

Modi-Xi first meet first time in 7 years, post Galwan clash Friendship right choice, India-China pledge stronger ties based on mutual trust, sensitivity & cooperation Express commitment to fair, reasonable resolution of boundary issue



TIANJIN/NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday emphasized strengthening ties with China, rooted in mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity, highlighting that cooperation between the two nations impacts the well-being of 2.8 billion people.

In discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Modi underscored the importance of advancing bilateral relations. President Xi echoed this sentiment, stating that fostering friendship is the "right choice" for both countries and urged that the border dispute



should not overshadow their broader relationship. Modi and Jinping agreed to work towards a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable" solution to the India-China border issue and pledged to expand trade and investment ties recognising the role of the two economies

to stabilise global trade. In their wide-ranging talks, the two leaders largely focused on boosting trade and investment ties, a move that came against the backdrop of disruptions in global trade triggered by US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs including a whopping

50 per cent on Indian goods. The talks between the two leaders on the margins of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in this northern Chinese city came against the backdrop of turbulence triggered by the Trump administration's tariff tussle. ►P11

'Dual-Use Infra vital for Sustainable Border Settlements' Army-Civil partnership vital for inclusive growth in Ladakh: LG

■ YASH KHAJURIA

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta Saturday called for a stronger military-civil partnership to secure the Union Territory's future as the Five-Day Military-Civil Fusion Capsule 2025 concluded at Karu Military Station under the aegis of the Fire and Fury Corps.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor said Ladakh's growth must be built on inclusive progress that strengthens infrastructure, governance and resilience in the face of environmental and geopolitical challenges. His remarks framed the spirit of the summit, which since August 26 had drawn military commanders, civil administrators and academics together to shape a shared vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat through integrated development of the frontier region.

Among the central themes was the challenge of



reverse migration in Eastern Ladakh and the establishment of sustainable border villages. Chief Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal presented a detailed analysis of the sociocultural and logistical hurdles of resettling high-altitude populations. He urged policies that balance security requirements with livelihood opportunities, climate-sensitive planning and long-term settlement viability. He also out-

lined initiatives for dual-use infrastructure designed to serve both civilian and military purposes. Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, General Officer Commanding of the Fire and Fury Corps, emphasised that Ladakh's development must be anchored in a comprehensive approach blending defence preparedness with governance, technological innovation and social advancement. ►P11

Rash driving leaves two dead, three hurt in Drass

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: In a tragic road accident that unfolded during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, two persons lost their lives while three others sustained grievous injuries when a Xylo vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge at Shaitan Nalla Mode near Gumri in Drass.

According to police sources, the mishap occurred at around 3:30 AM when the Xylo, bearing registration number JK02BC-5894, was en route from Sonamarg towards Kargil. The vehicle went out of control and rolled nearly 400 feet down into the



river.

"The accident appears to be a clear case of negligent driving on a treacherous stretch. A formal case has been registered and further inquiry is in progress to fix re-

sponsibility," said an Official from Local Police Station. The impact proved fatal for two of the occupants who died on the spot, while three others, including the driver, were seriously ►P11

Health, education, tourism- 3 lifelines of Ladakh get major boost: LG Gupta Stresses establishing model schools, exploring PPP models, infra growth

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor, Kavinder Gupta, emphasized the critical role of health, education, and tourism as the Union Territory's lifelines, announcing robust efforts to bolster these sectors for sustainable, holistic development.

Speaking at a review meeting on development projects under the Special Development Package (SDP) and state components, he highlighted the rapid infrastructure growth transforming Ladakh.



"Unprecedented development is taking place across Ladakh. From health to education and tourism, new infrastructure is coming up at a rapid pace. It is important to highlight these achievements so that people know about the transformation being made possible by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UT Administration," the LG said while chairing a review meeting on development projects.

Drawing from his recent visit to Daman & Diu UT, Kavinder Gupta proposed the introduction of a ►P11

DM unveils Sudarshan Chakra Air Shield plan

NEW DELHI: In today's era of terrorism, regional conflicts and tariff war, India's military can't afford to depend on uncertain foreign supplies and self-reliance in defence is central to shield the country's strategic autonomy, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said.

In an address at a conclave the other day, Singh said the government plans to provide complete aerial security to all important installations across the country in the next 10 years under the proposed Sudarshan Chakra air defence system that ►P11

Natural calamities testing country: Modi; hails NDRF

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed pain and anguish over the devastation caused by landslides and floods triggered by incessant rains, and said natural disasters are testing the country.

In the 125th episode of the "Mann Ki Baat" programme, he also highlighted two major achievements of Jammu and Kashmir amid the devastating natural calamity -- the first day-night cricket match in Pulwama and the 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' at Dal Lake in Srinagar.

"During this monsoon season, natural disasters are

testing the country. In the last few weeks, we have witnessed massive havoc caused by floods and landslides. Homes torn apart, fields submerged, and entire families destroyed. "The relentless surge of water swept away bridges; roads got washed away, and people's lives were in danger. These incidents have saddened every Indian," Modi said in the radio broadcast. The prime minister hailed the efforts of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and security forces during the rescue operation amid mayhem. "Wherever there was a crisis, ►P11

KPs reopen Temple after three decades

SRINAGAR: The Kashmiri Pandit community on Sunday reopened the Sharada Bhawani temple in Budgam district after over three decades with an overwhelming participation of the local Muslim community in the celebrations.

The ceremony in Ichkoot village of the central Kashmir district, marked by 'Mahurat' and 'Pran Pratishtha', also witnessed the return of a group of Kashmiri Pandit families to their ancestral place for the first time since the early 1990s when militancy erupted in the ►P11

Cong alleges Abuse of Power, Warns dignity of Council at Stake LoP Tsering Namgail tears into CEC Tashi Gyalson for 'Dogs' slur

■ YASH KHAJURIA

LEH: Politics in Ladakh has been set ablaze after Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Adv. Tashi Gyalson allegedly branded opposition councilors as "dogs," provoking outrage from the Congress, which has accused him of arrogance, abuse of office, and dereliction of duty. The opposition has demanded an unconditional public apology, warning that the remark has not only insulted elected representatives but demeaned the very dignity of the Ladakh Autonomous



Hill Development Council (LAHDC).

Leader of the Opposition Tsering Namgail launched a scathing attack, declaring that Gyalson had "finally re-

vealed his "true attitude." He accused the CEC of posturing as a supporter of people's struggles while being absent during hunger ►P11

Exams deferred as bad weather hits Ladakh, J&K

JAMMU/LEH: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JK-BOSE) has ordered the postponement of the Annual (Private)/Bi-Annual 2025 examinations of the Secondary School Examination (Class 10) and Higher Secondary Examination Part I (Class 11), originally slated for September 1, 2025.

The decision follows the inclement weather conditions and the aftermath of floods that have severely disrupted normal life and connectivity across various parts of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. ►P11

CS, CEC inaugurate Ladakh's 1st innovative aesthetic skin centre R&R Skins

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a step towards advancing healthcare services in Ladakh, R&R Skins – the region's first innovative aesthetic skin centre – was inaugurated in Leh, bringing world-class dermatological and cosmetology treatments to the people of the Union Territory.

The opening ceremony was graced by Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, as the Chief Guest, while Chief Secretary UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal attended as Guest of Honour. The event also witnessed the presence of leading representatives from women's and religious organizations, including the Women's Wing of LBA, Anjuman-e-Moin-ul-Islam, Anjuman Imamia, Christian Association, and Women's Alliance of Ladakh. CEC Tashi Gyalson lauded the



initiative, saying, "Ladakh's unique climate has always created health and skin-related challenges for our people. I congratulate the founders of R&R Skins for introducing a state-of-the-art facility that not only brings modern healthcare closer to the people but also re-

duces the need to travel outside the region for such services."

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal emphasized the importance of specialized healthcare facilities in Ladakh, remarking, "The UT administration is committed to supporting ventures that enhance the



quality of life for Ladakhis. With advanced technologies and professional expertise, R&R Skins will set new standards in healthcare delivery and open new avenues for wellness and holistic care in this region."

The idea of establishing R&R

Skins was rooted in the unique skincare challenges faced by Ladakhis due to the harsh geographical and climatic conditions of the region, which often lead to chronic dryness, pigmentation, rosacea, and sun damage.

The venture has been founded

by Ms. Romana Din, who after completing her Liberal Arts and Humanities degree, pursued specialized studies in Cosmetology and Nutrition in Mumbai, along with a health coaching certification from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition (IIN), New York. Her vision was complemented by her elder sister, Dr. Rizwana, a clinical dermatologist with a Master's in Clinical Dermatology from the UK and currently serving as a Medical Officer at SNM Hospital, Leh. Dr. Rizwana will be a consultant.

"Our aim was to ensure that people of Ladakh no longer need to travel outside the region for high-quality skincare. We wanted to create access, backed by medical science and holistic wellness, right here at home," said Romana during the inauguration.

The centre is equipped with US FDA-approved technologies im-

ported from the USA and other countries. The project was made possible through an MSME loan secured via Jammu & Kashmir Bank, overcoming logistical and financial challenges.

R&R Skins offers an integrated approach to skin health, combining dermatology, aesthetic cosmetology, nutrition, and wellness. Services include anti-aging treatments, acne and scar revision; pigmentation solutions; medical-grade facials; laser and device-based treatments; injectables (including Botox and PRP for skin and hair); and nutrition and wellness coaching.

Designed as a modern, inclusive facility for both men and women, the centre prioritizes comfort, hygiene, and climate-specific infrastructure with advanced heating, cooling systems, and private spaces. ►P11