

## Celebration of Adoption Awareness Month Held in Leh

Leh, December 5, 2025: The Social & Tribal Welfare Department, UT Ladakh, in collaboration with the State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) and the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), organized a programme to mark Adoption Awareness Month – November 2025 on 5 December at the District Panchayat Resource Center, Agling Road, Leh.

The event centred on the theme “Non-Institutional Rehabilitation of Children with Special Needs,” underscoring the importance of a nurturing family environment for every child, particularly those requiring special care. The programme was inaugurated by Ms. Kunzes Angmo, Director, Social & Tribal Welfare Department, who, in her address, stressed the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in ensuring children’s welfare. She highlighted that a family setting plays an irreplaceable role in the holistic development of every child.

As part of the awareness efforts, a short film on the rehabilitation and adoption of children with special needs was screened. The film aimed to sensitise the audience about the adoption process and the meaningful impact of adopting a child with special needs. A detailed panel discussion on Special Needs Adoption was also held, moderated by Ms. Tashi Dolma, Member, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Leh. The session brought together experts from diverse fields:

Ms. Chunit Dolma, Early Interventionist (Health Department), emphasised early identification of risk factors and urged parents to utilise local health intervention services. Sh. Tsewang Dorjey, former President of PAGIR, expressed concern over the social stigma that leads some parents to hide their special needs children, stressing that early intervention can enable a “brighter and beautiful life.”

Sh. Tsering Angchuk, Member, CWC Leh, explained the legal procedures involved in declaring children legally free for adoption. Ms. Fariya Rafiq, Protection Officer (Non-Institutional Care), informed participants about the provisions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2022.

Ms. Sonam Chosdon, Program Manager, SARA, highlighted the role of CARA as the national nodal body for adoption and reiterated the significance of promoting special needs adoption. The event also featured an emotional experience-sharing session, where prospective parents spoke about their adoption journeys. Among them, Ms. Deachen Angmo shared her personal motivation to adopt, encouraging others to consider adopting children with special needs. The programme concluded with a cultural performance by children from the Child Care Institution of the Lions Club Hostel, followed by a formal vote of thanks.





