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MAY 16-31, 2026

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



**In Conversation with**  
Thenlay Nurboo: From Changthang to Brazil, A Journey of Yak Churpi and Tradition

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## From Rescue to Rehabilitation: Chamba Animal Care centre offers hope to injured dogs in Ladakh

*Spread across 12.5 acres, the facility combines animal care with compassion rooted in spiritual values*



Photo Caption: Ven. Chamba Norphel, Member of the Chamba Animal Care Centre spending time with the dogs at shelter.

By: **Stanzin Dasal**

**THIKSEY:** Amid growing concerns over Ladakh's rising street dog population and increasing cases of injured animals on highways, the Chamba Animal Care Centre has emerged as a major rescue and rehabilitation center for vulnerable dogs in the region.

in pain," said Phuntsog Wangial, Founding President of the Chamba Animal Care Centre. He said rescued dogs are transported to private and government veterinary facilities for treatment and rehabilitation. "While healthy and sterilized dogs are returned to their original territories, animals unable to survive on the streets remain under permanent care at the shelter," he said.

Wangial added that the facility includes a retirement section for elderly dogs, special rehabilitation spaces for paralyzed animals, quarantine units for dogs infected with Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), and separate recovery pens for sick or sterilized dogs.

Most dogs roam freely across the shelter's 12.5-acre campus, while special-needs animals are cared for in protected areas designed for comfort and recovery.

Ven.Chamba Norphel, Member of the Chamba Animal Care Centre, said the dogs are fed twice daily with a mixture of lentils, rice, soy

protein, and dry dog food.

"The center currently relies heavily on donations to sustain its operations," he said.

Phuntsog Wangial stressed that addressing Ladakh's stray dog issue requires collective efforts from all stakeholders, including government departments, the administration, NGOs, and local communities.

"Without everyone's support, it is not easy for animal care centers in Leh to work individually," he said, adding that the shelter currently bears a monthly expenditure of nearly Rs 4.5 lakh.

He also appealed to people to stop abandoning dogs from one locality to another, saying the practice disrupts sterilization efforts and often leads to attacks by territorial dogs.

"Such inhumane activity should stop," Wangial said.

Speaking about compassion and animal welfare, Lauren Rathvon from America, who has been visiting Ladakh regularly since 2010 and is working as an Executive Member of Chamba Animal Care Society said compassion toward animals is deeply connected to spiritual practice.

"The Buddha teaches that this one precious human life is rare because we humans get the opportunity to practice compassion," Rathvon said. "The people of Ladakh are already very compassionate, and some of the greatest Buddhist masters were tested through their compassion for dogs."

Referring to Buddhist teachings, Rathvon said the Mahasiddha Kukkuripa chose compassion for his dog over heavenly rewards, while the Buddhist scholar Asanga was willing to remove maggots from a suffering dog with his own tongue to avoid harming the tiny creatures "These examples show that how we treat animals is not separate from our spiritual practice — it is our spiritual practice," he said.

Rathvon also emphasized that compassion toward animals is a shared value across religions. "In Islam, offering water to a thirsty dog is considered worthy of divine mercy. In Hinduism, the divine is present in all beings, and Jainism teaches ahimsa, or nonviolence, as the highest dharma," he said.

"The way we treat the voiceless and vulnerable reflects who we are as human beings," Rathvon added. "The dogs of Ladakh ask us one question — are we serious about our compassion practice?"

As Ladakh grapples with the growing challenge of stray dogs and injured animals, the work being carried out at the Chamba Animal Care Centre highlights both the scale of the crisis and the importance of compassion-driven action. Shelter members say long-term solutions will require stronger coordination between authorities, animal welfare groups, and local communities to ensure humane treatment, effective sterilization, and safer conditions for both animals and residents across the region.

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## Fortnightly News

### Interfaith conference held at MIMC to promote peace, harmony and human flourishing



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A meaningful gathering of spiritual leaders, scholars, and delegates was held at the Mahabodi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Choglamsar, during an Interfaith Conference organised under the theme "Sacred Wisdom for a Compassionate World: Interfaith Paths to Peace, Harmony and Human Flourishing" on May 8.

The conference was organised as part of the Sacred Grand Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata Buddha and reflected the shared message of peace, compassion, and harmony across different faith traditions. The programme served as a reminder that true peace begins within oneself, while harmony among communities grows through mutual respect, understanding, and compassion.

The event commenced with a traditional welcome and offering of khataks, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the holy lamp and a multi-faith invocation.

In his welcome address, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder President and Spiritual Director of MIMC, expressed gratitude to all religious leaders, dignitaries, and participants for attending the conference. He highlighted the importance of interfaith unity and said such dialogues are essential for promoting compassion, harmony, and peaceful coexistence in society.

Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra (IAS), in his special address, stated that the interfaith dialogue held in connection with the Holy Relics Exposition was deeply meaningful, as more than 65,000 devotees had already received blessings. He said visitors carried the spirit of peace and compassion, while Ladakh continues to remain a unique example where followers of different religions live together with mutual respect.

He added that despite being a border region, Ladakh has always remained peaceful and stands as an inspiration for the world. The Chief Secretary further underlined that all religions promote equality, harmony, and inner peace, and such values must continue to guide society even as development progresses.

The Chief Guest, His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche, while addressing the gathering, emphasised that many people in the 21st century feel confused, lost, and engaged in conflict. He said it is the responsibility of spiritual leaders to guide society and stressed that this is a time not only for teachings but also for action. He highlighted that although religions may differ in philosophy and teachings, they ultimately lead towards harmony, compassion, and peace. He further

stated that India's diversity stands as a strong example of unity, while Ladakh remains a living model of interfaith coexistence for the world.

Recalling Ladakh's long history of mutual respect among communities, particularly between Buddhists and Muslims, he stressed that youth must learn and understand these values through schools and colleges. He also appealed to religious leaders to continue guiding society and working collectively for harmony and peace.

Thuksey Rinpoche appreciated the efforts of Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena towards Ladakh and expressed hope for continued contributions in the future. President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Leh, Chering Dorjay, also spoke on the occasion and expressed gratitude to the UT Administration, Ministry of Culture, and Government of India for organising the sacred exposition and interfaith programme.

He said Ladakh has always upheld the values of harmony and compassion and described the construction of a Gonpa in Kargil as a significant achievement and a symbol of communal harmony. He also cautioned that certain forces attempt to divide communities and welcomed religious leaders from across the country to Ladakh to further strengthen unity and mutual understanding.

The conference also featured technical sessions on themes such as "Spiritual Foundations of Compassion and Peace" and "Interfaith Harmony, Social Justice and Global Responsibility."

Prominent speakers included H.H. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, H.H. Goswami Sushil Ji Maharaj, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Sulekha Kumbhare, Sardar Paramjeet Singh Chandok, Dr. Sheikh Hasnain Ladakhi, Rev. Dechen Chagma, Anil Kumar Jain, Dr. Gopi Krishna Pitadala, Dr. A.K. Merchant, and Rajyogini Dr. Binny Sareen.

The sessions concluded with reflections, open discussions, and a chair's summary.

The programme concluded with a rapporteur's summary, delegate reflections, vote of thanks, and a multi-faith dedication, followed by a cultural performance by students of MIMC and felicitation of speakers and religious leaders.

Administrative Secretary, Tourism & Culture, UT Ladakh, Sanjit Rodrigues (IAS), presented mementos to the dignitaries in recognition of their contributions towards interfaith harmony and world peace.

### Chief Secretary reviews Leh old town upgradation and beautification plan



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra chaired a meeting on May 11 to review the proposed upgradation and beautification works for Leh Old Town aimed at enhancing the heritage value, public infrastructure, and overall visitor experience in the historic area.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the stage-wise

implementation of various components of the project, including streetscape improvement, heritage lighting, installation of uniform signage, facade enhancement, pedestrian-friendly pathways, and overall urban beautification measures. The meeting also focused on maintaining the architectural and cultural identity of the Old Town while ensuring modern amenities and im-

proved civic infrastructure.

Discussions were also held on improving accessibility, maintaining cleanliness, regulating visual aesthetics, and creating a more organised and attractive environment for residents and tourists alike.

Officials briefed the Chair on the current status of planning, design proposals, and the phased approach for execution of works. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to ensure that the developmental initiatives are carried out sustainably while preserving the unique heritage character and traditional essence of Leh Old Town.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary ULB, Shurbir Singh; Secretary, PWD, Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary; Secretary, Moses Kunzang, Deputy Commissioner/Director ULB, Romil Singh Donk, Chief Engineer, PWD, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee; and other senior officers from the concerned departments.

### Drikung Dharma Foundation leads eco initiative with 2,100 cherry trees



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurating the plantation of 2,100 cherry saplings at the Drikung Dharma Foundation in Phyang.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**PHYANG:** With an aim to conserve the environment and promote sustainable development in Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, on May 10 inaugurated the plantation of 2,100 cherry saplings at the Drikung Dharma Foundation in Phyang.

The plantation drive was organised as part of a green initiative undertaken by the Drikung Dharma Foundation in collaboration with the SankalpTaru Foundation under the guidance and inspiration of His Holiness Drikung Skyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant

Governor described the mass plantation drive as a significant step towards securing Ladakh's future and preserving its fragile ecosystem. Exhorting the people of Ladakh to actively participate in plantation drives and environmental conservation activities, Lieutenant Governor Saxena also announced a new public participation programme under which every family in Ladakh would be encouraged to plant at least 10 saplings and ensure their survival. Families with the highest survival rate of planted trees would be recognised and awarded.

Since assuming charge as the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Vi-

nai Kumar Saxena has been working extensively to increase plantation drives across the region by introducing different species of trees and plants suited to Ladakh's climatic conditions. These efforts are aimed at enhancing green cover, combating environmental degradation, and developing Ladakh into a sustainable and eco-friendly region.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Ladakh's fragile ecosystem requires extensive plantation efforts to address environmental challenges and secure the future of coming generations. He stated that nature-based solutions are key to tackling environmental concerns and noted that the plantation of cherry saplings marks a new initiative in Ladakh aimed at introducing diverse plant species suitable for the region.

Lieutenant Governor Saxena informed that more than 8,000 saplings have already been planted across Ladakh since he assumed office and said that the plantation of 2,100 cherry saplings is another important milestone towards enhancing the green cover and enriching Ladakh's floral diversity.

Saxena lauded the efforts of the Drikung Dharma Foundation for its continued contribution towards environmental protection and social welfare and appreciated the Foundation's plantation drives across different parts of Ladakh.

### Judicial Inquiry Commission examines 93 witnesses so far



Photo Caption: Joint Secretary, Judicial Inquiry Commission, Rigzin Spalgon.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** A press briefing was held on May 8 by Joint Secretary, Judicial Inquiry Commission, Rigzin Spalgon regarding the progress of the ongoing judicial

inquiry into the incident that occurred on September 24, 2025, conducted under the Justice (Retd.) B.S. Chauhan, Chairman of the Inquiry Commission; Retired District & Sessions Judge, Mohan Singh Parihar, Judicial Secretary; and Counsel to the Commission, Adv. Himanshu Sharma.

The briefing focused on the follow-up actions and proceedings undertaken by the Inquiry Commission so far. Addressing the media, Joint Secretary Rigzin Spalgon informed that a total of 93 witnesses have been examined up to the third session of the inquiry.

He further stated that an additional 13 witnesses are yet to be examined during the ongoing fourth session.

He expressed hope that the current session would likely be the final phase of the inquiry process. The Commission, he said, has been carrying out the proceedings in a transparent and systematic manner to ensure a fair and comprehensive investigation into the matter.

### Thai Ambassador visits MIMC Leh, reaffirms support for Ladakh-Thailand Buddhist ties



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Her Excellency Chavanart Thangsumphant, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand to India, paid an official visit to the Mahabodi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) on May 5, marking her maiden visit to both the Union Territory of Ladakh and the MIMC Devachan Campus.

Upon her arrival at the MIMC Sambodhi Yoga and Meditation Retreat Centre, the Ambassador was accorded a traditional welcome by members of the Devachan family led by Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena. She was hosted for breakfast before undertaking an extensive tour of the 250-acre Devachan Campus.

During the visit, Her Excellency toured several key

institutions within the campus, including the MIMC Buddha Park for World Peace, the Maitri Geriatric Home, the MIMC Residential School, and the Karuna Charitable Hospital. The visit provided her with first-hand insight into the spiritual, educational, and humanitarian initiatives being undertaken by MIMC.

In his interaction with the Ambassador, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena highlighted the longstanding relationship between MIMC and the Thai Buddhist community. He recalled several important milestones in the partnership, including the participation of Thai cultural troupes in the International Festival of Buddhist Heritage of Ladakh, the annual Pad Yatra undertaken by more than 200 Sangha members from Thailand from Dharamsala to Leh, and the observance of the Royal Kathina Ceremony, among other collaborations supported by successive Thai Ambassadors to India.

Her Excellency expressed appreciation for the efforts of Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena in promoting the teachings of Lord Buddha in Ladakh and across the world. She acknowledged the deep Buddhist connection between Ladakh and Thailand and conveyed her wholehearted support for further strengthening the enduring cultural and spiritual ties between the two regions.

The visit marks an important step towards deepening bilateral engagement through shared spiritual heritage and reinforcing the longstanding bond between the people of Ladakh and the Thai Buddhist community.

### Chief Secretary reviews preparations for International Day of Yoga 2026 in Ladakh



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra reviewing preparations for the upcoming International Day of Yoga 2026 celebrations in Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra on May 11 chaired a meeting to review preparations for the upcoming International Day of Yoga 2026 celebrations in Ladakh.

The meeting focused on planning a week-long series of yoga activities across various locations in the region, culminating in the main event scheduled to be held on June 21 at the Mahabodi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Leh.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and coordination for the successful conduct of the large-scale event. He directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to undertake all necessary repair and maintenance works, including proper levelling and improvement of infrastructure at the MIMC venue to ensure smooth movement and convenience for participants.

He further instructed the concerned departments to assess the tentative number of participants and finalize venues for yoga activities to be conducted at various locations across Ladakh. Special emphasis was laid on organizing parallel yoga events in Nubra, Changthang and other remote areas, while maintaining Leh as the primary focus for the main celebration.

The meeting also discussed participation from students, monks, nuns, government officials, yoga practitioners and delegations expected to attend the week-long programme and the main event on June 21.

President of Mahabodi International Meditation Centre, Bhikkhu Sanghasena, informed the meeting that the venue at MIMC has the capacity to accommodate approximately 7,000 to 10,000 participants and assured that adequate arrangements for public convenience would be made.

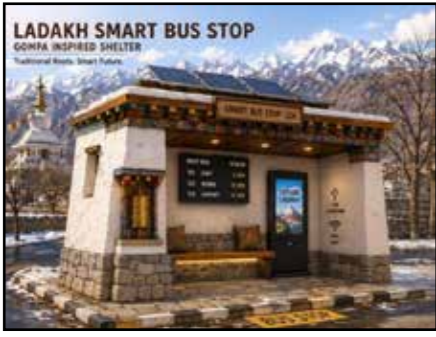
Highlighting the significance of the event, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioner Leh to prepare a comprehensive schedule for the week-long yoga celebrations, including high-altitude yoga sessions and associated activities leading up to June 21. He stressed the need for detailed planning at MIMC and instructed that the finalized proposal be submitted to the Lieutenant Governor for further approval. He also noted that the event holds immense importance at the national level.

Among those who attended the meeting were Bhikkhu Sanghasena, President MIMC; Secretary, PWD, Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary; Secretary, PHE/I&FC, Shurbir Singh; Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Moses Kunzang; Deputy Commissioner Leh; Chief Engineer; Medical Director; and other concerned officers.

## Fortnightly News

### L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena approves 30 Ladakhi smart bus shelters in Leh

*Gonpa-inspired shelters to feature heated seating, Wi-Fi, solar power, and real-time passenger information systems.*



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Urban public transport infrastructure in Ladakh is set for a major transformation with the introduction of unique Ladakhi Smart Bus Shelters that will combine modern passenger-friendly amenities with Ladakh's distinctive cultural architecture.

Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, has approved the construction of 30 Ladakhi Smart Bus Shelters in Leh. Architecturally inspired by traditional Ladakhi Gonpas, these bus shelters will feature GPS-enabled real-time bus information systems, heated seating, Wi-Fi connectivity, CCTV surveillance, solar power facilities, and SOS emergency response buttons. The project will be implemented by the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (SIDCO).

At present, the existing bus stops in Leh lack adequate shelter, comfortable seating, protection from extreme weather conditions, and modern passenger amenities. The new smart bus shelters aim to address these gaps by providing safe and comfortable waiting spaces along with enhanced safety mechanisms.

The project will incorporate traditional Ladakhi architectural elements, including Shingtsak woodwork, decorative finishes, traditional Pentsak paintings, mud plastering, lime whitewashing, prayer wheel installations, and artistic wall murals.

The smart bus shelters will also be equipped with advanced Intelligent Transport System (ITS) and ICT-enabled facilities, including 55-inch Passenger Information Display Systems (PIDS), secondary LED display boards, GPS-

based real-time bus tracking systems, cloud-based Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) software, Wi-Fi connectivity, CCTV surveillance systems, and SOS emergency response buttons.

Additional passenger amenities will include mobile and laptop charging stations, first aid kits, emergency oxygen cylinders, fire safety systems, seating arrangements, and tactile tiles for visually impaired passengers.

Each bus shelter will also incorporate a 2 kWp solar photovoltaic system with battery storage and hybrid inverter systems, along with grid connectivity provisions, helping reduce carbon emissions and dependence on conventional energy sources.

The project was conceptualised by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared on his directions in response to the growing demand for efficient and comfortable public transport infrastructure in Leh, which serves as a major tourist destination and regional hub.

"The initiative aims to transform public transport infrastructure in Leh by creating modern, sustainable, and people-centric urban infrastructure while preserving Ladakh's unique cultural and architectural identity. The Ladakhi Smart Bus Shelters will not only enhance public transport facilities and passenger comfort, especially during extreme winters, but will also serve as a model for climate-responsive and eco-friendly infrastructure development in high-altitude regions," said LG Saxena.

One of the major highlights of the project is the incorporation of heated seating, thermally insulated walls and roofs, and wind-protected enclosures, which will significantly benefit passengers during the harsh winter months when temperatures in Ladakh frequently fall below freezing point.

The project seeks to improve passenger convenience, encourage greater use of public transport, and promote sustainable urban mobility solutions in a high-altitude and climate-sensitive region.

### L-G Saxena approves 500 KWp solar plant at NDS Ice Hockey Rink in Leh

*Project aims to strengthen Ladakh's green energy goals and support development of world-class winter sports infrastructure*



Photo Caption: NDS Ice Hockey Rink in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Union Territory of Ladakh is set to witness a unique integration of renewable energy and modern sports infrastructure, with Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena approving the installation of a solar power plant atop the NDS Ice Hockey Rink in Leh.

The 500 KWp on-grid Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Plant will be installed on the rooftop of the NDS Ice Hockey Rink at an estimated cost of Rs 2.38 crore. The project will be developed under the Special Development Package (SDP) of the Youth Services and Sports Department, UT Ladakh.

The initiative marks a significant step towards promoting renewable energy and sustainable sports infrastructure in Ladakh and is expected to serve as a model for integrating clean energy solutions into public infrastructure projects across the Union Territory.

Under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, the Administration has been actively promoting solar energy and other sustainable initiatives in line with its broader objectives of environmental protection, clean energy transition, and sustainable development in Ladakh.

"The installation of the rooftop solar plant at the NDS Ice Hockey Rink is an important step towards integrating clean energy solutions with modern sports infrastructure. As Ladakh moves towards becoming a carbon-neutral and

environmentally sustainable region, such initiatives will help reduce the carbon footprint while promoting green and energy-efficient development. At the same time, the project reflects our commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and creating world-class facilities for the youth of Ladakh," said Lieutenant Governor Saxena.

Ladakh, being an ecologically sensitive Himalayan region, requires sustainable and climate-responsive infrastructure development. The installation of the Solar Photovoltaic Plant at the NDS Ice Hockey Rink will not only harness the region's abundant sunlight but also contribute towards reducing carbon emissions and strengthening Ladakh's efforts to emerge as a carbon-neutral region.

The initiative forms part of the UT Administration's broader vision to develop environmentally sustainable and modern infrastructure while reducing dependence on conventional energy sources. The rooftop SPV plant is expected to significantly reduce electricity consumption costs and promote clean energy usage at the state-of-the-art ice hockey facility.

The Ice Hockey Rink in Leh has already emerged as a major venue for national-level winter sporting events and has successfully hosted the prestigious Khelo India Winter Games for three consecutive years. Plans are also underway to make the facility operational throughout the year.

### Admn Secretary Bhanu Prabha inaugurates Govt Middle School Skurbuchan as Ladakh Model School



Photo Caption: Administrative Secretary, School Education Department (SED), UT Ladakh, Bhanu Prabha (IAS) inaugurating Government Middle School Skurbuchan as Ladakh Model Middle School Skurbuchan.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**SKURBUCHAN:** Administrative Secretary, School Education Department (SED), UT Ladakh, Bhanu Prabha (IAS), on May 9 inaugurated Government Middle School Skurbuchan as Ladakh Model Middle School Skurbuchan during a grand ceremony held in the presence of Deputy Commissioner, Sham District, Kunzes Angmo (JKAS).

The event was attended by Director, Health Department, Dr. Tashi Thinlas; District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Leh, Phunstog Dorje; Nodal Officer, Ladakh Model School, Chamba Stander; ZEO Khaltse, Nawang Namgial; Village Education Committee (VEC) Chairman, Lhundup Dorje; Goba of Skurbuchan village, Tsering Paldan, along with staff, parents, students, and members of the local community.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by a vibrant cultural programme presented by the school,

featuring traditional dances performed by students, teachers, and parents. Students also showcased performances on various Ladakhi songs, making the celebration a memorable occasion for all present. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries congratulated the school on its elevation as a Model School and appreciated the efforts of the staff, students, and the local community in strengthening the institution.

Addressing the gathering, Administrative Secretary Bhanu Prabha said it was a proud and happy day for the department to inaugurate the institution as a Model School. Highlighting the rich legacy of the school, she noted that the institution has produced distinguished alumni and expressed hope that future students would continue to take the school's reputation to greater heights.

During her visit, the Administrative Secretary also inspected several educational institutions across the Sham area, in-

cluding Government Middle School Saspol, Higher Secondary School Skurbuchan, Government High School Dhomkar Dho, and PM SHRI Government Middle School Takmachik. At all the schools, she reviewed the available infrastructure facilities and assessed the overall functioning of the institutions. She interacted with parents, Village Education Committee members, teachers, and school heads to understand the challenges being faced by the schools.

At Government Middle School Saspol, she inspected the status of the school building at its new location, while at Higher Secondary School Skurbuchan, she reviewed the progress of the new school building under construction.

During her visit to Government High School Dhomkar Dho, she also planted an apple sapling with a student to mark the school's inclusion as a Model School.

The Administrative Secretary held detailed interactions with staff, parents, and students at the institutions and sought feedback regarding the functioning of the schools, infrastructural and academic requirements, and various challenges being faced by them.

She assured that the department remains committed to strengthening educational facilities and addressing genuine concerns for the betterment of students and schools across the region.

### LG Vinai Kumar Saxena inspects Pashmina Dehairing plant in Leh

*Reiterates vision to make Ladakh a global Pashmina hub*



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, on May 11 inspected the Pashmina Dehairing Plant located at the Industrial Area in Leh and reviewed the functioning of the facility along with the various stages involved in processing raw pashmina fibre sourced from Changthang.

During the inspection, officials from the Sheep Husbandry Department, Cooperatives Department, Industries & Commerce Department and the All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the functioning of the plant and the processes involved in converting raw pashmina into fine-quality dehaired fibre.

Saxena directed officials to explore the possibility of utilising coarse fibre for manufacturing products such as rugs and carpets, which have significant market demand and can generate additional livelihood opportunities for local communities. He also stressed the need to focus on spinning and yarn production of pashmina fibre and directed that entrepreneurs be provided training to build their capacities in this sector.

arates the fine pashmina fibre from coarse fibre.

Reiterating his vision to establish Ladakh as a global hub for the finest quality pashmina, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised the need to ensure greater recognition and economic benefits for the nomadic herders and pastoral communities of Changthang engaged in pashmina production. He said that strengthening local processing, improving quality standards and promoting value addition within Ladakh would significantly enhance the livelihoods of pashmina growers while preserving the region's traditional heritage.

Saxena directed officials to explore the possibility of utilising coarse fibre for manufacturing products such as rugs and carpets, which have significant market demand and can generate additional livelihood opportunities for local communities. He also stressed the need to focus on spinning and yarn production of pashmina fibre and directed that entrepreneurs be provided training to build their capacities in this sector.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the dehairing facility forms an important part of the UT Administration's broader efforts to develop a sustainable and globally competitive pashmina ecosystem in Ladakh by modernising infrastructure, enhancing local employment opportunities and promoting indigenous products in national and international markets.

He further directed the concerned departments to take necessary measures for the optimal utilisation of modern infrastructure to enhance production efficiency and maintain global quality standards.

Officials informed the Lieutenant Governor that only around 24 per cent of the pashmina fibre produced in Ladakh is currently utilised locally, while trial interventions for spinning pashmina fibre at centres in Bengaluru and Delhi have shown encouraging results. They also informed that Ladakh's raw pashmina fibre has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag and efforts are underway to secure GI tagging for hand-spun pashmina as well.

### UT Administration Ladakh signs MoU with Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for sustainable drinking water supply

*100% central funding for household water connections in Ladakh*



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** In a significant step towards ensuring a sustainable and reliable drinking water supply in Ladakh, the Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh, on the initiative of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, on May 6 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Union Minister for Jal Shakti, CR Patil; Minister of State for Jal Shakti, V Somanna; and Secretary, Jal Shakti Ministry, Ashok KK Meena, were present on the occasion.

The MoU formalises collaboration for the effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, a flagship programme of the Government of India aimed at providing clean and adequate drinking water through functional household tap connections to every rural household.

One of the key highlights of the MoU is the provision of 100 per cent Central funding for water connections to each household in Ladakh, as announced by Union Minister CR Patil. Treating Ladakh as a special case, the Ministry will bear the entire cost of approximately Rs 4 lakh per water connection in the region. In comparison, other states and Union Territories are required to bear 10 to 40 per cent of the project cost.

The development follows the proactive engagement of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena with Union Minister CR Patil, during which key issues related to water security in Ladakh were discussed. The Lieutenant Governor has consistently advocated enhanced Central assistance and special interventions for development projects in Ladakh, considering its unique ecological and geographical conditions.

According to the MoU, a structured framework has been established to en-

sure the commissioning and handover of piped water supply systems to local institutions such as Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees. The agreement was signed between the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department of the UT Administration.

The initiative is expected to significantly benefit Ladakh by addressing water-related challenges arising from difficult terrain, harsh climatic conditions, and limited freshwater resources. By strengthening infrastructure and promoting efficient water management practices, the MoU is expected to ensure year-round access to potable drinking water for rural households while reducing dependence on tanker-based supply and seasonal sources.

"This MoU marks a significant milestone in our journey towards achieving water security in Ladakh. Through strengthened collaboration under the Jal Jeevan Mission and initiatives like Project Him Sarovar, launched recently to harness snow and glacial melt, we are committed to ensuring that Ladakh becomes water self-sufficient. Given Ladakh's unique challenges, this partnership will enable us to build sustainable, resilient and community-driven water infrastructure for the future," said Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

The MoU also seeks to establish a water quality testing and surveillance system, including tagging of water samples collected from households for testing. This mechanism will help in effective monitoring of remedial measures and ensure long-term water sustainability in the region.

### Sacred Buddha Relics inspire massive prayer gathering at Leh's Dharma centre



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The sacred Holy Buddha Relics, after completing their revered visit to Zanskar, returned to Leh on May 13 and were ceremonially placed at the Dharma Centre for public veneration and prayers.

The Dharma Centre witnessed an atmosphere of profound devotion and spiritual unity as nearly 1,700 monks and nuns gathered for continuous prayers, sacred chants, and rituals in the presence of the Holy Buddha Relics. The halls echoed with hymns and prayers, creating a deep sense of peace, compassion, and spiritual awakening.

Monastic communities from different regions of Ladakh participated in the veneration ceremony, offering prayers for universal peace, harmony, and the well-being of all sentient beings.

The Ladakh Police and the local administration made extensive arrangements to ensure smooth crowd management, security, and public convenience during the event.

Medical aid camps and assistance services were also established near the venue, while devotees offered donations for monasteries and stupas as symbols of faith and generosity. The collective efforts of the administration, volunteers, and religious communities reflected the deep spiritual values and cultural unity of Ladakh.

## In Focus:

## Why Changthang's Future Depends on Balanced Governance &amp; Administration

By Chamba Tsetan



The designation of Nyoma as the headquarters of the newly created Changthang district is a strategic and administrative decision with clear long-term intent. It is, in many ways, a welcome step toward strengthening governance in one of Ladakh's most remote and sensitive regions. However, if not carefully balanced, it risks creating an unintended consequence: the gradual weakening of LALOK as a township and as an emerging economic hub.

As someone who was closely involved in the drafting of the Changthang district formation proposal in 2019, I see this development not as a point of contention, but as a moment that calls for careful alignment with the original vision. The proposal itself recognised the need for a balanced and distributed administrative structure, rooted in the realities of terrain, accessibility, and livelihoods. The creation of the district is therefore a step forward, but its implementation must remain consistent with that foundational thinking. For residents of the LALOK

region, Leh continues to remain geographically closer and functionally more accessible than Nyoma. If most administrative work, from land records to certifications and public services, requires travel to Nyoma, people will inevitably reorganise their daily and economic activities around that shift.

Over time, this could pull social and economic energy away from LALOK. Small businesses, markets, and service providers thrive on local administrative footfall. When that movement is redirected, township vitality begins to decline. What starts as administrative centralisation can gradually translate into economic dilution.

The importance of the LALOK region must also be understood within the larger strategic geography of Eastern Ladakh. The corridor stretching from Tara Post through Chushul–Rezang La, Pangong, Galwan, Depsang, and up to Daulat Beg Oldi constitutes nearly 70–75% of Ladakh's strategically sensitive frontier interface with China in operational terms. It encompasses most of the key military deployment zones, logistical corridors, and flashpoints that shape India's security posture in the region today. Historically, this strategic reality informed the distributed administrative and military positioning across Changthang, from Chushul serving as the traditional capital, to the later relocation of civil administration toward Nyoma, and the establishment of the 114 Brigade in the LALOK region as a critical operational base. This evolution reflected a deeper understanding that frontier stability cannot rely on military presence alone, but must also be reinforced through strong civilian settlements, accessible governance, and economically viable local communities. Strengthening LALOK, therefore, is not simply a matter of regional balance, but part of sustaining long-term strategic resilience along one of India's most sensitive frontier belts.

In this context, LALOK must be positioned not as a peripheral block, but as a functional sub-centre of governance. This means ensuring that essential services remain accessible locally through a combination of permanent administrative presence, digitised systems, and regular outreach. Departments such as revenue, animal husbandry, rural development, and tourism should maintain a meaningful footprint in LALOK. Govern-

ance, especially in high-altitude frontier regions, must reach people where they are, rather than requiring repeated movement across long distances. Equally important is the economic dimension. LALOK sits along the Pangong axis and forms a natural corridor connecting tourism, logistics, and pastoral livelihoods. This geographic advantage must be actively leveraged. Investments in pashmina aggregation centres, yak dairy processing, and tourism-linked services can reinforce LALOK's role as a key economic node. The goal should not be to allow economic gravity to shift entirely toward Nyoma or back toward Leh, but to anchor value creation within LALOK itself.

The objective, therefore, is not to create competition between Nyoma and LALOK, but to establish complementarity. Nyoma can function as the administrative and strategic headquarters, while LALOK continues to develop with local based governance either in the form of summer - winter capital and administrative system as exists in J&K or with the presence of key departmental offices in the region with digitalisation of governance in place. This dual-node approach reflects both the historical precedent and the geographic realities of Changthang. In frontier landscapes like these, governance is not only about where decisions are made, but also about where people live, work, and build their futures. If administrative restructuring leads to the concentration of both authority and opportunity in one place, it risks hollowing out others. But if thoughtfully distributed, it can strengthen the entire region.

The creation of Changthang district is an important and welcome milestone. Its long-term success, however, will depend on recognising that accessibility, economic vitality, and administrative presence are deeply interconnected. Nyoma may serve as the head of the district, but for Changthang to remain balanced and resilient, LALOK must continue to function as one of its active and thriving limbs.

(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))

## The World of

## Juniors

Endangered Species Day was created and founded by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006 and since then has continued to be celebrated. It is observed annually on the third Friday in May. The National Endangered Species Day was officially declared to raise awareness and educate people about the risks as well as opportunities that are available to help these animals. The inaugural celebration took place on May 11, 2006, which was a Thursday. Since that time, the date has been changed so that it is always celebrated on a Friday.

An endangered species is one which is still in the world today, but may not be much longer if the right steps aren't taken. The International Union decides the status of 'endangered' for the Conservation of Nature. According to the IUCN, at least 40% of animals, insects, and plants are at risk of extinction across the world.

Reasons for endangerment are varied – this may be down to environmental changes, overhunting by predators, poaching, the changing or destruction of habits by humans, or natural disasters, to name a few.



Some ways of helping endangered species have included captive breeding, which sees endangered or rare species in captivity encouraged to breed to improve their numbers in the wild.

While the first National Endangered Species Day was held in 2006, but there's been official recognition of the issue for far longer than that. Laws have been on the books for more than forty years designed to protect species.

At its roots, National Endangered Species Day is designed to help people learn more about the environmental issues that the planet faces today.

## SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

## Books and your outlook



Reading books as a hobby is not only for knowledge but for making your perspective and outlook a broader one that encompasses 'various worlds' never ever thought of. I am writing this piece because of two reasons: Mainly and firstly, people ask me quite often how to read a book and in what manner consistency pays off? And, secondly, years ago, I was travelling in a Delhi Metro train with a few books and newspapers. The guy sitting next to me set his curious eyes and mind on me. And, after sometime, as if he could not keep quiet, asked me why I had

to carry "so many books and newspapers"?

It was quite difficult to make him understand because if I had told him the correct answer, he would have brushed aside my point. So, I told him that I had to sit for an examination. He gave me a 'surprised look' and walked off.

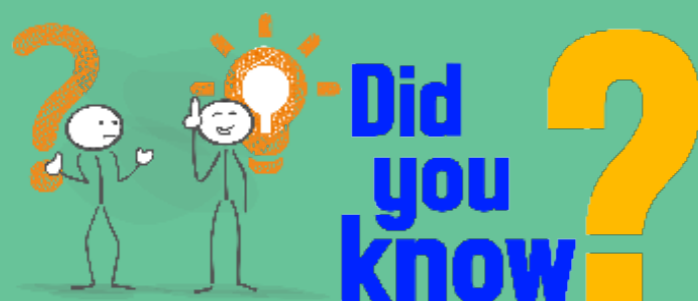
Coming to the point, reading is not just a pleasure but an important tool to expand your thought, and thereby life too. Reading is a powerful means to calm your mind and grow it to any desired level. As a result, your outlook and attitude towards life becomes lovely and lively. That is because reading transports you to a world that you had never experienced and had never thought of. That not only brightens up your happiness but also keeps all persistent tension beyond your mind's circle.

Books force you to think about different perspectives of life, and while in the great rush on the journey of life, they make you feel a winner. No need to say that you are now in access to different ways and means for a happier and progressive life.

I admit, time and again, that I am a 'poor reader', and yet I am quite consistent. That is why a good book anywhere near gives me the assurance of happy moments and the promise of the joys of life lived with other characters in different and contrasting backgrounds. And that is good and sure enough to make your day!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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



The closest living relative to humans are chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas. We share between 98 and 99.6% of DNA with these species. Gorillas can even catch colds from humans.

Most mammals have reproductive cycles. However, only humans, humpback whales, and elephants experience menopause. Cats have only lived with people for about 7,000 years. Compared to dogs, whose domestication may have begun as early as 25,000 years ago.

Most of the Earth's longest-surviving species are found in the ocean. While cyanobacteria are technically the oldest living organisms on Earth, having appeared 2.8 billion years ago, the ocean sponge has also been on Earth for 580 million years, and jellyfish have been here for 550 million years.

The Amazon rainforest is an amazing place. The Amazon produces over 20% of the world's oxygen, and contains more than half of the world's species of plants, animals, and insects.

Seven of the 10 deadliest wars in history have taken place in China. The Taping Rebellion had twice as many deaths as World War 1.

Scientists were called "natural philosophers" until the 17th century because science didn't exist as a concept.

Scientists have answered the question "what comes first the chicken or the egg?" The chicken came first because the egg shell contains a protein that can only be made from a hen.

It is mainly men who experience colorblindness. 1/20 men experience color blindness as opposed to 1/200 women.

When helium is cooled to absolute zero (-460 degrees Fahrenheit) it becomes a liquid and starts flowing upward, against gravity.

The moon once had an atmosphere. Volcanic eruptions on the moon released trillions of tons of gas into the air, which created an atmosphere. The gases eventually became lost to space.

Courtesy: [blog.prepscholar.com](http://blog.prepscholar.com)

## Fortnightly News

### In Conversation with

# Thenlay Nurboo: From Changthang to Brazil, A Journey of Yak Churpi and Tradition

**Q. How do you feel after winning the Gold Medal at the prestigious Mundial do Queijo do Brasil 2026 for your Yak Churpi-Soft Cheese?**

Jullay, and thank you for having me. I feel extremely happy and proud to share my journey with the people of Ladakh after winning the Gold Medal at the prestigious Mundial do Queijo do Brasil 2026 for our Yak Churpi-Soft Cheese. This recognition has made me feel proud of the work I do, especially because many people often overlook or show little interest in such traditional livelihoods and products.

I belong to Lalok in Changthang, and my family has been engaged in rearing yaks and other livestock for generations. Living closely with these animals, I always tried to explore what more could be done in the field of livestock rearing, particularly in dairy production, fibre, and related products.

Being involved in yak farming, I focused mainly on dairy production and started working on local products such as cheese, ghee, curd, and other dairy items. Making cheese in Ladakh itself was a major challenge because of the region's extreme climatic conditions and low temperatures.

The Gold Medal I received for Yak Churpi is not solely my achievement. I am deeply thankful to the Department of Animal Husbandry for extending all possible support, and to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), through which the product was sent to the competition in Brazil. Without their support and collective effort, I would not have been able to compete at the international level.

The competition saw participation from nearly 30 countries, with around 2,700 varieties of cheese presented. I had never imagined that a traditional produce from Ladakh would gain recognition on such a prestigious international platform.

This award is not just a personal achievement; it represents the arrival of a deeply local food tradition onto the global stage. I believe this recognition will not only boost the local produce of the Changthang region but will also encourage livestock rearers across Ladakh to continue preserving and promoting their traditional practices and products.

**Q. What are your thoughts on sustainable and organic products, and the declining interest among youth in traditional livelihoods?**

There is a lot of discussion today around sustainable and organic products, but at the same time, many young people are becoming more focused on tourism-based industries

*Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal*



### MESSAGE TO THE READERS

**“I want to encourage the youth to value their roots, traditions, and local way of life. Our traditional knowledge and products have immense potential. With hard work, education, and innovation, we can preserve our culture while creating better opportunities for the future.”**

and other modern occupations. The traditional way of life followed by our ancestors is slowly fading away.

For example, in Changthang, which has long been known for its nomadic and pastoral culture, traditional livelihoods are gradually declining as many people are shifting towards the tourism industry, army services, GREF labour work, and other sectors. Very few youths are continuing with traditional occupations such as farming and livestock rearing.

Personally, I feel that many people do not fully understand the value and importance of the work carried out by our ancestors and families. Instead of appreciating and continuing these traditions, many tend to follow the path others are taking.

Farming and livestock rearing involve immense hard work and dedication. In today's world, many of us are often looking for easier ways to earn money, which is one reason why traditional occupations are being neglected.

Education is extremely important, and there is absolutely no second thought about that. However, along with education, it is equally important to stay connected to our roots. We should think about preserving, promoting, and adding value to the traditional products and practices passed down by our ancestors, as they were not only livelihoods but also an essential part of our culture and identity.

**Q. How has SECMOL influenced your life and journey? Being a SECMOL student, I must say that what I am today, and the pride I feel in what I do and where I come from, is all because of SECMOL.**

I had failed my Class 10 examination and was not very good in studies. At one point, I always felt that I was not good at anything. Because of my elder brother, I came to SECMOL for a summer camp and later pursued the Foundation Course there. At SECMOL, I realised that many of the concepts we hear about on different platforms such as organic living, sustainability, and environmental responsibility are not just discussed in theory but are taught and practiced in real life. The learning at SECMOL goes far beyond academics.

SECMOL gave me a holistic education and completely changed my way of thinking. It encouraged me to reconnect with my roots, try new ideas, and take pride in promoting the traditional way of life followed by my parents and ancestors.

Today, I proudly say that I am a SECMOL student because the institution truly shaped my personality, confidence, and vision for life.

*...continues on page 6*

## Fortnight Highlights



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju visited Jivetsal, Choglamsar on May 5 to witness the exposition of the Holy Relics of Gautama Buddha. During his visit, the Minister paid homage to the sacred relics and offered prayers, highlighting the spiritual and cultural significance of the exposition.



Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk, along with Deputy Commissioner Changthang, Nitish Rajora, visited Chumur, the first village of Changthang district situated along the Indo-China border.



The three-day workshop on traditional Himalayan art and heritage practices, organised by the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies in connection with the Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata in Leh.



A Chöd prayer ceremony was presented by approximately 100 students of Druk Padma Karpo School, Shey, at Jive-Tsal on the fourth day of the Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata in the Union Territory of Ladakh.



His Eminence the 9th Thiksey Rinpoche, Ngawang Jamyang Chamba Stanzin, accompanied by Kelkhang Rinpoche, visited Jivetsal on May 5 and paid homage to the sacred relics of the Tathagata Buddha.



Following the order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Nubra for monitoring and checking of essential commodities, a market inspection was conducted on May 7 in Tehsil Diskit by the constituted committee comprising officials from the Revenue, Police, Food Safety and Supply Departments.



The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Eliezer Joldan Memorial (EJM) College Leh, organised an academic field visit to All India Radio (AIR) Leh and Doordarshan Leh on May 8. A group of 32 students participated in the visit, which aimed to provide practical exposure to the functioning of radio and television broadcasting.



As part of an educational exposure and learning initiative, students and teachers from Ladakh Model Primary School, Changspa, visited the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Leh on May 9. During the visit, the students explored the Balvatika Model Room, Bhoti Lab and Mathematics Lab established at DIET Leh.

## Fortnightly News

### In Conversation with Thenlay Nurboo: From Changthang to Brazil, A Journey of Yak Churpi and Tradition

...Continuity of page 5

#### Q. What challenges do traditional livestock rearers in Changthang face today?

The number of people engaged in livestock rearing is steadily decreasing, and I feel this is very unfortunate. My farm is located just after crossing Changla Pass. I still remember that during my childhood, there were nearly 20 nomadic families settled in the area with their livestock, but today only my farm remains there.

Many people are giving up these traditional activities because livestock rearing requires immense hard work, while the financial returns are often very limited. At times, I feel that people are being forced to abandon this way of life due to fewer earning opportunities and the rising cost of living.

At the same time, there are now other options available for earning a livelihood, such as jobs in the Army, GREF labour work, and the tourism industry. Naturally, many families choose these comparatively stable and less demanding sources of income.

Today, in areas like Lalok in Changthang, traditional livestock rearing has almost been abandoned. This is not just the loss of an occupation, but also the gradual disappearance of a unique culture, lifestyle, and traditional knowledge system that has existed for generations.

#### Q. What opportunities do you see for youth in Changthang?

There is immense potential in Changthang, but what is often lacking is sustained hard work, innovation, and market exploration. Many young people are not fully exploring these opportunities and tend to show little interest in traditional sectors. Instead, most prefer to follow what others are already doing.

I believe it is very important for the youth to understand the value of the resources, traditions, and opportunities that exist in Changthang. There is great scope in livestock rearing, dairy production, organic products, wool, handicrafts, and other local produce, but these sectors need dedication, creativity, and better market access.

If young people start working seriously towards value addition, branding, and promoting local products, Changthang can create sustainable livelihood opportunities while also preserving its unique culture and traditional way of life.

### DC Drass Imteez Kacho inspects hospital, reviews healthcare services



Photo Caption: Deputy Commissioner of Drass, Imteez Kacho assessing the status of healthcare services and facilities.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**DRASS:** The Deputy Commissioner of Drass, Imteez Kacho (JKAS), on May 4 visited the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Drass to assess the status of healthcare services and facilities. He was accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Drass, Vishal Atri (JKAS), and was received by Block Medical Officer (BMO) Drass, Dr. Sajjad Hussain, along with hospital staff.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various sections of the hospital, including the General OPD, drug store, labour room, and other units. He reviewed the availability of essential medicines and equipment, hygiene conditions, toilet facilities, and overall service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with pa-

tients and hospital staff to gather feedback on the quality of healthcare services. He stressed the importance of maintaining proper hygiene, ensuring adequate stocks of medicines, and providing timely medical assistance. The BMO and his team were directed to address any deficiencies on priority and ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of the hospital.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening healthcare services in the region.

Earlier in the day, the Deputy Commissioner met several delegations in his office from areas including Kharbu, Thasgam, Jagsund, Khiber, Shimsha, Muradbagh, and Ranbirpur, as well as office bearers of the Pensioners Association, Drass.

Representatives of the Hanfia Masjid also called on the Deputy Commissioner and discussed welfare measures. He further held interactions with officials from the Block Development Office, Zonal Education Office, and the Labour Department.

Commanding Officer of the BRO, Rakesh Rana, also met the Deputy Commissioner and discussed issues related to ongoing road projects at various locations. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the BRO's contribution in keeping the National Highway open during winters and for extending consistent support to the administration.

The Deputy Commissioner also received and welcomed Deputy Inspector General of Police Kaushal Kumar (IPS), who was on a visit to Drass to review public welfare and law and order issues. He was accompanied by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

### Health camp organised at Karsha Gompa during sacred holy Relics



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** On the occasion of the Sacred Holy Relics at Karsha Gompa, the Community Health Centre (CHC) Zanskar under the Health Department organised a health camp on May 12 to provide medical support to devotees and visitors attending the religious event.

From Monday till 1 pm on Tuesday, around 150 patients were examined during the camp. Most of the patients were treated for gastric issues, headaches and common fever-related ailments. Necessary medical check-ups, basic treatment and health advice were pro-

vided on the spot.

Sharing details about the initiative, Dr Dechana Lamo stated that the health camp was organised to ensure timely medical care and maintain the well-being of devotees during the Sacred Holy Relics event.

The initiative by the Health Department was appreciated by devotees and local residents for ensuring health and safety arrangements during the religious gathering at Karsha Gompa.

### GDC Khaltse organises anti-drug awareness programme under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan



Photo Caption: SHO Khaltse Police Station, Jamyang Namgyal speaking on the alarming rise of drug abuse in Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KHALTSE:** An anti-drug awareness programme under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was organised on May 7 at Government Degree College (GDC) Khaltse in collaboration with the Ladakh Police to create awareness among students about the growing menace of substance abuse in society.

Principal Dr. Sameena Iqbal highlighted the impor-

tance of staying away from drugs and encouraged students to play an active role in building a healthy and responsible society.

Addressing the gathering, SHO Khaltse Police Station, Jamyang Namgyal, spoke extensively on the alarming rise of drug abuse in Ladakh and its serious social and health consequences.

He discussed various types of drugs reportedly being used in the region, including brown sugar, heroin, charas, and LSD, and explained their harmful and potentially fatal impact on the human body.

He further elaborated on how substance dependence develops over time and how gateway addictions such as cigarettes and tobacco often become stepping stones towards more dangerous drugs.

Jamyang Namgyal also raised concern over increasing public health risks, including the spread of hepatitis due to syringe sharing among drug users.

He informed the audience about the active role being played by the Ladakh Police in tackling drug trafficking and apprehending peddlers, while stressing the need for stronger cooperation from civil society.

Urging the youth to take collective responsibility in combating drug abuse, he called upon the people of Ladakh to work together to safeguard the future of society.

### KVK Nyoma revives traditional greenhouse farming in Changthang



Photo Caption: KVK Nyoma distributing the greenhouse UV films to farmer of Tsaga village.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**CHANGTHANG:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Nyoma, under the leadership of Dr. Phuntsog Tundup, visited traditional mud-walled greenhouses in Tsaga and Kargyam villages of Changthang on May 10 as part of a green initiative promoting sustainable agriculture.

During the visit, greenhouse UV films were distribut-

ed among farmers of Tsaga and Kargyam villages to strengthen protected cultivation practices and improve fresh vegetable production. The initiative aimed to enhance self-sufficiency in vegetable cultivation and support climate-resilient farming systems in the remote areas of Changthang.

On the second day, an awareness camp on "Soil Fertility Management through Natural Farming Techniques" was organised at Sato village. The programme focused on promoting eco-friendly and low-cost farming methods to maintain soil health and ensure sustainable agricultural productivity.

More than 40 farmers actively participated in the awareness camp and interacted with Dr. Tundup on natural farming practices, organic inputs, and marketing strategies for their produce.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Phuntsog Tundup highlighted the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with scientific approaches to ensure sustainable agricultural development in the region.

Farmers appreciated the efforts of KVK Nyoma in addressing local agricultural challenges and promoting innovative yet practical solutions suited to Ladakh's harsh climatic conditions.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers shared their experiences and discussed future prospects for strengthening sustainable agriculture in Changthang.

### NRP day celebrated at SNM Hospital Leh to strengthen newborn care



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** As part of a nationwide initiative to strengthen newborn survival, NRP Day was celebrated at SNM Hospital, Leh, Ladakh, on May 10 under the aegis of the National Neonatology Forum (NNF) India.

NNF India marked the occasion by conducting large-scale, hands-on Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) skill training sessions across the country. The initiative represents one of the largest synchronized healthcare training efforts in India.

The programme was organised with the objective of ensuring that every newborn receives timely and effective resuscitation support at birth.

Newborn mortality continues to remain a major public health concern in India. A significant number of neonatal deaths occur because babies fail to establish breathing immediately after birth. Experts say the first few minutes after delivery are crucial, and timely intervention by trained healthcare providers can prevent many such avoidable deaths. Simple, evidence-based techniques to help newborns breathe at birth can make the difference between life and death.

Recognising this urgent need, NNF India conceptualised and implemented this large-scale capacity-building initiative. Across the country, around 1,100 training courses are being conducted with the participation

of nearly 23,000 healthcare providers.

The event at SNM Hospital Leh was inaugurated by Medical Superintendent Dr Yangchen Dolma. The lead instructor for the training programme was Dr Sunil Isher, Neonatologist, deputed by NNF India, while Dr Tsering Norphel served as the course instructor. Dr Spalchen Gonbo coordinated the programme.

A total of 22 participants, including gynaecologists, paediatricians, anaesthetists, DNB students, staff nurses and ANMs working at the Newborn Stabilization Unit of SDH Nubra and CHC Khaltse, as well as the Special Care Newborn Unit of SNM Hospital, underwent the four-hour intensive training session.

The hands-on training programmes are being conducted free of cost and include healthcare workers from both government and private sectors. Organisers said this inclusive approach would help ensure wider outreach and uniform strengthening of newborn care practices.

This synchronized nationwide effort is also expected to set a record for conducting the highest number of neonatal resuscitation skill training sessions in a single day, marking a significant milestone in India's journey towards improving newborn survival.

#### NOTICE

Whereas, Tsering Ladol D/o Rigzin Dorjay R/o Gangles, Leh UT Ladakh has claimed that her father's name has been wrongly recorded as Rigzen Dorjay instead of the correct name which is Rigzin Dorjay in her Ladakh Resident Certificate bearing no. T-Leh/44/(R) 2021 Dated 18-10-2021 duly issued by Tehsil Office, Leh-Ladakh. Now, I am applying for the correction in my Ladakh Resident Certificate. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Tehsil Office, Leh within 07 days from the date of publication.

#### NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) Stanzin Sumdup to (New name) Stanzin Samdup. In future he will be known as (New Name) Stanzin Samdup.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

#### NOTICE

No 9928357W Rank Hav Tsewang Motup S/o Tsering Angchuk R/o Spituk, Leh UT Ladakh Unit 1 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his son namely Stanzin Thustal has been wrongly entered as Stanzin Thustal instead of Stanzin Thustal and also his Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 18-03-2015 instead of correct and actual Date of Birth 18-03-2016 in the Army record of Unit 1st Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA11138078057633Y to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 1st Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

## Fortnightly News

### Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra inspires young athletes at DPS Sporathon



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, on May 7 attended DPS Sporathon, a grand celebration of sportsmanship, teamwork, and youthful enthusiasm organised by Delhi Public School (DPS), Leh.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Delhi Public School, Leh, along with students from various schools across Leh, including Moravian Mission School, Islamia Public High School, Imamia Model High School, BVN School, KV School, and Siddhartha Public School, creating an atmosphere of excitement, healthy competition, and team spirit.

Students showcased exceptional talent, discipline, and determination through thrilling matches and energetic performances, making the event a memorable sporting extravaganza. The grounds of DPS Leh resonated with cheers, unity, and the true spirit of sportsmanship as young athletes participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. Addressing the gathering, Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra motivated and inspired the students with his encouraging words. He emphasized the importance of balancing academics with sports and highlighted how discipline, teamwork, perseverance, and dedication learned through sports play a vital role in shaping confident and successful individuals.

He also appreciated the efforts of Principal Sonal Mediratta and the school management in organising such a grand platform to nurture talent, leadership, and holistic development among students.

The event was also attended by Tashi Tsering, DSO Leh; Tsering Angmo, Founder and General Secretary of the Ladakh Football Association; and Tsewang Chuskit, Captain of the National Women's Ice Hockey Team.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Sonal Mediratta expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and distinguished dignitaries for visiting DPS Leh and sharing their valuable and motivating words with the students.

She stated that DPS Sporathon is not merely a sporting event but also a platform to instil confidence, leadership, unity, discipline, and the spirit of healthy competition among young minds.

The event concluded on a high note with enthusiastic participation, loud cheers, and unforgettable memories, truly reflecting the spirit of excellence, unity, and sportsmanship at DPS Leh.

### Nubra Industrial Area development reviewed by Administrative Secretary



Photo Caption: Administrative Secretary, Bhupesh Choudhary reviewing the present status and developmental potential of the District Industrial Area in Nubra.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**NUBRA:** Administrative Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Bhupesh Choudhary, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Nubra, Mukul Beniwal, visited the proposed District Industrial Area in Nubra on May 12 to review the present status and developmental potential of the area.

During the visit, the Administrative Secretary inspected the proposed site and reviewed the status of internal roads along with the requirement of essential utilities, including power supply, borewell facilities and sewage infrastructure. Discussions were also held regarding the future scope and infrastructure requirements for the development of the industrial area.

The Administrative Secretary also sought updates on other ongoing developmental projects in the district. He further briefed officials on the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) scheme, a major Central Sector initiative aimed at developing integrated industrial infrastructure and promoting manufacturing growth.

The visit was also attended by SDM Nubra Jigmet Raftan JKAS, Executive Engineer PWD and other district officials.

### Invasive Buff-tip moth threatens Ladakh's fragile ecosystem, study warns



Photo Caption: Invasive Buff-tip moth.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kargil, under the supervision of Dr Mohd Hussain, Assistant Professor, GDC Zanskar, has reported the occurrence of an invasive Buff-tip moth in the Himalayan region of Ladakh. The study, conducted between June 2021 and August 2023, documented the alarming spread and impact of the moth on local vegetation.

The findings revealed that the invasive species can cause complete defoliation of its host plant within 30 days, highlighting the serious ecological threat posed to the fragile ecosystem of the region. Researchers observed that the moth has established a significant presence in the Suru Valley, particularly af-

fecting *Salix alba* (white willow), a tree species of immense ecological and environmental importance in the cold arid region of Ladakh.

Scientists expressed concern that the unchecked spread of the pest could adversely impact biodiversity and threaten the sustainability of local vegetation. The study emphasised the urgent need for regular monitoring, ecological assessment and the development of effective management strategies to contain the invasive pest and safeguard the region's plant resources.

The findings were featured in the Science column of The Hindu dated May 9, 2026, drawing national attention to

the emerging ecological challenge in Ladakh. Following directions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, a team of scientists visited the region to verify the occurrence and assess the extent of the infestation.

The team comprised Dr Mithilesh Kumar Arya, Deputy Director (PP), CIPMC Jammu; Dr Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), CIPMC Srinagar; Dr Nasreen F. Kacho, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Kargil; and Dr Nazeer Hussain, Agronomist, KVK Kargil.

Under the supervision of Dr Mohd Hussain, a field survey of the Buff-tip moth infestation in *Salix* species was carried out in the villages of Minjee, Khumbathang, Farona, Khachan, Lankarchey, Thuna, Thasgam and Sankoo in Suru Valley. The survey was conducted following instructions from the Plant Protection Adviser, Government of India, after reports that the invasive pest had spread in the region and was severely damaging *Salix* species.

Scientists observed that the moth species, identified as *Phalera* sp., is voracious and polyphagous in nature and is capable of completely defoliating entire trees within a week.

The researchers stated that controlling the invasive pest and restricting its spread to the affected area is now a matter of serious concern. During the survey, scientists found that the pest was currently in the pupation stage, with pupae detected in soil debris around willow trees in Khachan and Farona villages.

### 2nd National Lok Adalat in Kargil disposes of 381 cases, settles over ₹19.7 lakh



Photo Caption: During the 2nd National Lok Adalat in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kargil organised the 2nd National Lok Adalat on May 9, while Pre-Lok Adalat sessions were conducted from May 4 to May 8.

During the Lok Adalat, six benches were constituted to resolve different categories of cases through amicable settlement and compromise. The cases included criminal compoundable matters, civil disputes, cheque bounce cases under the NI Act, bank recovery cases, MACT matters, labour disputes, matrimonial issues, compoundable electricity and water bill cases, land acquisition matters, revenue cases, municipal cases, BSNL bill disputes, traffic matters, and pre-litigation cases at the District Court Complex, Kur-bathang Kargil.

The first bench was presided over by Sheikh Gowher Hussain, Chairman DLSA/Principal

District and Sessions Judge (PDSJ) Kargil, while the second bench was headed by Tsewang Phuntsog, Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Kargil. The third bench was presided over by Chemit Yurygal, Secretary DLSA Kargil.

Similarly, the fourth, fifth, and sixth benches of the National Lok Adalat were conducted at the tehsil level in Sankoo, Drass, and Zanskar under the chairmanship of Chairman TLSC Sankoo/Drass/Zanskar, Sadiq Ali Wazir.

A total of 415 cases were referred to the National Lok Adalat, out of which 381 cases were successfully disposed of through settlement.

An amount of ₹19,77,021 was recovered as settlement amount, while ₹1,20,600 was realised as fine during the proceedings.

### Police, civil administration hold public outreach programme in Sham district



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KHALTSE:** A joint public outreach programme involving the Police and Civil Administration was held in Sham district on May 12 to strengthen community relations and address public concerns at the grassroots level.

During the interaction, officials engaged directly with representatives of various organisations, including the LBA, political parties, Women Alliance, LAS, religious groups and village lambardars. Discussions focused on issues related to

law and order, civic amenities and the developmental needs of the region.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Sham, Kunzes Angmo (JKAS), assured the public that extensive tours of all villages in the district would be conducted to ensure that development initiatives effectively reach every corner of the region.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Aijaz Malik (JKPS), highlighted the depart-

ment's commitment towards a people-friendly policing system and emphasised round-the-clock availability for public safety. He also assured the gathering that he would personally visit villages across the district to better understand local issues and strengthen police-public relations.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate of KHALTSE briefed the gathering on various ongoing developmental works in the subdivision.

SHO Police Station KHALTSE also addressed issues related to crime prevention, with special emphasis on curbing drug abuse in the area.

Local leaders expressed gratitude to the UT Administration, particularly the Director General of Police, Chief Secretary and the Lieutenant Governor, for the creation of Sham district, describing it as a significant step towards greater administrative accessibility and regional development.

The officers assured the public that all grievances and concerns raised during the public darbar would be addressed in a timely manner and reiterated that public cooperation remains essential for maintaining peace, harmony and progress in the region.

#### Notice

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'United Driver (KHALO WA) Welfare Society' Leh, UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name & Parentage	Residence	Occupation	Designation
1	Konchok Gyatso S/o Tashi Rigzen	Temisgang, Leh	Govt. Employee	President
2	Mohd Amin S/o Mohd Yousef	Tumail, Kargil	-do-	Vice-President
3	Skarma Chosgail S/o Tundup Tashi	Saboo, Leh	-do-	Gen.Secretary
4	Hashim Ali S/o Mohd Issa	Karamba, Kargil	-do-	Joint Secretary
5	Rigzin Norboo S/o Tsewang Tundup	Nurla, Leh	-do-	Cashier
6	Mukhtar Hussain S/o Niyaz Hussain	Thangzoor Khomini, Kargil	-do-	Executive Member
7	Gulzar Hussain S/o Mohd Ibrahim	Minji, Kargil	-do-	Executive Member
8	Tsewang Dorje S/o Tundup Yangzen	Yurtung, Leh	-do-	Executive Member
9.	Sonam Rigzen S/o Tundup Tsering	Hemis shukpachan, Leh	-do-	Executive Member

Any Objection in this regard from any person (s) may send in writing/in person/through authorised representation to the Registrar of Societies, Ladakh within a period of 21 days from the publication of this notice, or by email at [directorindustriessladakh@gmail.com](mailto:directorindustriessladakh@gmail.com) or Ph No. 01982-415869

President

'United Driver (KHALO WA) Welfare Society' Leh, UT Ladakh

#### NOTICE



Whereas Ran Bahadur Rokaya F/o Tulsi Kumari Rokaya R/o Nepal has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Ratan Rokaya instead correct and actual name Ran Bahadur Rokaya in his daughter's school record of Govt. High School,Phyang, Leh-Ladakh.

Whereas the Father of the candidate has produced an Affidavit duly attested by Notary Public Leh to this Office for making necessary correction in the school record.

Hence, notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this regard report to Govt. High School,Phyang, Leh-Ladakh office within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

#### NOTICE



Whereas Ran Bahadur Rokaya F/o Prakash Rokaya R/o Nepal has claimed that his name has been wrongly entered as Ratan Rokaya instead correct and actual name Ran Bahadur Rokaya in his son's school record of Govt. High School,Phyang, Leh-Ladakh.

Whereas the father of the candidate has produced an Affidavit duly attested by Notary Public Leh to this Office for making necessary correction in the school record.

Hence, notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this regard report to Govt. High School,Phyang, Leh-Ladakh office within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.

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