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Ladakh’s ‘Sanjeevani’ ...

development under a coordinated national initiative. The move is particularly significant for Ladakh’s farming and rural communities, where scientific cultivation and value addition could create new income opportunities while ensuring the sustainable utilisation of a resource naturally adapted to the region’s harsh Himalayan environment.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for recognising the medicinal and nutritional importance of Sea Buckthorn, Saxena also thanked Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the swift action on the proposal.

The initiative, he said, has the potential to unlock new avenues of scientific innovation, value addition and livelihood generation, positioning Ladakh’s indigenous Sea Buckthorn as a nationally significant Himalayan resource rather than merely a locally harvested crop.

Tibetans hold ...

of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, before marching peacefully towards the Palais des Nations. Carrying placards and chanting slogans, they called for greater international scrutiny of policies affecting Tibetans under Chinese rule, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) reported.

Representative Thinlay Chukki of the Office of Tibet in Geneva, the Abbot of Rikon Monastery, former Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama Kelsang Gyaltsen, former Representative Kelsang Dorjee and members of Tibetan communities from across Switzerland participated in the demonstration, the CTA said.

The Central Tibetan Administration further reported that, following the march, Thinlay Chukki addressed the gathering and urged Tibetans to use English, French and German slogans alongside Tibetan to communicate their concerns to the wider international community. She also called on participants to preserve and convey the final message associated with Lobga Rangzen, whose self-immolation has become a focus of Tibetan community protests.

Lobga Rangzen, a Tibetan from Golog in eastern Tibet, reportedly died after setting himself on fire in protest against Chinese policies in Tibet. Tibetan organisations have described his act as a protest against restrictions on Tibetan identity, religion and freedom, while Chinese authorities have generally treated such acts as serious challenges to state authority.

The CTA has repeatedly highlighted self-immolations by Tibetans as expressions of deep opposition to Chinese policies, while calling for international attention to the situation in Tibet. The Geneva demonstration concluded peacefully at the United Nations Office, with Thinlay Chukki thanking participants and stressing the importance of continuing efforts to amplify Tibetan concerns internationally, the Central Tibetan Administration said.

India, China ...

that durable improvement in ties remains closely linked to stability on the frontier.

For Ladakh, the significance of the talks extends beyond diplomatic optics. The eastern Ladakh crisis of 2020 transformed the region into the principal theatre of India-China military confrontation, with both countries undertaking massive troop and infrastructure deployments along the LAC.

Ahead of the boundary talks, Doval also met Chinese Vice President Han Zheng in Beijing. According to the Indian Embassy, the two discussed ways to strengthen peace and tranquillity in the border areas and improve bilateral relations across economic, political and multilateral forums, in accordance with the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. ([Punjab Page][5])

The meeting provided an additional political dimension to Doval’s visit, indicating that the engagement was not confined solely to the mechanics of the boundary dispute. Tuesday’s talks follow the August 6 meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs, where the two sides discussed issues including boundary management, delimitation, institutional mechanisms and trans-border cooperation. The rapid succession of engagements points to an effort to maintain diplomatic momentum.

Doval had also met Wang Yi in New Delhi in June on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers’ meeting. The Indian side had then described the discussions as “constructive and forward-looking”, noting progress towards gradual normalisation of bilateral relations.

The latest dialogue therefore marks an important step in the cautious rebuilding of India-China relations, but it does not signify a settlement of the boundary dispute.

Ladakh gets ...

From Ladakh’s administrative perspective, the move assumes significance as the Union Territory continues to expand its institutional and governance framework and requires a larger pool of experienced officers to manage developmental programmes and field-level administration.

The simultaneous recall of six officers and deputation of 19 officers means that, in numerical terms, Ladakh is set to gain 13 officers from the latest arrangement, although their actual deployment and departmental responsibilities will be determined by the UT administration.

UT admin ...

The Finance Department has emphasised that projections must be as realistic as possible. Any request for increased allocation will have to be backed by proper justification and supporting documents, while proposals involving pending liabilities will require relevant sanctions, bills and other documentation.

The scheduled meetings cover virtually the entire administrative and developmental spectrum of Ladakh.

The first day, August 31, will focus on police, prisons, forensic science, UTDRF, fire and emergency services and the Rajya Sainik Board. Separate sessions will also examine the requirements of the Deputy Commissioners of Leh, Nubra, Changthang, Sham, Kargil, Drass and Zaskar, besides LAHDC Leh and Kargil. The Health Department, including subordinate offices, Drug Control and Food Safety organisations and Deputy Chief Medical Officers of Leh and Kargil, will also undergo financial review.

On September 1, the exercise will cover forests, wildlife, pollution control and soil conservation, followed by Labour and Employment, the LG’s Secretariat, UT Secretariat, Divisional Commissioner’s office, Hospitality and Protocol and the Resident Commissioner, New Delhi.

The following day will bring the Economics and Statistics, Civil Aviation, Accounts and Treasuries, State Taxes, Excise and Taxation, Urban Local Bodies, Housing and Estates, Tourism and the Food Craft Institute into the budget scrutiny process.

The schedule also places considerable emphasis on sectors directly linked to Ladakh’s rural economy and human development. On September 4, the Finance Department will review the requirements of Horticulture, Agriculture and Cooperatives, followed by Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, wages, district panchayats and Command Area Development.

The Social Welfare Department will also be examined, while the School Education Department, University of Ladakh and Higher Education Department will have their budget proposals discussed in a separate session.

The review will subsequently cover technical education, ITIs, youth services and sports, NCC, Roads and Buildings, Mechanical Engineering, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry, Industries and Commerce, and Power Development and Generation.

The Finance Department has asked departments to ensure that all figures and proposals placed before the meetings are duly verified and reconciled with available records. The objective is to prevent unrealistic projections and enable the estimates to be finalised within the prescribed timeline.

The exercise is significant for Ladakh as the UT continues to balance expenditure on essential public services with the need for infrastructure expansion, economic development and implementation of new schemes across its geographically dispersed and difficult terrain.

The detailed departmental scrutiny also provides an opportunity to identify under-utilisation of funds, accelerate delayed works, account for committed liabilities and prioritise new projects based on actual requirements.

With the Finance Department bringing 25 major departmental groupings into a structured review spread over eight days, the exercise effectively sets the financial groundwork for Ladakh’s 2027-28 development priorities, while simultaneously recalibrating the current year’s Revised Estimates.

The Finance Department has directed all departments to adhere strictly to the schedule and ensure timely submission of the required information, underscoring the UT administration’s emphasis on financial discipline, realistic budgeting and expenditure linked to measurable implementation.

Rajnath approves ...

an important milestone in promoting greater participation of the Indian industries in the defence ecosystem by enabling them to undertake indigenous production,” Singh said.

According to the government, technology transfers will be subject to prescribed qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements.

The initiative is expected to facilitate the transition of missile systems from the development stage to industrial-scale production, while leveraging the capabilities of Indian industry in manufacturing advanced defence systems.

The objective is to strengthen the country’s defence industrial base, enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities and create opportunities for Indian MSMEs and technology partners to join the missile production supply chain.

The government said the move would help improve operational capability, reduce import dependence and increase domestic value addition, while supporting the growth of India’s defence manufacturing sector.

Tuesday’s decision is separate from a recent DRDO initiative to identify private manufacturing partners for strategic missile systems. On August 17, DRDO invited Indian companies to apply as long-term manufac-

turing partners for missiles and guided bombs. The bid was issued by Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI) on behalf of DRDO’s Missile and Strategic Systems (MSS) Cluster.

According to the DRDO website, the MSS Cluster is responsible for the design and development of state-of-the-art missile and strategic systems required for the country’s deterrence and defence capabilities.

The cluster works on advanced technologies including ramjet and scramjet propulsion systems, guidance and homing technologies, and warhead systems. Strategic missile programmes such as the Agni series and under-development hypersonic missile systems fall within the MSS Cluster’s domain.

Congress promises ...

proposed to fulfil the demand, Javed said the Congress leadership would work out a constitutional and political route for implementing the commitment, reiterating that the issue was part of the party’s manifesto rather than an assurance being made for the first time at the press conference.

The Congress also made a strong pitch for restoration of an elected Assembly in Ladakh, arguing that the creation of the Union Territory had not been accompanied by adequate democratic representation.

He demanded that Ladakh adopt a model that provides for a legislative Assembly and said democratic institutions must have greater authority in representing the aspirations of the people. He pointed to the absence of Assembly elections as well as pending local elections and alleged that decision-making had become excessively bureaucratic.

The party also opposed any delimitation exercise that, according to Javed, could alter the character of constituencies to favour a particular political interest. While stating that Congress was not opposed to delimitation as such, he insisted that the exercise must ensure equal political opportunity and fair representation.

Javed alleged that four people were killed during the agitation and several others injured, while more than 80 people faced cases. He demanded withdrawal of cases against all those booked in connection with the movement, saying only a portion of the cases had so far been withdrawn.

He also recalled the participation of Ladakh-based civil society representatives in the movement and said the Congress had supported the agitation. The remarks put the issue of cases and accountability alongside Sixth Schedule and democratic safeguards as a major part of the party’s political agenda in Ladakh.

Javed said the Congress would now undertake a sustained “every household, every door” campaign across Ladakh over the next two years, seeking to reconnect with people and strengthen the party’s grassroots base.

He said the campaign would focus on democracy, Sixth Schedule, unemployment and other basic concerns, while simultaneously building a wider public movement around these issues.

The Congress leader also indicated that the party was seeking to rebuild its organisational machinery through consultations with workers rather than simply imposing office-bearers from the top. He said observers had been sent to different areas to assess potential candidates for district-level leadership and that the selection process was expected to be completed soon.

Javed said the organisational exercise was part of a larger Congress effort to respond to what the party sees as a transformed political landscape since 2014. He said Rahul Gandhi had tasked senior leaders with organisational responsibilities across states, with the objective of rebuilding the party at the grassroots level.

He also sought to connect Ladakh’s political concerns with the Congress’s wider campaign on students, youth and democratic rights, referring to the party’s support for protests over issues including examination irregularities and unemployment.

For Ladakh, however, the political significance of the Congress intervention lies principally in its attempt to consolidate several long-standing demands—constitutional safeguards, an elected legislature, protection of land and cultural identity, withdrawal of cases and employment—into a single sustained political campaign.

With the party promising a two-year grassroots mobilisation, Tuesday’s press conference signalled that the Congress intends to make these issues central to its political engagement with Ladakh rather than confining them to periodic statements or negotiations.

UT constitutes ...

of State-owned datasets.

One of its key responsibilities will be to facilitate seamless data sharing among government departments, while monitoring the adoption of common data standards and implementation of data-sharing mechanisms both within and outside the government.

The committee will also oversee mechanisms for consent-based sharing of data with private entities, wherever permissible, and assist government organisations in complying with applicable legal and policy frameworks governing data sharing.

The order specifically mandates the committee to support compliance with laws governing data sharing, including the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

The SDGC will additionally function as the first-

level coordination and grievance-resolution mechanism for data-sharing issues and disputes within Ladakh. Matters that remain unresolved can be escalated to the National Data Governance Committee (NDGC) wherever required.

The constitution of the committee marks an important institutional step towards creating a more coordinated data ecosystem in Ladakh, with greater emphasis on interoperability, standardisation, responsible data sharing and legal compliance.

By bringing major administrative departments, MeitY and technology stakeholders within a common governance framework, the initiative is expected to provide an institutional mechanism for improving the availability and responsible use of government data for administration, planning and public-service delivery.

Students, cops ...

crossing, following which law enforcers used water cannons and the agitators broke into a 'rain dance'.

Heavy police deployment has been ensured at all major intersections in the city. Additional forces, including CRPF and RAF personnel, were deployed at Dak Bungalow crossing.

The students have been protesting at Patna's Gardanibagh area for weeks, with their main demands including a single-tier examination in BPSC-TRE 4, transparency in the recruitment process, recruitment exams by the Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC) and fair opportunities for Hindi-medium candidates.

Citing irregularities in the 70th BPSC exams, the protesting students demanded that the exam be cancelled.

DSE reviews ...

weaknesses, reinforce foundational learning and provide students with structured academic support.

Highlighting the importance of data-driven academic planning, Paldan said that examination results should be used as a basis for identifying specific learning requirements and planning interventions rather than being treated merely as indicators of achievement.

The 1st Pre-Board results, he emphasised, should therefore be viewed as a diagnostic tool that enables teachers and school administrators to identify gaps in learning well before the final Board examinations. Such an approach, he noted, would allow schools to provide timely and focused support to students and improve their chances of achieving better outcomes.

The review also underlined the critical role of Principals and Headmasters in ensuring that identified academic gaps are translated into concrete interventions at the school level. School leadership was encouraged to closely monitor the progress of students following remedial interventions and ensure that teaching strategies are continuously adapted according to students’ learning needs.

The exercise reflects the School Education Department’s focus on strengthening academic monitoring, evidence-based planning and outcome-oriented interventions, with the objective of ensuring that students across Kargil, Zaskar and Drass receive timely academic support and are better prepared for the upcoming Board examinations.

Kharge, Rahul ...

result in the same community being recorded under thousands of different names, making the final data difficult to consolidate and use.

The Congress leaders said inaccurate caste figures could have far-reaching consequences for backward, extremely backward and other disadvantaged communities, and “may also influence decisions related to education, employment, government schemes and social justice”. They also questioned whether the proposed exercise would establish the actual population of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), pointing out that the term “Backward Classes” itself is not included in the census process.

Kharge and Gandhi reminded the government that “an easy solution already exists” and proposed a standardised drop-down list of castes, similar to the system used for enumerating Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They said such a list could be prepared using existing government records, including Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) lists, along with data available with the Anthropological Survey of India.

Citing caste surveys conducted in Telangana and Bihar, Kharge and Gandhi said similar standardised lists had been used in those states. They urged the government to withdraw the existing questionnaire and formulate a new one after consultations with political parties, experts and the public.

The objective, they said, should be to ensure that every caste and community is accurately counted so that the caste census produces reliable, meaningful data capable of informing policies on social justice and equitable representation.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference here, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that the manner in which the caste census is being conducted amounts to a “betrayal of the people”. He urged the government to adopt the methodology used in Bihar and Telangana for a nationwide caste census.