

Decade of Compassion: LAHDC celebrates 10 years of Animal Welfare in Leh

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LEH: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) marked a significant milestone today, celebrating a decade of impactful work by the Live to Rescue Centre (LRC) in a special event coinciding with World Animal Day. Hon'ble Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Adv. Tashi Gyalson served as the chief guest, accompanied by several distinguished guests, including His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, His Eminence Choskyong Palga Rinpoche, and His Eminence Drupon Khamtak Rinpoche. Other attendees included Founder President and Spiritual Director Ven. Bhikhu Sanghasena, Hon'ble Executive Councillors Tashi Namgyal Yakzee and Stanzin Chospheal, along with local dignitaries and community members. The event began with the inauguration of a newly built visitor center, designed to promote public engagement and education on animal welfare. After the inauguration, guests viewed a documentary titled "Live to Rescue: A Decade



of Impact," presented by former YDA Leh President Rinchen Wachar. The film highlighted the center's dedication to animal welfare, showcasing its profound impact over the past ten years. Rinchen emphasized the vital role of community support in achieving the center's goals. Following the documentary, attendees were guided on a tour of the animal center by Project Coordinator Rigzen Dorje, who shared insights into the center's

facilities and ongoing rescue and rehabilitation efforts. In his welcome speech, Rigzen expressed gratitude for the community's support and acknowledged the center's role as a beacon of hope for stray animals in the region. The celebration was enriched by cultural performances from the Women Wing of YDA Leh, featuring modern Ladakhi songs and traditional Eastern Ladakhi dances that celebrated the region's vibrant culture.

During an appreciation ceremony, Hon'ble CEC Tashi Gyalson, His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, and DC Santosh Sukhadeve presented certificates and mementos to key contributors in animal welfare, recognizing their relentless efforts. Dr. Stanzin Rabgais, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, delivered a compelling address on the necessity of effective population control through spay-neuter programs and vaccination drives. He highlighted that these initiatives are crucial for managing stray dog populations and reducing human-dog conflicts in the community. "It is our responsibility to ensure that our animal population is healthy and that they coexist peacefully with humans," he asserted, calling for a sustainable and compassionate approach. Hon'ble Executive Councillor Tashi Yakzee emphasized the moral obligation to protect stray animals and prevent cruelty, while DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve stressed the need for community collaboration to achieve significant progress in animal welfare. His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey

Rinpoche underscored the Buddhist principles of compassion and kindness, urging everyone to support animal welfare and rescue missions. He expressed gratitude for the contributions made by community members and thanked the Grand Dragon for generously providing leftover food for the animals. In his closing remarks, Hon'ble CEC Tashi Gyalson extended heartfelt congratulations on the 10th anniversary of Live to Rescue and World Animal Day. He recognized the essential contributions of community members that helped establish the Live to Rescue Centre in 2014. CEC Gyalson praised Skyabgon Drukpa Rinpoche for his unwavering efforts in education, environmental protection, and animal rescue. He reiterated the importance of community involvement, emphasizing that real change can only occur when both community and administrative support work hand in hand. The event concluded with a shared commitment to continue the vital work of animal welfare in the region, ensuring a brighter future for the animals of Leh.

Bye-Election: Third randomization of polling parties for concludes



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KARGIL: The third randomization of polling parties for the upcoming bye-election in the Thangdumbur constituency took place at the NIC Kargil on Thursday. The event was overseen by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Suhail Ahmad, alongside Observers including Skalzang Dorjay, R.O Aishi Hussain Bashrat, A.R.O Ghulam Hassan, and DIO Iftikhar Hussain. Following the randomization process, polling materials for the Thangdumbur constituency were distributed to the polling staff from the DC Office Kargil, ensuring readiness for the bye-election scheduled for October 5, 2024 (Saturday). The district administration has put in place comprehensive se-

curity and logistical arrangements to guarantee a smooth and peaceful distribution of polling materials and to dispatch polling staff to their respective stations. Observers highlighted the significance of conducting free, fair, and transparent elections. As of now, all polling parties assigned to the Thangdumbur constituency have safely reached their designated polling stations. Each of the five polling parties consists of four polling officers and is accompanied by security personnel, totaling 44 staff members, including police officers, to ensure a secure election process. With preparations in full swing, the district administration aims to uphold the integrity and smooth conduct of the electoral process in Thangdumbur.

BR Sharma unveils statue of Late Dr RR Khajuria Tribute paid on 92nd Birth Anniversary

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JAMMU: A heartfelt tribute was paid to late Dr. Ram Ratan Khajuria, the founder of the J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SKK), during a special function held at the School for Hearing Handicapped in Shahidi Chowk today. The event marked the 92nd birth anniversary of Dr. Khajuria, a revered social activist, who some have referred to as Jammu's Vinobha Bhave. The statue, created by renowned sculptor Ravinder Singh Jamwal, was unveiled by State Election Commissioner and former Chief Secretary B.R. Sharma. He commended the SKK for honoring its founder in such a significant way, stating that individuals like Dr. Khajuria remain in the hearts of people for their contributions to uplifting the lives of the physically challenged and marginalized communities. Among the distinguished guests were former Chief



Vigilance Commissioner and Director General of Police (DGP) Kuldeep Khoda and former DGP Dr. Ashok Bhan. Dr. Bhan praised Dr. Khajuria for his selflessness and dedication to the welfare of the disabled and down-trodden, referring to him as an embodiment of humility and commitment. Inderjeet Khajuria, Dr. Khajuria's younger brother, expressed gratitude towards SKK for recognizing the efforts of social reformers, highlighting how rare it is for

organizations to honor such contributions. Manmohan Wahi, a long-time associate of Dr. Khajuria, recalled their shared experiences at SKK, feeling fortunate to have known a person of such integrity. Dr. Bhuvnesh Khajuria, the eldest son of Dr. Khajuria, shared that his father established over a dozen NGOs during his lifetime. He emphasized that Dr. Khajuria always stepped back from leadership positions to allow others to take charge, believ-

ing in empowering others rather than monopolizing organizations. K.B. Jandial, President of SKK, opened the ceremony with warm tributes to Dr. Khajuria, describing him as a saint who would self-penalize for any angry words spoken, demonstrating his commitment to kindness. General Secretary J.K. Vaid concluded the event by highlighting Dr. Khajuria's extensive contributions and the growth of the School for Hearing Handicapped.

JU holds Gender Sensitization Workshop

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JAMMU: The Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Jammu hosted a Gender Sensitization workshop today for students and scholars from the Department of Botany. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about gender issues and promote equality among participants. Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director of the Centre for Women's Studies, served as the resource person for the event. Her presentation focused on the theme "Gender Sensitization and Gender Equality: An Overview." She explained the concepts of sex and gender, as well as various gender roles and stereotypes. Prof. Nayyar emphasized the impact of patriarchy on women's issues, discussing serious topics such as domestic violence, harassment, and dowry deaths. She engaged with participants, shedding light on



the different forms of violence and harassment that women face in their daily lives. Prof. Susheel Verma, Head of the Department of Botany, praised the Centre's initiative and highlighted the importance of workshops like this in fostering gender awareness. He shared personal anecdotes to illustrate the significance of gender socialization and suggested that small changes, like sharing household responsibilities,

can help shift patriarchal mindsets. Dr. Saranjit Kaur from the Centre for Women's Studies elaborated on the Centre's mission and its efforts to create gender awareness among students and scholars at the university. She stressed the importance of conducting such workshops for fostering a more inclusive environment on campus. Prof. Namrata Sharma, also from the Department of Botany, shared her per-

sonal experiences related to gender sensitization, further enriching the discussion. The program was conducted by Kunzang Angmo, with Dr. Saranjit Kaur delivering the formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers for their contributions to this vital dialogue on gender issues. This workshop marks a significant step toward promoting gender equality and awareness within the university community.

MK&GRO calls for strict action against Cow trafficking

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JAMMU: The Movement Kalki and Gau Raksha Organization (MK&GRO) held a press conference today at the Jammu Bus Stand to address the critical issue of cow protection and animal trafficking in the region. The event was led by Kaushal Sharma, a Board Member of Movement Kalki and President of the Gau Raksha Organization. During the press conference, Sharma provided alarming details about the ongoing incidents of animal trafficking in Jammu. "This is not a trivial problem. We have been working tirelessly to raise awareness on this issue for a long time and have organized several press conferences and demonstrations," he stated. Sharma emphasized the need for the cow to be declared the 'National Cow Mother' and called for stricter laws to combat animal trafficking. Sharma revealed that between 200 to 250 trucks are illegally transporting animals daily in Jammu. He expressed concern over the involvement of some police officials in these illicit activities. "Some officers seize one truck and claim that they have foiled a trafficking attempt, but the same truck is released for trafficking the very next day. This way, these



officers get to show off their achievements while being involved in the trafficking themselves," he alleged. According to him, certain police stations earn between 15 to 20 lakh rupees a month solely through animal trafficking. Sharma criticized the lack of strict laws, quoting some officers who claim they cannot take action due to insufficient legal frameworks. "The government should seriously consider how to stop animal trafficking and take strict action against these corrupt officials," he urged. In a positive note, Sharma acknowledged the growing public awareness regarding the

issue, stating, "We are happy to see that people are becoming aware of this issue and are actively discussing it." He also highlighted the upcoming 'Gau Pratishtha Andolan' (Cow Restoration Movement) initiated by Shankaracharya Ji, which is set to arrive in Jammu on October 22. "We fully support his efforts. This movement will infuse new energy into our society and further strengthen our positive momentum towards this cause," he added. The MK&GRO aims to continue its advocacy for cow protection and combat the illegal trafficking of animals in Jammu, calling for community support and government action to address these pressing issues.

Kavinder slams Pak for hosting Zakir Naik

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JAMMU: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, has condemned Pakistan for rolling out the red carpet for controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, who is wanted in India for money laundering and promoting hate speech. In a statement released today, Gupta expressed his outrage over Pakistan's decision to host Naik, allowing him to deliver public lectures in several cities. He called this move a "deliberate affront" to India's legal efforts to bring Naik to justice and criticized it as a gesture that encourages radical elements. Gupta highlighted that providing a platform for Naik not only threatens regional peace but also exposes Pakistan's double standards in combating terrorism. He called on the international community to take serious note of the situation and support India's efforts to hold Naik accountable. "India will not stand by as Pakistan glorifies



a man who promotes violence under the guise of religion," Gupta asserted, demanding swift diplomatic action to hold Pakistan responsible for harboring and promoting such figures. The senior BJP leader reaffirmed the party's commitment to ensuring India's security and harmony, condemning any attempts to undermine peace by sheltering individuals who spread communal hatred. He urged the Indian government to escalate diplomatic pressure on Pakistan to extradite Naik and prevent the spread of extremism in the region.

Drug Peddler arrested, contraband recovered

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SRINAGAR: In a concerted effort to combat drug-related issues within the community, the police have arrested a drug peddler in Sopore and confiscated illegal substances. A police team, led by In-charge Police Post Watergam, conducted a routine patrol in Behrampora. Under the guidance of SDPO Rafiaband, Aabid Rashid Dangiwach, and SHO PS Mir-JKPS, and SHO PS Dangiwach, the officers apprehended Jahangir Ahmad Tantray, a resident of Behrampora Rafiaband. During the search, police recovered 96 capsules of the banned drug SPAS-MOPROXYVON Plus from Tantray's possession. Following the arrest, he was taken to the police station where he remains in custody.

SOS Int'l urges caution on Political Nomination for PoJK Refugees' Assembly Seat

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The SOS International, a leading organization advocating for the rights of displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), has formally requested Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to refrain from nominating a political party candidate for the single reserved seat in the Legislative Assembly allocated to a community of over 1.2 million refugees. In a memorandum submitted to the Lieutenant Governor today, Rajiv Chuni, chairman of SOS International, emphasized that appointing a political figure to this seat could jeopardize the hard-won rights of PoJK displaced persons, which they have secured after nearly three decades

of struggle. "The reserved seat in the J&K Legislative Assembly should not be treated as a political sanctuary for any individual. It must genuinely represent the interests of the displaced community," Chuni stated. He proposed that a non-political nominee would be a more fitting choice to address the needs of PoJK refugees. He pointed out that past political representatives have failed to deliver meaningful results for the community, despite their presence in both the assembly and the upper house. Chuni highlighted the organization's long-standing efforts to unite PoJK refugees both inside and outside Jammu and Kashmir, citing their interactions with various governmental



panels over the years. He mentioned that the Wadhawa Committee, established by former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in 2007, and the 183rd Rajya Sabha Committee led by Venkaiah Naidu, recommended eight assembly seats for PoJK refugees. However, he lamented that these recommendations were overlooked, leading to the allocation of just one

seat for the community of over 12 lakh displaced persons. Chuni underscored that SOS International was among the first organizations to advocate for the political empowerment of PoJK refugees in the early 1990s, pushing for their representation in eight of the twenty-four vacant assembly seats in the J&K Legislative Assembly. "Our mission has been to politically empower the community, allowing these vulnerable refugees to voice their concerns freely and without political bias," he said. Chuni expressed concern over reports that suggest a political figure may be nominated for the assembly seat, warning that this would only deepen the sense of alienation felt by PoJK refugees, who have

been largely neglected by successive governments over the past three decades. He reiterated that the purpose of reserving this seat was to empower members of the PoJK displaced community and provide them with a platform to advocate for their rights. Chuni called for the nomination process to reflect justice and empowerment for these displaced persons, suggesting that it could only be realized through the appointment of a non-political individual from the PoJK refugee community. Chuni concluded by expressing hope that the Lieutenant Governor would carefully consider the genuine concerns of PoJK refugees when making a decision regarding the nomination for this reserved seat.

Cyber Cell Jammu resolves three online fraud cases

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JAMMU: The Cyber Cell of the District Police Office (DPO) Jammu has successfully resolved three online fraud cases, showcasing their professional skills and timely intervention. As per the officials, a complaint was received involving a financial fraud of Rs. 77,000. The fraudster had lured the victim with a work-from-home offer, resulting in the victim losing their hard-earned money. In another incident, a complainant fell victim to a fake call from someone posing as a customer care representative for a credit card company. This fraudulent call led to a transaction



of Rs. 50,127 being taken from the complainant's account. Additionally, in a separate case, the Cyber Cell investigated an online financial fraud involving Rs. 1,55,550. The complainant received a fake text message indicating that money had been credited to their account, which ultimately led to a loss.

The quick and professional actions of the Cyber Cell initiated immediate investigations into these complaints. The teams, specially trained for such incidents, were able to settle all the cases promptly. They successfully put a hold on a total of Rs. 2,35,583 out of Rs. 2,82,677 that could have been misused or fraudulently transacted.