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APRIL 16-30, 2025

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with

Nasreen Maryam, President, Anjuman Imamia Women Wing

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Apricot Blossom Festival 2025:  
A celebration of culture, community, and spring in Sham valley



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**SHAM:** As winter loosened its icy grip, the rugged hills of Sham Valley awakened in a delicate blush of white and pink. Apricot trees, long dormant, burst into bloom — and with them, so did the spirit of celebration. This year's Apricot Blossom Festival 2025 unfolded with joyous energy in Skyurbuchan on April 10 and Alchi on April 13, drawing villagers, visitors, officials, and artists into a vibrant embrace of culture, heritage, and spring.

Organised by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, in collaboration with LAHDC Leh, the festival brought together tradition and tourism in perfect harmony.

Locals, tourists, officials, and artists gathered to celebrate Ladakh's cultural richness and famed hospitality amidst the breathtaking backdrop of

flowering apricot orchards. The event opened with soulful traditional Ladakhi music, setting a festive yet serene tone. Stalls offering authentic local cuisine added to the vibrant atmosphere, showcasing the region's diverse culinary heritage.

In Alchi, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Leh, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He congratulated the residents and organisers for hosting a successful event and drew a parallel between Ladakh's apricot blossoms and Japan's iconic cherry blossom festivals.

“With its unique setting and cultural charm, this festival has the potential to become a signature springtime event,” he said, while also commending Khalti Councillor Lobzang Sherab for his grassroots coordination. He

emphasized the significance of community-led festivals in promoting cultural revival and responsible tourism in Ladakh.

Meanwhile, Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi, who attended as Chief Guest in Skyurbuchan, highlighted the role of such festivals in preserving Ladakh's intangible heritage. He encouraged local farmers to embrace organic farming, especially in apricot cultivation, citing its potential for international exports. He also applauded the performances by young artists and acknowledged the efforts of local teachers in nurturing cultural talent.

Adding a deeply emotional touch to the celebrations, the Indian Army held a felicitation ceremony to honour the

...continues on page 2

Enhanced security measures deployed to 16 major monasteries in Ladakh

By Nenzes Chodon

**LEH:** In response to a series of monastery thefts, a special interaction and brainstorming session was held on April 9 at the Dharma Centre, Choglam-sar, with the newly appointed security personnel tasked with safeguarding monasteries across Leh district.

This initiative is part of the continued efforts by the LAHDC Leh to protect the cultural and spiritual heritage of Ladakh. Sixteen major monasteries in the district have been identified for enhanced security measures, which include the deployment of trained personnel and the installation of CCTV surveillance systems.

Tashi Gyalson, CEC, described the initiative as a proactive solution to protect monasteries from theft. He acknowledged the desire to extend security to all monasteries in Ladakh but noted that limited funding from the council's revenue restricted such efforts.

“Cooperation among concerned stakeholders has been crucial in meeting the demand for security personnel,” said Gyalson.

He also addressed the outdated guidelines which previously limited funding for monasteries. “Recognizing the significance of monasteries as the living heritage of Ladakh, the 6th LAHDC has reformed these guidelines, with the full support of the District Commissioner,” he added.



Newly appointed security personnel for monastery receiving the appointment letter.

Over ₹100 crore worth of projects are currently underway at various monasteries across Ladakh, and some monasteries in South India are also benefiting from this initiative. Gyalson assured that the LAHDC is committed to supporting monasteries in the future.

Ven Tsering Wangdus, President of the Ladakh Gonpa Association (LGA), emphasized that monasteries have always been an integral part of Ladakh's heritage, traditionally keeping their doors unlocked for devotees. However, the increasing influx of non-locals and strangers has posed a threat to the security of these sacred spaces. He commended LAHDC for their quick response to the rising number of robberies last year, which included the provision of security personnel and the installation of surveillance cameras to prevent future threats.

The rising security concerns have shifted the responsibility

ity of guarding monasteries from the monks to the newly appointed security personnel.

Dr. Eshey Namgail, General Secretary of the LBA, congratulated the newly appointed security personnel but cautioned that LAHDC's initiative alone might not prevent future robberies. He urged the monks to remain vigilant, emphasizing that the security of the monasteries lies in the cooperation between the monks and the guards. He also expressed gratitude to LAHDC for generating job opportunities for local individuals.

Stanzin Chospel, Executive Councillor, highlighted the importance of collaboration between the LGA, LAHDC, and Ladakh Police to tackle theft cases. He stressed that regular meetings and coordination would help improve the skills of the security personnel.

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Fortnightly News

Enhanced security measures deployed to 16 major monasteries in Ladakh

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Tsewang Gailson, Chief Planning Officer, underscored the need for collective efforts from the administration, Ladakh Gumpa Association, and the Culture Academy to ensure the safety of monasteries. He emphasized that every stakeholder must fulfill their responsibility, from allocating funds to ensuring the funds are used effectively.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Rigzen Sandup, spoke about the training provided to the security personnel by the Ladakh Police before their deployment.

The security guards have been trained in basic duties, including patrolling, maintaining visitor registrations, and other essential tasks. Sandup also emphasized the importance of night patrols, as thefts often occur under the cover of darkness to conceal the identities of the thieves.

This comprehensive security measure aims to create a safer environment for Ladakh's monasteries, ensuring that these sacred spaces are protected for future generations.

CEC Leh reviews progress of 25 MW Solar power project at Taru, Leh



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of the 25 MW Solar Power Project at Taru.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson chaired a review meeting on April 12 to assess the progress of the 25 MW Solar Power Project at Taru, which includes a 20 MW/50 MWh Battery Storage System under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).

The meeting, held at the Council Secretariat, was attended by Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Administrative Secretary PDD Vikram Singh Malik (IAS), DC/CEO LAHDC Leh Santosh Sukhadeve, Deputy General Manager (Projects) SECI, Chief Engineer Generation Leh, Xen PDD, and other concerned officials. SECI officials reported that the project contract has been awarded to M/s Prozeal Green Energy following the termination of the previous contract. Survey work is currently underway, and SECI confirmed efforts to complete the project ahead of schedule, despite the approved duration of 36 months.

The meeting also discussed recent developments, including the execution of the lease deed and the opening of a dedicated LAHDC Leh bank account for the project.

CEC Tashi Gyalson expressed concern over the delay in implementation, stating that the timeline mentioned in the original MoU had already lapsed. He warned that further delays could lead to the cancellation of the land allotment. In response, SECI requested an amendment to the MoU and assured that the project would now be executed in a timely manner. CEC Gyalson directed SECI officials to visit Leh as soon as possible to resolve pending ground-level issues.

The status of the 220 kV Phyang-Disket transmission line was also reviewed. Dr. Aparup Paul, GM RECPDCL, informed that site mobilization is expected within the next few days, with work set to begin by April 15. However, he mentioned that delays in cost escalation approval could impact timelines. The CEC assured full support from the Council and stated that the matter would be raised with the concerned ministry in the Government of India.

Additionally, discussions were held regarding the extension of power supply from the Mini Hydro Project Chulunkha to Diskit and the completion of the 220 kV transmission line from Leh to Nubra.

The meeting also addressed CSR funding for LAHDC Leh through REC/RECPDCL and discussed the installation of rooftop solar systems for commercial consumers to promote sustainable energy adoption. A key issue raised was the operation and maintenance of decentralized off-grid solar power plants installed by LREDA in remote villages and hamlets. It was agreed that the PDD would pay for the energy generated from these plants to ensure their proper operation and maintenance.

Regarding the Mini Hydro Projects, it was noted that five out of six projects commissioned by LREDA are currently operational. However, the existing interim tariff of Rs. 2 per unit is insufficient to cover operation and maintenance costs. To address this, the meeting approved providing grant-in-aid support for these projects. A proposal by LREDA to set up a 1 MW solar project at its campus through self-investment was also discussed. This on-grid solar setup was approved by the LREDA governing body, and the related Power Purchase Agreement with PDD was also approved.

CEC Tashi Gyalson reiterated the Council's commitment to expanding renewable energy infrastructure in the region and emphasized the importance of timely and efficient execution of all planned initiatives. He also directed that surveys be conducted in unelectrified areas such as Dipling and Zingchan to assess feasible solutions, either by extending grid lines or by establishing dedicated solar lines. Similar surveys have already been conducted in other unelectrified areas across the district to ensure reliable electricity access.

The meeting concluded with a renewed focus on accelerating renewable energy projects and ensuring equitable access to sustainable power across the region.

Ladakh awarded best performing Union Territory for mandatory biometric updates of children



Shashanka Ala, Secretary of the Information Technology Department, UT Ladakh, receiving Best Performing Union Territory award for its outstanding efforts in carrying out Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs) of children.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Union Territory of Ladakh has been honored as the Best Performing Union Territory for its outstanding efforts in carrying out Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs) of children during Aadhaar Samvaad 2025, held on April 8 in New Delhi.

Organized by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Aadhaar Samvaad is UIDAI's annual flagship event that celebrates innovation, excellence, and collaboration across the Aadhaar ecosystem. The event serves as a platform to recognize significant contributions toward the effective implementation and strengthening of Aadhaar services nationwide.

This prestigious recognition highlights UT Ladakh's exemplary performance in ensuring timely and comprehensive biometric updates for children—an essential step in maintaining an accurate and secure Aadhaar database. These updates play a crucial role in safeguarding children's identities and enabling access to various Aadhaar-linked services and benefits.

Shashanka Ala, Secretary of the Information Technology Department, UT Ladakh, received the award on behalf of the Union Territory.

Speaking at the event, Secretary IT, Shashanka Ala, stated, "We are deeply honored by this recognition. This achievement reflects the dedication, coordination, and commitment of our teams on the ground. Ensuring biometric updates for children, especially in a geographically challenging region like Ladakh, demonstrates our resolve to advance inclusive and effective digital governance."

UIDAI also commended Ladakh's efforts, acknowledging the critical role of MBUs in ensuring the digital inclusion of every child and reinforcing the integrity of the Aadhaar ecosystem.

Ladakh aims for 22 daily flights from KBR Airport to enhance regional connectivity



Meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Leh to discuss a strategic roadmap for enhancing air connectivity.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Leh on April 11, to discuss a strategic roadmap for enhancing air connectivity through the operation of at least 22 daily flights from Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (KBR) Airport, Leh.

The meeting focused on exploring the feasibility of utilizing Indian Air Force (IAF) bays at the airport to accommodate the proposed increase in flights, particularly during the peak tourist season, thereby significantly improving accessibility and connectivity in the region.

Dr. Kotwal directed officials to formulate Standard Operating Procedures

(SOPs) at the earliest to ensure streamlined coordination and clearly defined operational processes among all stakeholders. The Airport Director assured the gathering that not less than 22 flights would operate daily during the tourist season, reaffirming the commitment to improved connectivity.

Representatives from various airlines, the Tourism Department, and the Hotel Association of Ladakh participated in the meeting and shared their concerns and operational challenges. Dr. Kotwal assured them of the administration's support, stating that all issues would be addressed on priority. He reaffirmed the administration's dedication to the overall welfare and economic development of

Ladakh.

He further emphasized the need for close coordination among all stakeholders, including the IAF, Airport Authority of India (AAI), and airline operators, to ensure the safe, efficient, and seamless operation of increased flight services, with minimal disruption to both civilian and defense activities.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Civil Aviation Dr. L. Franklin; Secretary Tourism Vikram Singh Malik; Deputy Commissioner Leh Santosh Sukhadeve; and representatives from the IAF, AAI, various airlines, and stakeholders from the tourism and hospitality sectors.

National AYUSH Mission conducts free medical camp on World Homeopathy Day



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** National AYUSH Mission (NAM) organized a one-day free medical camp at PHC Chuchot to commemorate World Homeopathy Day on April 10.

A team of homeopathy doctors and medical staff, led by Dr. Stanzin Noryang and Dr. Rubina Jabin, provided free medical check-ups and

distributed medicines to over 50 patients.

The camp, which ran from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., offered patients an opportunity to consult with experienced homeopathy doctors. Dr. Norboo Angchuk, Block Medical Officer (BMO), PHC Chuchot, was also present during the

camp, highlighting the importance of homeopathy in healthcare.

The event was part of the National AYUSH Mission's initiative to promote alternative systems of medicine and provide accessible healthcare services to the community.

Apricot Blossom Festival 2025: A celebration of culture, community, and spring in Sham valley

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their support during the 1999 Kargil War — a reminder of the region's enduring spirit and patriotism.

Padma Angmo, Assistant Director, Tourism Department Leh, described the blooming Sham Valley as a "divine canvas of white and pink." She reflected on the growing popularity of the festival since its inception in 2021 and stressed the cultural and economic importance of apricot farming in the region.

Director of Tourism, Kunzes Dolma, extended her gratitude to the villagers, organising teams, and participating departments. "This festival is a reflection of Ladakh's identity and our collective commitment to sustainable tourism," she said.

DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve (IAS), appreciated the strong collaboration between the local community, LAHDC, and government departments. He noted that such initiatives are vital for both economic upliftment and cultural preservation.

He congratulated land allotment beneficiaries and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to inclusive growth in tourism, agriculture, and youth empowerment.

Councillor Lobzang Sherab also addressed the gathering, advocating for community-based tourism. He encouraged villagers to promote homestays as a sustainable livelihood option, further enriching the experience for visitors and strengthening the local economy.

As the Apricot Blossom Festival 2025 concluded amidst petals dancing in the spring breeze, it left behind more than just picturesque landscapes — it rekindled a sense of pride, unity, and purpose among the people of Ladakh. The festival stands as a testament to how culture, community, and sustainable tourism can come together to shape a vibrant future for the region.

100-day countdown to International Yoga Day kicks off with grand event in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** As part of the 100-day countdown to the 10th International Day of Yoga, a special event was held at Mahabodhi Buddha Park, Saboo, Leh. The occasion also marked the beginning of what is being envisioned as a "Mahakumbh of Yoga," drawing a large gathering of yoga enthusiasts, students, and local residents.

Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, attended the event along with Ven. Bhikku Sanghasena and other prominent figures from the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Speaking at the event, CEC Gyalson highlighted yoga as a powerful practice that brings harmony to the mind,

body, and soul. He encouraged everyone to incorporate yoga into their daily routine to maintain physical and mental well-being. "Yoga has been practised for over 5,000 years and remains a timeless path to wellness. Its global importance has been recognised by the United Nations, which has adopted it as part of a worldwide initiative for good health," he said.

He also spoke about Ladakh's potential to become a global hub for spiritual learning and yoga. "LAHDC Leh will continue to support the initiatives of MIMC under the guidance of Ven. Sanghasena, who has devoted his life to service, compassion, and humanitarian work," he added.

Looking ahead to the 10th International Day of Yoga on June 21, the CEC shared that a formal invitation has been extended to the Prime Minister to attend the celebration in Leh, expressing hope that he will be able to participate.

Chief Secretary Ladakh reviews Women and Child Welfare schemes under Mission Shakti & Vatsalya



Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chairing the Program Approval Board (PAB) meeting for Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired the Program Approval Board (PAB) meeting for Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya for the financial year 2025-26 at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on April 11.

The meeting focused on reviewing and approving the Annual Program Implementation Plan (APIP) under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Government of India.

At the outset, the Administrative Secretary of Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the milestones and progress of Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. The presentation also outlined the structure, objectives, and functioning of Child Care Institutions (CCIs), non-government-run CCIs, staff details, observation homes, women and child care helplines, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiatives, anganwadi-cum-creche centers, One Stop Centres, and Sakhi Niwas shelters.

The Secretary highlighted that these schemes aim to address a wide spectrum of social issues, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, child protection, and socio-economic challenges, while also providing emergency helplines to respond to urgent situations.

Commending the efforts of the concerned departments, Chief Secretary Dr. Kotwal emphasized the impor-

tance of empowering women in Ladakh to live fearlessly and confidently. He stressed the proper functioning of One Stop Centres in both Leh and Kargil, terming them a crucial first point of contact in tackling domestic violence cases. He also suggested assessing the feasibility of establishing a creche at the Civil Secretariat in Leh, to support working women.

Focusing on the holistic development of children with special needs, Dr. Kotwal assured that no effort would be spared to make schools for specially-abled children in Ladakh fully functional. He announced plans to engage specialized staff, including doctors, physiotherapists, speech therapists, and trained educators, to support the overall well-being and growth of these students.

Addressing the growing concern of drug abuse, the Chief Secretary directed the officials of Drug De-Addiction Centres, along with the District Magistrates of Leh and Kargil, to launch intensive awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and other institutions using practical and targeted approaches.

It is pertinent to mention that Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya are flagship umbrella schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Mission Shakti focuses on women's safety, protection, and empowerment, while Mission Vatsalya is centered on the protection and welfare of children. to participate.



Fortnightly News

Chief Secretary Ladakh reviews CBuD application and amended BharatNet project implementation



Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**CHANGTHANG:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on April 10, to assess the implementation status of the ‘Call Before You Dig’ (CBuD) mobile application and the Amended BharatNet Project.

The meeting commenced with a detailed presentation by Shashanka Ala, Secretary of the Information Technology Department, who briefed the participants on the objectives, functionality, and scope of the CBuD application. She also outlined the revised framework and proposed implementation strategy of the Amended BharatNet Project for Ladakh.

Highlighting the growing number of incidents

involving damage to underground utilities caused by uncoordinated excavation, the Chief Secretary emphasized the mandatory use of the CBuD application by all departments and contractors before initiating any digging or excavation activities. He noted that the CBuD app, introduced by the Government of India, is a critical digital tool to enable coordinated, safe, and informed excavation, reducing disruption and public utility damage.

Dr. Kotwal issued strict instructions to all departments, stating that any contractor or individual found damaging public property, such as roads or utility infrastructure, without prior authorization, will face legal action. FIRs will be lodged, and such contractors will be blacklisted from future

government projects and tenders.

Regarding the Amended BharatNet Project, which aims to provide last-mile internet connectivity to gram panchayats and remote habitations across Ladakh, the Chief Secretary underlined the importance of local-level consultation and administrative coordination. He directed the concerned departments to engage with local administration, elected councillors, and departmental secretaries before finalizing any implementing agencies, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and smooth execution of the project.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretary, PDD, Vikram Singh Malik; Administrative Secretary, PWD, Michael D’Souza; Chief Conservator of Forest, Sajjad Mufti; Administrative Secretary, IT Shashanka Ala; Secretary, Higher & School Education, Bhanu Prabha; Deputy Commissioner, Leh Santosh Sukhadeve; Deputy Commissioner Kargil Shrikant Suse; Chief Engineer PWD, Abdul Motalib; Chief Engineer PDD, Tsewang Paljor; ACD Leh, AG Zargar; Deputy Secretary, Jigmet Raftan and other concerned officials.

LAHDC Leh evaluates Solid Waste Management under Project Tsangda



During a review meeting at the Council Secretariat to assess the progress of Project Tsangda, LAHDC Leh’s flagship solid waste management initiative.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson chaired a review meeting on April 9 at the Council Secretariat to assess the progress of Project Tsangda, LAHDC Leh’s flagship solid waste management initiative.

During the meeting, District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Junaid Amin Bhat presented a comprehensive update on the current status of the project, outlining key developments, funding gaps, and ongoing challenges in waste segregation, disposal, and infrastructure enhancement. It was noted that nearly 50% of the waste collected at Solid Resource Management Centres (SRMCs) comprises low-value or

non-recyclable materials that hold no resale value and are eventually sent for dumping.

A major concern raised was the lack of a dedicated funding source for the effective operation and maintenance of SRMCs. The need for a centralized and efficient waste disposal mechanism was strongly emphasized.

Deliberations were held on streamlining operations across all Tsangda centres by introducing a unified system, establishing a centralized waste deposit facility, and strengthening financial oversight. The proposal to set up a dedicated Project Tsangda Society was also discussed to enhance institutional

accountability and facilitate partnerships, including those through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

The importance of capacity building—particularly training for SRMC supervisors—and the need to formally acknowledge the contributions of the project team were also highlighted.

CEC Tashi Gyalson instructed officials to submit detailed project requirements to the Chief Planning Officer and called for a follow-up meeting next week to finalize actionable steps and establish robust institutional mechanisms to strengthen the project.

The meeting was attended in person by the Chief Planning Officer; SDM Kharu; BDOs of Chuchot, Kharu, and Rong; and SRMC supervisors.

Additionally, SDMs of Durbuk, Nubra, and Khaltsi, along with BDOs from Leh, Nimo, Saspol, Khaltsi, Skurbuchan, Singay Lalok, Thiksay, Rupsho Puga, Nyoma, Durbuk, Diskit, Turtuk, and Panamik, participated virtually in the deliberations.

Team from Ladakh participates in Lok Samvardhan Parv in Srinagar



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A vibrant team of skilled artisans, culinary experts, and agripreneurs from Ladakh is proudly participating in Lok Samvardhan Parv, being held from April 5 to 13 at the Convocation Ground, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.

In a notable development, the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has approved flight ticket reimbursements for participants from remote and hilly regions like Ladakh—where connectivity remains a significant challenge. Previously, only rail and road travel reimbursements were allowed.

This positive change was made possible through the recommendation of Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, to Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

The event is being organised by NMDFC under the aegis of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

It is a proud moment for Ladakh as the team showcases the region’s rich cultural heritage, traditional skills, and entrepreneurial spirit on a prestigious national platform. Their participation highlights the diversity, creativity, and resilience of Ladakh’s people.

This progressive initiative has received widespread appreciation and is expected to open doors for greater participation from Ladakh in future national-level events. The support extended includes air travel assistance, complimentary marketing stalls, daily dearness allowance, and honorariums for artisans and entrepreneurs engaged in skill demonstrations and product exhibitions.

LAHDC holds key meeting to streamline Forest Land Records in Leh district



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson convened a high-level meeting on April 12 to review the status of forest revenue records in the Leh district. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of the Council Secretariat in response to directives issued by the Supreme Court in the writ petition titled Ashok Kumar Sharma (IFS) & Ors. vs. Union of India.

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi; Chief Conservator of Forests, Ladakh, Sajjad Hussain Mufti; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve (IAS); ACR Leh, Shabir Hussain; DFO Leh, Feroz Ahmad (SFS); SDMs and their representatives; and Tehsildar Leh.

In his address, CEC Tashi Gyalson emphasized the need for accuracy and transparency in forest land documentation, current land usage, and future developmental planning. He stressed the importance of coordination between forest and revenue departments to ensure compliance with legal frameworks and environmental sustainability.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Sajjad Hussain Mufti, presented an overview of the current forest record status in Leh district, highlighting lands notified under forest cover, plantation zones, and areas requiring validation. He underscored the necessity of verifying forest land classifications through competent authorities to

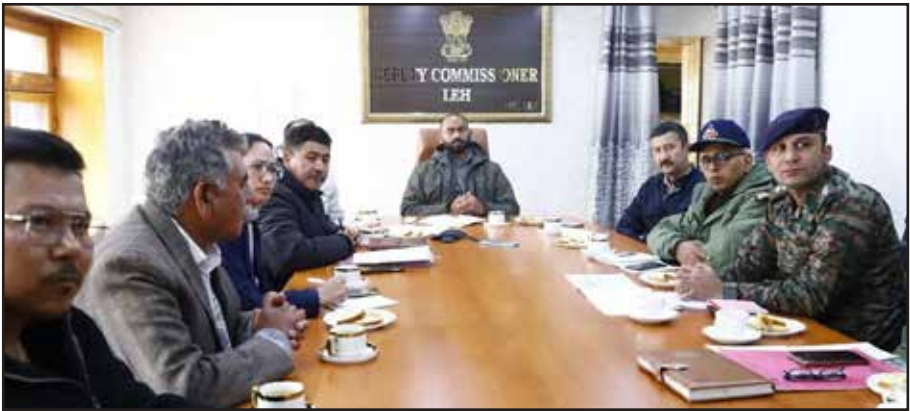
ensure transparency and legal conformity.

Key discussions also included updates on the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2023, and its implications for forest governance in Ladakh. Particular focus was placed on the complexities surrounding unclassified forests in the Khaltse Forest Range, identified as an area requiring further study and inter-departmental collaboration.

ACR Shabir Hussain shared a comprehensive update on the reconciliation of revenue gardens and reserved forest lands as of August 2024. He highlighted the Revenue Department’s vital role in resolving public grievances concerning land categorization and the demarcation of forest boundaries.

Concluding the meeting, CEC Gyalson directed officials to move forward with the next phase of verification. He also instructed that a dedicated follow-up meeting be scheduled to address unresolved issues, particularly concerning unclassified forests, ensuring a detailed and structured approach to forest record management in the region.

DC Leh reviews land acquisition for proposed Leh Bypass road



Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, discussing consultancy services and land acquisition for the proposed Leh Bypass Road.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, convened a review meeting on April 11 to discuss consultancy services and land acquisition for the proposed Leh Bypass Road. The meeting was held at the video conference room of the DC Office, Leh.

The proposed bypass road will start near Phyang village, close to the HPCL plant, and connect to the Leh-Manali National Highway near Upshi, offering a vital alternate route to ease traffic within Leh town.

DC Santosh Sukhadeve emphasized the importance of executing the project with minimal disruption to the public. He assured that the adminis-

tration is fully committed to protecting public interests, ensuring that no religious land, residential property, or public assets will be affected without prior consultation and consent of the concerned landowners.

He further assured that any land disputes arising from the project will be resolved amicably through dialogue, legal procedures, and mutual agreements.

Providing updates via video conference, Chandra Prakash Tiwari informed the participants that the Upshi segment will be developed as a four-lane junction under the proposed plan.

DC Leh directed all con-

cerned departments to expedite preparations and ensure coordination with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for real-time updates on construction progress.

Concluding the meeting, the DC stressed the importance of inter-departmental cooperation, transparency, and public engagement to ensure that developmental work progresses smoothly without causing undue hardship to local communities.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Engineer Project Himank, and officials from various departments and stakeholder groups.

Teacher knowledge test held in Leh under Reinforced Teacher Training program



Teachers taking Teacher Knowledge Test (TKT) at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, in collaboration with GoldenMile Learning (GML), successfully conducted the Teacher Knowledge Test (TKT) on April 11 at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh. The assessment was part of the ongoing Reinforced Teacher Training (RTT) program aimed at enhancing the teaching capabilities of English language educators across government schools in Ladakh.

Launched in 2022, the RTT initiative focuses on improving pedagogical approaches and language proficiency among teachers in all six educational zones of Ladakh. The TKT marks a significant milestone in this journey.

The test, designed by subject experts at GoldenMile Learning (Mumbai), was based on the Cambridge Assessment Framework. It included 120 questions to be completed in 120 minutes, covering key areas such as language and background to language learning, lesson planning and use of resources for language teaching, and managing the teaching and learning process.

With the recent shift from the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the RTT program has been instrumental in equipping teachers with the tools and methodologies required to adapt to the new curriculum.

The training focuses on three core areas, address-

ing pedagogical challenges associated with CBSE, improving English language proficiency, and encouraging a shift in mindset from teaching English as a subject to teaching it as a language.

Additionally, the program aims to boost teacher confidence, strengthen professional identity, and promote the effective use of classroom technology to enhance student engagement and outcomes.

Chief Education Officer, Sonam Angchok, formally inaugurated the examination by unveiling the question papers and declaring the test open. To ensure fairness and transparency, the test was conducted under the supervision of officials from the Department of Education and senior representatives from GoldenMile Learning, both in person and virtually.

Teachers who successfully clear the assessment will move on to a high-level Train the Trainer (TTT) program scheduled for July 2025. This phase will be led by national and international master trainers and is designed to empower selected educators to become indigenous English Language Teaching (ELT) trainers for the region.

This initiative continues to be a flagship collaboration between LAHDC Leh and GoldenMile Learning, reinforcing their shared commitment to fostering excellence in English language education and enhancing classroom learning outcomes across Ladakh.

Manman Ski Slope in Drass set to become premier winter sports hub as feasibility assessment begins



Feasibility assessment for the proposed Snow Ski Academy at Manman Ski Slope, Drass.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DRASS:** A significant step toward promoting winter sports in Ladakh was taken on April 12, as the second phase of the feasibility assessment for the proposed Snow Ski Academy at

Manman Ski Slope, Drass, was conducted by a high-level committee constituted by the UT Administration.

Led by Executive Councillor

of LAHDC Kargil, Er. Punchok Tashi, the assessment team included Councillor Abdul Wahid (Bhimbat Constituency), Councillor Abdul Samad (Ranbirpura), DYSS Officer Abid Hussain, engineers from PWD Division Drass, technical experts from the Ladakh Ski and Snowboard Association, Ski Mountaineering Association Ladakh, consultant Mr. Rajesh from Ronmas Delhi, as well as local skiing professionals and members of the Snow & Ski Board Association Drass.

Murtaza Agha, President of the Snow & Ski Board Association Drass, highlighted the enormous potential of the Manman Ski Slope, which boasts a skiing season stretching from November–December to mid-May—longer than most skiing destinations in the country. He appealed to the administration to promote the slope at a larger scale, both as a training hub and a tourist destination for winter sports.

The committee then proceeded to the site, where technical experts conducted an on-ground evaluation of the terrain, gradient, and essential infrastructural needs. Discussions focused on laying the groundwork for the Snow Ski Academy, including the installation of chairlifts or draglifts, snow grooming machinery, and modern skiing equipment.

Both councillors Abdul Wahid and Abdul Samad assured their full support for the academy, emphasizing the role of community collaboration in realizing the project.

Executive Councillor Er. Punchok Tashi directed the expert team to submit a detailed survey report at the earliest. He emphasized that key infrastructure such as Chairlift/Draglift systems, Snow Grooming/Beating Machines, and equipment availability must be prioritized for successful execution.

Notably, the UT Administration

had approved the establishment of Winter Sport Academies for Drass and Zaskar in 2022 under the Youth Services and Sports Department. However, implementation was delayed due to various challenges. Now, with renewed commitment, the administration aims to move forward with the plan in the current financial year, recognizing the urgent need to promote snow-related sports activities in Ladakh.

Snowboarding expert Iftikhar Hussain and Manzoor Hussain, a retired army ski professional, also offered insights during the assessment.

The event concluded with a note of gratitude from the Snow & Ski Board Association Drass. The association urged the administration to take swift and concrete steps toward establishing the Snow Ski Academy, envisioning Manman Slope as Ladakh’s premier winter sports destination.



People’s Voice:

Protecting the wild soul of Ladakh: Voices against poaching

By Nenzes Chodon

In a recent poaching incident reported on March 28 in Ladakh, Himalayan Ibex was found injured at Kanji Dho. Four individuals from Shakar Chiktan village in Kargil district were arrested in connection with the case.

The incident has drawn strong reactions from wildlife conservationists and nature enthusiasts, who expressed deep concern over its impact on Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem. They emphasized that such acts disrupt the interdependent balance of life in the region and pose a serious threat to wildlife tourism, which plays a growing role in Ladakh’s economy.

Let’s hear more from those working on the frontlines to protect Ladakh’s unique wildlife.

**Lobzang Visuddha, President, Wildlife Tour Operators Association (WTOA), Leh:**  
Poaching cases in Ladakh have sadly become a recurring issue. As a wildlife enthusiast, I’ve followed these incidents closely. It is deeply unfortunate that a Himalayan Ibex, a species protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, was recently poached—especially during the holy month of Ramzam and Tangpo (the first month of the Tibetan calendar), a time that holds spiritual significance.

Tourists visit Ladakh not only for its landscapes but also to experience its rich wildlife heritage. The loss of even one wild animal negatively impacts this experience and poses a threat to Ladakh’s growing eco-tourism sector.

While such incidents were rare in the past, I hope this particular case is seen through to a just and lawful conclusion, with the offenders punished accordingly.

We must acknowledge the two brave women who heard the gunshots and immediately informed the authorities. Thanks to their alertness and the swift response by Ladakh Police, the investigation was quickly initiated. Their action is a reminder that community vigilance is vital in conservation efforts.

What’s more alarming is the mindset behind such crimes—

arming oneself to hunt independent wildlife in Ladakh’s peaceful mountains and valleys poses not only an ecological threat but also a human safety concern, as such acts can easily lead to accidental or even intentional harm to people.

As a founding member of the Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh, we’ve spent the last decade actively working as whistle-blowers in wildlife-human conflict zones. Poaching incidents have occurred in places like Upshi, Magnetic Hill, Khardungla, and Ganges, yet many go unnoticed or unpunished, despite the presence of special investigation teams. Some offenders, even after arrest, are released without meaningful consequences.

It’s often observed that those involved belong to wealthy or influential families, which unfortunately perpetuates a sense of impunity and continues to threaten our wildlife populations.

The law must be applied fairly—regardless of class, status, or religion. Only then can we hope to protect Ladakh’s precious and fragile ecosystem for future generations.”

**Tsewang Namgail, Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy–India Trust (SLC-IT), Leh:**  
Ladakh’s wildlife population is already vulnerable and limited. Natural disasters continue to destroy critical habitats, and expanding human settlements are increasingly encroaching upon these spaces. On top of that, incidents of poaching threaten the survival of an already fragile population. If left unchecked, the combination of natural and human pressures could eventually lead to local

extinction of key species.

This recent poaching case is a serious matter and must be treated with urgency. Collective community involvement is essential—not only to raise awareness but also to pressure the judicial system to act swiftly. Justice delayed is justice denied, and any delays in the judicial process could result in more such incidents in the future.

The Wildlife Department and Ladakh Police deserve appreciation for their swift and efficient response to this case. Now, as the legal process unfolds, it is important that due procedures are followed without delay. If the accused are proven guilty, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 mandates a minimum of three years’ imprisonment and a substantial monetary penalty, since the Himalayan Ibex is listed under Schedule I, affording it the highest level of protection.

Unfortunately, wildlife crimes are often overlooked across the country, with penalties far too lenient compared to the gravity of the offense. It is high time such crimes are dealt with seriously. Courts should fast-track wildlife poaching cases and impose strict punishments to set a strong precedent.

Beyond authorities, the public and local communities share the responsibility of ensuring that such crimes are reported, investigated thoroughly, and that justice is served.

Wild herbivores, like the Ibex, play a vital ecological role in

...continues on page 6


### The World of Juniors

World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on April 18 to preserve the human heritage and to recognise all the efforts of relevant organizations. The 1982 International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) announced April 18 as World Heritage Day. This was approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983, with the aim of enhancing awareness about the importance of cultural heritage, and monuments and conserving them.

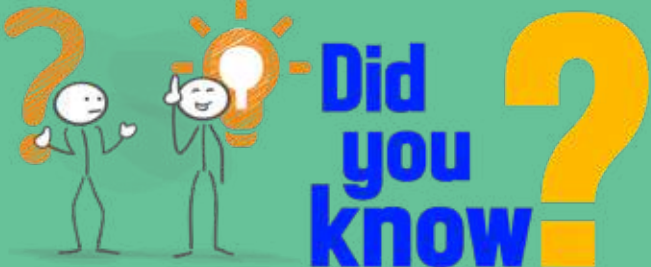
The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organisation was established on the principles set forth in the Venice Charter, also known as the 1964 International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites. Following on from the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Venice Charter in 2024, ICOMOS will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2025. The Second Congress of Architects and Specialists of Historic Buildings, held in Venice in 1964, adopted 13 resolutions, the first being the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, better known as the Venice Charter, and the second, put forward by UNESCO, was the creation of ICOMOS in 1965.

The purpose of World Heritage Day is to raise awareness among

### World Heritage Day



local communities about protecting our cultural heritage. People from various places and backgrounds come together and exchange knowledge about their histories and customs. In addition, ICOMOS commemorates the day by working with UNESCO all across the world, drawing tourists and history buffs to such events.



### India’s tryst with UNESCO recognition began in 1983

India’s journey with UNESCO commenced in 1983 with the recognition of iconic landmarks such as the Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort and Taj Mahal. Since then, India has continued to add to its roster of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, further enriching its cultural tapestry and cementing its position as a custodian of invaluable heritage.

### Old Ahmedabad is the 1st Indian city to be inscribed in UNESCO’s World Heritage City List

A significant milestone in India’s cultural heritage preservation occurred in 2017, with the recognition of Old Ahmedabad as the first Indian city to be inscribed in UNESCO’s World Heritage City List. This acknowledgement underscores the historical and architectural significance of Old Ahmedabad, a city steeped in centuries of vibrant culture, trade, and communal harmony.

### India houses 42 World Heritage Sites

India’s landscape stands as a testament to its rich heritage, adorned with a remarkable array of 34 cultural, 7 natural, and 1 mixed marvels. Each cultural site showcases India’s rich history while natural wonders reflect the country’s ecological diversity. From lush forests to pristine coastlines and majestic mountains, you’ll find it all!

### WB’s Santiniketan and Hoysala Temples are the latest entrants

The inclusion of Santiniketan in West Bengal and the Hoysala temples of Karnataka in UNESCO’s World Heritage list in 2023, serves as a significant addition to India’s already vibrant cultural landscape. Santiniketan, the abode of Rabindranath Tagore’s Visva-Bharati University, is renowned for its cultural and educational significance, embodying Tagore’s vision of an institution that harmonises nature with human creativity.

The Hoysala temples, scattered across Karnataka, are architectural marvels dating back to the 11th and 12th centuries, characterised by intricate carvings and exquisite craftsmanship.

Maharashtra has the maximum number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India


Maharashtra stands tall with a total of five UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The list includes the majestic Ajanta and Ellora Caves, the awe-inspiring Elephanta Caves, the historic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, and the enchanting Victorian Gothic and Art Deco buildings of South Mumbai.

Source: Knocksense

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

### The art of easing life’s problems



One of my recent ‘Good Morning Musings’ had this to say: Nobody on this planet of ours can be free of the ills of life.

Therefore, the best way to reduce them to a great extent is to philosophise your life! Yes, one has to bear with so many problems and issues in life, but those who understand the very meaning of life and its passage can make the process easier and happier. And there is no reason why one does not take up the best of ways to lead a joyous and progressive life.

That reminds me of so many people after retirement getting into a state of ‘comatose’ as they stop doing any kind of activity because they adopt the philosophy of life: Worked for the whole life very hard, and now is the time to rest and enjoy. Such a philosophy of life leads one to a ‘shrinking’ life, and such guys get only a few years of time to live and enjoy.

As one ages, particularly after 65, one gets to experience a number of problems, and nobody can be free of life’s ills. The only difference is in the degree of problems.

Therefore, the point here is that one should take up in one’s autumn-years certain activities best suited to one’s ability and physical condition. One needs to ‘stay alive’ to everything around and be a part of it, either for or against. That gives one an excuse to remain busy and keep one’s body, mind and soul on the alert and in top gear.

There is no end to learning and progressing. One has to keep on with the learning ways alive so that one remains dynamic and progressive all the time. Learning has so many ways: By experience, by reading, by writing, by listening to great gurus or the learned people and experts.

Let us say life too has a ‘mind’. As such, life’s mind should remain open and free to change and rechange as per the need of the times. As one would like to say, life has to be a story of experiments and going for the newest and the best!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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



# In Conversation with Nasreen Maryam, President, Anjuman Imamia Women Wing

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

**Q. Tell us about the role and objectives of Anjuman Imamia Women Wing.**

Anjuman Imamia Women Wing was established on October 16, 2016, with the aim of empowering women from all sections of society and working for the welfare of the community. Since its inception, Anjuman Imamia has supported and uplifted many women in need. We have helped women set up shops and small business units, provided educational scholarships, and extended support to specially-abled individuals.

The organization has also played an active role in resolving family and land disputes through mutual understanding and cordial discussions.

At present, Anjuman Imamia Women wing is working with a focus on social welfare, health, and economic upliftment. We are actively advocating for environmental protection as a step toward a better future. As part of this effort, we are promoting healthier eating habits by selling cookies made from locally-produced flour and jaggery. In the near future, we also plan to produce organic greenhouse vegetables. These initiatives not only encourage sustainability but also offer income-generating opportunities for women, contributing to their empowerment.

This is currently my ninth term serving as the President of the Anjuman Imamia Women Wing. I firmly believe that in order to carry out welfare work and run an organization effectively, the support of one’s family is crucial. Their encouragement allows a woman to work freely and with confidence for the benefit of other women and the community.

I am deeply grateful to my family for their unwavering support, which has motivated me to serve with honesty and dedication. My strength lies in my determination to get things done sincerely, while my emotional connection to the people I serve has helped me work more effectively and compassionately.

**Q. Women’s participation in policy and decision-making in Ladakh has been largely absent. Recently, there was an announcement regarding women’s reservation in the Hill Council. What are your thoughts on this?**

We are truly grateful to the BJP-led ruling government for passing the Women’s Reservation Bill and for ensuring equal opportunities for women. We also appreciate the assurance given by our local leaders to implement this reservation within the Hill Council setup.

Women’s reservation is a crucial step toward empowering women and encouraging their active participation in policy and decision-making processes. For far too long, the needs and struggles of women have been overlooked or not fully understood. Only a woman can truly relate to these issues and find effective solutions.

This move is especially important for a region like Ladakh, where women’s role in policy and decision making is almost absent. I strongly encourage women to step forward, participate actively, and work for the welfare of all women in our society.

It is equally important that the women who are elected to the Council are committed, dedicated, and work without limitations for the upliftment of every woman, especially those from marginalized backgrounds. We need leadership that is not only strong but also compassionate and inclusive.



MESSAGE TO THE READERS  
“If we want genuine progress, we need to move beyond symbolic inclusion and ensure that women are trusted, empowered, and given equal space to lead and shape society.”

**Q. What is the status of women in Ladakhi society, and what challenges do they face in their day-to-day lives?**

We often hear on various platforms that women in Ladakh enjoy equal rights, have decision-making power, and are treated equally to men. While these claims sound promising, the reality on the ground is quite different.

In practice, women are still not given the same level of trust or importance as men, especially when it comes to leadership roles or decision-making. Most religious and social bodies do have women’s wings or associations, but the question remains—do these women’s wings hold the same power or influence as their parent bodies? The answer, unfortunately, is often no.

In many areas of work, women are still seen as secondary, and their abilities are doubted or underestimated. This is why women’s reservation and the presence of women leaders in policy-making and decision-making roles are not just necessary—they are essential.

If we want genuine progress, we need to move beyond symbolic inclusion and ensure that women are trusted, empowered, and given equal space to lead and shape society.

**Q. Caste discrimination is one of the major concern and is still paractised in Ladakhi Society. What is your opinion?**  
Caste discrimination practices is mostly witnessed during the king rules and over the years with time, things are changing.

Such practices are now changing and it should be because al these are created by human . this is not created by God and is not written in holy script. People nowadays are educated and such things are changing with time and we should all workd towards abolishing such practices.

**Q. Caste discrimination is one of the major concerns and is still practiced in Ladakhi society. What is your opinion?**

Caste-based discrimination was more commonly practiced during the time of the kings, but over the years, we have seen a gradual shift. Thankfully, things are beginning to change—and they should—because such divisions are man-made. These distinctions are not created by God, nor are they written in any holy scriptures.

Today, as more people become educated and aware, there is growing rejection of such outdated and unjust practices.

However, there is still work to be done. We must all come together—regardless of caste or background—to actively work towards completely abolishing caste discrimination from our society.

True progress and harmony can only be achieved when every individual is treated with dignity, respect, and equality.

**Q. Drugs and substance abuse have become a growing concern in Ladakhi society. What role can parents play to prevent their children from falling into such habits?**

The role of parents is absolutely crucial—there is no second thought about it. Unfortunately, in Leh and other parts of Ladakh, we are witnessing a rise in cases of drug and substance abuse among youth, which is deeply concerning.

One major factor contributing to this issue is the easy access to money. When children are given excessive amounts of money without supervision, it opens the door to misuse. Peer pressure is another strong influence that can lead them down the wrong path.

Parents must engage actively in their children’s lives. They should spend quality time with them, communicate openly, and stay updated on what’s happening in their world. It’s no longer enough to simply trust that children won’t engage in harmful behavior—times have changed, and so must our approach to parenting.

Monitoring their activities, setting reasonable limits on money, and creating a safe, understanding environment at home can go a long way in protecting children from falling into addiction. Parental awareness and involvement are key to prevention.

**Q. Every religious organization has its own women’s wing. How do you all work collaboratively, and what kind of relationship do you share?**

The women wings of all religious organizations share a very friendly and harmonious relationship. We work together with a spirit of unity and collaboration, putting aside any differences for the greater good of society.

Our joint efforts focus on raising awareness about important issues such as drug abuse, environmental protection, and promoting communal harmony. By supporting one another and working collectively, we aim to create a more peaceful, healthy, and informed community.

## In Focus: From pastoral roots to modern opportunities: The evolving identity of Changthang youth



By Chamba Tsetan

Changthang, as a landscape, has witnessed multiple generations of youths, but this generation stands apart due to the social, economic, and geopolitical changes they’ve experienced in their lifetimes. The first successful beneficiaries of modern education have brought profound changes to their perspectives and social outlook, both as individuals and as a community. Thus, discussing this generation is essential, especially as modern life increasingly disconnects people from their roots.

When observing the youths of the Changpa community, one can notice a higher tendency among Tibetan youths to remain engaged in pastoralism with their parents compared to their Ladakhi Changpa counterparts. Every winter, when schools in Ladakh are on vacation, Tibetan youths continue their pastoral activities, while Ladakhi Changpa youths, even those pursuing higher education, often step away from it. The reasons for this are varied. Tibetans are culturally rooted and encourage their children to embrace the essence of Tibetan culture, exemplified by traditions like the Jabro dance, which is performed every Wednesday in Tibetan communities globally.

Ladakhi Changpa youths, on the other hand, face different challenges. They often compare themselves to their peers in Leh, who are more educated and generally have greater access to employment and social mobility. As a result, many of them develop less appreciation for pastoralism. Additionally, Ladakhi Changpa youths have more opportunities in government services, business, and other sectors, which pulls them away from pastoral life.

Changpas have historically been looked down upon by the people of Leh, viewed as “primitive” or “dirty” due to their way of living with animals. Education, once inaccessible due to the nomadic lifestyle, was previously an unaffordable luxury for Changpas. However, with the establishment of two residential schools in the region, education has become more accessible. Initially, Changpas with just an 8th-grade education were able to join the Indian Army with the Ladakh Scouts Regiment. Over time, the number of graduates increased, leading to greater job opportunities in both government and non-government sectors. This opened new doors for the Changpa community, bringing them closer to the aspirations of the Leh people and providing them with more secure livelihoods and stable lives.

However, this progress has also led to a growing disconnection from pastoralism. Today, few young people are engaged in pastoralism, except for those who were not sent to school. While these changes have undoubtedly improved lives, they have also created a divide between the older, pastoral generation and the younger, more education-oriented one. This shift has helped foster a sense of pride among the youth, as many now take on white-collar jobs across various sectors.

Externally, these changes are often seen as progress, and the opening of tourism in Changthang has played a significant role in transforming the landscape. The influx of tourists from other parts of Ladakh has led to greater commercial interest in the region, particularly around tourist attractions like Pangong Lake, Tsomoriri Lake, the Hanle Dark Sky, and Umling La. Approximately 70-80% of tourists visiting Ladakh come to Changthang. This exposure has increased interaction between the Changpa community and the broader Ladakhi population, further driving economic empowerment. Consequently, areas where tourism is more prominent have become more economically prosperous.

This economic empowerment has also led to a shift in how Changpa youth view their identity. A decade ago, many youths were hesitant to be called Changpa in front of their peers. Today, they are increasingly embracing their heritage, drawing inspiration from the words in Game of Thrones: “Never forget what you are. The rest of the world will not. Wear it like armor, and it can never be used to hurt you.”

However, despite these changes, pastoralism has seen a sharp decline. The way forward is a significant challenge for the youth of Changthang. I firmly believe that the region, with its rich biodiversity and vast landscapes, is ideally suited for pastoralism and animal farming as revenue-generating activities. If the youth take it up, they can continue the traditions of their parents, but with the added benefits of social and technological innovation.

For a long time, I have advocated for the use of drone shepherding as a technological intervention to ease pastoral work and make it a data-driven practice. Upon closer examination, I have come to realize that while pastoralism remains economically viable when the herd size exceeds 300, it is the social aspects of pastoralism that are pushing people away. The changing dynamics have made pastoralism less socially desirable, and in the long term, while the economic activity may persist, the social aspect of pastoralism is at risk.

The future of pastoralism in Changthang will require a blend of tradition and innovation, and it is the youth of today who must chart the course for this evolving landscape.

(The writer is a Project Head at Centre for Pastoralism. You can send your views and comment at [cham.tse300@gmail.com](mailto:cham.tse300@gmail.com))



Fortnightly News

...Continuity of page 4

People’s Voice: Protecting the wild soul of Ladakh: Voices against poaching

Ladakh’s high-altitude ecosystem. Their grazing helps prevent overgrowth of vegetation, their waste enhances soil fertility, and they act as natural seed dispersers, aiding in plant regeneration across the landscape. These seemingly small actions support the health of mountain grasslands and help regulate water flow, preventing erosion and reducing the risk of floods.

Protecting these animals is not just about conservation—it’s about preserving the balance of the entire ecosystem and securing Ladakh’s environmental future.



**Mohd Imran, Founder & Executive Member, WTOA Leh | Wildlife Filmmaker (Shan):**

The news of this poaching case has saddened not just wildlife conservationists, but also wildlife enthusiasts and filmmakers who have dedicated their lives to highlighting Ladakh’s unique natural heritage.

Through this platform, I would like to emphasize the urgent need for both government and non-governmental organisations to actively educate people about the importance of wildlife and ecological interdependence. Awareness is the key. Communities must understand not only why wildlife needs to be protected, but also how they can be part of that protection.

Animals do not belong to any religion—they are innocent, voiceless beings who suffer silently under human exploitation. This is where Ladakh’s youth can make a real difference. Young people in Kargil and across the region, who are passionate about nature, can lead awareness campaigns, organise workshops, conduct eco-tours, and create documentaries that inspire a shift in public perception.

If we fail to act now, continued poaching will push Ladakh’s already limited wildlife closer to extinction.

Departments working for wildlife protection must also strengthen their workforce, especially in vast and vulnerable areas. Recruitment tailored to regional needs will improve protection and monitoring efforts.

Furthermore, wildlife tourism in Kargil remains largely unexplored, offering an opportunity for the administration to promote sustainable tourism. Involving local youth and creating job opportunities in wildlife and ecotourism can offer an alternative narrative—one that fosters respect and pride in Ladakh’s natural heritage.

Just this past winter, Leh recorded around 1,000 to 1,200 tourists, many of whom visited specifically to witness iconic species like the Snow Leopard, Pallas’s Cat, Eurasian Lynx, and various birds. Kargil, too, holds immense potential for similar winter tourism experiences. However, poaching incidents like this are discouraging for wildlife lovers, naturalists, and spotters, threatening both conservation efforts and future tourism prospects.

It’s time we transform this setback into a turning point—one where awareness, accountability, and action go hand in hand to protect Ladakh’s wildlife for generations to come.



**Tsewang Dorjay Daya, President, Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club Leh (WCBCL):**

As a representative of a wildlife conservation organisation, I strongly believe it is time for the people of Ladakh to reflect on how far we’ve come in terms of lifestyle and access to resources. In the past, survival may have necessitated hunting due to the lack of accessible food. But today, with a wide variety of nutritious food products available to everyone, poaching is no longer necessary—nor is it justifiable.

Ladakh’s wildlife is its crown jewel—an ornament that defines our identity and natural heritage. These animals and birds are not just part of our ecosystem—they are vital to our existence. Humans depend on wildlife for ecological balance, and in many ways, our own survival is intricately tied to theirs.

The recent shooting of the Himalayan Ibex, a species protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, is deeply unfortunate. I urge the administration to take strict and timely action, ensuring that this case is not met with the same neglect and delays as many poaching incidents in the past.

That said, I commend the Ladakh Police, the Wildlife Department, and the vigilant informers who acted swiftly and responsibly. Their response sets a precedent, and it is now up to all of us—citizens, authorities, and institutions alike—to ensure that our wildlife is protected with dedication and seriousness.

The responsibility to safeguard Ladakh’s wildlife lies with each one of us. These creatures are not just part of our environment—they are part of our legacy, and they deserve our protection.



**Rigzen Norboo, Executive Member, Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club Leh (WCBCL); Wildlife Photographer & Naturalist:**

It is deeply regrettable to witness or even hear of poaching incidents, especially in a region like Ladakh, which has a fragile ecosystem and a limited, vulnerable wildlife population. Unfortunately, many of these cases go unrecorded or uninvestigated—often due to a lack of evidence or follow-through.

It is crucial that the concerned departments and higher authorities take swift and serious action on such cases to deter future incidents. Without strict enforcement and accountability, these crimes will continue unchecked.

One of the root issues is the public’s lack of awareness about the ecological importance of wildlife. Many people remain unaware that wildlife plays a critical role in maintaining the delicate balance of our ecosystem. This balance—this coexistence between humans and wildlife—is essential for our own survival.

When we disturb wildlife, we disturb the very systems that support human life. It’s time we realize that protecting wildlife is not just an environmental responsibility—it’s a human one.

CEC LAHDC Leh chairs key meeting on tourism regulation and infrastructure

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chairman/CEC of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a crucial meeting on April 11 at the Council Secretariat, focusing on the regulation, infrastructure, and funding aspects of tourism in Ladakh. The meeting saw the participation of key officials and stakeholders, including Vikram Singh Malik (IAS), Secretary of Tourism and Culture, UT Ladakh; Santosh Sukhadeve, Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC Leh; Tsering Namgyal, Leader of Opposition & Councillor; Kunzes Dolma, Director of Tourism; PT Kunzang, President of ALTA; Tsewang Dorje, President of ALTOA; and Tsering Norphel, President of the Nubra Hotel & Guest House Association.

The meeting served as a platform for stakeholders to raise important concerns regarding tourism regulation and infrastructure. A key proposal came from the President of ALTOA, who suggested that Ladakh Resident Certificates (LRC) be made mandatory for the registration of travel agents. This would align the registration process with existing requirements for Adventure and Mountaineering Tour Operators. Additionally, the meeting clarified that permits issued by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) for expeditions in Leh district would no longer be accepted.

Instead, only permits issued by the Assistant Director, Tourism Leh, through registered mountaineering tour operators will be valid for open peak expeditions.

In an effort to streamline tourism development and enhance stakeholder coordination, CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson proposed the formation of a Leh Tourism Promotion Society. This initiative aims to foster collaboration between various tourism stakeholders. The meeting also approved the introduction of a single-window registration system for Adventure Tour Operators (ATOs), Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs), and Travel Agents, ensuring a more unified and efficient process for all involved.

A significant concern raised by the meeting was the issue of vehicle congestion at high-altitude passes, particularly Khardung La and Chang La. To address this, it was decided that vehicles would no longer be allowed to halt for more than a few minutes at these locations, reducing both congestion and environmental impact. This measure is also expected to improve health safety, as the high-altitude environment can pose risks to tourists.

The Nubra Guesthouse Association raised an important point regarding



the lack of signage at key tourist spots. In response, it was decided that the Department of Tourism will initiate the installation of clear and aesthetically designed signboards at important locations such as major passes, villages, and road junctions. This will improve navigation and provide helpful information to visitors, enhancing their overall experience.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthening Ladakh’s tourism infrastructure and improving the regulatory framework to ensure sustainable and organized growth of the sector. CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government, tourism operators, and local communities to ensure that tourism development in Ladakh is both responsible and beneficial to all stakeholders.

Cultural splendor marks Apricot Blossom Festival in Garkhone



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**GARKHONE:** As part of the ongoing Apricot Blossom Festival 2025 (Chuli Mendok), the Department of Tourism, Kargil, hosted a vibrant cultural event on April 13 at Garkone village in Kargil, a region renowned for its apricot production.

The event was graced by Member of Parliament for Ladakh, Hanifa Jan, as the chief guest, with Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, serving as the guest of honour. Other distinguished attendees included Additional SP Kargil Nitin Yadav, nominated Councillor Regzin Gurmuth, former CEC Leh Gyal Wangyal, officers from the Indian Army, national and international tourists, video bloggers, folk artists, and enthusiastic local villagers.

In his address, MP Hanifa Jan highlighted the cultural and economic importance of the Chuli Mendok festival, particularly for Garkone and its surrounding villages, which are prominent apricot producers in the district. He expressed optimism that such festivals would promote a positive image of the region globally and attract more visitors.

MP Jan also urged the Tourism Department, Kargil, to develop a dedicated annual events calendar and expand the promotion of the festival. He emphasized that such celebrations not only bolster tourism but also foster unity, peace, and cultural harmony across the region. He assured full support for future festivals and thanked all dignitaries and tourists who contributed to the

event’s success.

Prof. Saket Kushwaha, in his speech, stressed the importance of academic research in the Aryan Valley, announcing that the Dard Aryan language would soon be introduced as a subject at the University of Ladakh. He encouraged youth involvement in preserving the cultural heritage and lauded the efforts of senior musicians and folk dancers for keeping the traditions alive. He also expressed hope for the continuation of such cultural events in the future.

The program featured a variety of colorful cultural performances by local artists and children, captivating the audience with their talent and enthusiasm. Earlier in the event, Councillor Regzin Gurmuth delivered the welcome address, thanking all guests and visitors for joining the celebration in the scenic Aryan Valley.

The Apricot Blossom Festival is being celebrated across Kargil district from April 11 to April 21, offering visitors a chance to experience the enchanting apricot bloom and explore a variety of apricot-based products. The festival’s schedule includes events at Sanjaq (April 11), Garkone (April 13), Hardass (April 15), Shilikchey (April 17), and Gongma Minji (April 19), culminating in Karkitchhu on April 21.

SDM Khaltse holds key meeting to regulate traffic and cleanliness in market area



SDM Khaltse, Mohd Sharief accompanied by the concerned officials and stakeholders, conducting field visit to key congestion points in the Khaltse Market.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KHALTSE:** With the onset of summer and a subsequent rise in traffic movement in the Khaltse Market area, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khaltse, Mohd Sharief, convened a meeting on April 9 with concerned officers and stakeholders to discuss effective measures for traffic regulation and cleanliness.

The meeting focused on streamlin-

ing traffic flow and maintaining hygiene in and around the market. It was unanimously decided that shopkeepers would no longer be allowed to park vehicles near their shops to reduce congestion.

The SDM directed officials to take proactive steps to ensure smooth vehicular movement and cleanliness. He emphasized the need for install-

ing speed limit signboards, regulating parking durations, designating specific parking zones, and using ‘No Parking’ stickers to improve traffic management.

Attendees included Station House Officer (SHO) Khaltse, Jamyany Namgail; Officer-in-Charge (OIC) 81 RCC GREF, Syam SV; Block Development Officer (BDO) Khaltse, Pankaj Rajput; Sub-Inspector, Police Station Khaltse, Skarma Angchok; Junior Engineer, GREF, Dhanukonda Dileep; Namberdar Khaltse, Stanzin Phurboo; President of the Merchant Association Khaltse, Thinles Dorjay; and Vice President, Rigzin Yangjor.

Following the meeting, the SDM, accompanied by the concerned officials and stakeholders, conducted a field visit to key congestion points in the Khaltse Market, including the taxi and private vehicle parking areas and the Segregation Centre, to assess on-ground challenges.

NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE FOR STATIONERY SHOP AT FIRE & FURY COMPLEX, LEH

1. Tender/Quotation are invited from prospective bidders for allotment of stationery shop at Fire & Fury complex, Leh based on priority as decided by IHQ of MoD (Army) and rebate offered.

2. Detailed terms and conditions to be obtained from HQ 406 Coy ASC (Pet) Unit (Mob No - 9654219204), before submission of Tender/Quotation.

3. Interested bidders may submit quotation on their letter head by 1700 hrs on 25 Apr 2025 along with a Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/Postal Order of Rs 2000/- (Refundable).



Fortnightly News

Awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma scheme held at Sankoo



Participants during the awareness programme on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** An awareness programme on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, a central sector initiative of the Government of India, was organised on April 10 at the PWD Dak Bungalow in Sankoo. The event was conducted by the District Industries Centre (DIC) Kargil, in collaboration with the District Panchayat Office Kargil, SLP-MU-PM Vishwakarma Team, and JK Bank.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and facilitate instant loan approvals under the scheme for eligible beneficiaries.

The event was attended by Mudasir Rahowf Wani, Functional Manager, DIC Kargil; Yousef, Tehsildar Sankoo; BDO Sankoo; Lobzang, IPO DIC Kargil; SLP-MU-PM Vishwakarma team members Aruni Kumar

Raja and Sheikh Jahan Zaib; Sheikh Jahan Zaib, Nodal Officer for the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in Sankoo, Trespone, Taisuru, and Saliskote blocks; and representatives from JK Bank branches of Sankoo, Taisuru, Trespone, and Saliskote, along with PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries.

During the programme, Functional Manager Mudasir Rahowf Wani welcomed the guests and provided an informative overview of the PM Vishwakarma, PMEGR, and PMFME schemes.

SLPMU team members Aruni Kumar Raja and Sheikh Jahan Zaib delivered a detailed presentation on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, covering key components such as registration, skill upgradation, provision of modern toolkits, collateral-free credit support, and marketing assistance for artisans.

Representatives from JK Bank also shared insights into the bank's role in supporting the scheme, highlighting the loan process and financial assistance available to beneficiaries.

A major highlight of the event was the approval of loans for 15 artisans, demonstrating the scheme's on-ground impact. The programme saw an enthusiastic participation of over 250 artisans from the Sub Division Sankoo.

Kargil's Shahnaz Parveen gears up for World University Championship in Germany



International Taekwondo Player and State Awardee Shahnaz Parveen with Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shrikant Suse.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** International Taekwondo player and State Awardee, Shahnaz Parveen, met Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Shrikant Suse, at his office in Baroo on April 4, following her selection for the prestigious World University Taekwondo Championship scheduled to be held in Germany.

DC Kargil congratulated Parveen on her remarkable achievement, noting with pride that she is the only woman from the Union Territory of Ladakh to be selected for this international championship—for the second time. He assured her of all possible support from the District Administration and commended her dedication and determination in representing Kargil, Ladakh, and the nation at the global level.

During the meeting, Parveen expressed her gratitude to the DC for his proactive efforts in promoting sports in the region. She also highlighted the financial challenges faced by aspiring athletes from Kargil and urged for sustained institutional support, especially for talented players who bring recognition to Ladakh and India despite limited resources.

Later, Parveen met with the Joint Director of Sports, UT Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi, at the Council Secretariat, Kargil. She conveyed her heartfelt appreciation for his consistent encouragement and lauded the Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, for its efforts in nurturing talent and fostering a strong sports culture across the region.

Awareness drive on nutrition and kitchen gardening held at KVK Zanskar



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

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kargil-II, Zanskar successfully organized an awareness-cum-exhibition program at its premises as part of the 7th Poshan Pakhwada, observed from April 8 to 22, 2025, in response to a communication from ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi.

The event saw active participation from two supervisors and 51 Anganwadi Workers representing 51 ICDS Centres from Zanskar and Karsha blocks. The program was formally inaugurated with a welcome address by Dawa.

Delivering the keynote session, Dr. Mohammad Mehdi, Chief Scientist, spoke extensively on the nutritional value of locally grown fruits, vegetables, pulses, and cereals, encouraging their integration into traditional diets. He emphasized the benefits of value addition and advocated for the chemical-free, scientific cultivation of nutrient-rich crops in kitchen gardens.

Participants were also given practical tips on preparing nutritious and affordable meals, followed by an

exposure visit to the Nutri-Garden developed on the KVK campus. Detailed discussions were held on the establishment of similar Nutri-Gardens at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).

Padma Choton, Supervisor, speaking on behalf of the CDPO, ICDS Zanskar, expressed heartfelt appreciation to the KVK team for organizing the much-needed awareness program. She noted that such sessions were crucial as many field workers previously lacked awareness on these critical issues.

In alignment with ICAR's directives, KVK Kargil-II initiated various activities during the 7th Poshan Pakhwada 2025, including promotion of Sustainable Poshan Vatikas (Nutri-Gardens) around AWCs, expert-led sessions on diet diversity, and distribution of Beneficiary/Citizen Modules to enhance nutrition literacy at the grassroots level.

This initiative forms part of a broader national mission to improve nutrition and health awareness, especially among rural women and children, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.

CEC Kargil meets CDS General Anil Chauhan, seeks resolution of key district issues



Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, met with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan in New Delhi on April 4 to discuss key developmental and strategic concerns of the Kargil district.

During the meeting, Dr. Akhooon submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting various long-pending demands and sought the intervention of the CDS for their resolution.

One of the primary issues raised was the allocation of a dedicated quota for youth from Kargil in the Ladakh Scouts, along with the need for a special recruitment drive in the paramilitary forces. He cited a recent instance where aspirants from Kargil were denied participation in an ITBP recruitment drive and called for immediate measures to ensure equal opportunities for the region's youth.

Dr. Akhooon also emphasized the urgent need for the evacuation of the Kurbathang Plateau—currently under the control of defence authorities—to enable the expansion of Kargil town. He noted that the scarcity of civilian land has resulted in urban congestion and limited infrastructure development. He appealed to the CDS to facilitate the transfer of the plateau to the civil administration by taking up the

matter with the Ministry of Defence.

The CEC further proposed the establishment of a Mountain Defence Studies Research Centre in Kargil, considering the significance of the Kargil War Memorial in Drass as a major patriotic and tourist destination. The centre, he said, would honour the sacrifices of soldiers and promote research in high-altitude and mountain warfare.

Additionally, Dr. Akhooon advocated for a Joint Venture Flight Service for both civilians and the Army. He highlighted the critical challenges faced by civilians due to poor air connectivity, particularly during winter months, and encouraged the CDS to explore the possibility of a shared flight service to enhance accessibility in the region.

General Anil Chauhan responded positively and assured that the concerns of the people of Kargil would be taken up with the relevant authorities. He acknowledged the region's strategic and developmental importance and expressed willingness to coordinate with the Ministry of Defence on the raised issues.

Later, CEC Kargil expressed gratitude to the CDS for his assurance and conveyed hope for early resolution of the longstanding demands of the people of Kargil.

Prices of vegetables, fruits, dairy products & flowers fixed for 2025 in Leh



Additional Deputy Commissioner of Leh, Ghulam Mohd (JKAS) discussing reasonable rates for vegetables, fruits, dairy products, and flowers for the 2025 season.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** In an effort to regulate prices and maintain market stability, the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Leh, Ghulam Mohd (JKAS), convened a meeting on April 7 to discuss and fix reasonable rates for vegetables, fruits, dairy products, and flowers for the 2025 season.

The meeting was attended by key officials and stakeholders, including the Additional Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Director of FCS&CA, and other concerned officers.

During the session, the current rates of vegetables, fruits, and dairy products were reviewed in the presence of all stakeholders. A special committee was

constituted to monitor the roadside sale of vegetables and flowers. The committee was also instructed to restrict sales on highways to avoid inconvenience to both motorists and vendors.

Officials stressed the importance of vendors prominently displaying official rate lists to ensure transparency and fair trade practices.

The primary objective of the meeting was to set fair and reasonable prices for essential commodities, ensuring benefits for both consumers and sellers. By streamlining pricing and market conduct, the administration aims to foster a smooth and efficient trading environment in Leh.

World Health Day observed with free medical camp at District Court complex, Kargil



During the free medical camp at the District Court Complex, Baroo, on World Health Day.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kargil, in collaboration with the Block Medical Office, Kargil, observed World Health Day by organizing a free medical camp at the District Court Complex, Baroo, on April 7.

A total of approximately 120 individuals availed themselves of the health services provided during the camp. Around 110 samples were collected for various diagnostic tests. Additionally, 20 women underwent breast cancer screening, of which three were referred to the District Hospital for further evaluation. Approximately 70 individuals were screened for dental issues and oral cancer, while 34 people availed of vision and cataract check-ups.

The camp was inaugurated by Spalzes Angmo, Principal District and Sessions Judge Kargil, who also serves as the Chairperson of DLSA Kargil, in the presence of Wangial Tsering, Chief Judicial Magistrate Kargil; Chemit Yurgyal, Secretary DLSA Kargil; members of the Bar Association Kargil, Prose-

cuting Officers, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, court staff, and members of the general public.

The medical team, led by Dr. Mohd. Ali Wazir, Dr. Urooj Khan, and Dr. Shujat Ali, included lab assistants and paramedical staff who ensured smooth execution of various medical services.

The camp offered a wide range of tests, including: CBC, Hemoglobin, Random Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure, LFT & KFT, Urine Routine Test, Oral Cancer Screening, TB/AFB Sputum Test, Breast Cancer Screening, Dental Consultation, Vision Test, Cataract Screening, Uric Acid, HBsAg, Sodium (Na), Potassium (K), and HbA1c.

DLSA Kargil extended heartfelt gratitude to the Health Department Kargil, especially Dr. Karcho Liaqat Ali Khan, CMO Kargil, and Dr. Abdul Jalil Wani, BMO Kargil, for their unwavering support and for providing the necessary medical facilities for the successful conduct of the camp.

NOTICE

**I, Rigzin Gurmet S/o Stanzin Yangjor R/o Skampari Leh UT Ladakh Prop M/s Mikza Adventure & Tours wants to change the registration in the name of Diskit Angmo W/o Stanzin Choldan R/o Shenam , Leh UT Ladakh . If anyone has objection please contact Assistant Director Tourism Leh within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.**

NOTICE

**Whereas Anyayetullah F/o Zainab Inayat R/o Taksi, Nubra, Leh UT Ladakh has claim that his name has been wrongly recorded as Inayat Ullah in Birth Certificate of his daughter which is issued by SDH Nobra Diskit on 26-05-2023 with Registration No. B-2023: 38-00015-000077 and now he has applied for the change of name in Birth Certificate. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office of SDH Nobra Diskit within 7 days from date of publication.**

NOTICE

**I, Mukhtar Ali, S/o Mohammad Abdullah, R/o Chuchot Shamma, Leh, UT Ladakh, intend to renew my B-Class Electrical Contractor License bearing License No. 0050/2021. Any objection regarding the renewal of my license may be submitted to the Chief Engineer, Power Development Department (PDD), Leh, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.**



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 Choglamsar, Leh that Shri. Deldan Namgyal S/o Phuntsog Wangchok R/o Sakti, Leh Ladakh has applied for liquor license LAEL-4 (License for retail vend of beer in a Bar & Restaurant) under the name & style Tsayshey Café at Choglamsar, Leh-Manali National Highway, 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.



Excise Range Leh-Kargil


No: ETO/LEH/2024-25/448  
Dated: 20-03-2025

NOTICE

**An application has been received from Mohd Salim Jan S/o Mohd Ayub Jan R/o Choglamsar UT Ladakh to transfer the vehicle No. LA 02 2443 owned by Tsering Sandup S/o Lobzang Thinles R/o Murtse Leh UT Ladakh. Now, it is therefore notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) within a period of 10 days from date of publication of this notice.**


**No: ARTO/ Leh/ UTL/2024-25/418-19 Asstt. Regional Transport Officer  
Date: 08-02-25 Leh Ladakh**

NOTICE



**I, Sheering Murup S/o Punchok Tashi, R/o Spituk, District Leh UT Ladakh, declares that my spouse name has been wrongly entered as Chhawang Palkit instead of actual and correct name Chawang Dolma and also my father's name has been wrongly entered as Punchok Tashi instead of actual and correct name Punchok Tashi in my passport bearing Number R7476247 date of issue 10-01-2018 having validity upto 09-01-2028. I'm 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.**

NOTICE



**I, Chawang Dolma W/o Sheering Murup, R/o Spituk, District Leh UT Ladakh, declares that my name has been wrongly entered as Chhawang Dolma instead of actual and correct name Chawang Dolma and also my spouse name has been wrongly entered as Tsering Murup instead of actual and correct name Sheering Murup in my passport bearing Number R7474483 date of issue 08-01-2018 having validity upto 07-01-2028. I'm 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.**



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