



THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
LADAKH POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

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Adv. Sh. Raj Kumar,
(Advocate & Solicitor)
(Empanelled for Hon'ble NGT)
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No: LPCC/UTL/OA-1339-2024/2025/297-301

Dated: 07/03/2025

Sub: -Filing response in the form of affidavit in the matter of News item titled "*Ladakh Birdlife comprising of 430 species in Dire Need of Protection*" appearing in ETV Bharat dt: 16.11.2024.

Ref: Hon'ble NGT O.A 1339/2024 dt: 28/11/2024.

Sir,

Kindly find enclosed herewith the response/reply in the form of an affidavit dt: - 07/03/2025 to be submitted to the Hon'ble NGT in compliance to the directions issued in O.A No. 1339/2024 for the news item titled "*Ladakh Birdlife comprising of 430 species in Dire Need of Protection*" appearing in ETV Bharat dt: 16.11.2024.

It is requested that the response may be filed and submitted to the Hon'ble NGT in time, with a request to attend the proceedings of case on date of hearing i.e., 20/03/2025.

Encl: Affidavit along with Annexures.
(Reply-12 + Annexure-19 pages)

Yours sincerely,

B.M Sharma, IFS,
Member Secretary,
Ladakh Pollution Control Committee,
UT of Ladakh

Copy to the:

- i) Chairman, LPCC, UT of Ladakh, for information (admsecyutl.hfee@gmail.com).
- ii) Member Secretary, CPCB, New-Delhi for information, may refer H'ble NGT Order for filing of response by CPCB in this regard (mccb.cpcb@nic.in).
- iii) Deputy Commissioner, Leh, UT of Ladakh for information, may refer H'ble NGT Order for filing of response by CPCB in this regard (dcleh@nic.in).
- iv) Integrated Regional Office, Jammu, MoEFCC-GoI, for information, may refer H'ble NGT Order for filing of response by CPCB in this regard (iro.jammu-mefcc@gov.in).



सत्यमेव जयते

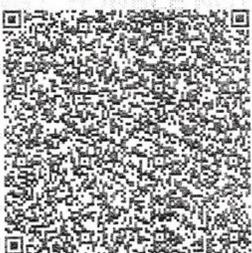
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**THE ADMINISTRATION OF
UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH**

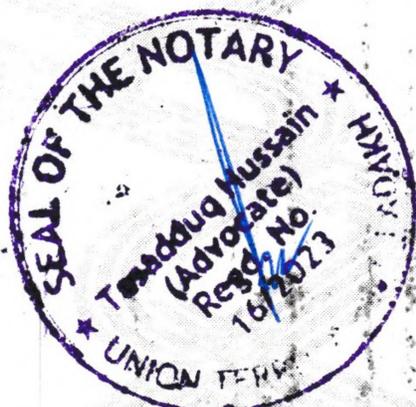


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**BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1339/2024

IN THE MATTER OF: -

**News Item Titled "Ladakh Birdlife Comprising 430 species in Dire
Need of Protection" appearing in ETV Bharat dt: 16.11.2024**

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Filed By:-



RAJ KUMAR

(COUNSEL FOR THE LPCC)

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DATED:

NEW DELHI

**BEFORE THE HONOURABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1339/2024

In the matter of: -

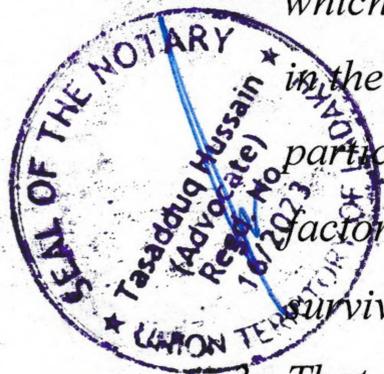
News Item Titled "Ladakh Birdlife Comprising 430 species in Dire Need of Protection" appearing in ETV Bharat dt: 16.11.2024

Response by way of an affidavit by the Member Secretary Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, UT of Ladakh.

I, Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS, aged 58 years, working as Member Secretary, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, having office at Wildlife Building Civil Secretariat, Leh-Ladakh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

(A) Background: -

1. That the Hon'ble NGT has suo-moto registered the O.A 1339/2024 on the basis of news item titled "Ladakh Birdlife Comprising 430 species in Dire Need of Protection" appearing in ETV Bharat dt: 16.11.2024.
2. That the matter relates to the urgent need to protect the Ladakh Bird Sanctuary, which is home to over 430 species of birds. As per the article, the sanctuary, located in the northern Indian region of Ladakh, is facing significant environmental threats, particularly due to climate change, habitat degradation, and human activities. These factors are endangering the rich biodiversity of the sanctuary and threatening the survival of various bird species.
3. That the article highlights the sanctuary supports both migratory and resident bird species, including the Tibetan Snowcock, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, and Bar-headed Goose, and serves as an important site for birdwatching, ecotourism, and scientific research. It states that climate change has significantly impacted bird distribution patterns in Ladakh. Birds traditionally found in lower altitudes around Kargil or Sham region are now being spotted in higher elevations near Leh and the Rong region of eastern Ladakh. The House Sparrow's declining presence in Leh Town due to urbanization and the delayed migration patterns of winter visitors by 10-15 days in 2024 exemplify these changes. The Black-Throated Thrush, typically seen by mid-October, was only spotted in November 2024, coinciding with one of the warmest years on record.'
4. That it is also alleged that the threats to the sanctuary's biodiversity are multifaceted. Climate change particularly shifts in weather patterns and temperature conditions have disrupted the natural cycles that birds depend on for sustenance and breeding. These alterations have made it increasingly difficult for birds to find reliable food sources and suitable nesting locations. The region's growing human footprint poses



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another significant threat. As Ladakh's population expands, there's an increasing demand for urban development, farming land, and new infrastructure. This expansion steadily encroaches on the natural territories that birds have historically inhabited. The wildlife sanctuary faces mounting pressure as these human activities continue to shrink available habitats. Tourism presents a double-edged sword for the region. While it contributes positively to the local economy, its environmental impact is concerning. The constant flow of visitors results in habitat disturbance, increased pollution levels, and waste accumulation. These tourist-related activities create additional stress on the bird populations, further compromising their ability to thrive in their natural environment.

5. That the news item also indicates violation of the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
6. That the news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

(B) Response/reply from the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, UT of Ladakh: -

Respondent-I

1. **Protected Areas of Ladakh:** - The cold desert high altitude Trans-Himalayan region of Ladakh is known for its snow-clad lofty jagged peaks, harsh climatic conditions, stunning and vast landscape with a variety of habitats which support a wide range of species of rare and endemic threatened flora and fauna including good diversity of avifauna.

To give legal protection and conservation of the unique and diverse flora and fauna of Ladakh, the Govt. notified two Wildlife Sanctuaries and one National Park in Ladakh, with brief account given as below: -

S. No.	Protected Area	Notification No. & Date	Area as per notification (in Sq. Km)	Important species
(i)	Karakoram (Nubra-Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary	SRO 152 of 19-03-1987	5,000	Tibetan Antelope, Snow Leopard, Eurasian Lynx, Asiatic Ibex, Ladakh Urial, several Ungulates etc.
(ii)	High Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) Wildlife Sanctuary	SRO 155 of 19-03-1987	4,000	Black Necked Crane, Bar headed Geese, Snow Leopard, Wild Asses, Pallas's Cat, Tibetan Antelope, Tibetan Gazelle, Tibetan Argali etc.
(iii)	High Altitude Hemis National Park	SRO 158 of 19-03-1987	3,350	Snow Leopard, Several Ungulates, Pallas's Cat etc.

This protected area network is an excellent habitat for some of rarest and unique wild animals with at least 26 mammal species and about 35 species of avi-fauna listed and notified in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, ensuring the highest legal protection for their survival and conservation, while preserving the delicate and variety of ecosystems of this cold desert region.

2. Important Avi-fauna of Ladakh: - The region is known for high altitude wetlands, pristine lakes, riverine habitats and variety of habitats attract and support a wide variety of birdlife.

This includes: -

- (a) the resident birds that live around the year in the region,
- (b) the summer visitors migratory birds who breed in Ladakh during warmer months and the winter visitors who migrate to the wetlands to escape extreme cold,
- (c) the passage migrants who use Ladakh as a stopover along the "*Central Asian Flyway*" and;
- (d) the occasional migrants.

That the region holds significant ecological importance, as it is located at the intersection of four zoogeographic zones of the world: Palearctic, Oriental, Sino-Japanese, and Sahara-Arabian. In the Indian subcontinent, Ladakh lies within the Trans-Himalayan biogeographic zone and two provinces: the Ladakh mountains and Tibetan Plateau. Its adjacent biogeographic zone, the Himalaya-North (West Himalaya), further enriches the local avifauna, due to the variety of habitats available in the landscape and surrounding areas. Furthermore, Ladakh is an integral part of the "Central Asian Flyway", a key migratory route for waterbirds that spans a large portion of the globe. In addition to the famous Indus River and its tributaries, Ladakh's landscape features several high-altitude wetlands, some of which are globally significant.

That notable high-altitude wetlands and wetland complex habitats include Pangong Tso-Lake, Tsomoriri Lake, and Tsokar Wetland, the latter two have also been declared as Ramsar sites. The resident species like Tibetan Snowcock, Chukar Partridge, and Golden Eagle are well-adapted to the region's harsh conditions, thriving year-round, whereas the Migratory birds, such as the Black Necked Crane, Bar-headed Goose, and Brahminy Ducks etc., travel to different protected areas during their annual migration, using the region's high-altitude lakes and wetlands as breeding or wintering grounds. In addition to these, the summer visitors like the Common Tern and winter visitors such as Tibetan Sandgrouse are also attracted to the region due to diverse habitats.

As on date, many checklists on avi-fauna of Ladakh are available, but the book published in 2021 as "*A comprehensive account of the Birds of Ladakh Community, Notes and Field guide*" by the GB Pant, National Institute of Himalayan Environment



(NIHE) of MoEFCC, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh (WCBCL)-Leh and the Deptt. of Wildlife Protection-UT of Ladakh, is more scientific and authentic publication with updated checklist of 378 species of birds representing 184 genera, which include various threat categories as defined by the International Union of Conservation Nature (IUCN) i.e., Critically endangered 2 species, endangered 5 species, vulnerable 10 and near threatened 17 species of birds reported from Ladakh.

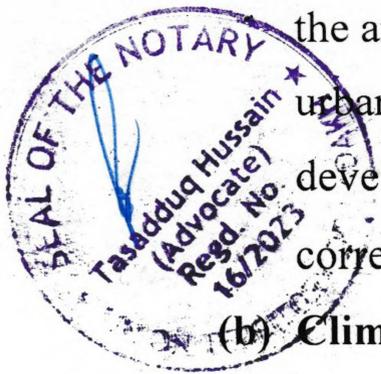
A comprehensive list of important wild animals and avi-fauna found in Ladakh is also enclosed herewith as **Annexure - 'A'**.

3. Threats projected in the news article, conservation efforts and initiatives of the Ladakh administration: -

(a) The author of the news article "*Ladakh Birdlife Comprising 430 species in Dire Need of Protection*" published on 16/11/2024 has raised concerns about the protection and threats to the bird population in Ladakh due to several growing threats, some of the threats to the birds breeding and feeding grounds referred in the article are due to climate change, unregulated tourism, population growth and urbanization, developmental activities such as roads and infrastructure development, and stray dogs, which are required to be addressed with urgent corrective measures to protect avi-fauna of Ladakh.

(b) **Climate change is a global phenomenon**, which must be having definite impact on all life forms existing on the earth as on date. The migration patterns of the birds have been reported to be affected by climate change with several significant impacts like shifting in migration timing, changes in migration routes, forcing some birds to move to higher altitudes seeking more favorable conditions for survival. **It has been claimed to have impact on breeding and feeding patterns due to habitat degradation resulting migration of birds with climate driven Range expansion.**

It is important to note here that no such scientific study on such impacts of climate change on birds behavior has been done in Ladakh and few references published in the article are on field observations of some birders, which need to be thoroughly and scientifically studied by some premier scientific institutions to ascertain the impact of climate change on bird population of the region.



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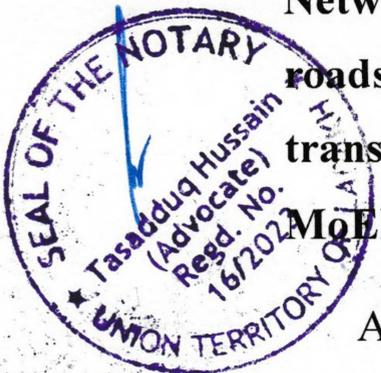
(c) **Rapid population growth and developmental activities such as roads and infrastructure:-**

The total area of 59,146 sq.km spread over two districts i.e., Leh and Kargil, is under the administrative control of Ladakh Administration as on date, and the region is known for its least population density in the country with 4.6 persons per sq. km.

Further, according to the Census of India-2011, recorded population of Ladakh was 2.7 Lakh, increasing from 2.37 Lakh population as recorded in 2001, thereby adding 38000 souls only during 2001-2011 decade.

The population has been projected to be **3.02** lakh as on **01/07/2024** with nominal increase in last 10 years, with population growth rate projected at 0.33% in 2024, which is not significant increase at all.

However, a large chunk of area in Ladakh is under the Protected Area Network, where the defense related priority projects like construction of roads and infrastructure etc. are permitted in a highly regulated and transparent manner through PARIVESH portal, administered by the MoEFCC-GoI.



All such proposals for diversion of wildlife land undergo rigorous scrutiny at multiple levels and it is only on the recommendations of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL), the proposals are approved by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL), keeping in view all the concerns for the protection of wildlife habitats, ensuring implementation of all the measure to address the ecological consequences arising from developmental activities in the region, which are mostly related to the security of country.

(d) **Tourism management and regulation:**

Tourism is the back bone of economy in Ladakh. The region attracts both domestic and foreign travelers who visit Ladakh due to its breathtaking natural landscape, unique cultural heritage and high-ended wildlife tourism. The region has emerged as global tourist destination and some of natural hotspots thronged by the tourist involve Pangong Tso Lake, Tsomoriri Lake, Nubra Valley, Shang, Rumbak, Drass, Hanle, Zangskar Valley etc. along with some of the most popular monasteries such as Hemis, Alchi, Lamayuru, Shey, Thiksey etc.

The details of tourists, both domestic and foreigners, visited Ladakh in last five years is given as below: -

S. No.	Year	No. of tourists visited Ladakh	
		Domestic	Foreigner
(i)	2020	6,743	1,126
(ii)	2021	3,13,023	1,054
(iii)	2022	5,10,137	21,259
(iv)	2023	4,89,059	36,315
(v)	2024	3,36,682	39,704

Source: - Tourism Department

Regarding regulation of tourists, every tourist group has to obtain the permit from the local administration i.e., Dy. Commissioner Leh office, paying environmental fee etc. to visit different areas in Ladakh. The tourists interested to visit Protected Areas also required protected area permit from the deptt. of Wildlife Protection for the purpose of wildlife siting, photography and videography with stringent dos and don'ts to be observed by the tourists in these areas, including regulation on disposal of waste/garbage generated. These provisions ensure that the access to these Protected Areas is carefully monitored, controlled and regulated. The tourists are prohibited from off-roading, littering or engaging in any activity that could damage or disturb the wildlife and its habitats. Moreover, the beat wildlife guards posted in the area across UT of Ladakh, do regular patrolling to keep a strict vigil and close eye, monitor and prevent any unauthorized activity by the visitors in these areas.

Further, the administration has also notified a comprehensive Homestay Policy-2023 vide notification no.: LA(Trm)/Homestay/2023/(53)/3748-55 dt: 22/10/2023 for Ladakh, involving local communities to encourage eco-tourism in a sustainable manner. The deptt. of wildlife protection provides Homestay kits to the communities in all the wildlife Protected Areas, whereas, for rest of areas, the deptt. of tourism implements the policy. In this manner the local communities are actively engaged and encouraged to involve in the sustainable management of eco-tourism with the objective of community development, cultural exchange with environmental responsibility, thereby fostering the public participation in conservation and protection activities.

(e) Initiatives taken by the Department of Wildlife Protection: -

- (i) Regular patrolling by the field staff to protect and safeguard the fragile ecosystem, habitats and wildlife of Protected Areas of Ladakh is ensured, especially in the sensitive and avi-fauna rich hotspot areas of High-Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) wildlife sanctuary.

- (ii) Keeping in view the ecological, cultural value and threatened status of some species of flora and fauna in Ladakh, the UT administration has also declared important species of Ladakh as State Animal, State Bird, State Tree and State Flower recently. These initiatives give impetus to the conservation efforts with focused attention: -

S. No.	Notified flora/fauna	Species	Notification/Date.
(i)	State Bird of Ladakh	<i>Black Necked Crane</i>	LA/UTL/1561-76 dt: 31/08/2021
(ii)	State Animal of Ladakh	<i>Snow Leopard</i>	LA/UTL/1561-76 dt: 31/08/2021
(iii)	State Tree of Ladakh	<i>Juniperus semiglobosa</i> (<i>Shukpa</i>)	No. 01 of 2023/FEE/ UTL dt:23/10/2023
(iv)	State Flower of Ladakh	<i>Meconopsis aculeata</i> (<i>Himalayan Blue Poppy</i>)	No. 01 of 2023 dt: 26/12/2023

- (iii) **Further, Ladakh has proud distinction of having largest number of Snow Leopard population in the country.** The publication "*Status of Snow Leopard in India*" released by MoEFCC-GoI on Feb-2024, bears the testimony to the conservation status, protection efforts, intact and healthy ecosystem which is sustainably managed habitat for sustaining 477 numbers of the apex predator and key stone species i.e., Snow Leopard and its population.

Engagement of Wildlife Stewards for protection of Black Necked Crane: -

During the financial year 2024-25, the department of Wildlife Protection engaged 25 Wildlife Stewards, all of whom were local villagers, for a focused conservation program aimed at protecting the Black Necked Crane (BNC) and their nesting/breeding sites within the High-Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) Wildlife Sanctuary. This initiative was a sanctioned program as "*Engagement of Wildlife Steward for Protection of Black Necked crane of Department of Wildlife Protection-Leh*" approved under CAMPA APO 2024-25.

Each steward after a brief training was assigned a specific Black Necked Crane habitat within the High-Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) Wildlife Sanctuary, ensuring targeted protection efforts rooted in the local community, which has shown very encouraging results.

For the upcoming year, the department has a plan to increase the number of stewards engaged in this initiative, not only to enhance the protection of the Black Necked Crane but also to safeguard other bird species within the High-Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) Wildlife Sanctuary, thereby expanding the scope of our conservation efforts.



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The program of engagement of Wildlife Stewards has yielded significant results in mitigating key threats to the Black Necked Cranes, such as predation by feral dogs and disturbances due to human activity. The regular vigilance is very crucial in securing nesting sites and ensuring the survival of crane chicks. Moreover, this program has facilitated comprehensive studies on the spatial distribution of Black Necked Cranes, documenting the total population visiting Ladakh during the breeding season, as well as critical data on reproduction and chick survival rates. Such data is vital for future conservation planning, and will be instrumental in formulating evidence-based strategies to protect unique wildlife, particularly the Black Necked Crane the State Bird of Ladakh.

Further as highlighted in the news item based on which the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has taken *suo-motu* cognizance, **Dr. Pankaj Chandan, Senior Nature Conservation Scientist with the Himalayan Foundation for Conservation Leadership** has stated as *"Very surprisingly the breeding productivity of Black-Necked Cranes over the years has increased which is a good sign but at the same time, threats have also increased manifold. The species showed adaptability and resilience. I along with my team have completed our Crane survey in Ladakh last week only and most probably year 2024 is a very good year for Black-Necked Crane in Ladakh with the highest number of Black-Necked Crane juveniles recorded ever"*. This is the testimony to the efforts made by the department for the conservation of avifauna especially the Black Necked Crane in Ladakh.

The number of Black Necked Cranes and chicks reported from different locations of High-Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) Wildlife Sanctuary for the last 4 years is given as below: -

S. No.	Calendar year	No. of BNC Adults	No. of BNC Chicks	Total
(i)	2021	43	9	52
(ii)	2022	45	7	52
(iii)	2023	49	10	59

Source: - Deptt. of Wildlife

S. No.	Calendar year	No. of BNC Adults	No. of BNC Chicks	Total	Nest with Eggs	No. of Eggs	Nest without Eggs
(i)	2024	69	20	89	16	30	11

Source: - Deptt. of Wildlife

A brief report prepared on this conservation effort on protection of Black Necked Cranes is enclosed herewith as **Annexure 'B'**.

(v) **Threat of Feral/ Free-Ranging Dogs: -**

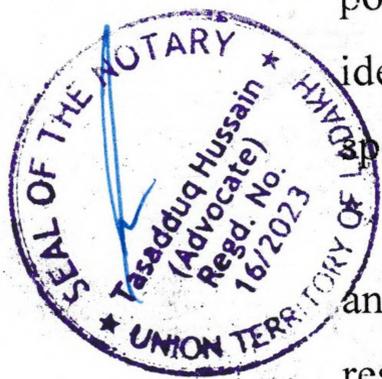
The presence of about 40,000 Feral/Free Ranging dogs in different areas including Protected Areas of Ladakh is a serious threat to humans as well as wildlife population especially to the avi-fauna. To address this serious threat, the department of Wildlife Protection is engaged in a collaborative initiative with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Animal Husbandry Department. This partnership aims to address the risks posed by free-ranging dogs, thereby safeguarding not only the Black Necked Crane but also other vulnerable wildlife species in the region.

As part of this collaboration, the Animal Husbandry Department is implementing an Animal Birth Control (ABC) program. The objective of this program is to control the birth rate of free-ranging dogs and to manage their population growth.

The department of Animal/Sheep Husbandry-Ladakh, has successfully carried out the Animal Birth Control (ABC) for about 35,347 feral dogs in Ladakh since 2013 to 2023. This is essential for mitigating the adverse effects posed by the uncontrolled expansion of the dog population, which has been identified as a key threat to both the Black Necked Crane and other wildlife species in the region.

To control the population growth of feral dogs, the Dy. Commissioner Leh and Kargil have also issued orders vide *dt: 03/07/2024* and *04/07/2024* respectively, under Sec. 163(1) BNSS-2023, prohibiting irresponsible disposal of leftover food on the roads and other places reachable by the feral dogs, for the armed force establishments, hoteliers, guest houses/homestays etc. to control this menace in Ladakh. The copy of both the orders is enclosed herewith as **Annexure C** and **D**.

The department of Wildlife Protection and Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, UT of Ladakh remains steadfast in its commitment to the conservation of unique and fragile biodiversity, particularly its wildlife including avi-fauna of Ladakh. The initiatives outlined above represent our ongoing efforts to protect the ecological heritage of the region. We are grateful for the Tribunal's oversight and would welcome any further directions to strengthen our conservation endeavors.



I, hereby state that I have gone through the contents of the affidavit and I further state that the contents of the same are true and correct on the basis of record maintained by the Wildlife Department and Ladakh Pollution Control Committee- UT of Ladakh in its ordinary course of business and nothing material has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated, and the answering respondent is duly bound to obey the directions and orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal.


DEPONENT



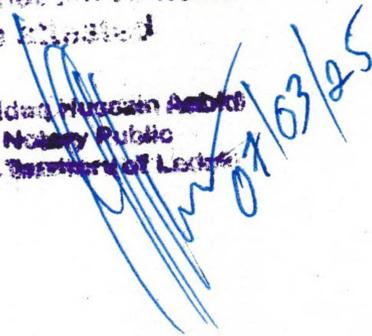
VERIFICATION

Verified at Leh, UT of Ladakh on this 07th Day of March-2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the official records of this case and nothing materials has been concealed therefrom.


DEPONENT

Verified that Sm/SH Mr. Sharma (IFS)
S/o, D/o, W/o _____
R/o _____
and witnessed by Stanis Wargdan
on 06th March / 2025
I administered oath to person who
sorely solemnly affirmed that the contents
of this affidavit & hence stated

Tasaddug Hussain Asbki
Notary Public
Union Territory of Ladakh



Sub: - List of important wild animal and avi-fauna found in Ladakh.

1. Mammals: -

Ladakh is home to several iconic mammals, many of which are adapted to the cold, arid climate.

Some of the notable and rare species include:

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Local Name
1	Blue Sheep/ Bharal	<i>Pseudois nayaur nayaur</i>	Napo/ Na
2	Tibetan Antelope/ Chiru	<i>Pantholops hodgsonii</i>	Stzos
3	Ladakh Urial	<i>Ovis vignei</i>	Shapo, Sha
4	Tibetan Argali	<i>Ovis ammon hodgsoni</i>	Nyan
5	Asiatic Ibex	<i>Capra ibex sibirica</i>	Skin
6	Tibetan Gazelle	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>	Goa
7	Wild Yak	<i>Bos grunniens</i>	Dong
8	Tibetan Wild Ass	<i>Equus kiang kiang</i>	Kiang
9	Snow Leopard	<i>Uncia uncia</i>	Shan
10	Eurasian Lynx	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eeh
11	Pallas's Cat	<i>Otocolobus manul</i>	Ribilik
12	Tibetan Wolf	<i>Canis lupus chanku</i>	Changu
13	Wild dog	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	Phara
14	Tibetan Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Whatse
15	Himalayan Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>	Denmo
16	Himalayan Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Lakimo
17	Mountain weasel	<i>Mustela altaica</i>	Lakimo
18	Stone Marten	<i>Martes foina/ Mustela foina</i>	Kogar
19	Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Chusham
20	Himalayan Marmot	<i>Marmota himalayana</i>	Phia
21	Long-tailed Marmot	<i>Marmota caudata</i>	Phia
22	Silver Mountain Vole	<i>Alticola argentatus</i>	Zabra
23	Royle's Mountain Vole	<i>Alticola roylei</i>	Zabra
24	Cape Hare/ Brown Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Ribong
25	Woolly Hare	<i>Lepus oiostolus</i>	Ribong
26	Plateau Pika	<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i>	Zabra
27	Ladakh Pika	<i>Ochotona ladacensis</i>	Zabra

2. Avi-fauna: -

Ladakh is an important region for migratory and resident bird species, particularly due to its high-altitude wetlands.

Notable bird species include:

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Local Name
1	Lammergeier/Himalayan Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Skiaklag, Tangkar, Chargot

2	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Laknak, Gyab-lak
3	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Srakpa
4	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps Himalayensis</i>	Thang-kar
5	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Tha
6	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Not recorded
7	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	:Hututusay, Utu-tutse, Pupuk-shele
8	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Nya-Za
9	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Ngangpa, Ngang-kar
10	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Cha Muru, Maroo
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Chhupsrak Goljang
12	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Not recorded
13	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Not recorded
14	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>	Not recorded
15	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Chhusrak Zalmo, Chhusrak Thago
16	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	Kalakugti
17	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Ugpa, Uk-pa
18	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Ugpa/Uk-pa
19	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Phurgon
20	Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>	Bujul, Phurgon
21	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Gondil, Gondiling
22	Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	Cha Thung Thung, Thung Thung Karmo
23	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Chanak, Hanta Chaluk
24	Tibetan Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes tibetanus</i>	Kagaling
25	Ibis bill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>	Tunglakma
26	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Tabia
27	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>	Nyagar Raktse, Nyazor
28	Great-crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Changa Rankes, Chanak Raktse
29	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Cha Thago, Katang Puti, Khatang Butse
30	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Seri Mayon
31	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Chhucha, Tumbu Tangkar
32	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Sentik Nagpo
33	White-winged Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogaster</i>	Sentik
34	Dessert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	Ichu Lugzi
35	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Okpo Thakir

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36	Tibetan Snowfinch	<i>Monticola adamsi</i>	Richi, Ri Ichu
37	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Snama Thakling
38	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Starzi
39	Robin Accentor	<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>	Tseldir, Bangtsil
40	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Idmar
41	Great Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i>	Lama Chipa, Ichu Gomar
42	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>	Chungka Khamar
43	Tibetan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus tibetanus</i>	Ticok, Te-kok, Congmo

Department of Wildlife Protection
25
UT of Ladakh



**Assessment of status of Black Necked Crane in Changthang
Wildlife Sanctuary 2024-25**

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, LEH

OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, L E H
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Dated:-24 /10/2024

Report on the Engagement of Wildlife Steward for Black Necked Crane in
Wildlife Range Changthang.

25 Nos. of Wildlife Stewards were engaged for the protection of Black Necked Cranes and their nesting sites in the Wildlife Range Changthang for duration of 7 months i.e. from May to November of 2024 for which Administrative Approval has been accorded under "Engagement of Wildlife Steward for protection of Black Necked Crane of Department of Wildlife Protection Leh CAMPA APO 2024-25" vide order no 07-RWLW of 2024, dated 05-09-2024 and each steward was assigned different areas of the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary.

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Korzok** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	4	Upto 6	Upto 4	2	2
Chicks	0	0	1	1	1
Nest with Eggs	0	2	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	4	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	1	0	2	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Ankung** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	2	2	2
Nest with Eggs	0	1	1	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	2	2	0	0
Nest without Eggs	1	1	1	1	1

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Samad** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	1	1	1
Nest with Eggs	0	1	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	2	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	1	1	1	1	1

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Fukche** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	1

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Staklung and Nyoma** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	Upto 6	6	6	6	6
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Kargyam Barma** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	2	2	2
Nest with Eggs	0	1	0	0	0

No. of Eggs	0	2	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0

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Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Tsogul-Tso** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	2	2	2	2
Nest with Eggs	2	1	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	2	2	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Ragar (Hanlay)** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	3
Chicks	0	0		0	1
Nest with Eggs	0	0	1	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	2	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	1	1	0	1

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Jung Ldemo (Hanlay)** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Lukung** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	0	0	0	0

Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

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Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Chushul Tsakzung** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	4	2	2	4	4
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Yaya Tso Mahe** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	3	3	3	3	3
Chicks	0	1	1	1	1
Nest with Eggs	1	1	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	2	2	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Rongo Dibra** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	0	2	2
Nest with Eggs	0	0	1	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	2	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	1	0	0	1

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Tagazong** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	6	4	Upto 7	4	4
Chicks	0	0	2	2	2
Nest with Eggs	0	2	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	4	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	1	2	0	2	2

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Dungti Kakzung** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	4	4	4	4	3
Chicks	0	0	0	0	1
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Ralla/Tingru** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	Upto 4	Upto 3	Upto 2	2
Chicks	0	0	1	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Thanglay- Buk Shado** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	1	1	1	1
Nest with Eggs	0	1	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	2	0	0	0

Nest without Eggs	1	0	31	0	1
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Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Lal Phaldi (Hanlay)** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Kargyam Chibra** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	1	1	1
Nest with Eggs	0	1	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	2	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	1	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Jya** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	Upto 3	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Rongo to Loma** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0

Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

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Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Kargyam Kongma** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	1	1	1
Nest with Eggs	0	1	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	2	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Mukleb** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	No cranes observed after the month of May as they migrated to other areas for nesting.			
Chicks	0				
Nest with Eggs	0				
No. of Eggs	0				
Nest without Eggs	0				

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Thakung** area :-

Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	2	2	2	2	2
Chicks	0	0	0	0	0
Nest with Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	0	0	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	0	0	0	0

Following are the month wise detailed report on Black Necked Crane for **Samad Rokchan** area :-

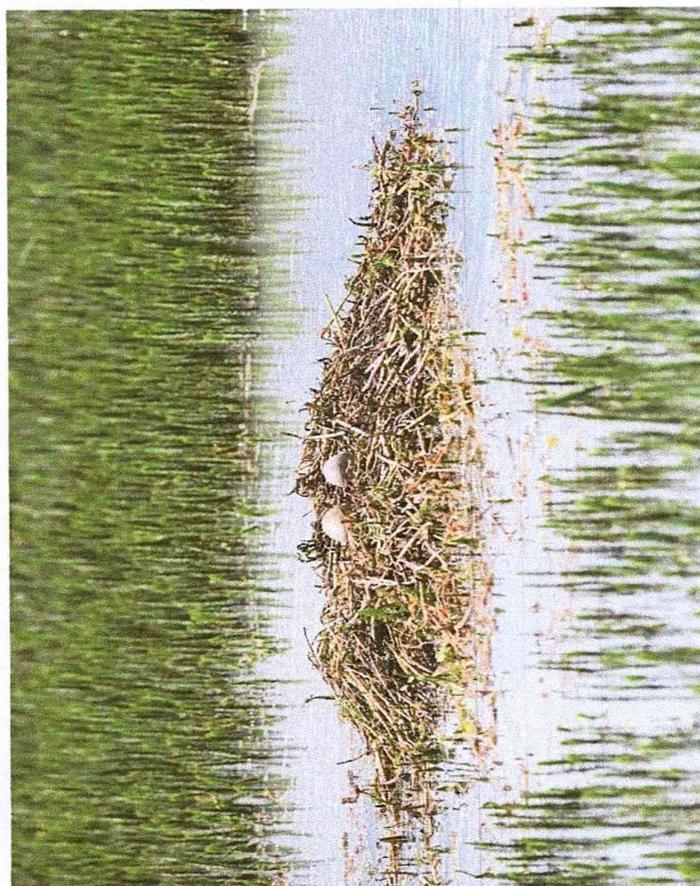
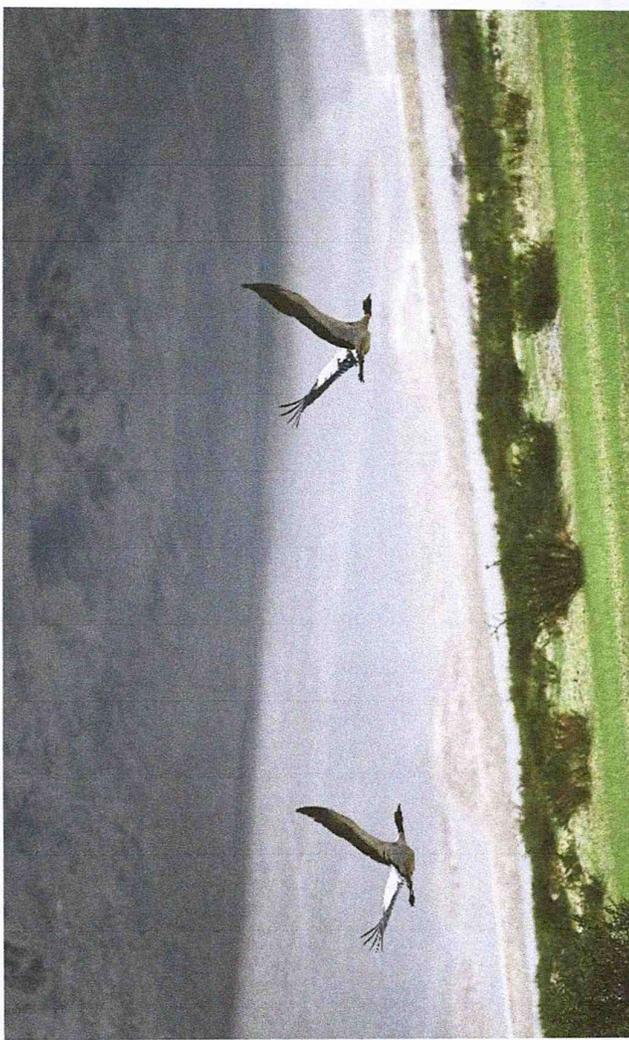
Black Necked Crane count	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	September
Adult	4	4	Upto 4	2	2
Chicks	0	0	1	1	1
Nest with Eggs	1	1	1	0	0
No. of Eggs	0	2	2	0	0
Nest without Eggs	0	1	1	1	1

Following is the detailed report on number of Black Necked Crane, their chicks and nests observed during the breeding season of 2024 in the areas of Changthang Cold desert Wildlife Sanctuary :-

BNC Count	Adult	Chicks	Nest with Eggs	No. of Eggs	Nest without Eggs
Total	69	20	16	30	11

This study and project have been useful for the protection of Black Necked Cranes, their nesting sites and their chicks from threats like Feral dogs and human disturbances. Further, it has helped in studying the spacial distribution of Black Necked Cranes throughout the areas of Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and for documenting the total population of BNC that visits Ladakh during their breeding season, their reproduction and survival rate of the chicks. This observations are vital for planning any future endeavours and projects for better protection and conservation efforts of the state bird of Ladakh.

(Photographs enclosed)

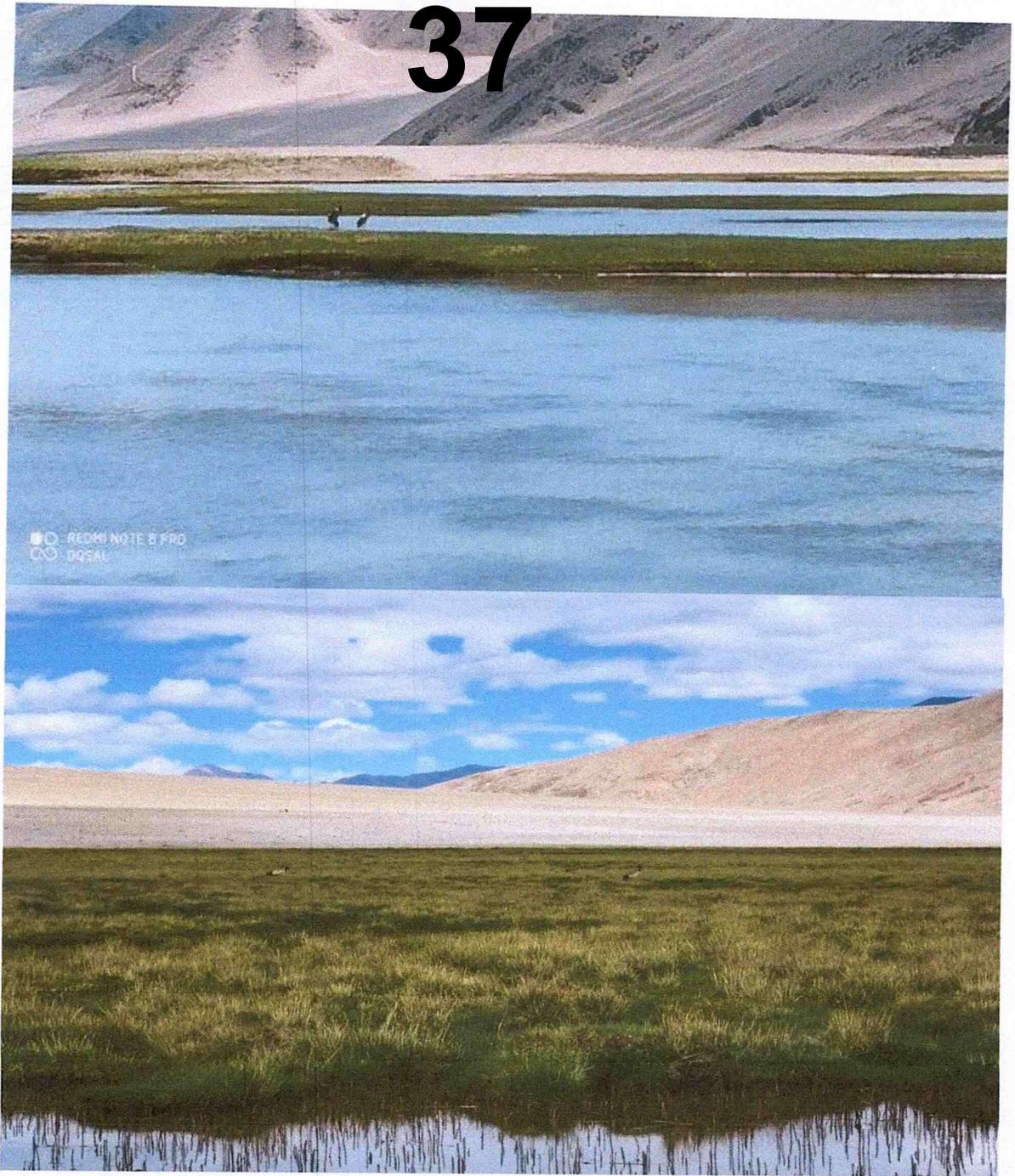




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Annexure-C

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
लद्दाख संघ शासित प्रदेश का प्रशासन
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, LEH
ज़िला मजिस्ट्रेट का कार्यालय, लेह

Tel No: 01982-252010

Email Id: dcleh-jk@nic.in

Subject: Stop throwing of leftover food on roads and other places reachable by feral dogs.
Reference: (i) APCCF/CWLW, UT Ladakh vide no. APCCF/UTL/FeralDogs/2024/412-15,
Dated. 29.06.2024
(ii) CWLW/Feral-dog/2024/424-34 dated 03/07/2024

ORDER UNDER SECTION 163 (1) BNSS, 2023

Whereas, cases of feral dogs bites has gone up exponentially, thereby posing a risk to public safety and health.

Whereas, throwing of leftover foods on roads and other places reachable by feral dogs has become one of the main indicators for the menace.

Whereas, Hon'ble High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued Order vide Dated. 12.05.2023 in WP(C)PIL No. 4/2022 on the matter.

Whereas, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, UT Ladakh has also issued several directions for controlling the menace of feral dogs in Ladakh.

Therefore, I Ghulam Mohd, JKAS, District Magistrate, Leh in exercise of power conferred upon me under Section 163 (1) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and keeping in view of the Public Safety and Health, the following directions are hereby ordered:

"All Armed Forces establishments, Hotels, Homestays, Restaurants, Guest Houses in Leh district shall strictly refrain from throwing leftover foods on the roads and other places reachable by feral dogs."

Any infringement of the above order shall attract penal actions under relevant rules and stipulated with fine by the local authorities including Police. As notice cannot be served individually, this order is being passed ex-parte.

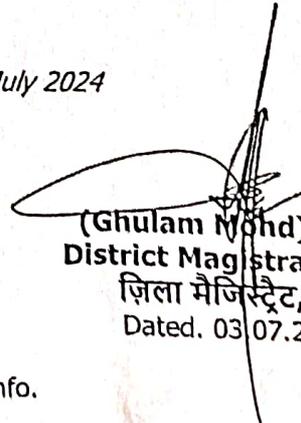
Given under my seal and signature on this day of 3rd of July 2024



No. JC-69(I)2024(903)

Copy to the:

1. Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forest/CWLW, UT Ladakh for Info.
2. Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh for Info. and n.a.
3. All SDMs of Leh District for Info. and similarly necessary action
4. OSD to Hon'ble Lt Governor, UT Ladakh for information of HLG.
5. OSD to Hon'ble CEC, LAHDC, Leh for Information of HCEC.
6. Assistant Director, DIPR Leh to give wide publicity of the above order both in print and electronic mode.
7. Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Leh for Information and n.a.


(Ghulam Mohd), JKAS
District Magistrate, Leh
ज़िला मैजिस्ट्रेट, लेह
Dated. 03/07/2024



Annexure-D

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, KARGIL LADAKH**

Phone No: 01985-232216

Email: -dckgl-jk@nic.in

Subject: Management of leftover food

**Reference: (I) APCCF/CWLW, UT Ladakh vide no. APCCF/Feral-Dogs/2024/412-15,
Dated 29.06.2024
(II) MoM vide no. CWLW/Feral-dog/2024/424-34 dated 03/07/2024**

ORDER

Whereas, incidences of feral dog's bites have increased in the district posing grave danger to public safety and health.

Whereas, improper management, irresponsible disposing of leftover food has been one of the reason for rise in such incidences.

Whereas, consequent upon order dated 12.05.2023 of Hon'ble High Court of J&K and Ladakh in the matter WP(c) PIL No. 4/2022, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, UT Ladakh has also issued several directions for controlling the menace of feral dogs in Ladakh.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that:

1. *All Hotels, Homestays, Guest Houses, restaurants, and defense establishments in Kargil District shall strictly refrain from throwing leftover foods on the roads and other places & ensure proper disposal as per provisions governing subject.*
2. *Municipal Committee Kargil, Tourism Department and Rural Development, Kargil shall take necessary steps for mass awareness among all concerned stakeholders regarding above directions as well as management of leftover food from above entities.*
3. *SSP Kargil,SDMs,EO MC Kargil and BDOs shall ensure strict implementation of above directions and act against violators as per provisions of law.*


(Shrikant Balasaheb Suse) IAS
District Magistrate
Kargil

No: DMK/JC-order/2024

Dated: - 04.07.2024

Copy to the:

1. GOC-Forever in Operations Division with request to pass strict directions to all formations in the district.
2. Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forest /CWLW, UT Ladakh
3. Sr. Superintendent of Police, Kargil
4. Assistant Commissioner Development, Kargil
5. All SDMs of Kargil District
6. AD Tourism, Kargil
7. OSD to Hon'ble LT Governor, UT Ladakh