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## India &amp; China ...

summit, said the agreement was firmed up following negotiations by the two sides over the last several weeks and that it will lead to a resolution of the issues that had arisen in 2020.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Indian and Chinese soldiers will be able to resume patrolling in the way they had been doing before the border face-off began and the disengagement process with China has been completed.

Prime Minister Modi and President Xi are likely to hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan either Tuesday or Wednesday.

It is understood that the agreement will facilitate patrolling in Depsang and Demchok areas as there were major unresolved issues in these two areas.

The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

The two sides disengaged from a number of friction points following a series of military and diplomatic talks in the last couple of years.

However, the talks hit hurdles in resolving the situation in Depsang and Demchok.

"Over the last several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums," the foreign secretary said at the media briefing.

"As a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived at patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," he said.

"We will be taking the next steps on this," Misri added.

In an interactive session at the NDTV summit, Jaishankar described the finalisation of the agreement as a "good development".

"We reached an agreement on patrolling and with that the disengagement that we have gone back to where the situation was in 2020 and we can say with that the disengagement process with China has been completed," he said.

"I think it is a good development; it is a positive development and I would say it is a product of very patient and very persevering diplomacy," the minister said.

To a question, Jaishankar indicated that India will be able to carry out patrolling in Depsang and other areas.

"So what has happened is that we reached an understanding which will allow the patrolling which you spoke about Depsang, that's not the only place," he said.

"There are other places also. The understanding to my knowledge is that we will be able to do the patrolling which we were doing in 2020 (prior to the standoff)," he said.

The external affairs minister said both sides have been holding negotiations to end the standoff since September 2020.

"On the one hand we had to obviously do the counter deployments, but side-by-side, we have been negotiating.

"We have been negotiating since September of 2020 when I met my Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow," he said.

"It has been a very patient process," Jaishankar said, adding maybe it was more complicated "than it could have and should have been".

Jaishankar said there was peace and tranquility along the LAC before 2020 and "hopefully we will be able to come back to that".

"That was our major concern because we always said that if you disturb the peace and tranquility, how do you expect the rest of the relationship to go forward," he said.

On the difficult negotiations, Jaishankar said: "At various points of time, people almost gave up, you can say."

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

In all negotiations since the standoff began, India has been pressing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas.

Last month, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks in the Russian city of St Petersburg with a focus on finding an early resolution to the row.

In the talks held on the sidelines of a conclave of BRICS nations, the two sides agreed to work with "urgency" and "redouble" efforts to achieve complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

In the meeting, NSA Doval conveyed to Wang that peace and tranquility in border areas and respect for the LAC are essential for the return of normalcy in bilateral ties.

## Ladakh talks ...

seriously, and that the talks will lead to a solution. We are grateful to everyone who supported us." He added that the protesters, who had garnered widespread support from across the country, would return to Leh within two to three days.

"Our primary appeal has been addressed, and I sincerely hope the discussions are carried out in good faith. I also hope I never have to go on anshah again," Wangchuk said, reflecting on the protest he led, which aimed to push the government towards fulfilling the long-standing demands of the people of Ladakh.

The Chairman of the Apex Body expressed gratitude for Wangchuk's leadership and the nationwide support the protests received. "We commend Sonam Wangchuk and everyone who took part in the yatra and anshah. The support from across the country was overwhelming, and we thank everyone who stood with us," he remarked.

While there is optimism surrounding the resumption of talks, Ladakh's MP emphasized that the journey is far from over. "This is not the end, nor is it a complete victory, but we are looking forward to a meaningful conclusion. We hope we won't have to protest again," he said, crediting Wangchuk's leadership for making the movement a historic one.

Join Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Prashant Lokhande met the activists, who have been sitting on an indefinite fast at Delhi's Ladakh Bhawan since October 6, and handed them a letter from the home ministry.

The letter said the high-powered committee of the ministry, which was holding talks with representatives from Ladakh, will hold the next meeting on December 3. Following this, Wangchuk and his supporters decided to break their fast.

During the conclusion of the fast, Apex Body Leh President Lakruk and MP Ladakh Haneefa Jan were also present, while the Kargil Democratic Alliance and CEC Kargil Dr Jaffer Akhoo were notably absent from the scene.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has scheduled the next meeting of the High-Powered Committee (HPC) for the Union Territory of Ladakh on December 3, 2024. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM in Room 119, First Floor, North Block, MHA, New Delhi.

This committee, chaired by Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India (GoI), was originally constituted on January 2, 2023, and later reconstituted on November 30, 2023. The upcoming session is expected to further discussions on key issues related to Ladakh in accordance with the committee's Terms of References (ToRs).

All members of the HPC have been requested to confirm their participation in the meeting. The Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh has been tasked with notifying the members and ensuring their presence at the scheduled meeting.

The Ministry has also requested the S.O. (Protocol), MHA, to

ensure the necessary arrangements for the meeting and facilitate the smooth entry of committee members.

This meeting comes at a critical juncture for Ladakh, with ongoing discussions about its development, infrastructure, and governance under the Union Territory framework.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has taken note of the region's employment crisis, particularly the lack of recruitment for gazetted cadre posts in Ladakh over the past five years. Acting on concerns raised in a letter circulating on social media, the court expressed alarm over the inaction, which has left many educated youth in Ladakh without job opportunities.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Puneet Gupta acknowledged that the failure to recruit violates constitutional provisions guaranteeing equality and equal opportunities in public employment. The court treated the issue as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and directed the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Ladakh's administration to respond within six weeks.

The next court hearing is scheduled for November 25, 2024, and the court has mandated that its directives be published in Ladakh's print and electronic media to inform aspirants.

As Ladakh awaits the outcome of both the judicial proceedings and the resumption of talks with the government, hopes are high that a lasting solution to the region's administrative and employment woes will be found.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution includes provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram in the northeast. It establishes autonomous councils that have legislative, judicial, executive and financial powers to independently govern these areas.

The protesters are also demanding statehood, a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

The march to Delhi was organised by the Leh Apex Body, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been spearheading the agitation.

## First 2-day ...

by Judicial Member CAT Srinagar Bench, M. S Latif, Administrative Member CAT Srinagar Bench, Prasant Kumar; Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Mohd Jaffer Akhoo; Deputy Commission/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; Secretary Law and Justice, Shashi Kant Bhagat; CJM District Court Kargil, Wangial Tsering; ASP Kargil, Mujeeb Ur Rehman; DSGI, Tahir Majid Shamshi; Munsiff Sankoo & Zanskar, Deldan Angmo; Munsiff Drass, Sadiq Ali Wazir; Tehsildar Taisuru, Mohd Hussain; president of the Kargil District Bar Association, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Legal Assistants and other officials were present during the inauguration.

Terming the inauguration of the First Circuit Sitting of CAT Srinagar Bench in Kargil as a historical moment, the CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo stated that the Circuit Sitting of the CAT Srinagar Bench would benefit the people of Kargil district.

Stating that the redressal of people's grievances is important in a civilised society, he highlighted the importance of the CAT Srinagar Bench in this regard and said it will bring justice to the doorsteps of the people of Kargil district. He also highlighted the need for the judicial system to treat everyone equally under the law.

The Judicial Member CAT Srinagar Bench, M. S Latif emphasized the CAT Srinagar Bench's responsibility in handling service matters for Kargil residents.

He expressed gratitude to everyone involved in establishing the CAT Bench in Kargil and hoped it would continue to serve the people. He stated, "The lamp should always remain lit," symbolizing ongoing efforts.

M.S. Latif assured that service matter cases would be resolved promptly. He emphasized that the Circuit Sitting of CAT Bench aims to deliver speedy justice at people's doorsteps. He also welcomed suggestions to improve functioning of the CAT for better service delivery.

The Secretary Law and Justice, Shashi Kant Bhagat welcomed the guests to the event while Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse delivered the vote of thanks.

The others including Administrative Member CAT Srinagar Bench, Prasant Kumar and DSGI, Tahir Majid Shamshi also spoke on the occasion.

The total cases listed before the Bench were 37 and all the cases listed were taken up by the Bench and out of total 37 cases listed 01 TA of year 2008, 3 OA's, 01 CP, 07 MA's were disposed of. Furthermore, about 50 cases are listed before the Bench for October 22, 2024 (Day-2).

## First Lady ...

waste for recycling.

She stressed the need for cleanliness initiatives at the village/town level, fostering a sense of community responsibility and environmental stewardship.

In addition to environmental concerns, First Lady discussed the critical issue of water conservation. She stressed the importance of minimizing reliance on borewells to ensure the long-term sustainability of Leh's water resources.

Women's empowerment was another key topic of discussion. First Lady sought suggestions from Nambardars on empowering local women through self-help groups, community initiatives, and other means. She expressed her keen interest in promoting women's economic independence and participation in the development of Leh.

The Nambardars also took the opportunity to present their concerns and challenges to First Lady, including issues related to water supply, road infrastructure, and other pressing matters affecting the region.

First Lady assured the Nambardars of her unwavering support and commitment to addressing these issues.

She emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the government, local communities, and stakeholders to achieve a cleaner, more sustainable, and empowered Leh.

## Ladakh UT ...

He also paid his tribute to late Zulfiqar Ali from Umba and Mohd Raza from Karkitchoo and other martyred police personnel of the country. He announced Rs 5 lakh from untied fund to the Police Welfare fund through SSP Kargil for the purchase of furniture and fixtures.

He said the Hill Council Kargil is always ready to take all issues of Police personnel. He also paid his heartfelt condolences to the victims of the recent militant attack at Gagangear, Ganderbal and urged UT Administration of J&K and GoI, for strict action against the culprits.

Earlier, ASP, Mujeeb Ur Rehman expressed the bravery of all police personnel who fought for the country. He also expressed gratitude to the police personnel across the country who lost their life this year.

On the occasion, the families of Martyr Zulfiqar Ali and Martyr Mohd Raza were honored in recognition of their sacrifice

In Leh district of the UT Ladakh, Chairman, CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson on behalf of LAHDC Leh, paid tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to uphold the nation's integrity.

"Police Commemoration Day serves as a poignant reminder of the courage and dedication exhibited by police officers, who risk their lives daily to maintain law and order and protect citizens," Gyalson said.

This observance, held annually on October 21, honours the

memory of the policemen martyred in the 1959 ambush by Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh, highlighting the bravery of those who serve in the line of duty.

## Won't let ...

in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal district on Sunday night.

Asked if those with vested interests were trying to target the development projects in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said he would not allow that to happen.

"When did the vested interests want the situation here to normalise? This is nothing new. But we have defeated these very vested interests in the past and we will defeat them again," Abdullah asserted.

"We will not allow the development here to be stopped. If there are shortcomings in the security grid, we will remove them. I spoke to the DGP and we would advise all big projects not to take security issues lightly.

"Whatever they can do on their own, let them do it and let the security forces fill the gaps that remain," he added.

The chief minister termed the attack as "very unfortunate". "Words are not enough to condemn this attack. What can be achieved by the use of terror against innocents? We have been seeing this for the past 35 years and nothing has changed in J&K.

"Whatever can be achieved for Jammu and Kashmir, it can be done in a peaceful atmosphere. Obviously, the reason behind this attack is to prove that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not conducive," he said.

Abdullah said the administration, especially police and security forces, will have to be extra alert and ensure that such attacks are not repeated.

"We have seen such an attack on a big project after many years. Before this, an attack took place at an IRCON camp when a railway tunnel was being executed," he said.

On the oath-taking of MLAs earlier in the day, the chief minister said the first session of the Legislative Assembly will be held in the first week of November.

"Next month, the first week of November, the session of the legislature will take place. The legislature will start its work," he said.

## Gagangir: Protests ...

bloodshed of innocent people. They also demanded justice for the victims of the terror attack.

The protestors were carrying a huge banner which read 'Pulwama Stands Against Terrorism'.

A similar protest was also held at Ghanta Ghar in Kulgam town.

A day after a deadly terror attack at a tunnel construction site in Ganderbal left seven people dead, members of the Shiv Sena Dogra Front and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal on Monday burned Pakistani flags in Jammu in protest against the killings amid slogans against the neighbouring country.

The protesters demanded that the terrorists involved in the fatal attack be eliminated at the earliest to restore confidence among the people.

Blaming Pakistan squarely for the attack, the agitators claimed it was the fallout of the frustration among the terrorists after the peaceful Assembly elections and the formation of an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Led by Shiv Sena Dogra Front President Ashok Gupta, the protestors also burned the effigy of Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in response to the "dastardly" attack in Ganderbal, raising "Pakistan Hai Hai" slogans.

A doctor and six labourers were killed when terrorists struck a tunnel construction site on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Ganderbal district on Sunday.

The unidentified terrorists carried out the attack when the labourers and other staff working on the tunnel project at Gund in Ganderbal returned to their camp late in the evening, officials said.

The latest attack came days after the bullet-riddled body of a labourer from Bihar was found in Shopian district, raising concerns about the safety of non-local workers in J-K.

"Terrorists involved in such acts should be eliminated so that a strong message is sent to Pakistan. The houses of overground workers should be identified and bulldozed to ensure that no one dares to support the terrorists," Gupta said.

Stating that the nation should stand united and avoid political maneuvering, Gupta said, "A strong retaliatory strike should be launched against the terror nation so that the world can be freed from its nefarious plans for once and all.

"Pakistan has to be taught a lesson. As our defence forces tighten the noose in Kashmir, terror activities are shifting to Jammu, while Punjab is already grappling with the menace of drugs spread by Pakistan."

Claiming that the latest attack shows that Pakistan cannot tolerate the democratically elected government in J-K, Gupta said, "There can be no talks with them (Pakistan) if they continue to attack us. The prime minister is going to Russia this week to attend the BRICS Summit. I appeal to him to respond to Pakistan by saying there will be no talks, only action."

On B C Road, members of the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal (RBD) blocked traffic and burned Pakistani flags.

"We urge the lieutenant governor and the Union home minister to instruct the police and the army to eliminate those behind the attack in Ganderbal. They should be hunted down, and their bodies be sent back to Pakistan," RBD Chairman Rakesh Kumar said.

Members of the Shiv Sena (UBT) also took out a protest rally here blaming Pakistan for the violence, which they claimed stemmed from the frustration over the peaceful Assembly polls and the subsequent government formation in J-K.

"The government must ensure the safety and security of those working in Kashmir. The terrorists must be taught a lesson, and Pakistan must stop promoting them," said the party's J&K unit chief Manish Saini.

## We don't ...

diplomats including the high commissioner, and expelled as many Canadian envoys.

In his address, Modi made no direct reference to the incidents involving Canada. The bilateral ties have soured over Canada's allegations of India's hand in the killing of a radical Khalistani activist, a Canadian citizen. India has denied the charge and asserted that Canada had been unable to provide any evidence to back its claim.

The prime minister said, "India does not form taken-for-granted relations. Our relations are grounded in trust and reliability. The world is also realising this. India is a country whose progress causes happiness in the world."

The world celebrated India's successful Chadrayaan mission like a festival, he said. India's growth, he added, does not incite envy because its progress benefits the entire world. "The world draws happiness from India's rise."

Citing the country's growth in various fields, from infrastructure to digital know-how and the quality of research, he said the all-round changes taking place have become a source of the global trust in India.

It is taking lead in driving the direction of "global future" in many sectors, he said.

The world realises that India is a friend in crises, he said, noting its supply of medicines and vaccines during the Covid period out of humanitarian concerns. India could have earned crores of dollars but it would have at the cost of humanity, he added.

## Shah to ...

60 senior officers from across the country are expected to attend this event over two days, said the release.

At around 5:30 pm, Shah will distribute scholarships to female students under Namu Laxmi and Namu Saraswati schemes at an event organised by Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya, a Gandhinagar-based private university.

Separately, BJP's Ahmedabad unit has organised a food distribution program at the Blind People's Association and 'Mahaaarti' at Lord Jagannath Temple on the occasion of Shah's birthday on October 22.

## India brings ...

summit of the grouping after it underwent an expansion last year.

The summit will begin on Tuesday and the main day for deliberations will be Wednesday.

"We place a great deal of importance to our involvement and activities within the BRICS as we view it as a key expression of global multi-polarity," Misri said.

The foreign secretary said the grouping also serves as a vital platform to tackle a range of global challenges, while also contributing to shaping a fairer, more exclusive and open international order.

"The leaders are also expected to adopt the Kazan declaration, which will lay the path forward for the BRICS," he said.

Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings with several of his counterparts from the BRICS member countries and leaders invited to Kazan.

The prime minister is set to hold a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin during which both leaders are expected to deliberate on the conflict in Ukraine.

Last month, Putin proposed a bilateral meeting with Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, when National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval called on him in St Petersburg.

Modi visited Moscow in July and weeks later, travelled to Ukraine.

In his talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Modi had said both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the region.

The BRIC, as a formal grouping, started after the meeting of the leaders of Russia, India and China in St Petersburg in 2006.

It was agreed to expand the BRIC into the BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa in 2010. The grouping was expanded last year.

Meanwhile, ahead of the BRICS summit in Russia, China said the bloc representing emerging economies has remained a positive and stable force committed to upholding multilateralism.

The summit of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), which now has expanded with five additional members Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, will be held in the Russian city of Kazan from October 22 to 24.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping along with other leaders are due to attend it.

"Let me reaffirm that this year marks the beginning of greater BRICS cooperation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing here, elaborating on China's view of the BRICS.

This summit is the first one after the expansion of BRICS, which draws widespread attention from the international community, he said.

"Since its founding, BRICS has followed the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, remained true to its founding purpose of seeking strength through solidarity, stayed committed to upholding multilateralism and become a positive and stable force for good in international affairs," he said.

During this summit, President Xi Jinping will have in-depth exchanges of views with other leaders on the international landscape, the BRICS practical cooperation, the development of the BRICS mechanism and important issues of mutual interest, he said.

"China stands ready to work with other parties to strive for the steady and sustained development of greater BRICS cooperation, open a new era for the Global South to seek strength through solidarity and jointly promote world peace and development," he said.

## ‘Constitutional institutions ...

and November 20, and the votes will be counted on November 23.

"It is not hidden from anyone that the constitutional institutions are working for the BJP and have become puppets of the central government. Voices raised against the BJP are being suppressed by them. I am a living example of this," he said at a rally to seek votes for JMM's Mithilesh Kumar Thakur in Garhwa town.

Soren alleged that he was harassed for two years on baseless allegations.

"When I was working for the people of my state, they framed me with false charges and put me behind bars," he said.

Soren said he would never bow before any power. "No one can stop us until we fulfill our commitment to the development of Jharkhand," he asserted.

During the day, Jharkhand minister Mithilesh Kumar Thakur filed his nomination for the Garhwa assembly seat.

Around 2.60 crore electors, including 11.84 lakh first-time voters and 1.13 lakh persons with disabilities, third-generation individuals, and senior citizens over 85, are eligible to exercise their franchise, compared to 2.23 crore in the 2019 assembly elections.

## J&amp;K MLAs ...

vernaculars like Hindi, Urdu and Kashmiri was poor at the start of his political career in the late 1990s.

However, during his first tenure as chief minister from 2009 to 2014, Omar Abdullah took lessons to improve his speaking skills in these three languages. And on Monday, he took the oath as MLA in Kashmiri.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary took oath in English.

The oath-taking ceremony of the MLAs marks an end to the six-year-long legislative hiatus.

There are 51 first-time members including BJP MLA from Kishtwar Shagun Parihar, who is the youngest member at 29. The NC veteran and MLA from Chrar-e-Sharief, Abdul Rahim Rather, is the oldest at 80.

Rather and party colleague Ali Mohammad Sagar (MLA Khanyar) have been elected to the assembly for a record seven terms.

While Sagar has been a member of the Legislative Assembly since 1983, Rather started his long stint as a legislator in 1977. However, the former finance minister lost the 2014 assembly elections.

The National Conference (NC) emerged as the single largest party in the assembly polls held in September and October. The oldest political party of Jammu and Kashmir has formed the government with external support from the Congress, which has six MLAs.

Five independent MLAs, one MLA from the AAP, and the CPI(M) have also extended their support. The BJP with 29 seats is the second-largest party its best-ever performance in J&K.