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HERITAGE WALK in Old Town

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Visit of former Dy. MAYOR of Shimla

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LEDEG ORGANISES HERITAGE WALK in Leh Old Town



Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG) organised its fifth talk of the Liveable Leh Talk Series on August 18. Tashi Morup, Project Director at Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation (LAMO) was the guest for the first 'Walk the Talk'-Heritage

Walk through Leh Old Town. The concept for the talk was unique as the participants were taken on a journey on foot, revisiting the history of the Old Town. Heritage walks give a real-time experience and create emotional ties with the place, crucial for

understanding the meaning and values associated with our heritage.

The participants assembled at LEDeG Office in Karzoo, where Dr Nordan Otzer, Executive Director, presented the guest speaker with the khataks, a traditional white scarf.

He also gave an overview of the Liveable Leh Project and informed the audience about the benefits of walking.

Post-welcome speech, Tashi Morup took the audience back in time while traversing through the narrow alleys of the Leh Old Town which is one of the most fascinating and eye-grabbing areas of Leh town. With the nine-storey Leh Palace overlooking the Old Town, the area is known for historically significant buildings and monuments, making the exploration of these landscapes through narrow alleys very interesting. With a cluster of big and small houses, the Old Town is a well-preserved town and was added to the World Monuments Fund's list of 100 most endangered cities.

LEDeG's endeavour was to give the audience a taste of the rich history and glory of Leh town along with the art, architecture, religious places, culture and traditions of Ladakh.

He first took the audience to Chhutey Ranthak (water flour mill) and showed them the flour mill which was in use till a decade back. Tashi informed that the ranthak (flour mill) was built with Balti technology in the 16th century and the entire area had a series of ranthaks.

The flour generated from the mill was supplied to the bakery market nearby. He said that Leh was an important trade centre and once could see ten different people from ten different countries in the Leh market. A gate was erected on the foothills of the Leh Palace to levy tax from traders coming from the Khardung La side.

Tashi informed that the settlers from Central Asia had built the bakery market, whereas the Shia mosque in Chhutey Ranthak was built at the time of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

The area near the mosque was modelled on Victoria Bazaar and was therefore named Victoria Main Bazaar. Before entering the Old Town area, Tashi shared that there were six gates which led inside the Old Town, but only four gates exist now. The Stupa Gates were called Kagani and had rock carvings on it, which were carved by artists accompanying traders in the 7th century.

Tashi added that Leh City was fortified to prevent attack by the Dogra Army.

He said the Leh City was divided into two: Skyanas (beyond the wall), Gogsum (Three walls). He said there are three monasteries of Maitreya Buddha (Future Buddha) in Old Town which were built at the time of King Tashi Namgyal in the late 15th century.

He also gave description of the buildings which belonged to officers in the King's court. There was Onpo (Astrologer), Lhardak (caretaker of the Lhato of the Palace), Takshosma (traditional courtyard dancers), Munshi (secretary).

Tashi said that Ladakh was earlier ruled by chieftains and it was during the reign of King Singge Namgyal who managed to unite the whole of Ladakh with the help of Lama Staksang Raspa who was his teacher.

He then took the audience to LAMO Center, which is housed in the Munshi and Gayoo Wing.





Tikender Singh Panwar (front row, second from the left) with the Strategic Planning Committee and Liveable Leh team

FORMER SHIMLA DY MAYOR meets Strategic Planning Committee team

Tikender Singh Panwar, former deputy mayor of Shimla, was the guest during the 3rd Strategic Planning Meeting held under the Liveable Leh Project funded by European Union and co-funded by BMZ, at LEDeG Office Meeting Hall on August 21.

Panwar, who had worked on the Master Plan for Shimla and transformed the Municipal Corporation Shimla during his tenure as the deputy mayor from 2012 to 2017, was called for the meeting as a guest to talk about the steps Leh needs to take to avoid the mistakes which Shimla did while formulating the Master Plan.

The meeting was attended by Strategic Planning Committee members comprising Dr Zahida Bano, CEO of Leh Development Authority, Rigzin Spalgon, Administrator of Municipal Committee Leh, Deleks Namgyal, general secretary of All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA), Stanzin Norboo, joint secretary of ALTOA, and the LEDeG team .

Panwar said that Leh's goal is to create a Vision Document and then formulate a Master Plan out of it. Shimla's case was different as they created a Master Plan first and then from it drafted a Vision Document. He also shared that Army is an important stakeholder in Leh town, with more than 10,000 Army personnels posted in and around the town.

Panwar further added that the Vision Document should be a collective effort of the government and the stakeholders, including the public. He added that the Leh Vision should be to make the people and the town self-sustainable.

He also spoke on the in-flux of tourists in Leh, and also its benefits and challenges. He said that there should be a study on tourism in Leh and also collection of data so that a policy could be formulated for the town. He said tourism should be sustainable and added that there should be regulation and check on tourists who have booked their tours through Make My Trip and Yatra. He said the money should stay in the town and steps must be taken to ensure that the money generated through tourism is spent on development of the town. For this, he advised the bureaucrats to levy a nominal fee to the tourists who come to Leh.

He also warned the committee members that if immediate steps are not taken to regulate the flow of tourists and vehicles plying on the roads leading to ecologically fragile areas such as Pangong, Nubra and Tsomoriri, then the National Green Tribunal (NGT) will step in and take drastic steps.

Panwar also expressed his surprise at the figures of pedestrians in Leh town, which showed that the average distance covered by the pedestrians was just 2 km out of the radius share of 6km. The percentage of pedestrians stood at 26%, while Panwar shared that it was 45% in Shimla. He then advised the concerned authorities to create more walking spaces and encourage electric mobility buses and solar cars instead of vehicles which runs on diesel and petrol.

He said that local products such as yak milk, cheese and pashmina should be promoted. He also expressed his wish to have a mayor with councilors at his side to run Leh town.

FSTP LEH Celebrates its first anniversary

The Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) celebrated its first anniversary at its plant near Bomb Guard on August 10. It was exactly a year ago when the FSTP was inaugurated by the Late Dr Sonam Dawa, Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC.



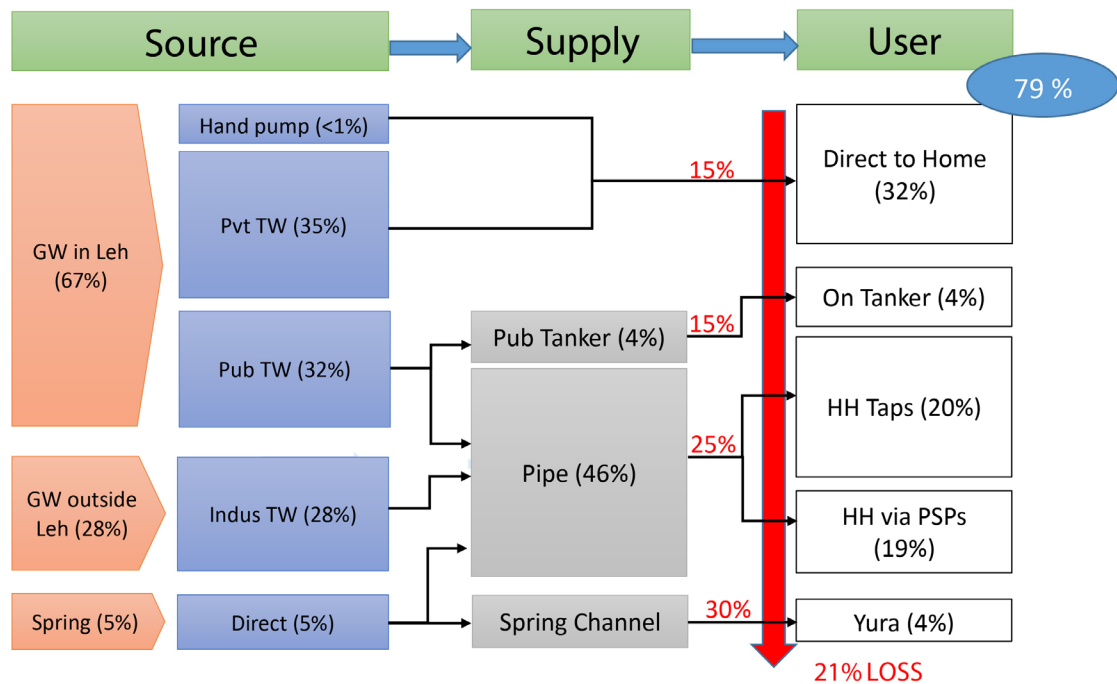
The plant was designed by BORDA and CDD Society and executed by the

Municipal Committee Leh and Blue Water Company, a sanitation service company that provides end-to-end Faecal Sludge Management Services to make Leh the first ODF++ city in India. Leh Development Authority (LDA) provided land for this project. The construction of the FSM was completed within a record time of seven weeks at the cost of Rs 52 lakh. The FSTP is the first integrated contract for FSM, a Public Private Partnership (PPP) where the private party provides complete FSM services.



WATER FLOW DIAGRAM
How each drop of Water travels in Leh? .

LEDeG Office
Karzoo Zing
Leh - 194101



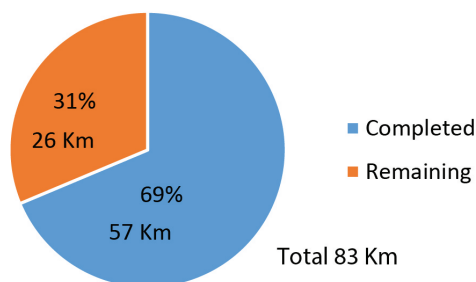


LEDeG Office
 Karzoo Zing
 Leh - 194101

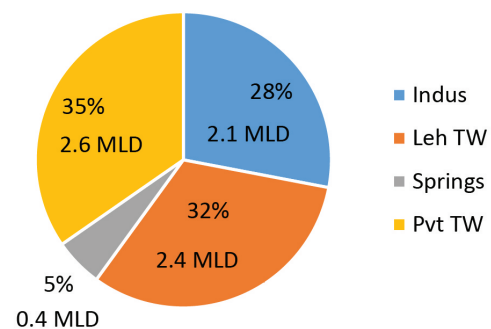
Water Consumption and Projections

2018				2027 Estimates		
Category	Usage	Population	Demand	Usage	Population	Demand
Locals	75 LPCD ¹	35,192	2.6 MLD ¹	75 LPCD	41,526	4.2 MLD
Tourists ²	100 LPCD	9,241	0.9 MLD	100 LPCD	12,000	1.2 MLD
Migrant ³	30 LPCD	50,000	1.5 MLD	30 LPCD	59,000	3.0 MLD
Total	53 LPCD	94,433	5.0 MLD	74 LPCD	1,12,526	8.3 MLD

Status of Water Supply Network 2018



Water Source 2018



Wastewater Statistics

- ☒ Central Sewage Treatment Plant of 3 MLD capacity coming up
- ☒ To cater ~40% of Leh
- ☒ Faecal Sludge Management update
 - Customers catered – 160
 - Faecal Sludge Treated – 20 Lakh Litres
 - Prevented ~1 crore people from

Groundwater Status

- ☒ Number of Private Tube wells ~3500
- ☒ Wastewater leaching from Soak pits causing groundwater contamination

Operation & Maintenance statistics

- ☒ MCL to take over operations of Water supply services
- ☒ Annual Electricity costs post completion of project ~8 – 9 crores

¹ Liters per capita per day

² Million Litres per Day

³ Total number of tourists per day with average length of stay at 5 days

⁴ Migrant workers stay for 6 months

PADMA SHRI MORUP NAMGYAL

Liveable Leh Talk Series



Continuing the trend of inviting guest speakers, Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG) organised the sixth talk of the Liveable Leh Talk Series at the meeting hall in its office premises on September 3.

Padma Shri Morup Namgyal, a popular figure among the Ladakhis who is a famous composer, singer and dramatist, was the speaker for the occasion. He spoke about Ladakhi language and importance of traditional culture. Dr Nordan Otzer, Executive Director of LEDeG, welcomed the guest and gave an overview of the Liveable Leh Project to the audience.

Morup Namgyal, who won the Padma Shri Award, the fourth highest civilian award, in 2004, gave a briefing on the history of Ladakh, especially about the agricultural practices in ancient Ladakh.

The Padma Shree recipient also highlighted the importance of traditional toilets. He said that people

from Changthang area would stay at Changa and a lot of manure was produced from the cattle owned by them. The waste taken out from the dry toilets was also used in the agricultural fields as manure.

He also shared trivia about the kings from the 'Namgyal dynasty' that ruled in Ladakh. Morup Namgyal also shared with the audience an interesting fact on how Leh got its name.

He shared there was hardly any vegetation in the rocky terrain of Leh (initially called Doa-sar), except a marshy area where the king and his ministers used to go for picnic.

The peculiar thing about the place was that a large number of bubbles (leh-bey in Ladakhi) would form and hence the place was christened as Leh-bey (the land of bubbles) which was later shortened to Leh. He further added that the Chhurpon (water supervisor) system was



very popular in ancient Ladakh. He said that Chhurpons were announced through lottery.

Some Chhurpons were considered auspicious if the average annual precipitation was more, and inauspicious if the rainfall/snowfall during his tenure was less.

The Chhurpons had the responsibility to distribute water evenly to all the agricultural fields and he would assume his duty all through the year. Chhurpons would sit at the end of the field and check the overflow of the water. If the water reached the end of the field, the owner of the field would be penalised.

Morup added that some Chhurpons were corrupt as they would release water to the fields after accepting chhang (local beer), food in return. The tenure of the Chhurpons were extended if there was flood and snowfall in that period of time.

Chhurpons had a tedious task of memorising the size of the lands and had to release water to the field accordingly. He said that Chhurpon system is still prevalent in Saboo village.

He then explained the traditional architecture of the house. Morup said that the height of the rooms and doors were kept low to avoid loss of heat.

There was also a handbook for the construction of the house which defined where to construct the kitchen, toilet, prayer room, etc. The traditional toilets did not have a door and the parents inculcated in their children the habit of throwing soil into the toilet after use.

The veteran singer thanked LEDeG for providing him with an opportunity to share his thoughts and ideas with the audience. Tenzin Motup, the event manager of LEDeG, gave the vote of thanks.

KNOW YOUR TEAM

Water and Sanitation (WATSAN)



(From left) Mohammad John, Tsewang Gyatso, Showkat Ahmad Wani, Snehit Prakash, Gulzar Ahmad, Tashi Norboo, Tamchos Gurmet, Thinless Dorjey, Parth Gohel

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