

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with

Tsewang Namgail, Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust

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Four arrested in Kanji Ibx poaching case, investigation underway

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: In a swift operation, the Wildlife Department and Ladakh Police arrested four individuals from Shakar Chiktan block, Kargil district, for their involvement in the poaching of a wild ibex, a protected species under the Wildlife Protection Act.

The accused have been identified as Abdul Hussain, S/o Mohammad Hadi, R/o Hagnis; Ahmed Ali, S/o Abdul Raza, R/o Shakar; Mohd Akbar, S/o Mohammad Hadi, R/o Hagnis and Nassir Ali, S/o Abbas Ali, R/o Chiktan. The case has been registered at Police Station Khaltse under FIR No. 4/2025, Section 9/51 of the Wildlife Protection Act.

The incident came to light when local laborers working in Kanji valley heard gunshots and immediately alerted the Wildlife Department. Responding swiftly, a joint team of police and wildlife officials rushed to the site, where they found an injured ibex with gunshot wounds to its forelegs.

The poachers had already fled the scene, abandoning the wounded animal. A manhunt was launched, and all four



Inspector Jamyang Namgail, SHO Khaltse Police Station along with its team, accused and seized item. Inspector Jamyang Namgail, SHO Khaltse Police Station along with its team, accused and seized item.

accused were apprehended later the same night. Speaking on the case, Inspector Jamyang Namgail, SHO Khaltse Police Station, stated, "As soon as we received the information, we acted immediately. Two teams were deployed—one to the crime scene and another to Khangral. The injured ibex, with both its forelimbs broken, was rescued and given immediate medical care."

SHO Khaltse praised two women who reported the gunshots, calling their action

crucial in ensuring a swift response. "With the help of Kargil Police, we first arrested Abdul Hussain and seized his vehicle. Based on his confession, three other suspects were identified and subsequently arrested," he added.

Authorities have confiscated multiple items, including, Dried meat, Chopping board and knives, Weapons and Animal fur and other materials.

All seized items will be sent for forensic examination (FSL analysis).

The accused are currently under police remand, and further investigation is ongoing.

Sources indicate that the accused may have been involved in previous poaching activities, though authorities have stated that the case is still in its early stages, and further confirmation is awaited. SHO Khaltse has urged the public to report any similar incidents, assuring that the

police will act immediately on such information.

Poaching Cases in Leh

Several poaching cases have been reported in Leh over the years:

• November 25, 2008: A poaching case was reported from Raldong Nala near the Mahay Bridge area. Two individuals were arrested with weapons and the meat of dead animals, later confirmed by an FSL report as blue sheep meat.

• April 14, 2016: Three individuals, including two army personnel, were arrested for poaching Ladakh Urial (Shapo). A telescopic gun was seized from an army vehicle. The case was registered under FIR No. 15/2016, invoking Section 8/51 of the Wildlife Protection Act and Section 7/27 of the Indian Arms Act.

• December 11, 2016: A blue sheep poaching case was registered at Gya Meru Rong. Although the animal's body was recovered, the poachers remained unidentified. The case was registered under FIR No. 93/16, citing Section 8/51 of the Wildlife Act.

• December 18, 2019: Two individuals from Bogdang, Mehdi Ali and Ghulam Hassan, were identified for poaching blue sheep in Nubra Valley. Mehdi Ali later confessed to the crime.

• December 15, 2020: The poaching of a blue sheep at South Pullu near Khardung La sparked controversy due to the involvement of a Ladakh Police officer, Inspector Parvez Ahmed. The case was registered under Sections 9, 11, and 12 of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972). Ataulah Bhat, 39, a resident of Leh, was the prime accused arrested.

• May 13, 2021: A blue sheep was killed between Kairy and Nee village in Rong Changthang.

The Need for Stricter Laws

Despite legal provisions, poaching continues to be a serious issue in Ladakh. Strict enforcement of laws and harsher penalties against offenders are crucial to prevent such crimes and protect Ladakh's fragile wildlife.

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Correction and clarification It is the policy of 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin' to correct significant errors as soon as possible.

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Leh witnesses massive Quds Day rally in support of Palestinian rights



Participants during the Quds Day rally in Leh.

Disket Angmo

LEH: Leh marked International Quds Day on March 28 with a large gathering at Polo Ground, Leh. The event, organized by the Shia Muslim community, aimed to express solidarity with Palestine and protest against Israeli occupation.

Thousands of participants from Ranbirpur, Thiksay, Shey, Chuchot, Phyang, and Leh Town took part in a rally that began at Imam Bargha, Leh, and concluded at Polo Ground. The event was attended by religious scholars, community leaders, and students, all united in their call for justice.

Sheikh Zainul Abideen, President of Majlis E Ulema, Leh, emphasized that fundamental rights should be granted to all, irrespective of nationality or religion. He condemned the deprivation of Palestinian rights and described the violence against them as inhumane.

Ashraf Ali Barcha, President of Anjuman Imamia, highlighted the history of Quds Day, first observed in 1979 in Iran. He explained that the day was established as a reminder to stand against oppression and advocate for Pal-

estinian rights. Chering Dorje Lakrook, President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, addressed the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, stressing the humanitarian crisis and the loss of innocent lives, including women and children. He criticized the U.S. for its military and political support of Israel and expressed hope that protests from Ladakh would offer moral support to those suffering.

Additionally, Quds Day was observed at Chuchot Gompa by the Anjuman Imamia Women's wing in collaboration with the Hussaini Federation.

International Quds Day, also known as Yaum al-Quds, was established in 1979 by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Observed annually on the last Friday of Ramadan, it serves as a global platform to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and oppose the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem.

At the heart of Quds Day observance is the Al-Aqsa Mosque, located in Jerusalem's Old City. As Islam's third holiest site after Masjid

al-Haram in Mecca and Masjid an-Nabawi in Medina, Al-Aqsa holds immense religious, historical, and political significance. However, the mosque remains under Israeli control, and the suffering of Palestinians continues, making Quds Day a symbol of the broader struggle for Palestinian liberation. Imam Khomeini envisioned Quds Day as a unifying call for Muslims and oppressed people worldwide. He emphasized that the observance transcends geographical and sectarian boundaries and represents a larger struggle for justice, dignity, and the defense of Islamic values.

Over the years, Quds Day has evolved into a global movement to condemn Israeli aggression and advocate for Palestinian rights, highlight the struggles of Palestinians, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank and nite diverse Muslim communities and humanity in solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Ladakh's observance of International Quds Day reinforced the region's stance against injustice and its commitment to supporting oppressed communities worldwide.

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Fortnightly News

CEC chairs meeting to review mega projects and tackle developmental challenges



CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson reviewing the progress of ongoing mega projects and address key developmental challenges for the financial year 2024-25.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a high-level meeting at the Council Secretariat's Conference Hall on March 26 to review the progress of ongoing mega projects and address key developmental challenges for the financial year 2024-25.

The meeting was held in the presence of Michael M. D'Souza, IAS, Administrative Secretary, GAD, UT Ladakh, and brought together key officials and stakeholders.

Among those in attendance were Dy. Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillors Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Stanzin Chosphele, and Ghulam Mehdi; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; Chief Planning Officer, Leh; Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B/PMGSY); and District Superintendent Engineers from the PWD, Hydraulic, PHE/I&FC, and PDD departments. Executive Engineers from the Construction and R&B Divisions, Leh, were also present.

Several officials joined virtually, including Executive Engineers from I&FC, PHE, Igo Phey, Electric Division, STD, LDA, and SO divisions of Khalsi, Nyoma, and Nubra.

Michael M. D'Souza presented an overview of fund allocations, including the Central Road Fund (CRF) and Special Development Package (SDP), outlining financial planning and resource distribution challenges for critical projects. CEC Tashi Gyalson high-

CII Foundation and RDD, Leh sign MoU for sustainable waste management



The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Foundation and the Rural Development Department (RDD), Ladakh, signing MoU for sustainable waste management.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant move towards sustainable waste management and community-led development, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Foundation and the Rural Development Department (RDD), Ladakh, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 25.

The collaboration aims to establish efficient Solid Resource Management Centers (SRMCs) in Kharu and Chuchot blocks of Leh district, promote scientific waste management practices, and generate livelihood opportunities for local communities in Ladakh.

The MoU was signed in Leh by Chandrakant Pradhan, representing the CII Foundation, and Junaid Amin Bhat, District Panchayat Officer, Leh. Both parties expressed confidence that the partnership will serve as a model for sustainable waste management in the region.

lighted the significant budget cuts for UT Ladakh this year and their potential impact on major developmental projects. He emphasized the urgent need for financial restructuring to ensure the timely implementation of both ongoing and new initiatives.

The meeting's primary agenda was to assess the progress of key infrastructure projects and resolve issues related to road connectivity, financial limitations, and project execution.

High-priority projects discussed included the Bakula Rinpoche Shradhanjali Park, with CEC urging officials to fast-track its progress. The construction of the new Council Secretariat was also reviewed, with a strong emphasis on timely completion. Several other developmental initiatives were evaluated, and officials were directed to accelerate implementation.

Road infrastructure projects under CRF and SDP received particular attention, including the Agyam-Shayok road, especially the critical stretch up to Zero Point, and the Alchi dock project. Snow clearance in remote areas such as Lingshed and Dipling was highlighted as an urgent need to ensure access for students, patients, and residents, particularly after school reopenings.

The Choglamsar road widening project was reviewed in light of rising traffic congestion, with instructions to expedite the work. Progress on the Saboo-Mahabodhi road was also assessed, and officials were asked to resolve all obstacles delaying its completion.

Concluding the meeting, CEC Tashi Gyalson urged all departments to prioritize ongoing projects, address bottlenecks promptly, and ensure timely delivery.

He underscored the critical importance of each project in driving Ladakh's overall development and improving public welfare.

Landmark sighting: Pallas's Cat found in Aryan valley



By Sonam Yangjor

LEH: Ladakh's rich and diverse wildlife has just recorded a remarkable milestone. On March 10, 2025, a Pallas's cat (*Otocolobus manul*) was sighted for the first time in Lastyangs, Aryan Valley—an area where this elusive feline had never been officially documented before.

The rare sighting occurred in the snow-covered, rocky terrain of Lastyangs. Two locals, Tsering Gyalday and Eshay Samba, spotted the animal resting for nearly 10 minutes. With its ash-grey coat, the cat was initially mistaken for a snow leopard cub.

The identification was later confirmed by members of the Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh (WCBCL) after a video of the cat was shared in their group. This confirmation

marks the first officially recorded sighting of a Pallas's cat in the Aryan Valley.

Known for its cultural uniqueness, the Aryan Valley is inhabited by the Brogpa (Dardic) community and is ecologically significant. It is home to species like the snow leopard, red fox, and Himalayan ibex. Birdlife in the region includes the Little Fork-tail, Tibetan Blackbird, and White-browed Rosefinch. Unlike Changthang—where feral dogs pose a major threat to wildlife—Aryan Valley provides a comparatively safer haven for rare species such as the Pallas's cat.

Following the recent sighting, locals have come forward with reports claiming they have previously seen Pallas's cats in Lastyangs and Sanit, a nearby village.

Residents from Darchhik also report sightings in highland areas like Mantha and Dems.

In addition to the Pallas's cat, villagers claim to have spotted the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx isabellinus*) in areas near Horsas. These accounts suggest that Aryan Valley may host a wider range of elusive and lesser-known species than previously documented.

This discovery highlights the urgent need for continued conservation efforts and responsible eco-tourism in Aryan Valley. The local community has expressed strong support for protecting the Pallas's cat and welcomes sustainable wildlife tourism as a way to raise awareness and preserve the valley's fragile ecosystem.

However, the focus must remain on protection, not exploitation. Scientific research, community-led conservation, and vigilance against poaching are vital to ensuring that rare species like the Pallas's cat continue to thrive.

This groundbreaking sighting is a reminder of Ladakh's hidden biodiversity. With more local involvement and scientific monitoring, the region's wildlife record could grow significantly—strengthening Ladakh's status as a global hotspot for rare and mysterious species.

Safeguarding Frozen Lifelines: Experts gather in Ladakh University for glacier preservation symposium



Professor Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, inaugurates the symposium by lighting the ceremonial lamp on World Glacier Day.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: In observance of World Glacier Day, a two-day symposium titled "Safeguarding Frozen Lifelines: Glacier and Cryosphere Preservation in Ladakh" was held at the University of Ladakh (UoL), Leh Campus.

The event was organized collaboratively by the University of Ladakh, Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT), and The Ohio State University (OSU). The symposium brought together experts and researchers to discuss critical issues related to climate change, the Tsewang Namgyal, Director of SLC-IT, emphasized the urgency of the issue, "We, the people of the mountains, are directly or indirectly dependent on glaciers for our survival. Today, we are witnessing an undeniable retreat of glaciers, drying springs, and acute water shortages. These are not distant warnings—they are happening now, here, in Ladakh."

He stressed that despite the growing concern, India still lacks a dedicated policy or legal framework to protect glaciers or regulate the extraction of glacial water.

"As the world celebrates the International Year of Glacier Preservation, we must draw attention to these frozen lifelines that have long been overlooked in our national discourse," he added.

Professor Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, described glaciers as the foundation of Ladakh's existence.

"Glaciers are not just snow-capped mountains—they are life itself. They feed our rivers, quench our fields, and sustain our culture. We must learn to use this resource responsibly." He advocated for the use of advanced technologies like Remote Sensing, GIS mapping, and hydrological modeling to monitor glacier

health and forecast potential disasters such as Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

"Our students must be at the forefront of this mission. By collecting and analyzing data, they can inform timely action and policy decisions," he said.

Mandeep Mittal, IFS, Wildlife Warden Leh, brought an ecological perspective to the conversation, noting that glaciers are not only vital for human life but also support a diverse range of wildlife.

"From snow leopards to migratory birds, Ladakh's unique biodiversity depends on glacial ecosystems. Wildlife tourism, which sustains many of our villages, is deeply tied to the health of our environment." He cautioned that the degradation of glaciers could lead to irreversible damage to both natural habitats and local economies.

"Clean air and clean water begin with glacier protection. We must embrace an eco-conscious lifestyle—limit car use, reduce plastic waste, and adopt daily habits that reduce our carbon footprint. Every small action counts in conserving our environment," Mittal urged.

The symposium concluded with a collective call for sustained efforts at policy, scientific, and community levels to preserve Ladakh's frozen lifelines for future generations.

LAHDC Leh donates school bus to Government Council Model School Ayu Sabu



Flagging off of a new school bus to Government Council Model School Ayu Sabu.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant step toward strengthening the education sector, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh donated a new school bus to Government Council Model School Ayu Sabu on March 27. The bus was formally inaugurated and flagged off by Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; Chief Planning Officer Tsewang Gyalson; Superintendent Engineer PWD, Dorje Gyatso; Chief Education Officer Sonam Wangchuk; SP Rigzen Sangdup; ZEO (Education); Headmaster Gurmet Zangpo; along with parents, teachers, students, and other officials. The school administration and parents expressed heartfelt gratitude to the CEC and LAHDC Leh for not only providing the school bus but also supporting infrastructure upgrades, including a solar power project. They also appreciated the efforts of the Education Department in bolstering government schools across the district.

During the event, some development-related concerns were raised by the school community, which were acknowledged by the officials present.

Addressing the gathering, CEC Tashi Gyalson congratulated the school on the new bus and reiterated that education remains a top priority for the Council. He announced that the

Government Council Model School is now open to students from beyond Sabu village, including those from Leh, owing to its strong academic performance. He assured that the school would receive the best faculty, upgraded infrastructure, and improved security. He also committed to completing the construction of the compound wall, finalizing the solar power project, and expediting other pending works.

Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk assured the school of full support from LAHDC in addressing its concerns. He emphasized the need for continuous improvement of school facilities and pledged to raise the matter with higher authorities.

DC Santosh Sukhadeve commended the school for its growth and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to enhancing government educational institutions. He highlighted the importance of collaboration among teachers, parents, and the wider community in building a strong educational environment.

Headmaster Gurmet Zangpo underscored the transformative power of education and encouraged teachers to maintain a focus on quality instruction, while urging parents to stay actively engaged in their children's academic journey.

With continued support from the government, educators, and the community, Government Middle School Ayu Sabu aims to achieve new milestones in both academic excellence and holistic development.

One-day refresher course conducted for PLVs on basic laws



Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Disket Angmo

LEH: The Ladakh Legal Services Authority organized a one-day refresher course for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), focusing on basic laws, their functions, and duties on March 22.

The event was attended by dignitaries including Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Chief Secretary UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, IAS; Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, Shruti Arora, IPS; lawyers, PLVs and other distinguished guests.

Chief Secretary UT Ladakh, Dr.

Pawan Kotwal, IAS, emphasized the principle of equality before the law. He stated that the law does not differentiate based on social status, gender, or financial background. He further stressed the importance of knowing fundamental rights, as awareness empowers individuals to seek justice and protect themselves against injustice.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in his address highlighted that PLVs acts as a bridge between legal institutions and the common people. He explained how PLVs can assist in legal matters, provide preliminary legal guidance, and facilitate access to justice for marginalized communities and encouraged them to work with dedication and empathy.

The event concluded with the flagging off of four vehicles for PLVs. These vehicles will help volunteers reach people in far-flung areas and provide them with legal assistance more effectively.

CEC conducts site visit for Swadesh Darshan 2.0 project



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson conducted a thorough site visit to Igo Phey to identify land for the development of a project under Swadesh Darshan 2.0. The visit focused on assessing a 3 km stretch along the Igo Phey canal, with a width of 120 ft, which has been transferred for the project.

During the visit, officials conducted a detailed evaluation of the site and discussed the scope of development under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. The initiative aims to enhance tourism infrastruc-

ture while preserving the region's unique cultural and natural heritage. CEC emphasized the importance of sustainable and well-planned development to boost tourism and local livelihoods.

The project focuses on strengthening tourist infrastructure and creating new destinations, particularly for enhancing the air-landing view and showcasing the scenic beauty of the Indus River. The site visit marks a significant step in advancing the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 project, with further planning and execution to follow in consultation with all stakeholders.

Fortnightly News

Awareness camp held in Koyoul to promote livestock health and Farmer Producer Organizations



Awareness camp at Koyoul village.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHANGTHANG: The Department of Sheep Husbandry, Nyoma, conducted an awareness camp at Koyoul village under the Sheep Extension Centre (SEC) – Koyoul, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, on March 25.

Dr. Mohd Sadiq, Assistant Director, Sheep Husbandry Department, Nyoma, educated the herders on the genetic importance of livestock and effective disease outbreak management. He also high-

lighted the significance of forming Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for sheep and goat products, emphasizing how such initiatives can help streamline income-generating avenues for herders.

He further informed the villagers that, under the leadership of Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Director, Sheep Husbandry Department, UT Ladakh, and in collaboration with LAHDC-Leh, the department has distributed 99 quintals of alfalfa dry fodder, 100 quintals of feed, and 10 tarpaulins among

livestock herders under SEC-Koyoul. This distribution particularly considered the 10% most vulnerable population affected by the recent snowstorms in the region.

Councillor Ishey Spal-zang shared his views on livestock rearing and appreciated the department's efforts to reduce livestock mortality. He also stressed the need for forming FPOs, which he believes could greatly benefit livestock rearers, and encouraged breeders to actively participate in such initiatives.

Union Minister Harsh Malhotra visits Ladakh, highlights key aspects of Union Budget 2025-26



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road Transport & Highways, Harsh Malhotra, during his one-day visit to Ladakh on March 23, held a press briefing in the presence of Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, and BJP State President, Phunchok Stanzin, to share key highlights of the Union Budget 2025-26.

He emphasized that this year's budget aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, which aims to make India a fully developed nation by its 100th year of independence.

Malhotra noted India's remarkable economic growth over the past decade, advancing from the 11th largest economy in 2014 to the 5th largest, with the goal of reaching the 3rd position within the next four years. He highlighted major strides in poverty alleviation, citing that 25 crore people have been lifted above the poverty line.

Focusing on infrastructure and connectivity, the minister outlined the government's significant investments, including the construction of 55,000 km of new national highways between 2014 and 2024. He stated that infrastructure development not only boosts GDP but also creates both direct and indirect employment. He further pointed out the rise in the number of airports from 72 to 152, and the electrification of over 90% of Indian Railways.

On the education front, Malhotra informed that 20 AIIMS institutes have been established, while the number of IITs has increased from 16 to 23 and IIMs from 13 to 21. For skill development, the government has launched an on-ground skill internship program benefitting 1 crore students aged 21-24, based on set eligibility

criteria.

Speaking specifically about Ladakh, the minister announced that the Union Territory has been allocated ₹4,692.15 crore in the 2025-26 Union Budget.

Since becoming a Union Territory in 2019, Ladakh has witnessed the implementation of several major central projects. Connectivity improvements have been significant, such as the reduction in travel distance to Zaskar from 470 km to 220 km, with three key bridges completed at a cost of approximately ₹60 crore.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Ladakh has received ₹288 crore to enhance road connectivity to remote villages, facilitating better access to markets for farmers. The Zojila Tunnel project, crucial for all-weather connectivity, has received ₹6,808.69 crore, while the Shinku La Tunnel has been allocated ₹1,200 crore for improved civilian and strategic access.

The Nimu-Padam-Darcha (NPD) road continues to be a major priority with ₹2,405 crore earmarked for its development. Additionally, the double laning of the Khaltsi-Batalik road is underway with a total project cost of ₹508.70 crore, along with several other highway and bridge projects across Ladakh. A further ₹361.31 crore has been allocated under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) for critical connectivity improvements.

In terms of air infrastructure, ₹640 crore has been sanctioned for the Leh airport expansion project, including the construction of a new terminal building to enhance passenger and cargo services.

Under the Vibrant Villages Programme, ₹4.09 crore has been allocated

to develop remote border settlements by improving basic amenities and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, ₹129.50 crore has been sanctioned under the Changthang Development Package, aimed at socio-economic upliftment of the region.

In the second session, Minister Malhotra participated in a public interaction along with Chairman/CEC Tashi Gyalson, Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillors Stanzin Chospheh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, and Ghulam Mehdi, Councillors, BJP State President Phunchok Stanzin, former MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, former CECs Gyal P Wangyal and Rigzin Spalbar, along with religious leaders, entrepreneurs, transport association members, hoteliers, and other stakeholders.

The dialogue focused on Ladakh's development roadmap, covering infrastructure, employment, and social welfare schemes. Minister Malhotra reiterated the central government's long-term commitment to Ladakh's growth, especially in connectivity, infrastructure, and welfare, despite a reduction in budgetary allocation from ₹5,958 crore in 2024-25 to ₹4,692.15 crore for 2025-26.

During a Q&A session, attendees raised concerns regarding job creation, economic development, and regional equity. The minister responded to queries and reassured continued central support for inclusive and sustainable growth in Ladakh.

The event concluded with Minister Malhotra reaffirming the government's vision for a stronger, self-reliant India, ensuring equitable growth and prosperity for all regions, including Ladakh.

District TB control society observes World TB Day in Leh



Pledging for TB elimination in the district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The District TB Control Society, Leh, in collaboration with various departments, observed World TB Day under the theme "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver" at the Conference Hall, Abdus Hotel, Leh, on March 24.

The event featured a felicitation ceremony for TB Mukta Panchayats and discussions focused on strengthening TB elimination efforts in the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve highlighted India's significant tuberculosis burden, accounting for 27% of global cases, and stressed the need for collective responsibility in eliminating TB. He emphasized focusing on low-income groups, ensuring nutritional support through the Nikshay Mitra initiative, and enhancing case detection. He appreciated the relentless efforts of the health department, frontline workers, and the administration in combating

TB.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Leh spoke about the challenges in TB eradication, including stigma, delayed detection, and latent infections. He stressed the importance of active case finding, interdepartmental collaboration, and community engagement, especially under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA). He also highlighted the role of AI-enabled digital X-ray machines in improving active TB detection.

Dr. Lotus Gailson, Physician, addressed the critical public health impact of TB, identifying it as the leading cause of mortality after COVID-19. He noted that one in four individuals globally is affected by TB and emphasized the need for 100% diagnosis and treatment to achieve a 90% reduction in TB-related deaths by 2025. He also advocated for latent TB screening and early detection to prevent dis-

ease transmission.

District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Leh, Junaid Amin Bhat, praised the commitment of healthcare workers and the success of door-to-door awareness campaigns. He reiterated that medication alone is not enough and stressed the vital role of community participation in eradicating stigma and ensuring a TB-free society.

A total of 37 panchayats in Leh district were declared TB-free in 2024, up from 36 in 2023. These panchayats were felicitated with statues, certificates, and traditional khataks in recognition of their efforts toward achieving TB-free status.

Dr. Yangchen Dolma, District Health Officer, acknowledged the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in advancing TB elimination in the region.

The event was attended by the Medical Superintendent Leh, State Immunization Officer (SIO) Ladakh, District TB Officer Leh, Deputy CMO, District Immunization Officer (DIO) Leh, consultant physicians, SPO NHM, State Consultant MCH, staff from the State and District TB Cells, and other concerned officials.

Ladakh Theatre Organization marks World Theatre Day with vibrant showcases



Artist showcasing the play 'Etok Lamo' during the World Theatre Day celebration.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture & Language, Leh, in collaboration with the Ladakh Theatre Organisation (LTO), celebrated World Theatre Day with great enthusiasm on March 27 at Lotsava Hall, Culture Academy, Leh. CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The event commenced with the lighting of the traditional butter lamp, symbolizing wisdom and enlightenment.

The celebration featured captivating performances

of Redal and Etok Lamo, showcasing the richness and vibrancy of Ladakh's theatrical tradition.

Addressing the gathering, CEC Tashi Gyalson emphasized the transformative power of theatre in shaping individuals and society. He highlighted that the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, with the support of the UT Administration, is constructing a Culture Centre at a cost of ₹90 crore.

He also commended LTO for delivering a powerful performance that used

theatre as a platform to raise awareness about pressing social issues. Acknowledging the cultural significance of theatre, he appreciated LTO President Mipham Otsal for his dedication to preserving Ladakh's rich heritage.

LTO President Mipham Otsal expressed his gratitude to CEC Gyalson and all supporters. He underscored the importance of theatre in nurturing Ladakh's cultural and traditional heritage and stressed the need for encouragement and institutional support to inspire youth to embrace theatre. He also highlighted how theatre broadens perspectives, enriches vocabulary, and enhances communication skills through diverse artistic expressions.

The celebration reaffirmed the significance of theatre in preserving Ladakh's cultural identity and engaging society in meaningful discourse through artistic expression.

State-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament held at University of Ladakh



(Left to Right) VC, University of Ladakh, Prof. Saket Kushwaha; CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Member of Parliament, Mohd. Hanefa Jan; Registrar, University of Ladakh: Nawang Tundup.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The University of Ladakh, in collaboration with Leh, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, hosted the State-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament at its Leh Campus on March 28.

The event, themed "75 Years of the Indian Constitution: A Journey of Rights, Duties, and Progress; The 11 Sankalp of Samvidhan Divas: A Pledge to Strengthen India's Constitutional Values," aimed to highlight the Constitution's transformative role in shaping India's democracy over the past 75 years.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests, Chief Guest: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson;

Guest of Honour: Member of Parliament, Mohd. Hanefa Jan; Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh: Prof. Saket Kushwaha and Registrar, University of Ladakh: Nawang Tundup.

Dr. Jigmat Dachen, Dean of Students' Welfare, University of Ladakh, who emphasized the pivotal role of the Constitution in India's democratic framework.

CEC Tashi Gyalson commended the participants and congratulated the winners advancing to the National Level Youth Parliament. He highlighted how such platforms provide Ladakh's youth with valuable insights into the parliamentary process while nurturing leadership qualities. Encouraging young minds to uphold truth and

responsibility, he underscored their role in shaping a progressive nation.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha urged the youth to embrace a "Nation First" attitude, emphasizing that such initiatives play a crucial role in fostering national development.

A key highlight of the event was a speech competition, where participants passionately reflected on the theme. The competition was judged by a distinguished panel, Ishtyaq Kacho, Superintendent of Police, CIV, UT Ladakh; Dr. Deldan Namgyal, Chief Scientist, IAS&T, University of Ladakh; Kunzes Dolma, India Ambassador, Women in Geothermal (WING) and Dr. Sonam Joldan, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Ladakh.

After an engaging contest, the jury announced the winners selected for the national level, Shah Jahan – Government Degree College, Nubra; Sanju Kumari – Government Degree College, Nubra and Vilayat Vani – University of Ladakh.

Secretary PDD reviews pending electricity dues of Govt Departments in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), Vikram Singh Malik, chaired a high-level meeting at the DC Conference Hall, Leh, to review outstanding electricity dues of various government departments and discuss strategies for their timely clearance.

Heads of Departments (HODs) from different government agencies presented updates on their pending electricity bills and highlighted the challenges in settling them.

Emphasizing the importance of financial discipline, Secretary Malik urged all departments to ensure prompt payment of electricity dues to avoid disruptions in power supply and to support ongoing infrastructure development.

Demonstrating the administration's commitment to resolving the issue, Director, Accounts & Treasuries, Dr. Safdar Ali,

announced that ₹20 crore from the Union Territory (UT) funds would be allocated to partially clear the dues. He stressed the need to utilize these funds within the current financial year to streamline financial management and prevent further accumulation of arrears.

The Secretary also directed departments to prioritize electricity bill payments and integrate mechanisms for timely budgetary provisions to prevent recurring delays. He emphasized the need for stronger coordination between the Power Development Department and other government departments to ensure smooth financial transactions and accountability.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Chief Engineer, PDD; Director, Accounts & Treasuries, Dr. Safdar Ali; and Heads of various government departments.

One-day workshop on medicinal plants in Trans-Himalayan Ladakh concludes



Executive Councillor for Agriculture, LAHDC, Stanzin Chospheh addressing the gathering during the one-day workshop on medicinal plants.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The State Medicinal Plant Board (SMPB), Union Territory of Ladakh, successfully organized a one-day workshop on "Opportunities and Challenges in the Cultivation, Conservation, and Market Demand of Medicinal Plants in Trans-Himalayan Ladakh" on March 28 at the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh.

The event brought together over 120 participants, including experts, traditional practitioners, farmers, BSRMS students from the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), and representatives from various institutions. Dr. Tashi Thinlas, Director of Health Services/AYUSH and CEO of SMPB, UT Ladakh, provided an overview of the board's initiatives and highlighted the significance of medicinal plants in the region.

The workshop featured engaging technical sessions, including a lecture by Dr. Kunzes Angmo, Scientist and Assistant Professor at the University of Ladakh. This was followed by presentations from, Dr. Tsewang Rinchen, Research Officer, National Institute of Sowa Rigpa and Dr. Konchok Thinlas, Assistant Professor, Sowa Rigpa Department, CIBS, Choglamsar.

They shared valuable insights on scientific research, conservation challenges, cultivation techniques, and the importance of Amchi medicine in healthcare.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. O.P. Chaurasia, Director of DIHAR, Leh, discussed scientific advancements, indigenous knowledge,

and emerging market opportunities in the medicinal plant sector.

Chief Guest, Executive Councillor for Agriculture, LAHDC, Stanzin Chospheh, emphasized the need for policy support to strengthen the sector. He also stressed collaboration with the Agriculture Department and proposed the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for further development. Additionally, he recommended establishing a model village dedicated to medicinal plant cultivation in Ladakh.

The second session featured presentations by, Dr. Kunzes Dolma, Consultant, National AYUSH Mission, UT Ladakh; Zubair Ahmad, Technical Assistant, CSIR-IIIM and Amchi practitioners Rinchen and Tsewang from Amchi Sabha.

Their discussions covered key topics such as traditional knowledge, market potential, cultivation techniques, and the role of Amchi medicine in modern healthcare.

The workshop concluded with an open discussion, where participants exchanged ideas on research collaborations and market linkages. A felicitation ceremony was also held to honor the guest speakers.

SMPB, UT Ladakh, reaffirmed its commitment to fostering sustainable growth in the medicinal plant sector. The board also expressed gratitude to Dr. O.P. Chaurasia and DIHAR, Leh, for their support in making the event a success.

People's Voice:

By Nenzes Chodon

The Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949, was enacted by the Bihar government to oversee the administration of the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, the sacred site where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. The Act led to the formation of the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC), which consists of nine members—four Buddhists, four Hindus, and the District Magistrate of Gaya as the ex-officio Chairman.

Buddhists argue that the Act, which predates the Indian Constitution, is outdated and unfair, as it prevents them from having full control over their most sacred pilgrimage site.



Tashi Gyalson, CEC, LAHDC, Leh:

Buddhists are demanding change in the act, seeing it as an outdated Act that was adopted earlier than the official constitution of India. Buddhists seek complete authority over the management committee and control of the Temple.

The Constitution contains provisions to repeal or amend an Act; therefore, it is important to pay attention to legal procedures, constitutional position, and laws through which changes can be brought forth.

It should be inclusive, whatever changes may bring in the Act, representation of Buddhists practicing Mahayana Buddhism is crucial as it is followed and practiced by a large number of populations in the Himalayan regions in India. LAHDC, Leh guarantees its support for this demand.

The Act was passed and implemented by Bihar state government, assurances were given by governments in the past but no actions were taken in practice. The issue cannot be resolved immediately and the upcoming election in Bihar may delay the process.

An inclusive delegation is important to discuss it and a request can be made to Union Cabinet Minister for Minority Affairs to Kiran Rijju to act on the issue.

An appeal to the Bihar government can be made to allow



Smanla Dorjey Nurboo, Councillor LAHDC, Leh:

Buddhists have been demanding that all nine members of the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC) be Buddhists. The Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949, passed by the State Legislative Assembly, is now seen as outdated and unnecessary. In response, a hunger strike has been ongoing since February 12, calling for its removal.

Religious sites are traditionally governed by followers of the respective faith, and Buddhists are now asserting their rightful control over the Mahabodhi Temple, one of their most sacred sites.

The hunger strike is being led by monks from Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Ladakh, alongside pilgrims and visitors. During our visits to significant Buddhist sites in Bihar—where Gautam Buddha meditated and spread his teachings—we observed that many of these places are poorly maintained and managed by non-Buddhists.

There has been growing criticism on social media, questioning why this issue is being linked to politics. However, it is important to clarify that political and public pressure is often necessary to repeal outdated laws and bring about meaningful change.

Additionally, during our visit, we learned that Buddhist statues are sometimes altered into other idols during the summer months, when

pilgrimages are fewer. This disrupts the authenticity of these sacred sites. Since protests often face interruptions, I appeal to Buddhists in Ladakh to actively support and, if possible, participate in the ongoing movement to protect and reclaim the Mahabodhi Temple.



Ven. Tsering Wangdus, President, Ladakh Gompa Association:

The Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC) currently consists of a Hindu majority with only four Buddhist members in the minority. As a result, decision-making power remains heavily skewed in favor of the majority, often leaving Buddhist voices unheard. This imbalance can lead to decisions that are ineffective or unfavorable to the Buddhist community.

The ongoing hunger strike and protests highlight the urgent need to repeal the BTMC Act, allowing Buddhists to regain full authority over the Mahabodhi Temple. This movement is not just confined to India—it has gained global support from Buddhist communities worldwide.

It is essential for Buddhists to recognize the need for swift action in securing complete control over the Mahabodhi Temple and its surrounding sacred properties. Only then can the temple's welfare, preservation, and proper administration be ensured.

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The World of Juniors

In 2008, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force, reaffirming the fundamental principle of universal human rights for all. Its purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. It is a vital tool to foster an inclusive and caring society for all and to ensure that all children and adults with autism can lead full and meaningful lives.

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

Autism is a lifelong neurological condition that manifests during early childhood, irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status. The term Autism Spectrum refers to a range of characteristics. Appropriate support, accommodation and acceptance of this neurological variation allow those on the Spectrum to enjoy equal opportunity, and full and effective participation in society. Autism is mainly characterized by its unique social interactions,

World Autism Awareness Day



non-standard ways of learning, keen interests in specific subjects, inclination to routines, challenges in typical communications and particular ways of processing sensory information.

The rate of autism in all regions of the world is high and the lack of understanding has a tremendous impact on the individuals, their families and communities.

The stigmatization and discrimination associated with neurological differences remain substantial obstacles to diagnosis and therapies, an issue that must be addressed by both public policy-makers in developing nations, as well as donor countries.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Your choices and your fate



Life gives you many chances and choices, and the choices you go for determine the quality of your life. Sometimes we fail to choose the correct ones. And that bars us from the central theme of a meaningful and purposeful life.

There are no two opinions that your choices become the foundation of your life, good or bad. If they are not correct and good, your choices will prove destructive in your life, but if they are well-considered and go well with your objectives of life, you stand to gain.

That is why it is said that one will never ever be doing any progress in life until one goes for the right choices. Right choices necessarily must reflect your hopes and aspirations so that whatever you do goes to make a good input towards your efforts at success.

One has to deliberate a lot before deciding on any aspect of a turning point. That is why Sigmund Freud has rightly said: "When making a decision of importance, I have always found it advantageous to consider all the pros and cons."

Nothing in a hurry and unconsidered manner should become a part of your life's routine. As someone had said you are not in a position to control all the events taking place around you, but you can certainly be the master of your own fate and future by doing two things: By not letting external factors carry you off your path, and by staying determined on your correct choices.

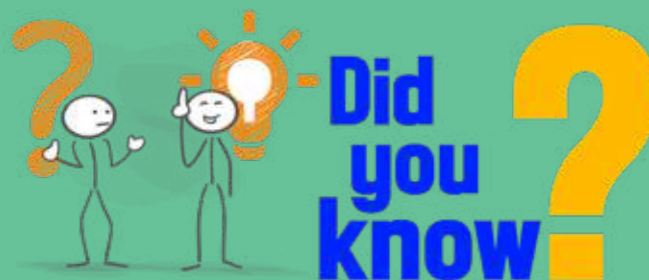
Yes, at times it so happens that a seemingly bad event could prove to be a blessing in disguise. That is a time-tested proverbial truth, but in such cases, we have no definite and clear-cut role to play. They just happen, and, to our surprise, come out with advantageous points, later on. Since we have no controlling power over such happenings, it is better left out of our daily plans and thought processes.

I have a lovely quote of Roy Disney: "Decision making is easy when your values are clear." I think that gives us the crux of the whole effort we are trying to build up in this writeup.

Isn't that the very essence of your basic thinking when it comes to a choice!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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



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!

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.

If you walked for 12 hours a day, it would take the average person 690 days to walk around the world.

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!

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

Deaf people are known to use sign language in their sleep. A case study of a 71-year-old man with rapid eye movement disorder and a severe hearing impairment showed him using fluent sign language in his sleep, with researchers able to get an idea of what he was dreaming about thanks to those signs.

It's almost impossible to get too much sugar from fresh fruit. While the sugar in fruit is mostly fructose and glucose (fructose is what's converted into fat in your body), you can't get too much sugar from fresh fruit. Fresh fruit contains a lot of fibre and water which slows down your digestion and makes you feel full.

Protons look like peanuts, rugby balls, bagels, and spheres. Protons come in all different shapes and sizes, with their appearance changing based on the speed of smaller particles within them: Quarks.

All the world's bacteria stacked on top of each other would stretch for 10 billion light-years. Together, Earth's 0.001mm-long microbes could wrap around the Milky Way over 20,000 times.

The world's oldest dog lived to 29.5 years old. While the median age a dog reaches tends to be about 10-15 years, one Australian cattle dog, 'Bluey', survived to the ripe old age of 29.5.

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Tsewang Namgail, Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust

Q. Could you begin by telling us a bit about yourself? What inspired you to pursue conservation work, particularly focused on snow leopards and Ladakh's high-altitude ecosystem? Tell us about the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust—its vision, mission, and how it operates in the region. Please also share your journey with the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT).

Jullay! I am Tsewang Namgail, born in the beautiful village of Skurbuchan. Since childhood, I've always been deeply connected to nature. Our classes often took place in meadows and along fringes of agricultural fields. I was naturally drawn to wildlife, always curious about the lives, habits, and struggles of wild animals.

My academic journey took me from Jammu to Punjab University, followed by an MPhil in Norway and a PhD in the Netherlands. I was fortunate to work with the U.S. government for three years, focusing on bird migration, reptiles in the Mojave Desert and human-wildlife conflict.

The tragic passing of my dear friend Rinchen Wangchuk—a visionary, deeply concerned about wildlife - left a void in the conservation landscape of Ladakh. Therefore, I returned to Ladakh in 2013 to carry forward his legacy. I've since dedicated myself to spreading awareness and knowledge through Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT). Our organization has been working incessantly to spread the conservation message among the people of Ladakh. More recently, we have started educating children about nature and biodiversity conservation. To this end, we've launched a program to promote contextualized and place-based learning among children in villages across Ladakh.

One of our key initiatives, "Students for Students," invites Ladakhi graduate and postgraduate students studying in institutions outside Ladakh to learn, explore, and contribute to nature conservation in Ladakh. Our awareness campaigns are conducted not just in secular institutions such as schools and colleges but also in monasteries and nunneries, ensuring that the message reaches every corner of society.

In Ladakh, the conflict between humans and snow leopards began years ago when leopards started attacking livestock in poorly built corrals and other animal shelters. These frequent and often devastating attacks led to growing frustration among farmers, with some villagers resorting to persecuting snow leopards.

In response to this, SLC-IT was co-founded in 2003 by

Interviewed by Nenzes Chodon



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ Let us reflect on the principle of interdependence—a reminder that all life is connected. In seeking livelihood, we must not harm nature. I urge everyone to act with care and compassion towards each other and the environment that sustains us. ”

Rinchen Wangchuk, popularly known as Ashok, and Rodney Jackson, an American snow leopard expert. The organization identified the practical needs of communities affected by leopard attacks. In areas like Changthang, where materials like wood were scarce, leopards could easily access poorly built livestock shelters. To address this, we provided protective wire-mesh, which have proven to reduce 90% of livestock losses caused by predator attacks inside these structures.

Since pastures and grazing lands in valleys remain vulnerable to livestock depredation the snow leopard, the organization also began promoting eco-tourism and homestays in such areas, which helped in offsetting livestock loss. Tourists visiting Ladakh to see the snow leopard are encouraged to avoid personal camping and instead stay with local families in nearby villages. This not only ensures safety but also supports the local economy.

Additionally, these homestays market handmade animal-themed toys as souvenirs, allowing visitors to take a piece of Ladakh's wildlife culture back home.

Together, eco-tourism and protective measures have helped ease the anger and losses faced by livestock owners, providing them with new income sources and renewed hope.

Through continuous awareness efforts, SLC-IT has fostered a deeper understanding of the snow leopard's role in the ecosystem. Communities now recognize that predators are an essential part of the interdependent food chain, and protecting them is crucial for maintaining the balance of nature.

Q. How does SLC-IT monitor and track snow leopards in Ladakh? What are the major threats facing snow leopards today in Ladakh and across the Himalayan belt?

Our ecosystem is home to thousands of species with populations running into billions. Among them, snow leopards are apex predators and keystone species, playing a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Conserving such species is not just a responsibility of conservation organizations, but it is the responsibility of every citizen, who receives benefits in the form of ecosystem services.

Thankfully, human attitudes toward wild predators are gradually evolving towards a more positive one. There is a growing awareness of the interdependence within nature, and with increased knowledge, the aggression once prevalent among villagers and livestock owners has significantly reduced.

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Fortnight Highlights



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the LAHDC Leh, Ladakh Gumpa Association (LGA) and Culture Academy to enhance security management at 16 major monasteries in Leh district. This initiative aims to address security concerns at important heritage sites and ensure their protection.



Indian Air Force, at the request of LAHDC, has successfully initiated airlift operations to transport teachers to schools that remain inaccessible due to heavy snowfall. A flight from Leh to Lingshed carried fifteen passengers, including one infant, while the return flight from Lingshed to Leh transported three passengers, including a doctor and teachers. The move follows the official reopening of schools in the region after the winter break.



An inspection team conducted an assessment of clinical establishments in Leh district under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, on March 18. The inspection aimed to evaluate healthcare quality, infrastructure, equipment, staffing, and regulatory compliance for granting permanent registration certificates.



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson met with the Home Minister, Amit Shah to express deep gratitude for the Government of India's unwavering support towards the welfare and development of the Union Territory of Ladakh.



Inauguration of the heating project at Government Nomadic Residential School, Puga Korzok. The project was conceptualized and executed by Headlight-Foundation funded through G&D under the CSR.



The Zaskar Winter Sports and Tourism Festival 2024-25 captivated audiences on March 20 with a dynamic fusion of culture and sport, set against the stunning winter landscape of Atting village in the Zaskar Valley.



Siachen Brigade and Fire and Fury Corps conducted a medical and dental camp along with an Aadhaar enrollment center in Sumoor Village, Ladakh. This initiative provided essential healthcare services, including thorough check-ups and vital medications, to the local community.



The Sankoo Campus of Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil, in collaboration with the Community Health Centre (CHC) Sankoo, observed World Oral Health Day on March 20 at the campus Skill Centre. This year's theme was "A Happy Mouth is a Happy Mind."

Fortnightly News

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Buddhists Protest Bodhgaya Temple Act, Call for Repeal



Jigmet Raftan, President LBA Youth wing:

The Mahabodhi Temple is one of the most sacred sites for Buddhists, attracting pilgrims from around the world who come to offer prayers and seek blessings. However, the Bodhgaya Temple Act mandates that the committee's Chairman must be a Hindu District Magistrate, raising concerns over non-Buddhist leadership in managing a Buddhist religious site.

There have been viral reports and videos showing instances of Buddhist statues around the temple being altered into Hindu deities through rituals. Such actions have fueled frustrations among the Buddhist community, further strengthening demands for exclusive Buddhist authority over the temple.

The demand for repealing the BTMC Act has been long pending, led by Akash Lama of the All India Buddhist Forum, yet no concrete action has been taken. A hunger strike remains the only viable option to bring attention to the issue and push for its resolution.

Members of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and Ladakh Gompa Association (LGA) have actively participated in the hunger strike, reinforcing their call for Buddhist control over Mahabodhi Temple. Additionally, LBA has circulated formal requests to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Union Minister Kiren Rijju, and the District Magistrate, urging them to address the matter.

CEC Kargil chairs meeting on excess power bills, smart meter concerns

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon chaired a meeting to address concerns related to excess power bills following the installation of smart meters in Kargil on March 25.

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillors Er. Panchok Tashi, Kacho Mohd Feroz, and Aga Syed Mujtaba, along with Chief Engineer PDD, XEN PDD Kargil, and Councillors Adv. Khadim Hussain, Ainul Huda, and Sajjad Hussain. Officials from PDD and representatives of the executing agency for smart meters, including Polaris Agency, Inventia, also participated, with some joining virtually.

During the meeting, CEC Dr. Akhooon emphasized the need for extensive public awareness regarding smart meter tariffs, communication

facilities, and other relevant details to ensure transparency for consumers.

He raised concerns over the sudden spike in electricity bills and directed the Chief Engineer PDD to make old tariff till the revision of existing agreement while ensuring that accurate information on smart meters reaches the public.

The CEC further inquired about the status of meters installed in Kargil and instructed officials to prominently display helpline numbers at various locations such as schools, hospitals, and public offices to assist consumers with their queries. It was informed that a 24/7 consumer care helpline is available at 9103767637 for smart meter-related concerns.

Additionally, Dr. Akhooon urged



Chief Engineer, PDD, to take up the matter with UT administration Ladakh to seek a reduction in surcharges and possible relaxation in tariff rates. He also directed officials to investigate and resolve any potential electrical earthing issues to prevent power leakage. Further, the Councillors also raised their concerns and put forth their suggestions.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviews action taken reports from 21st Standing Committee meeting of Northern Zonal Council

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a high-level meeting on March 20 at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, to review the Action Taken Reports* on agenda points concerning Ladakh from the 21st meeting of the Standing Committee of the Northern Zonal Council, held in Chandigarh on October 25, 2024.

The meeting focused on key governance issues, including the speedy investigation and time-bound disposal of cases related to sexual offenses, rape, and the POCSO Act, ensuring justice for women and children. Discussions also covered enhancing banking facilities in rural areas, particularly ensuring coverage of the remaining 34 villages with bank branches and postal banking services, along with the 100% digitalization of all eligibility certificates to enhance financial inclusion.

A major point of deliberation was the strengthening of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-

112) to operate 24x7 and its integration with the Medical Emergency 108 service to provide a seamless emergency response mechanism.

Further discussions revolved around urban planning, with emphasis on the formulation of the Master Plan for Leh and Kargil, and ensuring compliance with food safety parameters. The implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was also reviewed to enhance healthcare access in the region.

To support rural and agricultural development, the Chief Secretary underscored the adoption of Model Bye-Laws for new Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), enabling them to undertake more than 25 economic activities.

Addressing social welfare concerns, the meeting also reviewed strategies to combat malnutrition among girl children through the POSHAN Abhiyan and explored measures to reduce school dropout rates under



Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal.

targeted educational initiatives.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need for efficient implementation of all discussed initiatives, ensuring timely progress and effective governance for the welfare of Ladakh's citizens.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Director General of Police, Ladakh, Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar; Administrative Secretaries, among others.

ITI Kargil trainees complete advanced fruit science training at ICAR-IARI



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Seventeen trainees from the Horticulture trade of Government ITI Kargil successfully completed a 15-day skill development program in Fruit Science at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), Pusa, New Delhi, from March 13 to March 28, 2025.

The program was conducted under the aegis of the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Dr. (Brig.) B. D. Mishra, as part of the Skill Development Department's commitment to empowering youth through comprehensive training. The Technical Education and Skill Development Department continues to foster skill enhancement opportunities across the region.

Organized by the Ladakh Skill Development Mission (LSDM), the training was held under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between LSDM and ICAR-IARI in 2024. The collaboration aims to promote mutual growth in agricultural research and education. During the 15-day program, trainees received hands-on training in horticultural techniques, modern horticulture technologies, protected cultivation, floriculture, and sustainable agricultural practices suited to Ladakh's unique climatic and geographical conditions. The curriculum also covered fruit science, modern propagation techniques, post-harvest management, and in-

novative agricultural practices.

The program concluded on March 28, 2025, with a valedictory session where trainees were awarded certificates for their successful completion. The session also recognized the contributions of the organizing institutions and faculty members.

Additionally, Asgar Haydari, Trainer/Faculty of Horticulture at ITI Kargil, expressed special gratitude to Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Mission Director of LSDM and Administrative Secretary of the Technical Education and Skill Development Department, Ladakh, for facilitating this opportunity.

He emphasized that training programs at prestigious national institutes will significantly enhance the technical expertise and employability of ITI Kargil trainees.

This initiative marks a significant step in strengthening Ladakh's horticulture sector, equipping trainees with essential knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to agricultural growth and sustainability in the region.

...Continuity of page 5

In Conversation with Tsewang Namgail, Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust

However, climate change poses one of the biggest threats to the biodiversity of Ladakh. Melting glaciers and diminishing water bodies are rapidly destroying the natural habitats of snow leopards and countless other species. As these ecosystems deteriorate, the risk of extinction grows for every species.

As an organization dedicated to the conservation and well-being of snow leopards, we implement scientific surveys and monitoring to assess and track their population. Camera trapping is one of the most common tools we use—strategically placed cameras in mountainous regions capture images of snow leopards. Interestingly, no two snow leopards have the same rosette pattern (the dark spots on their fur), making it possible to identify and track individuals. Camera trapping efforts by the wildlife department has put snow leopard population in Ladakh at over 470.

The availability of prey directly affects snow leopard populations. Thus, we also monitor the population of wild herbivores such as the Ladakh Urial, Tibetan Argali, blue sheep (bharal), Himalayan or Asiatic ibex, and Himalayan marmots. Identifying potential habitats—valleys with rich water sources, healthy pastures, and diverse vegetation—is crucial for supporting both predator and prey species.

At this critical juncture, it is important to understand the fragile interdependence among all species in Ladakh. If we continue to exploit nature and its inhabitants recklessly, it is we humans who will be at the receiving end of all the destructive developments. A stark example lies in the Tibetan Plateau, where once-lush grasslands have turned into desert—a warning sign not far from Ladakh.

Protecting snow leopards is not just about saving a species; it's about preserving an entire ecosystem, including the livelihoods and well-being of people who are a part of it.

Q. SLC-IT is well-known for promoting community-based conservation. Could you share some successful examples of community-led initiatives you've supported? What role do eco-tourism and homestay programs play in supporting both conservation efforts and the local economy?

We spread awareness among communities, encouraging aspiring conservationists to become self dependent and incur advantages from opportunities.

The initiative of setting up homestays in remote villages to earn a livelihood from tourism along with awareness about Snow Leopards that do not just threaten livestock but also control the population of wild herbivores whose increasing population endangers herbs and grasses on unyielding slopes of Ladakh.

The reduction of grass cover reduces the capacity of the rangelands to hold or absorb water leading to greater surface run off, raising flood risks during rainy seasons, which are the ecological linkages which I mentioned earlier.

These initiatives have been quite successful in villages such Ulley and Rumbak, where villagers have been encouraged to generate new livelihoods through tourism, which in turn help them in becoming better stewards of wild animals. Today, communities are trying to stand on their own feet. Recently, the villagers of Tar declared their area as the first 'community conserve area' in Ladakh.

Certain communities take longer time to comprehend these dynamics and advices we provide during our awareness programme, but once it is understood people act responsibly for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Q. How does SLC-IT collaborate with government departments such as the Wildlife and Forest Departments, as well as local governance institutions?

Working with government depends on officers who head the departments, if the officers are genuinely concerned to work for the welfare of the community and the biodiversity then initiatives can be successfully implemented.

For Example, few years ago we conducted a survey of feral dogs as their rapidly increasing population was causing huge damage to wildlife in Changthang region. We collaborated with Wildlife Department for this survey. The departments are well equipped to execute projects on the field. Common goals can be achieved easily if resources are pooled for common purposes.

But there are also times, when opinions do not match and working alongside becomes difficult even though the aim is one.

Q. Finally, what message would you like to share with students, tourists, and aspiring conservationists?

I would like to encourage everyone to reflect on the Buddhist's and ecological concepts of interdependence. In ignorance, we often exploit the environment irresponsibly in pursuit of individual goals and livelihoods, without realizing the mutual dependence that binds all living beings and elements of nature. It is not enough to merely understand interdependence—we must also nurture and protect the delicate bonds that connect us.

It is especially important for young people to grow up with this awareness. When they understand the interconnected nature of life, they are more likely to act mindfully and reduce the reckless activities harming environment and ecology.

Water is a very crucial component of our ecosystem. Today, our riversides are overrun by camping, recreational activities, tourism, and military activity. These practices, carried out without any care for ecosystem integrity, result in pollution, harming the spiritual as well as ecological integrity of the region. In many traditions, including our own, polluting water bodies is considered a deeply negative act, rendering these sacred spaces unusable for people.

I humbly appeal to all—residents, visitors, and authorities alike—to act with responsibility and compassion, not only towards each other but also towards the natural elements that sustain us.


 THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
 OFFICE OF THE EXCISE AND TAXATION OFFICER EXCISE RANGE LEH-KARGIL

Public Notice

It is for the information of general public of the locality of Gonpa Village, Leh that Shri. Stanzin Sonam S/o Rinchen Namgial R/o Nono House, Gonpa Leh Ladakh has applied for liquor license LAEL-7A (License for retail vend of beer in a Bar & Restaurant) under the name & style Lchangri Café & Restaurant at Village Gonpa, Gyamtsa Road Leh Ladakh.

Objections, if any may be filed in the office of Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range Leh-Kargil within a period of sixty days from the publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of this notice period.


 Inspector
 Excise Range Leh-Kargil

No: ETO/LEH/2024-25/483
 Dated: 26-03-2025

Fortnightly News

7-day training program on “Micro-Irrigation System” concludes with certificate distribution



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A week-long training program on the “Micro-Irrigation System,” conducted for the first time in Kargil, concluded successfully on March 28. The initiative was sponsored by the Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC), Leh under the NCPAH-PDMC, and organized by the School of Agricultural Science and Technology, Leh and Kargil, University of Ladakh, from March 22.

Councillor of Yourbaltak Constituency, Manzoor Hussain, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Faizan Ahmad, Dean of Agricultural Science, and Dr. Nasreen Fatima, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK Kargil, were the Guests of Honour.

The program focused on educating farmers about micro-irrigation systems, with a special emphasis on drip irrigation technology. It was attended by 30 farmers from various villages, including Poyen, Minjee, Shiliksey, Baroo, and Tichumik. The training aimed to promote water-efficient agricultural practices and provide hands-on knowledge on installation and maintenance of drip irrigation systems, tailored to the unique needs of the Ladakh region.

Dr. Nasreen Fatima encouraged the farmers to adopt drip irrigation for sustainable agriculture, highlighting its long-

term benefits. Dr. Faizan Ahmad expressed his gratitude to Dr. Deldan Namgyal, Principal Investigator of PFDC Leh, for sponsoring the program. He urged participants to implement the technology, particularly in drought-prone areas, to boost fruit and vegetable cultivation.

In his address, Councillor Manzoor Hussain congratulated the trainees on completing the program and commended Dr. Faizan Ahmad and his team for conducting the first-ever micro-irrigation training in Kargil. He stressed the relevance of such technologies, especially in constituencies like Yoursbaltak, which face severe water scarcity, and shared his ongoing efforts to develop drip irrigation projects in the area.

Certificates were awarded to all the participants, while mementos and certificates of appreciation were presented to the resource persons, including Er. Ahmed Ali, who delivered an impactful session on successful drip irrigation stories in Kargil. Other resource persons—Dr. Rinchan Dolkar, Dr. Mansoor Ali, Dr. Tsultim Plamo, Dr. Kausar Fatima, and Stanzin Yangsdon (Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Science and Technology, Kargil)—were also recognized for their valuable contributions to the program’s one-day thematic sessions.

GDC Kargil begins regional language courses under University of Ladakh’s initiative



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In line with the decision of the University of Ladakh, Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil has introduced Ability Enhancement Courses in conversational skills for the regional languages of Ladakh—Purgi, Shina, Balti, Bhoti, and Dardi—for Semester-4 students.

GDC Kargil held an inaugural session for students enrolled in Purgi, Shina, and Balti courses on March 29 at the college seminar hall.

Principal GDC Kargil, Prof. Disket Angmo, in her inaugural address, emphasized the importance of regional languages and encouraged students to engage sincerely with different aspects of their linguistic heritage.

She highlighted that Purgi, being the majority language of Kargil, retains close ties to its Tibetan roots and is pronounced in its purest form, as preserved in its original script over generations.

Issa Sabri, Guest Lecturer for Purgi Language expressed gratitude on behalf of the Purgi Cultural and Literary Society, Kargil. A total of 130 students have opted for Purgi. Mohd Raza Amjad Badgami conducted the inaugural session for Shi-

na Language, with 32 students enrolled so far. Bhoti, Balti, and Dardi have been opted for by 7, 5, and 4 students, respectively. Classes in these languages will begin once adequate teaching resources are available.

The primary objective of these courses is to help students understand their socio-linguistic roots and develop a deeper connection with the cultural heritage of Ladakh from an academic perspective.

Each course carries 2 credits, and the syllabus for the respective languages was framed by the University of Ladakh’s Board of Studies in February 2025.

For the first time since its inception, the University of Ladakh has introduced regional language education, a unique initiative that has been widely appreciated for its role in preserving vernacular languages.

These courses focus on spoken language orientation while also providing literary and linguistic knowledge. This aligns with the key objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which promotes multilingual education and cultural preservation.

NOTICE

Whereas Rigzin Chondol D/o Tsering Tundup R/o Chuchot Shamma, District Leh UT Ladakh, has claimed that her name has been wrongly entered as Rigzin Chosdol instead of actual and correct name which is Rigzin Chondol in her passport bearing Number J899962 date of issue 14-12-2011 having validity upto 13-12-2021. Now, she is applying for the correction in the passport and objection, if any may be conveyed to Regional Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication.

Awareness camp on hygiene, sanitation, and education held at GDC, Kargil



During an awareness camp on hygiene, sanitation, and education at Government High School Minji.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil conducted a one-day awareness camp on hygiene, sanitation, and education at Government High School Minji on March 27.

The program began with a welcome address by the school’s Vice Principal, who stressed the importance of hygiene in everyday life. NSS volunteer and Student Council President Ali Abbas spoke on the significance of personal hygiene, followed by fellow volunteer Fatima, who shared valuable insights about the objectives and activities of the National Service Scheme (NSS).

Prof. Gyalsong also addressed the gathering, underlining the transfor-

mative power of education in shaping both individuals and society.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Vice Principal, expressing gratitude to the NSS team for their meaningful contribution.

As part of the initiative, sanitary essentials including toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap were distributed to the students, reinforcing key messages about personal hygiene.

The awareness camp served as an informative and impactful session, fostering greater understanding among students about hygiene, sanitation, and the importance of education.

Theatre enthusiasts celebrate GYOT-LOKS performance in Kargil on World Theatre Day



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A 14-day production-oriented theatre workshop, organised by the Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (LAACL), Kargil, in collaboration with Ladakh Theatre Club and the Literary Society of Suru Valley School, culminated with the grand staging of the Purgi play GYOTLOKS – The Weight of Regret: A Journey from Greed to Grace at the SMM Auditorium Hall, Kargil, on March 27.

Held in celebration of World Theatre Day 2025, the event drew an overwhelming response from the public. The auditorium was packed with an enthusiastic audience who applauded the compelling performance.

Penned by renowned Afsana Nigar Zameer Abass and directed by young and dynamic theatre director Ashiq Hussain Mayur, GYOTLOKS explored complex human emotions—greed, desire, and corruption—culminating in a powerful message of regret and redemption. The strong storyline and brilliant acting kept the audience engaged throughout, earning repeated rounds of applause.

The event was graced by Kacho Mohd Feroz, Executive Councillor for Tourism & PHE, LAHDC Kargil, as chief guest, and Er. Panchok Tashi, Executive Councillor for Zanskar Affairs & Information, LAHDC Kargil, as guest of honour. Inteeaz Kacho, Joint Director of Information, Ladakh, and Nasir Hussain Shabani, Chairman of Suru Valley Education Society, Kargil, were present as special guests.

In his address, Kacho Mohd Feroz congratulated the theatre team and praised the exceptional artistic talent of Kargil, noting that a high-quality production was achieved in just 14 days. He commended Deputy Secretary Culture, Nazir Ladakhi,

and his team for their dedication to preserving theatre arts in the region and emphasized the role of theatre in shaping values and social awareness.

He reaffirmed LAHDC Kargil’s commitment to promoting theatre and urged LAACL and theatre practitioners to submit proposals for a structured plan to strengthen theatre in Ladakh. He also highlighted theatre’s potential in creating employment and encouraged youth to pursue it professionally, much like opportunities available in metro cities.

The Executive Councillor further stressed the need to introduce theatre workshops at school level, encouraging creative learning and meaningful storytelling among children. He also announced that a theatre-in-education workshop will be jointly organized soon by LAHDC Kargil and LAACL Kargil.

Speaking on the occasion, Er. Panchok Tashi lauded LAACL’s efforts in nurturing young talent and ensuring theatre remains an integral part of Ladakh’s cultural heritage. He assured LAHDC’s continued support for cultural initiatives that celebrate the region’s art, language, and traditions.

Nasir Hussain Shabani congratulated the theatre fraternity and emphasized the relevance of this year’s World Theatre Day theme, “Peace”, noting that theatre has the power to unite and promote harmony, especially in times of global unrest.

Nazir Ladakhi, Deputy Secretary of LAACL Kargil, in his welcome address, expressed gratitude to the Ladakh Theatre Club for their dedication and hard work in making the event a grand success. He reiterated LAACL Kargil’s commitment to providing platforms for young artists to grow in the performing arts.

District Tobacco Control Cell organises tobacco-free ski championship at Linkipal Ski Slope



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: District Tobacco Control Cell, in collaboration with Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association (LSSA) and Ski Mountaineering Association Ladakh (SMAL) organised Tobacco-Free Ski Championship at Linkipal Ski Slope, Kargil on March 26.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and drugs, while encouraging youth participation in sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

The program was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; Joint Director Information, Ladakh, Inteeaz Kacho; Assistant Director, Tourism, Rahmatullah Bhatt; Chief Medical Officer Kargil, Dr. Liyaqat Ali Khan; Medical Superintendent, Dr. Abbas; Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP), Dr. Fatima Nissa; and staff of the Health Department Kargil.

Deputy Commissioner Kargil thanked the District Tobacco Control Cell and the LSSA for organizing the event. He commended the efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and drugs and praised the administration’s ongoing initiatives to combat the to-

bacco menace.

DC emphasized the importance of youth engaging in positive activities such as sports to develop their skills and stay away from negative habits. He expressed confidence that such events would enhance physical fitness and contribute to the well-being of individuals, families, and the larger society.

CMO Kargil, Dr. Liyaqat Ali Khan emphasized the importance of involving youth in sports and other productive activities. He highlighted that such engagements help to keep young people away from harmful substances like tobacco and drugs.

Dr. Khan stated that the primary objective of this event was to promote games and fitness, particularly the rapidly growing snow skiing culture in Ladakh, to combat issues such as drug abuse.

During the event, snow ski participants showcased their skills on the slope, carrying placards with powerful messages like “Say No to Drugs,” “Drug-Free Kargil,” and “Choose Life, Not Tobacco.” These slogans served to amplify the event’s focus on tobacco and drug awareness.

The program also included a certificate and prize distribution ceremony for the participants and winners. Among the key players who showcased their skills were Zeenat Mansoor Lal (1st position), Nazira (2nd position), and Nidda (3rd position) in the girls’ category, while Imtiyaz Ali (1st position), Abdul Hameed (2nd position), and Ahmad Umba (3rd position) excelled in the boys’ category.

Thousands march in Sankoo on International Quds Day in solidarity with Palestine



Procession held in Sankoo on International Quds Day.

Mansoor Hosain Beigh

SANKOO: Procession was held in Sankoo on International Quds Day on March 29, organised by Anjuman-e-Sahib Zaman (ASZ) and Markaz-e-Tabligat Imam Reza Sankoo, to express solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.

Held after Friday prayers, the rally saw thousands—including men, women, children, and elders—demanding an end to Israeli aggression and the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

International Quds Day, initiated by Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, is observed annually on the last Friday of Ramadan. The day serves as a global call for resistance against Israeli occupation and support for Palestinian liberation. Protesters marched through the streets carrying banners and placards with slogans such as “Free Palestine,” “Boycott Israel,” “Stop Atrocities Against Muslims,” and “Zionism is Racism.”

The rally also condemned atrocities in Syria, Yemen, and Parachinar (Pakistan), calling for global Muslim unity. Religious scholars addressing the gathering emphasized that Al-Quds Day symbolizes unwavering solidarity with Palestine, a cause that resonates from Asia to Europe and Africa.

They strongly criticized the ongoing violence in Gaza, Lebanon, and other conflict zones, as well as the silence of international human rights organizations.

“The siege of Palestine is not just an attack on Muslims but an assault on human dignity, freedom, and international law,” one speaker declared. The scholars also condemned the U.S. and Western nations for attempting to legitimize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and urged the United Nations and UN Security Council to intervene.

Speakers called on the Indian government to sever all diplomatic ties with Israel and stand with the oppressed. They also stressed the need for unity among the Muslim ummah to counter extremism, communal hatred, and geopolitical injustices.

Similar rallies were held across the region, including in GM Pore, Trespone, Salikote, Taisuru, and Barsoo, reflecting widespread public outrage against Israeli occupation and global inaction.

RECRUITMENT RALLY FOR PORTER COMPANY 2025-26

1. Recruitment Rally for enrolling 480 Porters for raising of Army Porter Company will be held at 603 EME Bn, Karu under the aegis of Headquarters 3 Inf Div, District Leh from 07 to 09 Apr 2025 (Male) & 10 to 11 Apr 2025 (Female), with effect from 0700 Hr onwards.

2. Eligibility Conditions.

- Individual to be citizen of India (Male & Female).
- To be medically fit.
- Should be between 18 years to 40 years of age as on 07 Apr 2025.

3. Pay Scale.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| (a) Basic Pay | : | Rs 18,000/- |
| (b) DA | : | As per the government’s applicable rates. |
| (c) Field + Highaltitude Allowance | : | As per the area of employment. |

4. Documents Required.

- Hand written application form for recruitment as porter with 06 x Passport size photographs.
- Next of Kin certificate and Aadhar Card (alongwith 06 x Joint photographs duly attested by Sarpanch).
- Character certificate duly signed by Sarpanch (format enclosed).
- Police verification form duly signed by police authorities (format enclosed).
- Medical Certificate from Civil Govt Hospital (format enclosed).
- Birth Certificate.
- Indemnity Bond.
- Volunteer Certificate.
- Willingness Certificate.
- SBI Bank Details alongwith copy of front Page of Pass Book.
- Original and 03 x Photocopy of Aadhar Card/Passport/Ration Card/Voter ID duly signed by Sarpanch.
- Registration certificate from District Labour Office.
- Skill Proficiency certificate (Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter and Painter etc) if any.

5. Interested individuals (Males) to be present at 603 EME Bn, Karu, Gate No 02 on 07 Apr 2025 to 09 Apr 2025 and for females the rally will be conducted on 10 Apr & 11 Apr 25 from 0700 hr onwards. Entry will be restricted to 200 candidates per day on basis of “first come first serve”.

6. Interested individuals should be willing to work at any area as detailed.

7. Selection of Female Porters: 25% priority will be accorded to Female Porters.

8. Fitness Test.

(a) **Physical Test.** Carry 20 Kgs of load at an incline of 30° for a distance of 100 m. For male max time of two minutes and for female time of three minutes would be given.

(b) **Medical Test.** A medical test will be conducted for all candidates during the recruitment by the authorized Medical Officer.

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