

First Total Knee Replacement Surgery at CHC Sankoo expands advanced Healthcare in Kargil

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SANKOO: Community Health Centre (CHC), Sankoo, has successfully performed its first bilateral total knee replacement surgery on a patient suffering from Grade IV osteoarthritis, marking a major expansion of advanced orthopaedic services in the remote Suru Valley of Kargil district.

The procedure, carried out in a single sitting using the cemented total knee replacement technique, is the first of its kind to be performed at the health facility. The development is expected to improve access to specialised orthopaedic care by reducing the need for patients from Sankoo and adjoining areas to travel outside the region for joint replacement surgery.

The operation was performed by Dr Altaf Hussain, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at CHC Sankoo, in collaboration with Dr Ahmad Ali, Senior Consultant Orthopaedic



Surgeon at QAAM District Hospital, Kargil. Anaesthesia was administered by Dr Asif, Senior Consultant Anaesthetist at QAAM District Hospital, with support from the anaesthesia team and operation theatre staff, ensuring the procedure was completed safely.

Hospital authorities said the coordinated effort of the multidisciplinary medical team resulted in the successful completion of the surgery, enabling

the patient to regain mobility and offering improved quality of life through advanced surgical intervention.

The successful procedure establishes CHC Sankoo as a centre capable of delivering specialised orthopaedic services closer to communities in the remote Suru Valley, strengthening secondary healthcare capacity within the district.

Health officials said the achievement reflects

the Union Territory administration's continuing efforts to upgrade healthcare infrastructure, enhance specialist medical services and improve access to quality treatment in geographically challenging areas. The introduction of advanced joint replacement surgery at CHC Sankoo is expected to benefit patients requiring complex orthopaedic care while reducing dependence on referral hospitals outside the district.

DC Rakesh calls for timely adoption of Aadhaar attendance and paperless governance in Kargil

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KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, IAS, on Saturday directed all government departments to expedite the implementation of the Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Attendance System and the e-Office platform, emphasising that the two digital initiatives are essential to improving accountability, transparency and efficiency in public administration.

Chairing a review meeting with district officers, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the department-wise progress of both initiatives and instructed Heads of Departments to ensure that the attendance system is made operational for all employees without delay. He stressed that regular attendance and punctuality are fundamental to improving public service delivery and called for strict monitoring to ensure employees discharge their responsibilities efficiently.

Reviewing the Aadhaar-



based attendance system, Rakesh Kumar directed departments to resolve all pending technical and administrative issues on priority so that the platform can be implemented seamlessly across government offices. He said the digital attendance mechanism would strengthen institutional discipline while enabling effective monitoring of employee attendance.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of the e-Office platform,

appreciating departments where the system has already been implemented effectively. He directed the remaining offices to accelerate its rollout, observing that paperless governance would facilitate faster disposal of official files, minimise procedural delays and improve administrative efficiency.

Emphasising the importance of modern record management, he instructed departments to undertake systematic digitisation of legacy government records.

Digital preservation of official documents, he said, would enhance institutional efficiency while ensuring better governance and long-term record management.

The meeting concluded with directions to all departments to complete the implementation of both the Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Attendance System and the e-Office platform within the stipulated timeframe and submit regular progress reports to facilitate effective monitoring of the initiatives.

Teachers from Six Zones complete Bhoti Language training at DIET Leh

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LEH: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh, on Saturday concluded two five-day capacity-building programmes for 230 Bhoti language teachers from all six educational zones of Ladakh, with the training aimed at strengthening classroom instruction, language proficiency and pedagogical practices across government schools.

The programmes, organised separately for different school levels, brought together teachers from Nyoma, Durbuk, Kharu, Leh, Khamtsi and Nubra as part of DIET Leh's continuing efforts to improve the quality of Bhoti language education in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



The first training programme, held from July 20 to 24 at the Main Hall of DIET Leh, covered 150 Bhoti teachers teaching at the Primary and Middle School levels. Simultaneously, a second

programme for 80 teachers from High and Higher Secondary Schools concluded at the Conference Hall of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh.

Addressing the valedictory

session, S. D. Namgail, Principal, DIET Leh, highlighted the importance of continuous professional development in improving classroom instruction and reaffirmed the institute's commitment to the promotion, preservation and academic development of the Bhoti language. He said DIET Leh continues to develop Bhoti textbooks, teaching-learning materials and other academic resources aligned with the framework of NEP 2020.

The Principal expressed appreciation to the Chief Resource Persons, Gen Mengchung La, General Secretary, Executive Management, Tibetan Children's Village (TCV), Dharamshala, and Nawang Chimba of Tibetan Children's Village, Dharamshala, for conducting specialised

academic sessions during the programme. He also acknowledged the active participation of teachers representing schools from across the region.

For Primary and Middle School teachers, the training focused on Bhoti calligraphy, handwriting techniques and innovative teaching-learning methodologies, with sessions led by Nawang Chimba to strengthen pedagogical skills and classroom engagement.

The programme for High and Higher Secondary School teachers, conducted by Gen Mengchung La, covered Bhoti poetry, prose writing, grammar and learner-centred instructional approaches, enabling participants to improve language proficiency, literary understanding and subject-specific classroom practices.

Thrilling Polo action marks 4th day of LG Cup C'ship in Drass

DRASS: The 6th Lieutenant Governor Cup Horse Polo Championship 2026 continued to draw large crowds on its fourth day, with Deputy Commissioner Imteez Kacho reviewing the tournament arrangements and commending players for their commitment to preserving Ladakh's traditional sport.

Visiting the International Horse Polo Stadium, Drass, the Deputy Commissioner watched the day's matches, interacted with players, organisers and media personnel, and reviewed the arrangements made for the championship. He was accompanied by Mohammad Ishaq, Zonal Physical Education Officer, Drass, Police Inspector Mohammad Jamil, and officials of the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

Appreciating the conduct of the tournament, Imteez Kacho lauded the Department of Youth Services and Sports for the arrangements and praised the participating teams for displaying discipline, dedication and exemplary sportsmanship. He also encouraged the players to continue promoting Ladakh's rich horse polo heritage through competitive sport.

The fourth day's fixtures featured four teams, with Young Yulbu taking on D' Meadows in the opening match, followed by a contest between Polo Panthers and Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC). Both encounters witnessed competitive play, skilled horsemanship and coordinated teamwork, keeping spectators engaged throughout the day.

Officials said the championship has continued to witness enthusiastic public participation since its commencement, reaffirming its status as one of the region's prominent sporting events.

Besides providing a competitive platform for emerging and experienced polo players, the tournament seeks to preserve Ladakh's centuries-old horse polo tradition while encouraging greater youth participation in indigenous sports. The championship is also expected to promote sports tourism and strengthen public interest in one of the region's most enduring cultural and sporting legacies.

DIET Leh concludes District Cascade Workshop on inquiry-based Mathematics and Science education

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LEH: Seeking to strengthen classroom instruction in Mathematics and Science across government schools, the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh, on Saturday concluded a three-day District Level Cascade Workshop that trained elementary and secondary school teachers in inquiry-driven and activity-oriented teaching methodologies aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Organised in collaboration with the Department of School Education, UT Ladakh, and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, under the iRISE initiative, the workshop was held from July 23 to 25 at Paras Hall, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Leh. Teachers representing schools from across Leh district participated in the programme aimed at improving classroom engagement and strengthening conceptual learning in Mathematics and Science.



The training programme focused on equipping teachers with pedagogical approaches that encourage inquiry-based learning, critical thinking and experiential classroom practices. Throughout the three-day workshop, participants attended interactive sessions, practical demonstrations, collaborative discussions and hands-on learning activities designed to make science and mathematics education more engaging and learner-centred.

The valedictory session was attended by Principal, DIET Leh, S. D. Namgail; Head of Department, DIET Leh, Tsering Yangdol; resource persons from

IISER Pune; master trainers; DIET faculty members; and participating teachers.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers underscored the importance of continuous professional development in enabling teachers to respond to evolving educational needs. They appreciated the collaboration between DIET Leh, the Department of School Education and IISER Pune in expanding access to contemporary teaching practices and improving the quality of Mathematics and Science education in Ladakh.

Principal Namgail commended the resource persons and master

trainers for conducting intensive academic sessions that combined theoretical understanding with practical classroom applications. He observed that sustained teacher capacity-building remains essential for creating engaging learning environments and improving educational outcomes.

During the workshop, participants explored the objectives and structure of the iRISE initiative while engaging in experiential learning modules that promoted collaborative problem-solving, scientific inquiry and classroom innovation. The sessions encouraged teachers to adopt learner-focused instructional methods capable of stimulating curiosity and analytical thinking among students.

Officials said the trained participants would now disseminate the knowledge and teaching strategies acquired during the programme to fellow educators through the cascade model, extending the benefits of the initiative to a larger network of schools across the district.

Former CEC Feroz urges MP Haneefa to sanction Spl MPLADS package for flood-affected Silmoo

KARGIL: Former Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan has urged Member of Parliament for Ladakh Mohammad Haneefa Jan to sanction a special financial package under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to support land restoration and rehabilitation in Silmoo village, which was extensively damaged by the recent cloudbursts and flash floods.

In a formal representation addressed to the Member of Parliament, Khan sought immediate intervention to assist affected families whose livelihoods have been severely disrupted by the disaster. He requested that a special MPLADS allocation be sanctioned for land development, restoration of agricultural fields and rehabilitation of flood-affected households.

The memorandum states that Silmoo was among the worst-hit villages during the recent spell of extreme weather, with flash floods carrying mud, stones and boulders that damaged agricultural land, standing crops, irrigation channels, residential houses, roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. It also records losses to apricot orchards, irrigation facilities and livestock.

Highlighting the socio-economic impact of the disaster, Khan said the devastation had dealt a heavy blow to farming families dependent on agriculture and horticulture. According to the representation, fertile agricultural land has been buried under debris in several areas, rendering it unfit for cultivation, while standing crops have been destroyed, leaving many households facing severe financial hardship.

NSS Unit at GDC Drass organises Student Enrolment and Orientation Programme

DRASS: Government Degree College (GDC), Drass organised a National Service Scheme (NSS) Enrolment-cum-Orientation Programme to encourage students to participate in community service, leadership development and nation-building initiatives through voluntary engagement.

Held in the college seminar hall, the programme was attended by students of the first, third and fifth semesters and was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Tsewang Gialtsen, Convener of the NSS Unit, along with committee members. The initiative aimed to familiarise students with the objectives of the National Service Scheme and encourage them to enrol as volunteers for the current academic session.

Welcoming the participants, Shujat Ali, Assistant Professor of Commerce, highlighted the relevance of the NSS in nurturing civic responsibility and social commitment among young people. Prof. Tsewang Gialtsen explained the objectives and scope of the scheme, emphasising its role in promoting leadership, personality development, community engagement and voluntary service. Addressing the gathering, Principal M. N. M. Shabani underlined the importance of the National Service Scheme in shaping socially responsible citizens and encouraged students to make meaningful contributions to society through active participation in its activities.

Administration conducts cleanliness drive from Khardong La to T-Mord

NUBRA: The Nubra district administration has intensified its campaign to improve environmental sanitation along one of Ladakh's busiest tourist corridors, undertaking a two-day cleanliness drive and waste collection campaign from Khardong La Top to T-Mord while directing tourism stakeholders to adopt stricter waste management practices.

The campaign, conducted on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Nubra Mukul Beniwal, IAS, covered the entire roadside stretch from Khardong La Top through North Pullu, Khardong Village and Khalsar Village before extending to T-Mord. Public areas adjoining the route were also cleared of litter as part of the coordinated sanitation exercise.

Govt Deptts, Residents unite for cleanliness drive across Diskit

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DISKIT: The Nubra district administration on Saturday carried out a coordinated cleanliness drive across Diskit and its surrounding areas, mobilising government departments, community representatives and local residents in an effort to improve public sanitation and promote responsible waste management.

The campaign, undertaken on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Nubra Mukul Beniwal, IAS, covered government offices, residential quarters, markets, streets, drains and other public spaces, with officials and



citizens participating in a district-wide effort to maintain cleaner civic surroundings.

The drive witnessed the participation of Heads of Departments and officials from

various government departments, who joined residents in cleaning the Diskit market and adjoining localities. Public infrastructure, commercial areas and drainage networks were among the locations covered during the exercise.

Community participation formed a central part of the campaign, with the Nambardar coordinating local residents to clean their homes, neighbourhood streets, drains and surrounding areas. The initiative encouraged households to contribute directly to improving sanitation within their respective localities.

Officials said the cleanliness

campaign was conducted through coordinated efforts involving government departments, Lambardars and members of the public, reflecting a shared commitment to maintaining hygienic public spaces and strengthening community ownership of sanitation initiatives.

The administration observed that the campaign was also aimed at encouraging responsible waste management practices and fostering sustained public awareness on environmental cleanliness, with emphasis on collective responsibility in preserving healthy and clean surroundings across the region.