

VISIT TO LEH-LADAKH TO ATTEND THE SINDHU DARSHAN FESTIVAL (12TH -15TH JUNE 09)

1. Sindhu Darshan Festival

I was invited by the Chairman Ladakh Hill Development Council to attend the week-long Sindhu Darshan festival starting from 12th of June. The festival was graced by Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Omar Abdullah who was the Chief Guest on the Occasion. I had the privilege to become the guest of Honour at the Polo-match which was held on 13th June, 2009 at the polo ground Leh. The Sindhu Darshan festival is held every year mainly to highlight the unique culture, tradition and landscape of the Ladakh region, to the rest of the world. It is also aimed at promoting tourism which is the backbone of the region.

2. Importance of Ladakh as a Traditional Buddhist Region.

Ladakh has assumed important significance as one of the few regions left in the Himalayan belt and in the world in having a rich thriving Buddhist culture akin to Tibetan Buddhism. The fact that it has the maximum population of traditional Buddhists in India necessitates periodic visits to this region even though it is beyond the purview of the commission. This will go a long way in respecting the aspirations of the Buddhist community of Ladakh also considering the fact that there is not a single traditional Buddhist representation in the parliament from this region or elsewhere in the entire nation.

3. Two day visit to the Rizong and nunnery.

I went in a two day tour to the Rizong nunnery which is in a remote and far flung region of Ladakh. A devastating flood few months back created havoc and disrupted the lives of these nuns of Rizong thus forcing them to reside in

the villages nearby. The road connecting the nunnery which runs alongside the river was completely damaged and an alternate road is being constructed along the mountain range. Thus this nunnery is in dire need of financial aid and assistance so that normal life in the nunnery can be restored.

4. **Anjuman Ithad-UI-Muslimea Kargil**

The members of Anjuman Ithad-UI-Muslimea Kargil also met me and put forth their demands for financial assistance for patients of Kargil and Zanskar, afflicted by heart and other fatal diseases.

For this visit I had taken 10 days leave and went on my personal expense.

(Spalzes Angmo)
Member
1.7.2009

CURRICULUM VITAE OF SMT. SPALZES ANGMO

Smt. Spalzes Angmo, joined National Commission for Minorities on 6th March, 2009. Smt. Spalzes Angmo is a native of Leh-Ladakh. She did her schooling from Welham Girls High School in Dehradun. She completed her graduation from Government College Girl's Chandigarh , Punjab University , after which she pursued a Law degree from Law Campus Center in Delhi University and subsequently practiced in Supreme Court for a period of two years. She also taught in the far-flung remote region of the Nubra valley in Ladakh, where she was involved numerous social work and adult literacy campaign. In 1995 when Ladakh acquired the Ladakh Hill Development Council, she became the one of the first women Councillor, and thereafter was subsequently nominated and served as Member of the Hill Council for the last fourteen years. During this period she raised important issues like gender equality, Women's rights and protection. She also held the post of General Secretary, DCC, Leh and the President Mahila Congress Committee, Leh for many years, and mobilized the cadre strength of women Congress Members to thousands. Smt. Spalzes was also the Member, State Red Cross Society of the Government of J&K. She is also a Member of the International Association of Ladakh Studies and attended an International Conference in Aarhus University , Denmark , where she presented a paper on "Women and Development in Ladakh.