

**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Kalanidhi**

Cordially **invites you** to an illustrated **lecture**

**Aryan Dards of Ladakh
-striving to preserve their culture**

Speakers

Landup Tashi

President ,PACES,Gorkhon,Ladakh

Virendra Bangroo

Assistant Professor,Kalanidhi

Chairperson

Dr.R.C.Gaur

Director(Lib &Inf),HOD kalanidhi

Wednesday, 28th February, 2018, 4PM

Venue

Lecture Hall,IGNCA

11, Mansingh Road,New Delhi-1

Aryan Dards of Ladakh -striving to preserve their culture

Himalaya, the abode of Gods has sheltered and nurtured many age old civilizations. There are valleys in the Himalayas where environment is not very conducive for even a shrub to survive, but humans endeavored and with their might, as the saying goes that even rocks began to melt. Ladakh is one of such place.

In the dry cold desert of Ladakh there are green patches where there are small human settlement, called Dard Aryans, which has retained their archaic customs and traditions. Approaching from Leh, some 180 to 185 kilometers, are few villages on both sides of Indus River, which are inhabited by these Dard Tribes people. Their life style and beliefs suggest their inheritance with that of ancient Vedic Aryans. It is in the recent past they have been opening up to the rest of world by road and telecommunication.

After the Kargil war the government authorities have placed on anvil the development work in this region. Some of the areas of Aryan valley are restricted for outsiders, since it borders Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) and Indian forces are stationed for keeping watch and vigil in this region. One has to get Inner Line Permit (ILP) from the District Commissioner to visit these villages.

Now there is road connectivity to all the villages of this region and also the public amenities available. In Dah village there are two small guest houses and in Garkhun also there are guest houses. With the changing paradigms of cultural traits and religious practices resulted in lots of threat which make this community vulnerable. Buddhism is being followed in all the villages except few, which are Muslims. While they

practice Buddhism, they are distancing from their old age traditions and now mostly dependent on the monks for day-to-day rituals.