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L-G approves 17 new tehsils to operationalise five new districts in Ladakh

Total Tehsils increase from 15 to 32 as administration moves to strengthen grassroots governance and improve public service delivery



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a major administrative decision, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the creation of 17 new Tehsils in Ladakh as part of a comprehensive reorganisation of Tehsils and Revenue Villages following the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory. With this, the total number of Tehsils in Ladakh has increased from 15 to 32, marking a significant step towards operationalising the newly created districts and bringing governance closer to the people.

The reorganisation has been carried out on the recommendations of a UT-level committee constituted by the Lieutenant Governor after the notification of the five new districts on April 27 this year. The committee identified several shortcomings in the existing administrative structure, including unclear demarcation of Tehsil and Revenue Village boundaries. It observed that some Tehsils extended across more than one district, leading to administrative overlap and operational challenges.

To address these issues, every Revenue Village has now been mapped to a single Tehsil, and every Tehsil to a single district, ensuring a transparent, logical

and efficient administrative framework without altering the territorial boundaries of any district.

The Lieutenant Governor has also directed the Chief Secretary to immediately appoint Tehsildars to the newly created Tehsils, with each officer holding independent charge of a Tehsil to improve administrative efficiency and public service delivery.

Given Ladakh's vast geographical expanse, difficult terrain and scattered habitations, the creation of the new Tehsils is expected to substantially reduce travel distances often exceeding 300 kilometres for citizens seeking government services, while ensuring quicker delivery of public services and more effective grassroots governance.

Following the reorganisation, Leh district will have five Tehsils, Kargil seven, Changthang four, Nubra six, Zaskar four, Sham five, and Drass one Tehsil.

“The creation of new districts was done to bring governance closer to the people and make the administration more accessible, responsive and citizen-centric. With the operationalisation of these districts through a comprehensive reorganisation of Tehsils and Revenue Villages, we are establishing a robust administrative framework that will significantly improve revenue administration, strengthen grassroots governance and ensure faster implementation of developmental programmes. Our objective is to ensure that every citizen, particularly those living in remote and border areas, has easier access to government services while enabling balanced, inclusive and sustainable development across Ladakh,” Lieutenant Governor Saxena said.

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Ladakh celebrates 91st birth anniversary of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama with devotion and grandeur

Thousands gather at Jivetsal, Choglamsar; Bhanu Prabha, IAS, honoured for transformative reforms in government school education.



Photo Caption: Bhanu Prabha, IAS receiving the Certificate of Appreciation by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 91st Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was celebrated with profound devotion, enthusiasm, and grandeur at Jivetsal, Choglamsar, Leh, on July 6.

Organised by the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Leh, the occasion drew thousands of devotees from across Ladakh, who gathered to offer prayers, celebrate the spiritual leader's life, and seek his blessings.

Addressing the gathering, His Holiness delivered an inspiring message on the transformative power of faith and compassion. He emphasised that deeply rooted spiritual and religious values help individuals overcome greed, attachment, and other worldly afflictions, ultimately guiding humanity towards a more meaningful, harmonious, and peaceful existence.

The celebration was attended by several dignitaries, including Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh Ashish Kundra, IAS, Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, Bhanu Prabha, IAS,

confidence in the government education system and encouraged increased enrolment in government schools.

The citation also recognised her administrative acumen, collaborative leadership, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of Ladakh's children. Her work reflects the values of compassion, service, and community welfare championed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The Certificate of Appreciation was presented as a token of gratitude and respect from the people of Ladakh for her invaluable contribution to the education sector. The occasion also celebrated the transformative initiatives undertaken by the School Education Department under her leadership, which continue to inspire educational excellence across the Union Territory.

The School Education Department expressed gratitude to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and the Ladakh Buddhist Association for the recognition and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening quality, inclusive, and equitable education for every child in Ladakh.

The celebrations were further enlivened by vibrant cultural performances presented by students of TCV Leh and artists from the Ladakhi and Tibetan communities, showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage through traditional dances and musical performances.

The programme concluded with a special theatrical presentation of “Angulimala,” bringing to a close a day marked by spiritual reverence, cultural pride, and joyous celebration.

L-G VK Saxena approves pro-people interim land-use framework for municipal areas in Ladakh

Land up to two kanals within municipal limits can now be utilised for residential, commercial, industrial or mixed-use purposes, without any approval



Photo Caption: Skampari area of Leh town.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant pro-people deregulation initiative, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has approved an interim land-use regulatory framework allowing the utilisation of land up to two kanals within Municipal Committee limits, for residential, commercial, industrial or mixed-use purposes, without requiring any approval. The move aims at removing long-standing uncertainty over land use and ensuring that citizens do not face hardship in obtaining building permissions in

the absence of notified Master Plans in Ladakh.

The decision addresses a major regulatory gap that existed due to the absence of notified Master Plans and Zonal Development Plans, under which there was no clearly defined distinction regarding the nature of activities – residential, commercial, industrial or mixed-use – that could be undertaken on land within municipal areas. This often resulted in uncertainty for citizens seeking building permissions

Recognising the inconvenience being faced by the people, the Lieutenant Governor intervened to establish a transparent, demand-driven interim framework that enables development while ensuring proper regulation, until statutory planning instruments are notified.

“For the areas falling under the Municipal Committees in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the developmental proposal and building permission/application shall not be restricted solely on the ground of the non-availability of the Master Plan/ Zonal Development Plan....Land up to 02 kanals, within the municipal area, can be used for residential/commercial/industrial/mixed use for which no approval shall be required from any authority,” the order said.

“Planned urban development is essential for the long-term growth and sustainability of Ladakh. At the same time, the absence of notified Master Plans should not become a hurdle for citizens seeking to construct homes, establish businesses or undertake legitimate developmental activities.

This interim framework balances developmental needs with environmental safeguards and provides much-needed regulatory clarity until the Master Plans are finalised,” said L-G Saxena.

Presently, there are no Urban Development Authorities in Ladakh, which is a statutory prerequisite for the preparation and notification of Master Plans and Zonal Development Plans. Consequently, urban development and building permissions in Ladakh are presently regulated through the Ladakh Building By-laws, 2025.

While no approval will be required for residential/commercial/industrial or mixed use on land up to two kanals, the following activities shall not be permitted without prior approval, on land up to 02 kanals:

- Residential areas: Red, Orange and Green category industries; slaughterhouses; commercial animal rearing; stone quarries and similar activities; storage of inflammable materials; and burial grounds/crematoria.
- Commercial areas: Red and Orange category industries; slaughterhouses; and burial grounds/crematoria.

• Mixed-use areas: Red, Orange and Green category industries; slaughterhouses; commercial animal rearing; stone quarries and similar activities; storage of inflammable materials; and burial grounds/crematoria.

The approved framework is also aligned with the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's broader deregulation exercise, based on the principle of “Everything is permitted unless specifically prohibited,” thereby facilitating ease of doing business, reducing procedural delays and ensuring that genuine developmental activities continue in a transparent and regulated manner while the statutory planning framework is being prepared.

Municipal Committees have been directed to issue detailed operational guidelines for the effective regulation of land use and building construction in accordance with these directions. The interim framework shall remain in force until the Master Plans, Zonal Development Plans and related statutory regulations are notified, after which all future development shall be governed by the provisions of the notified planning framework.

Fortnightly News

L-G approves 17 new tehsils to operationalise five new districts in Ladakh

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The reorganisation establishes a clear and well-defined revenue administrative hierarchy, with each Tehsil to be headed by a Tehsildar or Naib Tehsildar. Where Naib Tehsildars are placed in independent charge of a Tehsil, they will exercise the powers of an Assistant Collector Class-I.

The restructuring has been undertaken under Section 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, 1996, as applicable to the Union Territory of Ladakh through the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which empowers the Administration to alter the number and limits of Tehsils through notification.

Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra undertakes two-day tour of Changthang, reviews development projects and public grievances



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, undertook a two-day tour of Changthang to review the progress of developmental works, inspect key public infrastructure projects, and interact with residents across several remote villages, including Korzok, Puga, Kharnak and Gya.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, Bhanu Prabha; Administrative Secretary, Public Works Department, Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Kumar; Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbass Jafari; Chief Engineer, Power Development Department, Tsewang Paljor; Assistant Director, Sheep Husbandry Department, Dr. Asif; Consultant/OSD, Moses Kunzang, along with other concerned officers.

On the first day, the Chief Secretary visited Korzok village, where he interacted with local representatives and residents. A delegation led by former Councillor Karma Namdak highlighted several public issues, including poor mobile and internet connectivity, the need to establish a Tsangda system, enhanced employment opportunities in J&K Bank, and the early completion of the under-construction primary school. Another delegation representing the Tibetan refugee communities of Sumdho and Chumur requested the construction of a community hall and raised other developmental concerns related to their settlements.

During his visit, Kundra also inspected the ongoing construction of the PWD Rest House at Korzok and directed the executing agencies to ensure its timely completion while maintaining quality standards.

On the second day, the Chief Secretary visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Korzok, where he reviewed healthcare facilities, interacted with medical staff, and enquired about infrastructure, manpower and operational challenges. He assured the officials that their concerns would be examined by the administration.

He later visited Puga to inspect the progress of the geothermal drilling project. Reviewing the ongoing works with concerned officials, Kundra stressed the

need for timely execution, considering the project's strategic importance for sustainable energy development in Ladakh.

The Chief Secretary also inspected the under-construction Centralised Residential School at Puga and directed the executing agencies to expedite the work so that the institution could become operational at the earliest for the benefit of students from the region.

During his interaction with public delegations and local representatives from Angkong, Samad, Sumdho and Thukjey villages, several issues were raised, including improvement of mobile and internet connectivity, resolution of the land dispute at Serchu, implementation of the proposed solar power project, construction of PVC shelters for shepherds and yak herders, completion of road infrastructure, and other developmental needs.

Kundra also visited Kharnak village, where he met members of the Pashmina Growers community led by Thinles Nurbuo, General Secretary of the All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society (ACPGCMS). The delegation expressed gratitude to the UT Administration for providing a 25 per cent subsidy on pashmina, sanctioning an ₹8 crore revolving fund for the society, and establishing the Ladakh Pashmina Development Board.

During the programme, the Chief Secretary distributed cheques to pashmina growers under the concerned scheme. Another delegation, led by the Nambardar of Kharnak, submitted several demands related to infrastructure, public services and local development.

The tour concluded with the Chief Secretary's visit to Government High School, Gya, where he was received by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kharu. He interacted with teachers, students and local representatives from nearby villages.

Headmaster Nilza Angmo welcomed the Chief Secretary and highlighted the need to strengthen school infrastructure and improve educational facilities. Members of the Village Education Committee (VEC) sought the early completion and handover of the Samagra Shiksha building, deployment of additional doctors to improve healthcare services, effective implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission, and attention to other developmental requirements of the area.

Throughout the tour, the Chief Secretary patiently heard public grievances and suggestions and assured residents that all genuine concerns would be examined in coordination with the concerned departments. He directed officials to ensure regular monitoring of developmental works and emphasised the timely implementation of projects aimed at strengthening infrastructure and improving public service delivery in the remote areas of Changthang.

IT department organises Digital India awareness workshop in Leh



Photo Caption: Participants during the two-day Digital India State Awareness Workshop at Hotel Diskitsal, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Reinforcing its commitment to advancing digital governance and strengthening the implementation of the Digital India mission, the Information Technology Department, UT Ladakh, in collaboration with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), organised a two-day Digital India State Awareness Workshop at Hotel Diskitsal, Leh, on July 7.

The workshop aims to enhance awareness and build the capacity of government officials and stakeholders on key Digital India initiatives, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and citizen-centric digital platforms to promote efficient, transparent, and technology-driven governance across Ladakh.

The programme began with a welcome address by the Information Technology Department, highlighting the importance of accelerating digital transformation and expanding citizen-centric digital services across the Union Territory.

Ajay Kumar, Additional Director, National e-Governance Division (NeGD), delivered a comprehensive presentation on India's Digital Public Infrastructure and the Digital India ecosystem. He emphasised the role of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) framework, and Digital Public Infrastructure in enabling secure, efficient, and paperless public service delivery.

He also presented an overview of DigiLocker, describing its evolution into India's trusted digital document wallet. Kumar explained its key features, legal validity, regulatory framework, and integration with platforms such as UMANG, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and SEBI. He highlighted how DigiLocker has reduced dependence on paper-based governance while improving citizen access to authentic digital documents.

Referring to India's digital transformation since 2015, he outlined the role of the India Stack architecture and the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) framework in building a robust digital governance ecosystem.

Sharing national adoption statistics and major use cases, Kumar also introduced Entity Locker, highlighting its potential benefits for organisations, MSMEs, trusts, societies, and government institutions.

Speaking on Ladakh's digital landscape, he noted that several government departments and institutions in the Union Territory are already integrated with DigiLocker and emphasised the potential to expand digital document services across all 33 government departments. He also highlighted opportunities for adopting Entity Locker in sectors such as tourism and hospitality.

Ramakant from NeGD conducted a session on UX4G (User Experience for Government), an initiative focused on improving the usability, accessibility, and inclusiveness of government digital platforms. He discussed the principles of user experience (UX), user interface (UI), and design thinking, encouraging participants to contribute to enhancing digital public services through user-centric innovation.

He also led a technical session on the National Single Sign-On (NSSO) platform – Meri Pehchaan, explaining how it enables users to securely access multiple government services through a single digital identity. The session covered authentication processes, DigiLocker integration, profile management, secure document access, API integration, and the platform's role in delivering seamless digital services.

The final technical session was conducted by Sarvesh Kumar, who presented the UMANG platform and the MyScheme portal. He highlighted how these flagship Digital India initiatives provide citizens with easy access to government services, welfare schemes, and public benefits through a unified digital interface, promoting transparency, accessibility, and inclusive governance.

The workshop witnessed active participation from officials representing various government departments, banks, universities, and other public institutions. The sessions provided participants with valuable insights into Digital India initiatives, digital governance frameworks, and emerging technologies aimed at strengthening efficient, transparent and citizen-centric service delivery across Ladakh

Ladakh gears up for export of 1,000 MT fresh apricots to Dubai



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra reviewing the export of 1,000 MT fresh apricots to Dubai.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the implementation of the 1,000 MT Fresh Apricot Export Initiative launched under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Lulu Group. The initiative aims to facilitate the export of Ladakh's premium fresh apricots to Dubai and other international markets.

Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture, Bhupesh Chaudhary, gave a detailed presentation outlining the implementation strategy for the initiative. The presentation covered the project framework, key provisions of the MoU, participation of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and aggregators, financial planning, identification of production villages and hamlets, establishment of collection centres, fresh apricot production estimates across Ladakh, previous production and export data, harvesting schedules, mapping of production clusters, transportation logistics, operational requirements, labour deployment, risk mitigation measures, contingency planning, and village-wise export projections.

Reviewing the action plan in detail, the Chief Secretary examined every component of the export chain, with special emphasis on ensuring seamless procurement, grading, sorting, packaging, transportation and timely dispatch of the produce. He sought updates on the quantity of fresh apricots being mobilised from different production clusters, transportation arrangements from Leh and Kargil to Srinagar and onward to Delhi, and the preparedness of the designated aggregators managing the supply chain.

Kundra also reviewed the grading and sorting process, quality standards, rejection rates and the reasons for any rejected produce, including pest infestation, spoilage and non-compliance with export specifications. He directed the concerned departments and aggregators to minimise post-harvest losses by strictly adhering to quality protocols and scientific handling practices.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed the payment mechanism for farmers and aggregators, stressing the need for timely, transparent and hassle-free payments. He instructed officials to ensure that quality certification, procurement procedures and financial transactions are completed efficiently without unnecessary delays. During the meeting, Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture informed that a dedicated cargo aircraft is scheduled to depart from Delhi for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on July 14, carrying the first consignment of fresh apricots under the initiative. The Chief Secretary reviewed the flight schedule, cargo capacity and dispatch timeline, directing all stakeholders to ensure that the produce reaches Delhi well within the stipulated timeframe.

Emphasising the importance of efficient logistics, Kundra reviewed transportation routes from major production clusters, including Sarchu and Zanskar. He directed the Deputy Commissioners and all concerned agencies to closely monitor road conditions and coordinate with transport authorities to ensure the safe and timely movement of consignments to Srinagar and onward to

Delhi. He also stressed the need for contingency planning to address any disruptions caused by road closures or adverse weather conditions.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the preparedness of the five aggregators and the cooperative society participating in the initiative, assessing their procurement plans, farmer outreach, production estimates and operational readiness. He directed them to maintain close coordination with farmers and ensure adherence to production and harvesting schedules.

Reviewing the cold chain infrastructure, Kundra assessed the availability of pre-cooling facilities, refrigerated transport, temperature maintenance protocols and certification procedures. Highlighting that an uninterrupted cold chain is essential to preserving the quality of the fruit during transit, he instructed officials to strictly follow standard operating procedures from collection centres until export.

He further emphasised that Ladakh's unique identity should be prominently reflected on the packaging of the exported produce to strengthen the branding of the region's premium-quality apricots in international markets. He directed the concerned agencies to work closely with Fair Exports, Lulu Group and other stakeholders to ensure compliance with packaging, branding and quality standards prescribed under the export agreement.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for the ceremonial flag-off of the inaugural consignment scheduled for July 14 and discussed inter-departmental coordination, including support from the Police Department for the smooth movement of refrigerated vehicles carrying the export shipment.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh; Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture; Deputy Commissioner, Kargil; Director, Horticulture; Director, Agriculture; representatives of the concerned departments; and other senior officials associated with the implementation of the Fresh Apricot Export Initiative.

L-G Saxena launches smart energy centre to build skilled workforce

State-of-the-art facility to offer training in solar technologies, EV charging, SCADA, PLCs and industrial automation

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant step towards positioning Ladakh as a hub for clean energy innovation and future-ready technical education, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on July 11 inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Smart Energy and Electrical Systems at the Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency (LREDA) campus in Leh.

The Centre has been established to equip local youth with advanced skills in renewable energy, industrial automation and emerging technologies tailored to the unique requirements of the Himalayan region.

Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Skill India, Digital India and Make in India, the Centre features state-of-the-art laboratories for Industrial Automation using Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs), Human Machine Interface (HMI) systems, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), Smart Electrical Systems, Building Management Systems, Renewable Energy Technologies, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, and Fire and Safety Automation.

In its first phase, the Centre will offer

specialised training programmes in Electrical Installation and Maintenance, Industrial Automation, Building Management Systems, SCADA and IIoT, Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Technologies, and Electric Vehicle Charging and Energy Management. Schneider Electric, a global leader in energy management and industrial automation, has partnered as the Energy Technology Partner for the Centre. The building has been provided by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh.

Under the partnership, the Centre will focus on developing local capacity by training engineers, ITI graduates and technical professionals in specialised areas such as high-altitude microgrids, smart automation systems, renewable energy integration, SCADA, PLCs and Building Management Systems to address the unique operational challenges of mountainous regions like Ladakh.

Addressing the gathering, Lieutenant Governor Saxena said Ladakh's unique geography presents both challenges and immense opportunities in renewable energy, smart infrastructure and climate-resilient technologies.

“The future of Ladakh lies in building a skilled, innovative and self-reli-



ant workforce capable of leading the transition towards clean energy and advanced technologies. This Centre of Excellence will prepare the youth for emerging sectors such as renewable energy, industrial automation, electric mobility and smart infrastructure. Our objective is not merely to create employment but to nurture innovators, entrepreneurs and technology leaders who will contribute to the sustainable development of Ladakh and the nation,” he said.

On the occasion, Schneider Electric also expressed its interest in supporting the establishment of a Youth Impact Cluster in Ladakh, comprising one central hub and three to five spoke centres aligned with the skill requirements of local industries. The company also proposed setting up a similar hub in Kargil to expand advanced technical education across the Union Territory.

EJM College records 93.61% pass percentage in sixth semester university examination

Principal congratulates students and faculty as college achieves a significant academic milestone



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Government Eliezer Joldan Memorial (EJM) College, Leh, has achieved a significant academic milestone by recording an overall pass percentage of 93.61 per cent in the Sixth Semester University Examination, the results of which were declared on July 10.

Congratulating the successful students, Prof. Stanzin Yangdol, Principal of the college, commended their dedication, perseverance and commitment to academic excellence. She also appreciated the unwavering support of the faculty, parents and the college administration, stating that the outstanding result reflects the collective efforts of all stakeholders in creating a conducive learning environment.

The Principal expressed confidence in the graduating students and wished them success in higher education, competitive examinations, research and professional careers. She reaffirmed the college's commitment to maintaining high academic standards and nurturing responsible, competent and socially committed citizens.

The college administration, faculty and staff extended their congratulations to all the successful students and wished them a bright and successful future.

Fortnightly News

Administrative Secretary chairs meeting to revamp Brand Ladakh showroom in New Delhi



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, UT Ladakh, Himanshu Gupta, chaired a meeting on July 7 with entrepreneurs, designers, artisans, and departmental officials to discuss the effective operation and management of the Brand Ladakh showroom in New Delhi.

The meeting focused on developing a collaborative strategy to transform the showroom into a vibrant marketing and promotional platform for Ladakh’s premium handicrafts, handloom products, pashmina, traditional crafts, and other indigenous products.

Representatives from leading Ladakhi enterprises and brands, including Namza, Metal Craft, Superb Ladakh Pashmina, Nomadic Woollen Mills Pashmina, Virtually Zanskar, and entrepreneurs from Kargil, participated in the meeting along with senior officials of the Industries & Commerce Department.

Addressing the participants, Himanshu Gupta said the Brand Ladakh showroom has immense potential to serve as a flagship retail and marketing platform for authentic Ladakhi products in one of

the country’s largest consumer markets. He observed that the showroom has remained underutilised in recent years and stressed the need to revitalise it through the active participation of local entrepreneurs.

He informed the participants that, under the vision and guidance of the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, the Administration is committed to transforming the showroom into a professionally managed platform that strengthens the Brand Ladakh identity, improves market access for artisans and entrepreneurs, and creates sustainable business opportunities.

Gupta proposed an entrepreneur-driven model under which local producers would collectively showcase their products under the Brand Ladakh identity, while the Department would provide operational support, including management, manpower, and other essential services. He encouraged stakeholders to actively contribute suggestions for creating an efficient and transparent management framework.

During the meeting, the Director of Industries & Commerce informed partici-

pants that the UT Administration would provide a 50 per cent transport subsidy for products collectively dispatched to the New Delhi showroom, reducing logistical costs and encouraging greater participation from local entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs welcomed the initiative, stating that the revamped showroom could significantly improve market access and visibility for Ladakhi products. They highlighted the need for professional branding, marketing, promotional campaigns, and improved product presentation to attract a larger customer base.

Several participants suggested appointing a dedicated professional to oversee branding, marketing, advertising, and day-to-day coordination of the showroom. Officials agreed that the management structure should be transparent, practical, and capable of maximising the showroom’s commercial potential.

Entrepreneurs also raised concerns regarding operational expenses, including rent, manpower, sales performance, payment mechanisms, and long-term financial sustainability. In response, Gupta assured them that the Department would develop a commercially viable operational model after carefully considering all suggestions received during the consultation.

Officials further informed participants that housekeeping, maintenance, and other support services would be professionally managed, allowing entrepreneurs to focus on product development and sales. Discussions also covered showroom interiors, display systems, space allocation, and improving the overall customer experience while pre-

serving the unique identity of Brand Ladakh.

Participants emphasised that the showroom should primarily feature authentic handmade products, including pashmina, textiles, handicrafts, and other premium items that reflect Ladakh’s rich cultural heritage. They also recommended introducing digital authentication and certification mechanisms to assure customers of product authenticity. Entrepreneurs further suggested curating products based on seasonal demand and New Delhi’s climatic conditions to improve sales throughout the year.

Concluding the meeting, Himanshu Gupta appreciated the constructive suggestions and assured participants that all recommendations would be examined before finalising the revised operational framework. He also informed the gathering that the Administration is working towards strengthening the Brand Ladakh identity, expanding market linkages, and facilitating Geographical Indication (GI) registration for eligible products to enhance their market value and authenticity.

He requested entrepreneurs to submit any additional suggestions within the next two weeks so that the revised management model can be finalised in consultation with all stakeholders. Gupta also emphasised that sales proceeds should be transferred directly to entrepreneurs through a transparent, digitally integrated payment system. He responded positively to suggestions for showcasing traditional Ladakhi pottery and other emerging crafts as part of the showroom’s future expansion strategy.

Secretary, Rural Development reviews Project Tsangda and Solid Waste Management in UT Ladakh



Photo Caption: Administrative Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), UT Ladakh, Nidhi Malik, chairing a review meeting to assess the functioning of Project Tsangda and the Solid Resource Management Centres (SRMCs) established across Leh and Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Administrative Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), UT Ladakh, Nidhi Malik, chaired a comprehensive review meeting on July 6 to assess the functioning of Project Tsangda and the Solid Resource Management Centres (SRMCs) established across Leh and Kargil districts under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

The meeting was attended virtually by the Deputy Commissioners of Leh, Kargil and Drass; Additional District Development Commissioner, Leh; Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Nubra, Changthang, Sham and Zaskar; Director, Rural Development Department; Joint Directors of Planning and Finance; Project Director, Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency (LREDA); District Panchayat Officers; District Panchayat Development Officers; and other concerned officials.

At the outset, Director, Rural Development Department, Sajjad Hussain, presented an overview of the solid waste management system in the Union Territory. He briefed the meeting on the operational status of the 35 SRMCs established across Leh and Kargil, the institutional framework for their management, operational challenges, existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with LREDA for operation and maintenance, and the forward linkage agreement with Ladakh Recycle for collection and processing of recyclable waste.

Reviewing the project’s implementation, Nidhi Malik stressed that the Rural Development Department, as the nodal agency, must play a proactive role in supervising and monitoring the project. She directed all stakeholders to adhere strictly to the provisions of the MoUs, review the existing operational framework, identify gaps, and submit recommendations to strengthen the system.

Expressing concern over delays in performance reporting, the Secretary instructed LREDA to ensure the timely submission of monthly and quarterly reports covering waste collection, segregation, processing, and vehicle utilisation. She also called for the adoption of a common digital platform to facilitate effective monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

The meeting reviewed the financial sustainability of SRMC operations, including operational expenditure, maintenance costs, funding support, and revenue generation. The Secretary directed the concerned departments to examine existing funding mechanisms, address operational gaps, explore resource convergence, and assess corpus fund requirements to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the facilities.

Emphasising accountability, she instructed that GPS-based monitoring of waste collection vehicles be strengthened and all vehicles maintained

in roadworthy condition. Deputy Commissioners were directed to identify garbage-vulnerable areas, unauthorised dumping sites, and locations requiring immediate intervention. District administrations were also asked to intensify public awareness campaigns and enforce the Solid Waste Management Rules through appropriate penalties for littering and illegal dumping.

Reviewing forward linkage arrangements, the Secretary directed that the pending rate revision mechanism for recyclable waste be expedited through the competent authority. She also suggested exploring alternative models, including competitive bidding and benchmarking with municipal practices, to ensure transparency, efficiency, and better value for recyclable materials.

Deputy Commissioners and field officers highlighted district-specific challenges, including the need for additional SRMCs in tourist-intensive and remote areas, retrofitting waste collection vehicles for four-way segregation, installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable locations, provision of uniforms and safety equipment for sanitation workers, and temporary facilities for handling hazardous waste.

The meeting placed special emphasis on achieving source segregation of waste in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules and the directions of the Supreme Court. The Secretary instructed all districts to prepare realistic action plans to improve household-level segregation, strengthen collection systems, and ensure scientific disposal of waste.

Reviewing Project Tsangda, particularly in Nubra and other high tourist footfall areas, she directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to prepare decentralised waste management plans, strengthen wet waste management through composting and bio-waste solutions, improve linkages with authorised recyclers, and develop sustainable waste management solutions for remote locations. She also instructed that issues relating to electricity supply and land availability for SRMCs be addressed on priority.

The Secretary further reviewed district-wise infrastructure proposals submitted by the Deputy Commissioners to the Divisional Commissioner, including requirements for additional SRMCs, waste collection vehicles, machinery, bins, uniforms, and operational costs. She directed officials to examine the proposals for inclusion in the forthcoming UT Budget.

The meeting concluded with directions to all districts and implementing agencies to submit time-bound Action Taken Reports (ATRs) and ensure close coordination among all stakeholders to strengthen the solid waste management system across Ladakh.

DIET Leh concludes six-day workshop to revise Bhoti textbooks

Experts review and reframe textbooks for Classes III onwards in line with NEP 2020 and national curriculum framework



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh, successfully concluded a six-day Bhoti Textbook Review and Reframing Workshop held from July 6 to 11 to review, revise and reframe Bhoti textbooks for Classes III onwards.

The workshop aimed to develop learner-centred, culturally relevant and pedagogically sound textbooks in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). During the programme, the Bhoti Textbook Core Committee, comprising eminent Bhoti language experts, academicians and experienced teachers, undertook an extensive review of the draft textbooks before fi-

nalising them through detailed deliberations and collaborative planning.

The committee included Dr. Jamyang Wangchuk (HSS Tingmosgang), Dr. Lotos Rabgais (DIET Leh), Ven. Tashi Gyaltsan (HSS Saspol), Padma Wangail (HS Gya), Ven. Konchok Tsering (HSS Skurbuchan), Dr. Tsering Dolker (Boys HSS Leh), and Ven. Konchok Stanzin (HS Thiksey). Their collective expertise helped enhance the academic quality, linguistic accuracy and cultural relevance of the Bhoti textbooks.

On the concluding day, S. D. Namgail, Principal, DIET Leh, appreciated the committee members and Bhoti language

experts for their dedication, commitment and hard work throughout the workshop. He felicitated the experts in recognition of their valuable contribution to the promotion and development of Bhoti language education.

The Principal urged the participants to continue contributing towards the advancement of the Bhoti language through research, curriculum development and the preparation of high-quality educational resources. He stressed that sustained efforts are essential to preserve and promote the Bhoti language, culture, traditions, heritage and the unique way of life of the people of Ladakh for future generations.

The successful completion of the workshop marks another significant milestone in DIET Leh’s ongoing efforts to strengthen mother tongue-based education and preserve Ladakh’s rich linguistic and cultural heritage through quality, learner-centred and culturally responsive educational resources.

SDM Durbuk visits pioneer organic mushroom cultivation site at Yurgoo

Inaugurates first oyster mushroom harvest, lauds sustainable farming initiatives by Department of Agriculture



Photo Caption: Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO), Durbuk Zone, Chimet Lhamo, briefs SDM Mohd. Ismail on the oyster mushroom cultivation process during his visit to Yurgoo village.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DURBUK: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Durbuk, Mohd. Ismail, visited the pioneering organic oyster mushroom cultivation unit of beneficiary Konchok Dolker at Yurgoo village on July 10.

During the visit, Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO), Durbuk Zone, Chimet Lhamo, briefed the SDM on the complete mushroom production process, including substrate preparation, spawning, crop

management and harvesting.

She informed that the beneficiary had received training in organic mushroom cultivation from the Department of Agriculture and that the first harvest is typically ready within 25 days under proper management.

The SDM also inspected vegetable cultivation under mulching practices in the beneficiary’s Domestic Ladakh Greenhouse, where crops including spinach, Chinese cabbage, pak choi, tomato, coriander, cabbage, cauliflower and muskmelon are being grown.

The beneficiary shared her experience of adopting organic farming and sustainable cultivation practices.

The visit concluded with the SDM inaugurating the first harvest of organically grown oyster mushrooms. He appreciated the efforts of the beneficiary and the Department of Agriculture in promoting innovative, climate-resilient and sustainable farming practices in the Durbuk Sub-Division.

Ladakh deploys 100 ex-servicemen to protect fragile environment

First-of-its-kind Environment Protection Force empowered to curb illegal off-roading, safeguard wildlife, and promote responsible tourism



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a first-of-its-kind initiative to strengthen environmental protection and safeguard Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on July 4 inducted 100 ex-servicemen into the Ladakh Environment Protection Force (EPF).

The EPF personnel, comprising retired personnel from the Army, paramilitary forces, and the Ladakh Scouts, will be deployed across ecologically sensitive areas of the Union Territory to check the growing menace of illegal off-roading, wildlife disturbance, and other activities that threaten Ladakh’s delicate environment. To strengthen enforcement, the ex-servicemen have been authorised to issue on-the-spot challans for violations within their designated areas.

The initiative has been launched in response to increasing incidents of illegal off-roading, unauthorised camping in protected areas, disturbance to wildlife, littering, and pollution across Ladakh’s environmentally sensitive landscapes. The deployment is aimed at reinforcing the implementation of environmental and wildlife protection laws.

The Environment Protection Force has been entrusted with preventing violations in protected wildlife areas, including wildlife disturbance, littering, the use of single-use plastics, indiscriminate disposal of plastic waste, and other environmentally harmful activities.

Besides strengthening environmental enforcement, the initiative also provides a meaningful rehabilitation opportunity for ex-servicemen by enabling them to continue serving society after

retirement. Each EPF member will receive a fixed monthly remuneration of ₹25,000 and will be deployed in or near their native or designated areas, allowing them to effectively monitor sensitive locations by drawing on their familiarity with the local terrain.

Flagging off the Environment Protection Force, Lieutenant Governor Saxena said Ladakh possesses one of the world’s most fragile high-altitude ecosystems and is home to several endangered wildlife species that require the highest level of protection. He stressed that increasing tourism must go hand in hand with environmental responsibility and said the EPF would play a crucial role in balancing tourism with ecological conservation while promoting responsible tourism practices.

“The Environment Protection Force brings together the discipline, integrity, and commitment of our ex-servicemen to protect this fragile ecosystem. I am confident that they will not only prevent violations of environmental and wildlife laws but also become ambassadors of cleanliness, biodiversity conservation, and responsible tourism across Ladakh,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also administered an oath to the members of the Environment Protection Force, reaffirming their commitment to protecting Ladakh’s environment, forests, wildlife, and biodiversity. The personnel further pledged to refrain from using single-use plastics in their personal lives and to encourage their families, friends, and local communities to adopt environmentally sustainable alternatives.

Fortnightly News

Ladakh tourism sees strong growth with surge in foreign visitors

June records 99.46% rise in international arrivals and 43.48% increase in overall tourist footfall compared to last year.



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The massive tourism surge in Ladakh continues to witness an impressive upward trajectory, with foreign tourist arrivals almost doubling in June this year, compared to the previous year. Compared to 3349 foreign tourists visiting Ladakh in June 2025, the number of foreign visitors has gone up to 6680 in June 2026, registering a jump of 99.46%, reflecting Ladakh's increasing popularity among international travellers seeking high-altitude adventure, culture, spirituality and sustainable tourism experiences.

Among international visitors, Israel continues to emerge as the largest source market for Ladakh, followed by Thailand, the United States, Vietnam, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, Taiwan, Russia, Italy, South Korea, Spain and several other European and South-east Asian countries, demonstrating Ladakh's growing recognition as a globally preferred destination for adventure, nature and cultural tourism.

Apart from the foreign visitors, the overall tourist arrivals in Ladakh in June 2026 have gone up to 1,07,740, representing a healthy growth of 43.48 per cent over June 2025, when 75,089 tourists had visited Ladakh.

In the first six months, i.e. from January to June 2026, a total of 2,25,286 tourists have visited Ladakh, including 2,11,645 domestic and 13,641 foreign tourists. The latest figures reflect the growing confidence of travellers in Ladakh as one of India's most sought-after year-round tourism destinations and underscore the success of sustained efforts undertaken by the UT Administration under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, to strengthen tourism infrastructure, diversify tourism products and create a more tourist-friendly ecosystem.

L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena said that the encouraging growth in tourist arrivals reflected the success of the Administration's sustained efforts to position Ladakh as a premier tourism destination while ensuring sustainable and responsible development of the sector.

"Tourism is one of the strongest pillars of Ladakh's economy and a vital source of livelihood for thousands of our people. The remarkable increase in tourist arrivals this year is a reflection of our sustained efforts to position Ladakh as a premier, year-round tourism destination while ensuring that development remains sustainable and environmentally responsible. It is heartening to see this growth bringing renewed confidence and economic opportunities for our hoteliers, guest house owners, homestay operators, tour operators, transporters, trekking guides, artisans, entrepreneurs and local communities whose livelihoods depend on tourism," said L-G, Saxena.

The L-G attributed the tourism surge to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's push to domestic tourism and the massive infrastructure boost in Ladakh, accelerating tourism, local economy and employment creation.

Since assuming office, L-G Saxena has consistently accorded high priority to the tourism sector. Under his leadership, the Administration has undertaken several transformative reforms, including simplifying regulatory procedures, reducing compliance burden, granting Industry Status to hotels and guest houses, improving tourism infrastructure, strengthening air and road connectivity, expanding visitor amenities, promoting responsible tourism and encouraging private investment in tourism-related activities.

The Administration has also focused on diversifying Ladakh's tourism offerings beyond the conventional summer season by actively promoting winter tourism, adventure tourism, high-altitude trekking, wildlife tourism, rural tourism, wellness tourism, cultural tourism, spiritual tourism and astro-tourism. Several national and international sporting events, cultural festivals and tourism promotion campaigns have further contributed to extending the tourist season and increasing Ladakh's visibility in domestic and global tourism markets.

Ladakh hosts State Orientation on Mission Vatsalya and ethical adoption practices



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Department of Social and Tribal Welfare, Union Territory of Ladakh, in collaboration with the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and the State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Ladakh, organised a one-day State Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Mission Vatsalya functionaries and key stakeholders at Hotel Abduz, Leh, on July 4.

The programme brought together officials from the Police Department, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs), Child Care Institutions (CCIs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), representatives from various government departments and organisations, resource persons, and officials from Kargil, reflecting a collective commitment to strengthening child protection and adoption systems in the Union Territory.

Programme Officer, SARA Ladakh, Ibteesum Iqbal, highlighted the importance of capacity building and inter-departmental coordination in ensuring the effective implementation of Mission Vatsalya and building a robust child protection ecosystem across Ladakh.

Delivering the inaugural technical session, Yash Yadav, Junior Professional at the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), provided a comprehensive overview of CARA, its statutory mandate, and its role in regulating and monitoring adoption in India. He explained that CARA functions under the Ministry of Women and Child Development to promote ethical, transparent, and child-centric adoption practices in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption.

Yadav elaborated on various modes of adoption, including in-country, inter-country, relative, step-parent, and foster adoption. He emphasised that timely registration of children on the Mission Vatsalya portal enables proper identification, monitoring, and protection of children while strengthening co-ordination among district authorities, police, and other stakeholders. He underscored the collective responsibility of Child Protection Units, NGOs, judicial authorities, and government agencies in ensuring that every child in need receives appropriate care and legal protection through transparent procedures.

The technical sessions also featured an extensive presentation by child protection expert Dr. Vasundhara, Managing Trustee, who explained the legal framework governing adoption and foster care under the Juvenile Justice Act and Adoption Regulations.

She detailed the procedures relating to orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children, highlighting the legal distinctions between these categories and the prescribed timelines for each process.

She also discussed the roles and responsibilities of Child Welfare Committees, Specialised Adoption Agencies, police authorities, and District Child Protection Units in conducting social investigations, preparing statutory reports, uploading child profiles, and ensuring timely processing of adoption cases.

Dr. Vasundhara further elaborated on the eligibility criteria for prospective adoptive parents, referral procedures, pre-adoption foster care, adoption orders, adoption under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) and the Juvenile Justice Act, as well as procedures applicable when children adopted under HAMA subsequently relocate abroad. She also highlighted provisions relating to foster care, hard-to-place children, cradle baby reception centres, children with disabilities, and the importance of family-based care over institutionalisation wherever possible.

Participants actively engaged in discussions, seeking clarifications on foster care eligibility, adoption procedures, and legal safeguards.

In another technical session, Yash Yadav explained the procedural and legal aspects of relative and step-parent adoption using flowcharts and timelines prescribed under the Juvenile Justice Act. He stressed the need to curb illegal adoption practices through mandatory registration, regular inspections, proper documentation, and greater public awareness. He also encouraged stakeholders to utilise social media and youth engagement to promote awareness of legal adoption procedures and responded to queries relating to abandoned infants, trafficking concerns, and the responsibilities of district authorities in identifying children eligible for adoption.

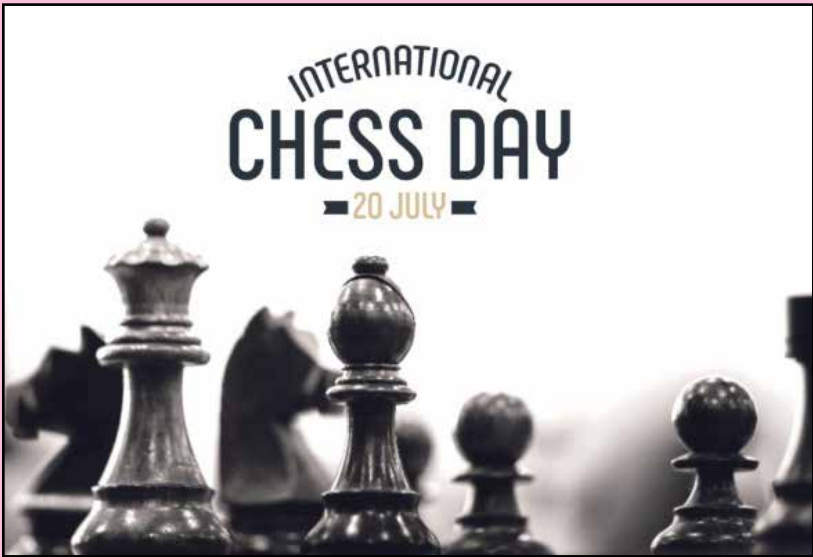
Adding further perspective, Sharif Bhat, Head of Mission Bal Raksha, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, delivered a presentation on strengthening child

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The World of Juniors

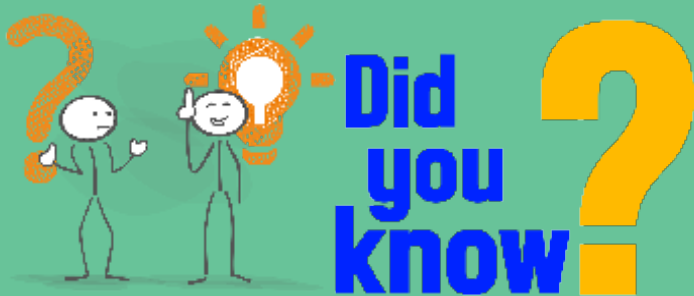
International Chess Day, observed globally on July 20, celebrates the timeless and intellectual game of chess. This day commemorates the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924 and has since become a platform to promote chess as a tool for education, critical thinking, and cultural exchange. Chess enthusiasts worldwide mark this occasion by participating in tournaments, online events, and local chess club activities. International Chess Day 2026 invites players of all ages to celebrate the strategic game that connects millions globally.

International Chess Day traces its origins to July 20, 1924, when FIDE was officially established to unify chess activities worldwide. The idea to celebrate a dedicated day for chess was first proposed by UNESCO and was celebrated in 1966. Later, the United Nations officially recognized International Chess Day in 2019, emphasizing the game's role in education, peace, and sustainable development. The theme for International Chess Day 2026 focuses on promoting inclusivity, strategy, and global harmony through chess.



International Chess Day holds both cultural and educational significance. Chess is more than a game; it promotes strategic thinking, patience, problem-solving, and cross-cultural understanding. The observance encourages players to connect across nations, share knowledge, and highlight chess as an accessible activity for all. FIDE's motto, "Gens una sumus" ("We are one family"), reflects the unifying spirit of chess celebrated on this day.

Courtesy: Vedantu



In New Delhi, the Sulabh International Museum of Toilets features a rare collection that details the historic evolution of toilets from 2,500 BC all the way up to the present day. When you browse through the exhibit, you'll learn about the plumbing system of ancient societies, marvel at the elaborately decorated toilets of 18th and 19th-century Europe, and even get to sit upon one from Austria that is shaped like a lion!

Veterans Stadium, where the Philadelphia Eagles once played, had a stadium courtroom and jail to handle the team's notoriously rowdy fans. However, one of the judges for said courtroom reported that 95% of the "inmates" were actually not from the city itself!

In 2005, Neil Armstrong once threatened legal action against his former barber who had earned \$3,000 for selling a lock of the astronaut's hair. The barber took no heed of the threat and went on

to make over \$38,000 in 2016 by selling both the hair and the barber's comb and scissors.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, "strengths" is the longest word in the English language with one vowel. The word contains nine letters, eight of them being consonants.

Due to the anatomy of their necks and spines, pigs are incapable of looking upwards. However, they can still tilt their head sideways or lie on their backs if they want to get a view of something higher.

The idea was popularized by an Ohio doctor, John Cook Bennett, in the 1830s. During this time, it was believed that ketchup could help cure (or alleviate) diarrhea, jaundice and indigestion. By the 1850s, however, the trend quickly died out.

Located in Scotland, Loch Ness holds more freshwater than any other British lake at a volume of 7,452 cubic meters! If any lake could hold a mythical dinosaur-like monster, it's this one.

The molds at the manufacturing plant at LEGO are so precise and effective that just 18 out of one million are found to be defective. That's out of the 20 billion pieces that are manufactured every year!

When you consider mountains that exist below sea level, Mount Everest is much shorter than Mauna Kea in Hawaii. This dormant volcano measures approximately 33,500 feet (from base to summit). However, most of it is submerged underwater.

Courtesy: parade.com

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Looking back in time for lessons



We have been often told not to look back in time so that we don't have to carry our past-baggage. This stand may carry some weightage, but the past is an important part of our present. Even if we don't call it the foundation of life, we can very well call it a kind of book to learn lessons from. Some of the good and bad experiences of life in the past are not to be forgotten. They are there either as an inspiration or a reminder. And the mistakes we could avoid now and in future can be mostly done only by learning lessons from our past mistakes.

Actually, one can say with certainty that looking back on life can be a powerful instrument for perspective, and you can give your gratitude for your successes and good lessons from your struggles. We can say that it is the experiences we had gathered that come to our help and rescue in times of need.

An anonymous quote has this to say: "When I look back over my life, I see how everything was falling into place, all the time."

At times, it is the comparison that you do of the past with the present triumphs and failures, and learn a great deal to take the right course for a bright future. I have a habit of telling myself quite often that unless and until you look back, how will you be able to understand yourself? Understanding yourself has a key part in the past.

True, I am not here to say that you be obsessed with the past, and forget your present and the future. Some of us could say, and rightly, that we are wasting our good moments in looking back, and that keeps us away from moving forward. I am not against this argument, but the fact is that we had a past too that can't just be brushed aside because the past can give us good lessons, and can also act as an invaluable guide.

The punchline: While looking at our present and future, we need to be grateful to the past that gave us so much. We are what we are, all because of our past!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with

Dr. Disket Dolker: Bringing Laproscopic Gynaecological Surgeries to Ladakh

Q. Could you tell us about yourself, your education journey and what inspired you to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology?

Thank you for having me. I am Dr Disket Dolker from Skurbuchan village. To briefly summarise my educational journey, I completed my primary schooling in Skurbuchan village and studied in Mahabodhi School, Leh, till 10th standard. I then pursued my higher secondary education in Bangalore through a sponsored programme by the Mahabodhi Institute. I completed my MBBS at Government Medical College, Srinagar, and my postgraduate degree at the prestigious AIIMS, Delhi. During my MBBS, I was always interested in how women’s health could be improved and uplifted. This interest drew me towards Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and that’s why I decided to specialise in this field. I completed my senior residency at Dr RML Hospital, Delhi, and my fellowship in minimal access surgery. Professionally, I have been working at forte la femme, Bangalore, a leading corporate healthcare institution. I have also worked in the remote peripheral region of Ladakh, at the Primary Health Centre, Tangste, for two years during the COVID-19 period, and currently I’m working in SNM Hospital.

Q. You and your team performed the first minimally invasive laparoscopic ovarian cystectomy and salpingectomy in Ladakh. Could you explain the significance of this milestone and what this means for the healthcare sector in Ladakh?

This is a significant milestone in Ladakh because laparoscopic surgeries have not been performed in Leh until now. This minimally invasive surgery uses small incisions to insert a camera and surgical instruments instead of a large cut that leaves a scar. It is beneficial for patients because it is less painful, allows faster recovery, requires a minimal hospital stay, and leaves minimal scarring. This achievement is particularly important in Ladakh because patients often travel outside Ladakh for such procedures, often at a cost of ₹3-4 lakh in corporate hospitals. Many people in Ladakh cannot afford that. Now, this advanced surgical procedure is also available in Leh, free of cost.

The Ovarian Cystectomy we performed was especially challenging, because it leans towards the more technically demanding procedure in gynaecology. In this case, we successfully removed a large dermoid cyst intact, without any spillage. To explain it, a dermoid cyst can contain various components such as hair and other tissues. In many cases that I’ve observed, the cyst is ruptured firsthand before the cyst wall is extracted. However, in this case, we were able to remove the whole cyst intact.

The procedure was performed through laparoscopic keyhole surgery, where three to four small incisions are made, and the cyst

Interviewed by Dechen Dolker



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Awareness is the key to preventing many gynaecological diseases and cancers. Ensure girls aged 9–15 years receive the HPV vaccine and encourage women to undergo regular cancer screening. Women with gynaecological symptoms should seek timely medical care. Free screening for cervical, breast, ovarian, and endometrial cancers is available every Tuesday at SNM Hospital. Early detection saves lives.”

is removed under camera guidance and with the help of surgical instruments inserted through those small incisions. This is the first time such a procedure has been introduced and successfully performed in Leh, in the Gynaecology sector. For example, a patient who wants minimal scarring and yet has to get this surgery done, would’ve required to travel outside of Ladakh, whereas it is now available locally as well.

Q. What were some of the challenges involved in introducing laparoscopic surgery in Ladakh?

The main challenges were procuring the equipment required for the procedure. Especially since it’s a government sector, procurement is done through the GeM portal, and the lowest bidding results in low-quality equipment. As a result, securing high-quality equipment and instruments was our biggest concern. For laparoscopic surgery, the quality of the camera and other instruments is extremely important. We wanted to ensure that there were no gaps or limitations caused by the equipment and that it met all the required standards for the procedure.

We received immense support from the UT Administration, the Medical Superintendent, and the Directorate of Health Services. They understood our concerns and the importance of the project, and its requirement for high-end instruments, and ensured that the procurement process was carried out smoothly. With their support, we were able to obtain high-quality equipment that met our requirements. The camera we used was a 4k camera from Olympus, which is a reputed brand. Although it was challenging at first, the cooperation and support from the start helped us successfully establish the laparoscopic surgery in Leh.

Q. There have been concerns about rising breast and cervical cancer cases in Ladakh. What are the trends you’re observing as a practising gynaecologist, and what should the public know about these diseases?

One consistent trend I’m noticing in Ladakh is that many patients with cervical cancer are diagnosed at their very end stage. By the time they seek medical help, the cancer has already spread. This pattern is also seen in cervical cancer, endometrial cancer, ovarian cancer and breast cancer. A major reason for late diagnosis is the lack of regular screening, early diagnosis, and regular health check-ups. Many women either do not undergo screening or they tend to neglect the early symptoms of cervical cancer, which delays detection and treatment.

Cervical cancer is commonly caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which is a sexually transmitted virus. One important thing the public should know is that the incubation periods of this

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Fortnight Highlights



A Single-Use Plastic Ban Awareness Campaign was successfully conducted at Chushul Village under the guidance of the Namberdar of the village. The campaign aimed to create awareness among villagers about the harmful effects of single-use plastics on the environment, wildlife, and public health, while encouraging the use of eco-friendly alternatives.



World Population Day-cum-Tethi Bhojan and the Education Department Awareness Programme was observed at the Community Hall, Laga Mord, in Durbuk Sub-Division. The programme was organised by the Zonal Education Office, Durbuk, in collaboration with the parents of the Durbuk Cluster.



An orientation programme on the various schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Durbuk Zone, was successfully conducted at Perma Village. A total of 70 farmers actively participated in the training programme, which witnessed enthusiastic interaction and participation from the beneficiaries.



The Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs conducted a ration card service camp at Yourgo village, during which various ration card-related services were provided to beneficiaries.



A joint market inspection team led by SDM Durbuk conducted an inspection of hotels and restaurants at Lukung, Spangmik and Shooting Point, Pangong. During the drive, ₹2,500 was recovered as fines from two hotel and restaurant owners, while ₹6,000 was imposed for the use of banned single-use plastics. The team also seized and destroyed 10 litres of expired milk to ensure public health and safety.



In compliance with the directions of the UT Administration and under the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner, Sham, Kunzes Angmo (JKAS), the Forest Range Office, Khatse, conducted a special enforcement drive against banned single-use plastic (SUP) items in the market areas of Hemishukpachan, Uleytokpo and Saspol.



As part of the ongoing campaign to enforce the ban on single-use plastics, Naib Tehsildar Hanle, Kunzes Dolma, conducted a special enforcement drive across the market area to ensure strict compliance with environmental regulations.



Deputy Commissioner Nubra, Mukul Beniwal (IAS), visited Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Nubra on National Doctor's Day and reviewed its functioning with the Block Medical Officer, doctors and hospital staff. He also discussed measures to strengthen healthcare services across the district.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Dr. Disket Dolker: Bringing Laproscopic Gynaecological Surgeries to Ladakh

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virus can be very long. A person may contact the virus and yet develop cervical cancer about ten years later as well. That’s why regular screening and checkups for it are very important. Most cervical cancer patients I see in the OPD are elderly women in their 60s or 70s. Although the overall percentage of cervical cancer amongst the population is less than 1%, according to the population, even that number is significantly high because the patients usually diagnosed are often at an advanced stage.

Among the gynaecological cancers I’ve encountered, cervical cancer remains a major concern and the most common one to spread among patients. Followed by ovarian cancer, then endometrial cancer, while breast cancer is also being increasingly observed. More awareness, early diagnosis and regular screening can help detect the virus early on before it becomes fatal, and mandatory cautions are essential for improving outcomes and reducing the adverse damage of these diseases.

Q. What are the early symptoms women should watch for, and what are the preventive steps to reduce risk?

The primary cause of cervical cancer is infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which is a sexually transmitted virus. Factors such as multiple sexual partners, early sexual activity, and poor genital hygiene can increase the risk of HPV infection. The public should be aware of the common warning signs of cervical cancer, which include irregular bleeding, foul-smelling, excessive vaginal discharged, and post-coital bleeding. If these symptoms persist, it is important to seek medical attention without delay and get themselves checked.

For ovarian cancer, symptoms may include abdominal bloating, pressure in the abdomen, lack of appetite, and unexplained weight loss. In such cases, an ultrasound examination is important for further evaluation. Breast cancer commonly presents as a lump in the breast, which is often painless, and this gets ignored by the public for a long period of time. Endometrial cancer may present its symptoms as irregular bleeding or post-menopausal bleeding. In many cases, a long history of untreated PCOD or prolonged metrogen exposure can increase the risk of developing endometrial cancer. Early diagnosis is very crucial. The government of India recommends cervical cancer screening for all women above the age of 30 every 5 years. At SNM hospital, cervical cancer screening is available free of cost every Tuesday, which everyone must be aware of. This includes a Pap smear test of the cervix, which helps detect abnormal changes in the cervix early on.

In addition to that, there are facilities such as an ultrasound, MRI, mammography, which is like an ultrasound or an X-ray for the breast, and other diagnostic services are available free of cost at the hospital. These investigations can be very expensive outside Ladakh, but women here can access them without any financial burden. For ovarian cancer, tumour marker tests such as CA-125, which is a blood test used for screening and ultrasound examinations are available. For endometrial cancer, evaluation may include an ultrasound and endometrial biopsy, where a sample is taken out of the lining of the uterus, which is used for screening.

When it comes to the prevention of the HPV virus, the vaccine for the HPV virus is one of the most effective tools we have against cervical cancer. The vaccine is said to work best when introduced before any sexual exposure, as girls of the younger age group can benefit the most from the vaccine, which is why it is recommended for girls between the ages of 9 and 15 years old. After that, any woman up to the age of 45 can also receive the vaccine.

There are many myths and rumours surrounding the HPV vaccine, which I’d like to debunk, including claims that it causes infertility. I would like to strongly deny dispersing these myths. This vaccine has been used globally for many years and has an excellent safety record with no major recorded side effects. When given before sexual exposure or exposure to the virus, it provides the highest efficacy against cervical cancer. There are two commonly used vaccines: Gardasil 4 and Gardasil 9. Gardasil 4 protects against four high-risk HPV viruses responsible for the majority of cervical cancer cases, while Gardasil 9 protects against nine HPV viruses. The government of India had also rolled out free HPV vaccination for eligible girls who are 14 years of age through public health facilities.

For cervical cancer, prevention through vaccination remains the strongest pursuit. For ovarian and endometrial cancer, the key lies in early detection, awareness, timely screening and early medication. Women should not ignore symptoms and should seek medical attention at the earliest.

Ladakh hosts State Orientation on Mission Vatsalya and ethical adoption practices

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protection systems under the Juvenile Justice Act and Mission Vatsalya. Drawing upon his extensive experience in child rights, he highlighted the evolution of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and stressed that effective child protection requires strong institutional mechanisms, legal awareness, coordinated action, and community participation.

He emphasised the need for all stakeholders to have a thorough understanding of the Juvenile Justice Act to effectively address cases involving children. Referring to issues such as child trafficking, substance abuse, child labour, institutional care, school safety, and the growing risks associated with digital exposure, he called for integrated training programmes, stronger district coordination committees, and enhanced collaboration among the police, judiciary, education, health departments, and child protection institutions. He also underscored the importance of maintaining child privacy, conducting proper social investigations, developing standard operating procedures, and always prioritising the best interests of the child.

The concluding session was addressed by Nahida Bano, Nodal Officer for Special Children, DIET Leh, who emphasised the importance of empathy, patience, and emotional connection while working with children. Sharing

practical experiences from her work with vulnerable and specially abled children, she highlighted how meaningful engagement, effective communication, and inclusive teaching approaches can positively transform children’s lives. She stressed that child protection extends beyond legal procedures and requires compassion, collaboration, proper documentation, and sustained support at the grassroots level.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, allowing participants to discuss practical challenges related to foster care, adoption procedures, child protection mechanisms, and inter-agency coordination. The exchange reinforced the importance of continuous capacity building and collaborative efforts in strengthening Ladakh’s child protection system.

The orientation programme served as an important platform for enhancing the knowledge and capacities of Mission Vatsalya functionaries and stakeholders, reaffirming the commitment of the Department of Social and Tribal Welfare, CARA, and SARA Ladakh to ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, secure, and nurturing family environment through transparent, ethical, and legally compliant child protection and adoption practices.

DIET Kargil, 17000ft Foundation launch summer worksheets for young learners



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: As part of a summer learning initiative to promote continuous and joyful education among children, the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Kargil, in collaboration with the 17000ft Foundation, launched specially designed Summer Vacation Worksheets for students of Classes I and II in government schools across Kargil district on July 8.

Developed under the aegis of the School Education Department, UT Ladakh, the worksheets aim to strengthen Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The initiative seeks to keep children meaningfully engaged during the summer break through enjoyable, activity-based learning rooted in the local context.

The worksheets focus on two core subjects English and Mathematics and incorporate references to Ladakh’s environment and culture, making the learning experience

more relatable and engaging for young learners.

Distribution of the worksheets commenced at DIET Kargil and will continue through government schools across the district. Designed to be simple, flexible, and accessible, the worksheets can be completed either in notebooks or on printed sheets, ensuring that children in remote and geographically challenging areas can participate effectively. The initiative also encourages active parental involvement in children’s learning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of DIET Kargil said, “This collaboration with the 17000ft Foundation reflects our collective commitment to strengthening Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. These worksheets are designed to make learning enjoyable, contextual, and accessible for every child.”

A representative of the 17000ft Foundation said, “We are proud to support Ladakh’s education ecosystem through this initiative. The worksheets have been thoughtfully designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and joyful engagement while ensuring continuity of learning during the summer vacation.”

DIET Kargil appealed to parents and teachers to guide and encourage children in completing the activities, making the summer break a period of productive, joyful, and holistic learning. Schools and stakeholders have been advised to contact DIET Kargil for further information.

CEC Kargil calls for conservation of indigenous crops at awareness programme



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, attended a one-day training-cum-awareness programme on “Conservation, Registration and Promotion of Niche-Specific Arid Crops and Farmers’ Varieties in Ladakh” at the Conference Hall, Baroo, on July 7.

The programme was organised by the School of Horticulture Science and Technology (SHS&T), University of Ladakh, Kargil, under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights (PPV&FR) Authority.

The event was attended by Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof. Saket Kushwaha (virtually), Director Horticulture Tsering PUNCHOK, Chief Horticulture Officer Ali Raza, Dr. Faizan Ahmad of KVK Kargil, Assistant Soil Conservator Mohammad Hussain, Head, KVK Kargil, Dr. Nasreen Fatima, Head, KVK Zaskar, Dr. Mohammad Mehdi, along with faculty members, scientists, researchers, officials from the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, progressive farmers, students, and other stakeholders.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. Faizan Ahmad outlined the objectives of the programme and stressed the importance of conserving Ladakh’s rich agricultural biodiversity. He emphasised that documenting and registering indigenous crop varieties would safeguard farmers’ rights while preserving the region’s valuable genetic resources for future generations.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Mahrukh presented an overview of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001, explaining its objectives, provisions, and the registration process for farmers’ varieties. He highlighted Ladakh’s rich genetic resources and underscored the need to conserve and promote niche-specific arid crops adapted to the region’s

unique cold-arid ecosystem.

During the technical sessions, experts discussed Ladakh’s distinctive agro-climatic conditions, the significance of preserving traditional crop varieties, and the benefits available to farmers under the PPV&FR Act. They noted that conserving indigenous germplasm is essential for sustainable agriculture, food security, climate resilience, and improving farmers’ livelihoods.

Chief Horticulture Officer Ali Raza spoke on post-harvest management, value addition, and horticulture development, with particular emphasis on the growing potential of apricot cultivation in Ladakh. He also informed farmers about government subsidy schemes and encouraged them to adopt scientific farming practices.

Director Horticulture Tsering PUNCHOK highlighted the need to strengthen post-harvest infrastructure, cold-chain facilities, fruit processing units, and value-addition initiatives. He assured farmers of continued departmental support through various government schemes.

Assistant Soil Conservator Mohammad Hussain explained government welfare schemes in the local vernacular and encouraged farmers to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to better access government benefits.

Head of KVK Kargil, Dr. Nasreen Fatima, highlighted the extension activities and farmer-centric programmes being implemented by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra to strengthen the agricultural sector and enhance farmers’ capacities across the district.

An interactive session allowed farmers to share their experiences, discuss challenges in agriculture and horticulture, and seek expert guidance on improving productivity, conserving indigenous crop varieties, and accessing government support.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun said that conserving and promoting Ladakh’s indigenous agricultural heritage is a shared responsibility.

He noted that the region’s naturally organic environment, traditional farming practices, and unique crop varieties offer immense potential for agriculture and horticulture.

The CEC urged farmers to make full use of government schemes available in the agriculture and horticulture sectors. He observed that Ladakh’s organic and traditional agricultural products possess high nutritional value and strong market potential, which can significantly improve farmers’ livelihoods. He added that awareness programmes such as these help bridge traditional knowledge with modern scientific practices.

Dr. Akhoun assured that LAHDC Kargil would continue extending full support to the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, the University of Ladakh, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and other institutions working towards strengthening agriculture, horticulture, and farmers’ welfare in the region.

He also appreciated Vice Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha for introducing the B.Sc. Agriculture programme at the University of Ladakh and lauded his efforts in promoting agricultural education, research, innovation, and the conservation of Ladakh’s unique organic agricultural resources.

Addressing the programme virtually, Prof. Saket Kushwaha highlighted the immense potential of Ladakh’s indigenous agricultural and horticultural resources and emphasised the importance of conserving traditional crop varieties through scientific research and documentation. He said the University remains committed to promoting sustainable agriculture, innovation, and capacity building by integrating modern scientific approaches with traditional knowledge. He added that the introduction of the B.Sc. Agriculture programme marks a significant step towards developing skilled human resources and strengthening research on Ladakh’s unique cold-arid ecosystem.

The programme concluded with an interactive technical session, participant feedback, distribution of certificates, and a formal vote of thanks by the organising committee.

Capacity building commission conducts Mission Karmayogi orientation in Nubra



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: An orientation programme on Mission Karmayogi, conducted by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), was held on July 7 at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Nubra, in the presence of the Sub-Di-

visional Magistrate, Nubra, Jigmet Raftan, JKAS.

During the programme, Uzair Simmani, Programme Coordinator (States), Capacity Building Commission, provided an overview of

the Mission Karmayogi portal and demonstrated its key features and functionalities. The session focused on the portal’s operation, the process of creating user accounts, and the wide range of learning resources available, including informative videos, competency-based courses, and capacity-building modules.

Heads of Departments were encouraged to register on the portal and make effective use of its learning resources to support continuous professional development and enhance public service delivery.

The programme was attended by Heads of Departments from across Nubra district.

EJM college holds orientation on NEP 2020 for newly admitted students

Faculty conduct timetable doubt-clearing session to familiarise students with academic framework and course structure

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Government Eliezer Joldan Memorial (EJM) College, Leh, organised an orientation programme on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, along with a timetable doubt-clearing session, for newly admitted students on July 10.

The programme aimed to familiarise students with the key features of NEP 2020, including its student-centric approach, flexibility in course selection, multidisciplinary learning and the academic framework adopted by the college. It also provided an opportunity for students to seek clarification on the academic timetable, course structure and other

related matters, ensuring a smooth transition into college life.

The session was conducted by members of the Time Table Committee, including Stanzin Itga, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Dr. Rinchen Tundup, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics; and Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Professor, Department of Education.

The faculty members addressed students’ queries, explained the implementation of NEP 2020 at the college and guided them through the academic schedule, course structure and institutional procedures.



Photo Caption: Students of EJM College during the orientation programme on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which students actively participated and had their concerns addressed. The initiative was well received and is expected to help the newly admitted students begin their academic journey with greater confidence and clarity.

Fortnightly News

CEC Kargil visits Brako village following Brown Bear attacks, assures immediate safety measures



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, visited Brako village in Sankoo Sub-Division on July 6 following recent brown bear attacks that have created fear and panic among local residents.

During the visit, villagers informed the CEC that a brown bear had entered the premises of Government Middle School, Brako, during the night, raising serious concerns over the safety of students and staff. They also reported repeated attacks on livestock, which have left residents apprehensive and reluctant to carry out their routine agricultural activities due to the persistent threat of wildlife encounters.

Taking serious note of the situation, Dr. Akhoon assured the villagers that LAHDC Kargil would extend all possible support to address their concerns. He directed officials of the Wildlife Department to take immediate and effective measures to prevent further wildlife attacks, ensure public safety, and provide all necessary assistance in accordance with established norms.

During the interaction, the villagers submitted a memorandum seeking urgent intervention to safeguard lives, livestock, and agricultural activities in the area.

Officials of Government Middle School, Brako, also submitted a memorandum requesting urgent infrastructure upgrades to enhance the safety and welfare of students.

The CEC gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the villagers and school authorities that their genuine demands would be taken up on priority. He reiterated that every possible effort would be made to strengthen public safety, improve school infrastructure, and ensure timely support from the concerned departments for the people of Brako.

CHC Khaltse organises orientation training on STOP Diarrhoea campaign

Healthcare workers trained on child diarrhoea prevention, ORS, Zinc therapy and community awareness



Photo Caption: During the orientation training programme on the STOP Diarrhoea Campaign (SDC) at CHC Khaltse.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: Community Health Centre (CHC), Khaltse, organised an orientation training programme on the STOP Diarrhoea Campaign (SDC) on July 10 under the supervision of Block Medical Officer (BMO) Khaltse, Dr. Javed Ahmad. The campaign will be observed from July 10 to August 21, 2026.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Javed Ahmad said the training aimed to strengthen the capacity of healthcare workers in the prevention, early identification and effective management of childhood diarrhoeal diseases. He highlighted key interventions, including the use of Oral

Rehydration Solution (ORS), Zinc supplementation, exclusive breastfeeding, safe drinking water, improved sanitation, hand hygiene and community awareness.

The programme was attended by ASHA workers from across District Sham.

During the session, Paediatrician Dr. Splachen Gonboo emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts to reduce childhood illness and mortality caused by diarrhoeal diseases through timely treatment, preventive measures and active community participation. He also stressed the need to ensure adequate availability of ORS packets and Zinc tablets and to conduct awareness campaigns at the grassroots level.

ASHA Coordinator Tsewang Nurboo highlighted the objectives of the campaign and urged ASHA workers to actively engage with communities to spread awareness about diarrhoea prevention and healthy hygiene practices.

The training concluded with an interactive session in which participants discussed field-level challenges, shared experiences and explored strategies for the effective implementation of the STOP Diarrhoea Campaign across the Khaltse Block.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Matho Youth Welfare Association has applied for the change of its registered address from Matho (Togochey), Leh, UT Ladakh to Matho (Near Chorten), Leh, UT Ladakh.

Any person having any objection to the proposed change of registered address may submit the same to the Registrar of Societies, UT Ladakh, within 7 days from the date of publica-

NOTICE

No 9928442 Y Rank Nk Jegmat Naytak S/o Tsewang Spalgon Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his wife namely Jikmet Yangchen has been wrongly entered as Jigmat Yangchan instead of Jikmet Yangchen in the Army record of, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA11443434996881Y to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Public Notice

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as ‘Dorjay Zinba Cultural & Welfare Society’, Ubarak, Zanskar UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name of the Member with Parentage	Occupation	Address	Designation
1	Tsewang Falgon S/o Nawang Phuntsog	Farmer	Ubarak	President
2	Lobzang Rigzin S/o Tsewang Stobdan	Farmer	Ubarak	Vice-President
3	Thinlay Tamchos S/o Stanba Gyaltsan	Farmer	Ubarak	General Secretary
4	Tundup Namgail S/o Tsering Motup	Farmer	Ubarak	Joint Secretary
5	Stanzin Gonbo S/o Tsering Dorjay	Farmer	Ubarak	Cashier
6	Nawang Tashi S/o Tsewang Norboo	Farmer	Ubarak	Chief Organiser
7	Rigzin Samphel S/o Nawang Chosnit	Farmer	Ubarak	Convenor
8	Tsering Motup S/o Nawang Phunchok	Farmer	Ubarak	Member
9	Dorjay Dadul S/o Nawang Phunchok	Farmer	Ubarak	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 15 days from the publication of this notice.

President

‘Dorjay Zinba Cultural & Welfare Society’, Ubarak, Zanskar UT Ladakh

Three-day Zanskar summit ends with focus on sustainability and inclusive growth



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: The three-day Envisioning Zanskar Summit 2026 concluded on July 9 at Government Degree College, Zanskar, with insightful lectures, engaging panel discussions and a valedictory session reaffirming the collective commitment towards building a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for the region.

The summit brought together academicians, policymakers, entrepreneurs, development practitioners, environmental experts, civil society members, students and local stakeholders to deliberate on key issues shaping Zanskar’s future. The final day’s proceedings began with an online session by Sonali, who spoke on women’s health, menstrual hygiene and women empowerment. She introduced Bionap, an eco-friendly sanitary pad initiative designed to promote safe, affordable and sustainable menstrual hygiene. Highlighting its environmental benefits, she noted the initiative’s growing acceptance across communities.

This was followed by a presentation by Kanika Dihani, who shared the journey of Acheley Block Printing in Leh. She highlighted the enterprise’s work in sustainable textile production, livelihood generation and environmentally responsible manufacturing, demonstrating how locally driven businesses can preserve traditional craftsmanship while creating employment and supporting sustainable economic development.

The first panel discussion, “Zanskar at a Crossroads: Balancing Development and Environmental Sustainability,” was moderated by Dr. Mohd Salim, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Government Degree College Zanskar. The discussion featured Dr. Tsewang Namgyal and Lobzang Namtak.

The panel examined the challenge of balancing developmental aspirations with ecological conservation in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem. The speakers stressed sustainable water management, biodiversity conservation and responsible utilisation of natural resources, while highlighting the growing impacts of climate change, unplanned development, increasing tourism and other human interventions on the region’s ecology. The session concluded with an interactive discussion with participants.

The second panel discussion, “Entrepreneurship Rooted in Culture and Nature: A Path for Ladakh’s Future,” was moderated by Dr. Jigmet Zazay, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Government Degree College Zanskar. Panelists Rinchen Angmo, Thinles Norbu, Tsetan Dorje and Diskit Angmo shared their entrepreneurial journeys and discussed opportunities in eco-tourism, handicrafts, sustainable agriculture, local food processing and creative industries.

They encouraged the youth of Zanskar to become job creators by building enterprises rooted in local culture, indigenous knowledge and natural resources while ensuring environmental sustainability and economic viability.

The third panel discussion, “Zanskar in Transition: Build-

ing a Sustainable and Responsible Tourism Model,” was moderated by Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal, Government Degree College Zanskar, with Rigzin Wangmo, Lhundup Dorje and Tenzin Mutup as panelists.

The discussion focused on developing a tourism model that balances economic opportunities with environmental conservation and cultural preservation. The speakers advocated community-based tourism, responsible visitor behaviour, improved waste management, preservation of cultural heritage and equitable distribution of tourism benefits among local communities.

The fourth and final panel discussion, “Zero Waste Future: Sustainable Solutions for Zanskar and Ladakh,” was moderated by Dr. Mohd Salim. The panel featured Eshey Tondup, Director, LEDeG; Mipham Jigmet; and Dr. Tsering Konchok.

The experts discussed practical strategies for reducing waste generation through segregation, recycling, circular economy practices, community awareness and sustainable consumption. They emphasised that environmental conservation must remain central to all developmental initiatives and called for collective action by government agencies, educational institutions, civil society organisations and local communities. Following the session, all panelists were felicitated with traditional khataks and commemorative mementoes.

The summit also featured an inspiring lecture by Tashi Chosgon on “Digital Responsibility: Empowering Ethical Content Creators.” He urged young people to use digital platforms responsibly by creating authentic, ethical and constructive content that positively showcases Zanskar’s culture, heritage and aspirations.

The valedictory session was attended by Superintendent of Police, Zanskar, Rigzin Sandup (JKPS), who appreciated the efforts of the All Zanskar Students’ Union and Government Degree College Zanskar for successfully organising a multidisciplinary summit addressing a wide range of developmental issues.

He observed that bringing together experts from diverse fields for meaningful dialogue was a significant achievement and described the summit as an important platform for collaborative thinking and knowledge sharing. He emphasised that such initiatives are vital for building an environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically prosperous future for Zanskar.

The three-day summit concluded with meaningful deliberations, collaborative dialogue and visionary discussions. The organisers said the summit reaffirmed the collective resolve of all stakeholders to work together towards sustainable development while preserving the ecological integrity, cultural heritage and unique identity of Zanskar for future generations.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG:MBY)

Power Your Home with Clean Solar Energy

The UT Administration of Ladakh, through the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD) in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), is implementing the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana to promote rooftop solar adoption across Ladakh. The initiative enables households to generate clean and affordable electricity, reduce electricity bills and contribute towards the vision of a Carbon-neutral Ladakh.

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