this difficult time.

### Academic progression for Ex-Servicemen: Felicitation ceremony held in Kargil



During the felicitation ceremony at the office of the Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Kendriya Sainik Board, New Delhi, and Andhra University on February 26 to facilitate the academic progression of ex-servicemen of the Indian Armed Forces by awarding them a Graduation Degree. This initiative aims to support their career advancement during their second innings.

The degrees were presented by Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, and Captain (IN) AK Pawar, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer.

Eligible candidates submit their applications to the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, who then forwards them to a Board of Officers constituted at the Directorate of Sainik Welfare Department, Leh. The board evaluates candidates based on their service records and conducts a viva voce to assess their aptitude, potential, and

subject knowledge, with most questions derived from the prescribed syllabus.

On February 25, 2025, a felicitation ceremony was organized at the office of the Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, to award the Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management degrees. For the first time in Kargil's history, these degrees were conferred upon, Ex-Nk Bashir Ahmad (JAK LI Regiment); Ex-L/Nk Muneer Ahmad (Ladakh Scouts Regiment) and Ex-L/Nk Nissar Hussain (Ladakh Scouts Regiment, in absentia).

The degrees were presented by Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, and Captain (IN) AK Pawar, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer.

This initiative recognizes the invaluable contributions of ex-servicemen, who have dedicated their youth to unwavering service and duty, often at the cost of formal education. By equipping them with academic qualifications, the Kendriya Sainik Board is paving the way for their professional growth and seamless transition into civilian careers.

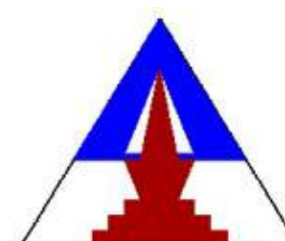
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## RECRUITMENT OF CASUAL PAID LABOUR



(HQ 50 BRTF Convening Order No. : 2071/Lab Induction/134/E2, dated 04 Dec 2024 & 2033/Work Conf/Vol-IV/14/E2 Dated 30 Jan 2025)

The General Public is hereby informed that 78 RCC of 50BRTF under PROJECT HIMANK will start their recruitment for casual paid labour wef 15 mar 2025 at SHAKTI, Induction & Medical Camp at 51 RCC. Salary will vary as per skill set.

Candidate must have a valid E-Sharm, Aadhar Card & Bank A/C and will have to bring their own Medical Fitness Certificate as working height will be at an altitude ranging 16000-17000 ft. Only MALE candidates of age restricted to 18-45 Yrs. as on 15/03/25.

Selection will be based on scrutiny of Medically & Mentally fit candidates, hiring duration will be 179 days. Applicants can early send their application to HQ 78 RCC E2-Sec (Pin-930078) by post.

For more information Contact HQ 78 RCC:-

Major A B Singh (Officer Commanding), +91-9419336819