



**GOVERNANCE  
AWARDS  
2015**  
28-11-2015

**EXCEPTIONAL  
CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

*Jigmet Takpa*, IFS

**For successfully implementing biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood improvement programmes in the Ladakh region**

*J*IGMET Takpa pioneered biodiversity conservation, rural development and renewable energy in Ladakh and established a benchmark in the Himalaya. An officer of the Indian Forest Service (IFS) from Ladakh, his achievements are testament to his dedication. Takpa's initiatives to address the development and conservation challenges facing the fragile ecosystem of Ladakh include establishing flagship projects in identifying, devising and adapting suitable technologies for efficiently managing the natural resources of the high-altitude Himalayan regions. He conceptualised the livelihood improvement programmes for the Ladakh region and adopted a landscape-level approach to biodiversity conservation. The success of his efforts gets reflected in the census of key flagship species such as the snow leopard, bar-headed goose, black-necked crane, wild yak, Asiatic ibex and the Tibetan antelope showing rapid growth in population.

He is credited with the success of Project Snow Leopard that turned Ladakh into the snow leopard capital of the world. The Ladakh Ecotourism Project has directly benefitted the community. The Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative witnessed the holistic development of renewable energy, vastly alleviating the longstanding problem of energy shortage in the region as well as reducing the tremendous expenditure of the Government of India in sustaining the energy sector. Access to electricity in Leh and Kargil districts has not only brought alternative livelihood options but has also improved the efficiency of primary health centres and defence establishments.

Takpa has gained extensive coverage in the press for his work, and his projects have been evaluated and documented by various organisations. In recognition of his efforts, he has been conferred various prestigious awards such as the Environmental Hero Award, the State Award for Meritorious Public Service, J&K, the Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award, the Renewtech Award for Best Nodal Agency, and the Gyalwang Drukpa Award, among others. His name also figures in the *Book of Guinness World Records* for the most trees planted simultaneously (2011).

Takpa is presently the Director, Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.



THE  
JURY

**Prabhat Kumar**  
Former Cabinet  
Secretary

**Anil Razdan**  
Former Secretary,  
Power

**Vishnu Bhagwan**  
Former Chief  
Secretary, Haryana

**M B Kaushal**  
Former Secretary,  
Internal Security