

LADAKH

@skalwang
Heartfelt gratitude to the administration of UT Ladakh for earnestly considering the pressing issues related to the distribution of Ladakh Homestay asserts on party line n release of 7 months dues wages for casual labours of EPD of LPDD on urgent need basis.

@LAHDC_LEH
The Hon'ble Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. @tashi_gyalson congratulated Mrs. Aisha Malo on her re-election as President of the Women's Wing, Anjuman-e-Moin-ul-Islam, and extended best wishes to all elected members for their contributions to Ladakh and the organization.

MONROE DOCTRINE:
The Monroe Doctrine, which declared that the U.S. would not interfere in European affairs but that its sphere of interest included the entire Western Hemisphere, was enunciated by President James Monroe this day in 1823.

WEATHER:
The month of November concluded with a significant rainfall deficit of 69% in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories.

MAJOR ROAD AHEAD
This sign is erected on arterial roads before it crosses a major road. It cautions the driver that the road is going to cross over a major road where the traffic could be heavy and faster. This allows the driver to slow the speed and maneuver the intersection safely.



29 candidates appear for PET, PST exam for Excise Guard Recruitment
LEH: The Physical Efficiency Test (PET) and Physical Standard Test (PST) for the recruitment of Excise Guards (SSC Post Code NW21222) were successfully held on November 30, 2024, at the Spituk Open Stadium in Leh, UT Ladakh. The event was conducted under the chairmanship of Tsering Paldan, JKAS, Director of School Education, UT Ladakh, alongside Manzoor Ahmad, JKPS, and Fesal Iqbal Tantray, JKAS. Of the 35 candidates shortlisted for the tests, 29 participated in the rigorous evaluation process. Designed to assess the physical fitness and suitability of candidates for the Excise Guard position, the tests were meticulously organized to uphold fairness, transparency, and strict adherence to recruitment guidelines. Officials expressed their satisfaction with the smooth execution of the event. "The cooperation and discipline shown by the candidates, officials, and support staff were exemplary," stated a representative of the Recruitment Committee.

JTN meets LG; pushes for 'Bhoti' as Ladakh's official state language



EARTH NEWS SERVICE
LEH: Jamyang Tsering Namgyal (JTN), Former Member of Parliament (17th Lok Sabha), met with Lieutenant Governor Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd) at Raj Niwas to renew his call for declaring Bhoti as the official language of the Union Territory of Ladakh. JTN submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting the cultural and linguistic significance of Bhoti and its crucial role in preserving Ladakh's unique heritage. The Lt. Governor assured JTN that efforts are underway to include Bhoti and three other languages, including Urdu, as official languages of Ladakh. During the meeting, JTN stressed the urgent need to recognize Bhoti as Ladakh's official language, emphasizing that the region's cultural and linguistic identity is at risk. "Recognizing Bhoti as the official language is essential for safeguarding Ladakh's rich heritage and passing it on to future generations," Ex. Mp JTN stated. He also pointed out that while the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has designated its official languages, Ladakh lags behind in making similar progress. JTN urged the administration to expedite the recognition process, framing it as a vital step toward preserving the region's distinct identity. JTN underscored Bhoti's historical and cultural importance as a unifying language across the Himalayan region. He detailed its role in connecting communities in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, and Mongolia. Its rich literary tradition includes contributions to medicine, architecture, philosophy, and the arts. In a significant parliamentary move, JTN introduced a Private Member's Bill on April 1, 2022, proposing Bhoti's inclusion in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. This was the first time in Indian parliamentary history that such a bill was introduced, highlighting Bhoti's national and global relevance. During his tenure as Member of Parliament, JTN made significant strides in promoting Bhoti language education by getting secured the allocation of 292 teaching positions for Bhoti, including 219 in Leh and 27 in Kargil under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan. In April 2023, Bhoti was integrated into the CBSE syllabus, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. These efforts were instrumental in mainstreaming Bhoti and ensuring its continued relevance in Ladakh's educational system. JTN's commitment to Bhoti extends beyond his parliamentary tenure. As a student leader, he actively participated in seminars and conferences advocating for the language. Over the years, he has penned numerous articles in leading publications, raising awareness about the need for linguistic preservation. The memorandum submitted by JTN represents the collective aspiration of Ladakhis for the preservation of their linguistic and cultural heritage. It also reflects his consistent advocacy during his tenure as MP, including prior submissions to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. JTN reaffirmed his dedication to securing Bhoti's rightful status as Ladakh's official language and ensuring its inclusion in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. He called on the central and UT administrations to act promptly, framing the move as essential for Ladakh's cultural integrity and India's linguistic diversity.

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
LEH: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, proudly flagged off two para-athletes, Diskit Angmo and Ifitkar Hussain, for specialized training in Hyderabad. Accompanied by Padma Chuskit, Warden, and Mukhtar Ali, Liaison Officer, the athletes will train under the guidance of the Aditya Mehta Foundation to gear up for the upcoming Paracycling Nationals. Selected through a meticulous screening and counseling process at special schools for persons with disabilities, Angmo and Hussain epitomize Ladakh's drive toward inclusivity in sports. This initiative is a cornerstone of LAHDC's ambitious 2028 Paralympic Mission, aimed at nurturing athletes with disabilities for global competition. "This training represents a vital step in empowering our para-athletes and showcasing their talent on a national platform," stated an LAHDC representative. The council also expressed confidence in the athletes' ability to bring pride to Ladakh and serve as role models for others. The Aditya Mehta Foundation, renowned for its work in adaptive sports, will provide cutting-edge resources and training to ensure the athletes reach their full potential. With a focus on preparing them for the 2028 Paralympics, the program underscores the growing commitment to sports accessibility in Ladakh. As the athletes embark on this transformative journey, the region rallies behind them with high hopes, celebrating their resilience and determination.



LAHDC flags off Para-Athletes for specialized training in Hyderabad

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
LEH: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), convened a meeting at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat to deliberate on the fixation of rates for guest houses and hostels managed by the Hospitality and Protocol Department. Director, Finance, Dr. Safdar Ali, IRS, presented an update on the Rate Fixation Committee's work. The committee has assessed rates based on available amenities and the admissibility according to pay levels. Dr. Ali highlighted details of amenities and existing rates at facilities such as the Farmers Hostel, JK-TDC, Circuit House, Ibox Inn, and Geyser Palace, alongside proposed revisions considering factors like floor area, amenities, and pay levels. The Lieutenant Governor emphasized addressing the identified gaps in the proposal and directed Commissioner/Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol, Dr. L. Franklin, IAS, to submit a revised proposal promptly. The meeting saw participation from key officials, including Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Commissioner/Secretary, Dr. L. Franklin, IAS; Secretary, Michael D'Souza, IAS; Secretary, Education/Higher Education, Bhanu Prabha, IAS; Director, Hospitality & Protocol, Moses Kunzang, JKAS; Director, Education, Tsering Paldan, JKAS, and others.

SNM Hospital observes World AIDS Day with emphasis on awareness, combating stigma

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
LEH: SNM Hospital, Leh, marked World AIDS Day 2024 under the global theme, "Take the Right Path: My Health, My Right." The event focused on spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS, fostering understanding, and combating stigma, while emphasizing the significance of early diagnosis and treatment. Mrs. Stanzin Dolma, Counselor at the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) at SNM Hospital, led an awareness session for the AMT School students. Her comprehensive presentation covered the causes, modes of transmission, prevention strategies, and treatment options for HIV/AIDS, highlighting the hospital's commitment to combating the disease. "The ICTC at SNM Hospital, operational since 2008, has diagnosed 83 People Living with HIV (PLHIV), including six antenatal cases," Dolma shared. "Through early diagnosis and interventions, we successfully prevented HIV transmission to four children born to infected mothers. Recently, we celebrated a milestone with the birth of a healthy HIV-exposed baby, underscoring the effectiveness of our care and management efforts." The hospital's Link ART Centre plays a vital role in providing uninterrupted antiretroviral therapy (ART) to PLHIV. Since 2010, voluntary follow-up checks for PLHIV at higher centers have been facilitated annually, supported by the Red Cross Fund from the Deputy



Commissioner of Leh. In her address, Dolma emphasized the importance of tackling co-infections, revealing that 903 individuals with Hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAg) infection and their families have been counseled, with nine cases of co-infection with HIV identified. Dr. Rinchen Chosdol, Medical Superintendent of SNM Hospital, encouraged AMT students to become ambassadors for health awareness, urging them to educate communities, combat stigma, and advocate for infection prevention measures. Praising the ICTC team, Dr. Chosdol remarked, "Their relentless efforts have greatly improved the quality of life for PLHIV, ensuring they lead healthy and fulfilling lives." The observance of World AIDS Day at SNM Hospital reinforced the collective responsibility to fight HIV/AIDS. It also inspired attendees to embrace health as a fundamental right and to make informed, compassionate choices in their personal and professional lives.

Submit revised proposal on Guest House, Hostel rates, directs Mishra

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IGNOU term end examinations commence from Dec 2 to Jan 9
LEH: The Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will conduct its Term End Examination (TEE) for December 2024 from December 2, 2024, to January 9, 2025. The exams will be held across 35 centres in the Kashmir Valley and the Union Territory of Ladakh, with approximately 28,000 students expected to take part. In light of the region's harsh winter conditions, the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar has established additional exam centres in areas such as Uri, Sogam, Qazigund, Dooru, Thindim Kreeri, Langate, and Handwara. These centres are designed to assist students from these remote locations in appearing for their exams without facing travel difficulties. An exam centre has also been set up in Central Jail for inmates. Hall tickets for eligible students have already been issued and are available for download at the official IGNOU website: [https://hall_ticket.ignou.ac.in/hall1224/ignouhallticketDEC2024.aspx] ([https://hall_ticket.ignou.ac.in/hall1224/ignouhallticketDEC2024.aspx]). Students must carry their Hall Ticket and a valid university-issued identity card to the examination centres. Mobile phones and other electronic devices are strictly prohibited inside the examination halls. For any queries or assistance related to the exams, students can contact the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM at phone number 0194-3102403 or via email at [examinationrcsrinagar@ignou.ac.in]([mailto:examinationrcsrinagar@ignou.ac.in]). Regional Director Dr. A.H. Rizvi thanked the local administration for its ongoing support in deploying security personnel at the exam centres and facilitating the timely dispatch of exam materials through postal authorities. He expressed optimism for the smooth and fair conduct of the TEE December 2024 across the Kashmir Division and the UT of Ladakh.

DHEW Kargil holds awareness program on Women Empowerment; focus on "Equity Leads to Equality"

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
KARGIL: A district-level awareness program on women empowerment, themed "Equity Leads to Equality," was organized today by the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Mission Shakti, under the Department of Social & Tribal Welfare, at Syed Mehdi Memorial Hall, Kargil. The event featured Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kachho Liyaqat Ali Khan as the chief guest, with District Agriculture Officer Raziya Banoo as the guest of honor. Special guests included District Program Officer ICDS Nargis Banoo, alongside various officials, self-help groups (SHGs), students, and Anganwadi workers. The program began with a pledge to eliminate domestic violence and gender discrimination. Resource persons delivered



presentations highlighting government initiatives for women's empowerment. Mansoor Hussain, Financial Specialist, Mission Shakti, discussed the achievements of Mission Shakti Kargil, an integrated scheme under the Ministry of Women and Child Development aimed at women's safety, security, and empowerment. He detailed financial literacy initiatives and capacity-building programs. Raziya Banoo shared details of agriculture schemes benefiting women, emphasizing that 1,400 SHGs are registered under the Agriculture Department, which provides doorstep training and exposure tours. Abhishek Kumar, DPM of LRLM, noted that 938 SHGs are registered under the Livelihoods Rural Mission in Kargil, covering all blocks and Gram Panchayats in the UT. He shared success stories of women benefiting from LRLM initiatives. Ajaz Ali, Handicraft Training Officer, highlighted efforts to preserve traditional crafts and support artisans through training and showcasing their work at events like Enchanting Ladakh in Delhi Haat. Rukhsana Banoo from the Handloom Department elaborated on various training schemes to make women self-reliant in traditional trades. In a special segment, trophies and medals were distributed under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative to six Taekwondo athletes from the Sports Authority of India Training Centre Kargil, who excelled at a national championship in Lucknow earlier this year. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by District Program Officer Nargis Banoo, who urged participants to take advantage of available government schemes. Amina Banoo, Gender Specialist, anchored the event.

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