

Echoes commitment to work closely with IAF to strengthen national security

Gupta unveils bold plan for industrial growth and sustainable rural tourism

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Tuesday outlined UT Ladakh's vision for driving industrial growth alongside sustainable rural tourism, stressing transparent land allocation, inclusive policies, and community empowerment as the key pillars of Ladakh's development roadmap.

He said the UT Administration is committed to fostering investment, generating employment for local youth, and promoting eco-friendly tourism initiatives that preserve the region's unique culture and ecology.

The Lt Governor was speaking while interacting with delegations at the LG Secretariat today.

Meanwhile, the LG reiterated



ated the UT Administration's commitment to working closely with the Indian Air Force to strengthen national security and accelerate developmental initiatives in the region.

The Lt Governor appreciated the vital role being played by the Indian Air Force in safe-

guarding the borders, supporting civil administration during emergencies, and ensuring connectivity in the far-flung regions of Ladakh.

Earlier, members of Looms of Ladakh, representing more than 600 artisans from 19 villages in Leh and Kargil, apprised the Lt Gover-



nor of their work as an ethical, herder-artisan-led luxury brand.

They explained how their initiative blends cutting-edge design with heritage crafts, upskills traditional artisans, and provides sustainable solutions to preserve Ladakh's cultural legacy while creating exclusive

handcrafted collectables. Similarly, entrepreneur Sonam Stanzin from Domkhar highlighted the potential of developing tourism in areas such as Domkhar, Takmachik, Skurbuchan, and the Aryan Valley.

He noted that Domkhar, in particular, is home to rock art dating back ►P11

Modi: India grew 7.8 pc in Q1 despite challenges

NEW DELHI: In a veiled rebuttal to the 'dead economy' jibe, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the first quarter, surpassing all expectations despite global uncertainties and challenges driven by economic self-interest.

Speaking at the Semicon India 2025 conference here, he said GDP growth in April-June was better than 'every expectation, hope and estimate'.

Indian economic performance came amidst global uncertainties and "aarthik swarth se paida hue chunautiya hai" (challenges stemming from economic self-interest), he said.

"Once again, India has outperformed every expectation, every estimate, and every forecast," Modi said.

While economies around the world are facing concerns and challenges driven by economic self-interest, India has achieved a growth rate of 7.8 per cent.



Modi emphasized that this growth is visible across all sectors -- manufacturing, services, agriculture, and construction -- with enthusiasm evident everywhere, and added that India's rapid growth is infusing new energy across industries and among every citizen.

He affirmed that this trajectory of growth is propelling India swiftly towards becoming the third largest economy in the world.

The Prime Minister did not elaborate on the chal-

lenges but his statement came days after US President Donald Trump imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods over the country's purchases of Russian oil. This increased total tariffs to 50 per cent -- the highest in the world.

In the run up to the imposition of the tariff, Trump had dismissed India's economy as "dead".

India in the first quarter as well as the 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025 fiscal) and years proceedings it, has remained the world's fastest growing major economy, outshining China by yards. The US economy grew at 3.3 per cent in April-June.

US officials have in recent days used unduly harsh words to criticise India over continued purchase of Russian oil.

Modi said his government will unleash a new phase of next generation reforms soon.

"In the coming times, we are going to begin a new phase of ►P11

Hill Council Kargil passes historic Teacher Transfer, Hostel Admission Draft Policies

Every Kargil household to have solar panels under PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: In a historic move, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil on Tuesday unanimously passed three landmark resolutions including draft Teacher Transfer Policy framed by Deputy Commissioner, CEO LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, the draft Admission Policy for Kargil Boys' and Girls' Hostels in Jammu and Srinagar, and a resolution on the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The draft policy Presented by LAHDC Kargil was also discussed in detail adding all the Councillors unanimously



adopted the draft policy presented by DC Kargil.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman and Chief

Executive Councillor (CEC), Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, in the presence of Councillors of LAHDC Kargil and Deputy

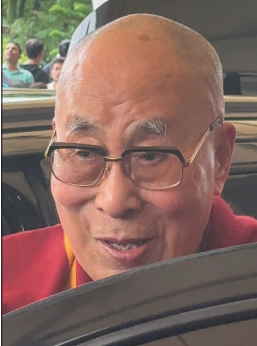
Commissioner, CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar.

During the session, the draft Teacher Transfer Policy presented by Deputy Commissioner Kargil was deliberated in detail. Councillors provided valuable suggestions, following which the policy was unanimously adopted with certain modifications.

The adoption of this policy marks a significant step toward ensuring transparency, accountability, and the equitable distribution of teachers across the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Kumar, also presented the draft Admission Policy for Kargil Hostels in ►P11

HH Dalai Lama returns to Dharamshala following weeks-long sojourn in Ladakh



DHARAMSHALA/LEH: Despite heavy rainfall and foggy weather, His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama safely returned to Dharamshala this afternoon to a warm welcome from Tibetans, devotees, and well-wishers, following a month-



and-a-half-long sojourn in Ladakh.

Leadership from the Central Tibetan Administration, along with distinguished guests attending the 65th Tibetan Democracy Day celebrations, also gathered to receive His Holiness

at His official residence.

Over the course of His Holiness' extended visit to Ladakh, His Holiness journeyed to Zaskar, where His Holiness inaugurated the KarGön Mega Summer Symposium and laid the foundation stone ►P11

Climate Cup commences

LEH: The 3rd Edition of the Climate Cup Football Tournament 2025 commenced here at the Kushok Bhakula Rinpoche Astro Turf Open Stadium, Spituk attracted a large gathering of sports enthusiasts.

The opening ceremony of the Tournament was held the other day in Leh with great enthusiasm and participation.

The event, organized by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and Department of Youth Services and Sports in collaboration with Ladakh Football Association, was sponsored by the Power Grid Corporation ►P11

All flights cancelled due to poor weather

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LEH: All flight arrivals and departures at Leh were cancelled for the day on Tuesday due to poor weather conditions. Airlines have issued passenger guidelines to either re-book their flights or claim a refund.

Heavy rainfall has disrupted flight operations in Leh and Dharamshala in North India.

According to a social media post put by Airline service IndiGo, "We are pausing our operations until the conditions allow us to fly you safely and comfortably... Our teams are monitoring the weather closely and services will resume as soon as conditions

improve."

The Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport in Leh was closed just days after it reopened post a three-day flight suspension last week due to mud accumulation from heavy rainfall on the runway and taxiways.

The disruption comes amid the busy travel season for Ladakh, when the region sees a surge in domestic and international tourist arrivals.

As the UT grapples with the aftermath of heavy downpour that caused flooding in some areas, Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta the other day had stated said the administration will work towards speedy restoration and holistic ►P11

Ladakh among the worst-hit as Glacial lakes expand at an alarming pace: CWC

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: More than 170 glacial lakes in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir union territories are showing worrying signs of expansion, raising fears of sudden flooding disasters in the fragile Himalayan region. The Central Water Commission (CWC), in its latest monthly monitoring report for June 2025, has flagged the two Union Territories among the worst-affected by the rapidly changing glacial landscape, reports appearing in the media suggest.

According to the CWC, of the 432 glacial lakes within India that now require "vig-



orous monitoring for disaster purposes," 120 are located in Ladakh and 57 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Together, they account for more than 40 per cent of

all expanding lakes outside Arunachal Pradesh, which tops the list with 197.

The CWC report said the water spread area of 1,435 glacial lakes and ►P11

AAP shamed politics in Punjab to hide its governance failures: Chugh

Questions absence of Kejriwal, Sisodia

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General secretary Tarun Chugh Tuesday said that the despicable working of AAP in Punjab stands exposed after registering a rape case against MLA Harmeet Singh Pathanmaja almost three years after the complaint was filed.

Chugh said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann slept over the case for three years but suddenly woke up to it after Pathanmaja openly criticised him and the Delhi coterie for their utter failure in handling the flood crisis.

"This is nothing but shameful revenge politics," Chugh said, adding that instead of addressing the plight



of marooned families, the Mann government is busy silencing dissent.

He pointed out that the very MLA who raised questions on the government's incompetence is now firing at the police and running away from custody. "This shows Punjab's

law and order has been reduced to a complete comedy circus under AAP," Chugh remarked.

He added that the so-called AAPDa Party can no longer hide behind lies and loot. The truth is out, and the collapse of governance in Punjab has reached a disgraceful level. Chugh further questioned why Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, who claim moral authority, are conspicuously absent when Punjab's people are reeling under floods. "The people of Punjab are demanding answers, and the Mann government can no longer run away from accountability," he asserted.

India-China relations improving, says Goyal

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said India-China relations are gradually moving towards normalcy, noting that as border issues get resolved, easing of tensions is a natural consequence.

At the meeting held on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, Modi and Xi 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.

"This was an SCO summit, where all the SCO members participated. We had a

problem in Galwan, due to which we had a blip in the relationship. As the border gets resolved, I think the situation getting back to normal is a very natural consequence," Goyal told reporters when asked if with India and China resetting their relationship and if there is a scope for relaxations in PN3.

At present, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) applications from countries sharing land borders, such as China, have to mandatorily seek government approval for all sectors. This policy was issued in April 2020 as Press Note 3 (PN3).

The domestic industry is urging the government to ease these FDI norms to attract more investments from China. ►P11

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