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Gupta unveils ...

nearly 6,000 years, and that cultural events like the Apricot and Buckwheat festivals could be harnessed to attract tourists and generate livelihood opportunities for locals.

A delegation from the Anjuman Imamia Women’s Wing also met the Lt Governor and shared details of the society’s environmental protection initiatives.

Another delegation of Nambardars from different villages in the Sodh area of Kargil raised demands for the early completion of the Kargil-Batalik road and the Hamboting-La tunnel to enhance connectivity in the region.

Responding to these representations, the Lt Governor assured the delegations that the UT Administration is committed to addressing the genuine concerns of the people, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring equitable development across Ladakh.

He reiterated that industrial growth and tourism development will go hand in hand, with special focus on empowering local communities, preserving the environment, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The Lt Governor underlined that the vision of the UT Administration is to transform Ladakh into a hub of responsible industrialisation and eco-friendly tourism, while safeguarding its unique cultural and ecological heritage. He called upon all stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, community groups, and civil society organisations, to work in partnership with the government to realise this vision of a prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive Ladakh.

He made statements of working closely with IAF during a meeting with Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma, VM, Air Officer Commanding, Headquarters Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, along with Air Commodore Sanjay Prabhu, VM, Air Officer Commanding 21 Wing Air Force Station, Leh, at Raj Niwas.

The meeting focused on strengthening synergy between the civil administration and the Indian Air Force in Ladakh, particularly in the areas of strategic preparedness, disaster management, infrastructure development, and welfare of the local population.

Air Vice Marshal Sharma and Air Commodore Prabhu assured the Lt Governor of continued cooperation in all matters of strategic and humanitarian importance.

They also highlighted the ongoing efforts of the Air Force in augmenting logistical support and maintaining operational readiness in the Union Territory.

Modi: India ...

next-generation reforms," he said. While he did not spell out the reforms planned, Modi may have hinted on the planned biggest reform of the goods and services tax (GST), with tax cuts on a wide range of common use products -- from shampoos and hybrid cars to consumer electronics.

The GST Council, the all-powerful decision making body, is meeting in New Delhi for two-days beginning September 3 to discuss the proposed pruning of rates.

Since January, Trump has launched a broad global tariff programme, slapping higher rates on imports from countries with which his administration had political grievances. Besides India, only Brazil has been slapped with a 50 per cent tariff.

Trump argues that the tariffs boost American manufacturing and protect jobs, but his trade policies have led to economic chaos worldwide.

Later in the day the PM said 10 semiconductor projects worth over USD 18 billion are underway and the country is advancing towards the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission and revamping the design-linked incentive scheme to tap the USD 1 trillion global chip market.

"The day is not far when the smallest chip made in India will drive the biggest change in the world," he said. "The day is not far when the world will say -- Designed in India, Made in India, Trusted by the World."

He was speaking at the inauguration of the 'Semicon India - 2025' conference, aimed at catalysing India's semiconductor ecosystem, here.

Noting the presence of semiconductor sector experts from across the globe, with representation from around 50 countries, Modi emphasized that India's innovation and youth power are also visibly present at the event.

This unique combination, he said, sends a clear message -- "The world trusts India, the world believes in India, and the world is ready to build the semiconductor future with India".

Stating that in the world of semiconductors, it is often said, 'Oil was black gold, but chips are digital diamonds', the Prime Minister said that while oil shaped the previous century, the power of the 21st century is now concentrated in the small chip.

Although small in size, these chips have the potential to significantly accelerate global progress.

Modi said the global semiconductor market has already reached USD 600 billion and is expected to surpass USD 1 trillion in the coming years.

"Given the pace at which India is advancing in the semiconductor sector, India will hold a significant share in this USD 1 trillion market," he said.

Addressing investors, he expressed India's readiness to welcome them with an open heart and said, "Design is ready. Mask is aligned. Now is the time for precision execution and delivery at scale".

India's policies are not short-term signals but long-term commitments, he said, assuring that every investor's needs will be met.

He went on to highlight the launch of the Semicon India programme in 2021 and said by 2023, the country's first semiconductor plant had been approved in 2024, several more plants received approval, and in 2025, five additional projects were cleared.

"In total, 10 semiconductor projects are now underway, involving an investment of over USD 18 billion - more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore... This reflects the growing global trust in India."

Emphasising that in the semiconductor sector, speed matters, he said, "the shorter the time from file-to-factory, and the lesser the paperwork, the sooner wafer work can begin".

The government, he said, is working with this very approach.

The National Single-Window System has been implemented, enabling all approvals from both the Central and State governments to be accessed on a single platform. Semiconductor parks are being developed across the country under a plug-and-play infrastructure model, which offers facilities such as land, power supply, port and airport connectivity, and access to a skilled worker pool.

When such infrastructure is combined with incentives, industrial growth is inevitable, he said, adding that through PLI incentives or design-linked grants, India is offering end-to-end capabilities.

This is why investment continues to flow in, he said. "India is moving beyond backend operations and progressing towards becoming a full-stack semiconductor nation, and the day is not far when India's smallest chip will drive the world's biggest change".

"India has reached this stage by following the mantra of reform, perform, and transform. A new phase of next-generation reforms will soon be initiated," he said.

Work is underway on the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission, he said, without elaborating.

He also announced that "the Design-Linked Incentive Scheme is being restructured to better serve its objectives."

Modi said India's journey began late, but nothing can stop it now.

The Prime Minister said CG Power's pilot plant for semiconductors commenced operations on August 28, and a pilot of Kaynes Technology is also about to begin.

Test chips from Micron Technology and Tata Electronics are already in production. "Commercial chip production will begin this year," he reiterated.

Emphasizing that India's semiconductor success story is not confined to a single vertical or a single technology, Modi stated that India is building a comprehensive ecosystem -- one that encompasses designing, manufacturing, packaging, and high-tech devices, all within the country.

He clarified that the Semiconductor Mission is not limited to establishing a single fab or producing a single chip. Instead, India is creating a robust semiconductor ecosystem that will make the nation self-reliant and globally competitive.

Underlining another key feature of India's semiconductor mission, he said that the country is advancing in this sector alongside the world's most advanced technologies. India's focus is to empower emerging technologies through chips manufactured domestically.

Modi noted that design centers being developed in Noida on the outskirts of the national capital and Bengaluru are working on some of the world's most advanced chips -- capable of storing billions of transistors. These chips will power the immersive technologies of the 21st century.

Addressing the challenges faced by the global semiconductor sector, he said India is actively working to overcome them.

While steel is the foundation of towering buildings and impressive physical infrastructure visible in cities, the foundation of India's digital infrastructure is built on critical minerals. "India is currently working on the National Critical Minerals Mission and is committed to meeting its demand for rare minerals domestically," he said.

Over the past four years, significant progress has been made on critical minerals projects, he said, adding the government is committed to developing Indian intellectual property in the sector.

Hill Council ...

Jammu and Srinagar. After extensive deliberations, the Council collectively appreciated and endorsed the policy, recognizing its role in ensuring

fair and transparent hostel admissions for students of the district.

On the energy front, the Deputy Commissioner informed the Council that the Union Territory Administration has approved an additional top-up subsidy under the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana for Ladakh.

The scheme seeks to transform electricity access for households, promote energy efficiency, and contribute to the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh, in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to sustainable development.

The Council unanimously passed a resolution on the scheme, wherein the Councillors resolved to lead by example by installing solar panels in their own homes and mobilizing residents to adopt the initiative, ensuring its wider success.

The Deputy Commissioner further briefed the Council on steps being taken for effective implementation across the district.

These collective decisions mark a historic milestone in strengthening education, promoting energy sustainability, and advancing public welfare initiatives in Kargil.

HH Dalai ...

for the Zanskar Mönlam Chörten. His Holiness also delivered teachings to an audience of over 21,000 devotees. While in Leh, His Holiness laid the foundation of the new Jokhang Temple, consecrated the Dharma Centre at Choglamsar, and addressed approximately 50,000 followers during two major public teachings on 16 and 17 August at Shiwatsel—an event that also featured long-life prayers in His Holiness’ honour. His Holiness’ final public appearance in Ladakh was at a luncheon hosted on 24 August at Abi-Spang Spituk.

In a letter of gratitude, the Dalai Lama thanked the people of Ladakh for their hospitality and expressed hope that the region would continue progressing on the path of peace, education, and development. A notable highlight of his visit was a special meeting with Czech President Petr Pavel, who travelled to Ladakh to extend birthday greetings to the Nobel laureate on his 90th birthday.

The Dalai Lama had to postpone his return twice due to adverse climatic conditions.

Notably, HH met with Czech President Petr Pavel, who travelled from his country specifically to extend birthday greetings on the occasion of His Holiness’ 90th birthday.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will attend a Long-Life Prayer offered to him by the Lhokha Cultural & Welfare Association, Namgyal Institute Ithaca and Young Tibetans from Across the World at the Main Tibetan Temple in Dharamsala on September 10, 2025.

Climate Cup ...

of India Limited. It saw the participation of a limited number of teams from the Ladakh Football Association, alongside other teams.

The Chief Guest, Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, graced the event and formally inaugurated the tournament.

The Guest of Honour was Bhanu Prabha, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh.

The ceremony began with a welcome speech by Bhanu Prabha, who emphasized the importance of sustainability and expressed gratitude to the sponsors and LAHDC Leh for their support. She extended her best wishes to all participating teams, including those who traveled from outside Ladakh to compete in the tournament.

In his address, Chief Guest Tsering Angchuk highlighted the significance of the Climate Cup as a key initiative of LAHDC Leh, promoting both sports and awareness of Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem.

He thanked the Ladakh Football Association and all stakeholders for their efforts in organizing the tournament and emphasized that sports like football can be a powerful medium to promote environmental preservation and harmony.

The programme featured vibrant cultural performances and was followed by the inaugural match between 1 Ladakh FC and ITBP, marking the start of an exciting tournament that will continue over the coming weeks.

Other dignitaries present included Executive Councillors Ghulam Mehdi and Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Deputy Commissioner, CEO, LAHDC Leh, Romil Singh Donk, SSP Leh, Shruti Arora, ADDC Leh, Sonam Norboo, Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Tahir Hussain, DYSSO Leh, Tsering Tashi, General Secretary of the Ladakh Football Association, Tsering Angmo, and representatives from cultural and social organizations in Leh.

All flights ...

development of the affected areas. “Every possible measure is being taken to rehabil-

itate the affected families and to rebuild the damaged infrastructure with a long-term vision of resilience and sustainability,” LG has said, assuring the members that the UT Administration are working in mission mode to ensure the timely redressal of grievances and restoration of normalcy.

He emphasised that special attention is being given to vulnerable sections, including women, children, and the elderly, to ensure their safety and well-being.

The Lt Governor highlighted that all government departments are coordinating closely with local authorities to expedite relief operations, restore essential services, and reconstruct critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and public utilities.

Ladakh among ...

water bodies in the Himalayas increased in June 2025 alone, while 1,008 showed a decrease.

“Glacial lakes in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir are expanding at a concerning pace, with serious implications for downstream populations in case of sudden outbursts,” the Commission warned. The report also highlighted the long-term trend of glacial retreat and lake expansion, noting that the total glacial lake area in India has risen by over 30 per cent in the past 14 years — from 1,917 hectares in 2011 to 2,508 hectares by June 2025.

The findings come at a time of widespread weather-related disasters across the Himalayan belt. In Jammu and Kashmir, persistent downpours in Katra have forced the suspension of the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage for seven consecutive days, while a landslide last week claimed 34 lives on the yatra route.

In Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, at least seven people died in landslides triggered by heavy rainfall, while Punjab has seen repeated spells of flooding in recent days.

The Commission has called for urgent preparedness, recommending real-time monitoring systems, satellite-based alerts and early-warning mechanisms for downstream communities, especially in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, where glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) pose a major hazard. It has also urged closer coordination between the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and state disaster management agencies, as well as cross-border cooperation with Nepal, Bhutan and China.

“The Himalayan region is facing important challenges in coping with the adverse effects of climate change. Shrinking glaciers and expanding glacial lakes are among the most visible and dangerous impacts of global warming,” the report concluded.

India-China ..

In July 2024, the pre-budget Economic Survey made a strong case for seeking foreign direct investments from Beijing to boost local manufacturing and tap the export market.

It said that increased overseas inflows from the neighbouring countries can help increase India's global supply chain participation and push exports.

China stands at 23rd position with only 0.34 per cent share (USD 2.5 billion) in total FDI equity inflow reported in India from April 2000 to March 2025.

The ties between the two countries 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.

Following these tensions, India had earlier banned over 200 Chinese mobile apps such as Tiktok, Wechat, and Alibaba’s UC browser. The country has also rejected a major investment proposal from EV maker BYD.

Experts are suggesting the government to have a re-look at PN3, which subjects investments to additional scrutiny even if there is a single shareholder from China.

The experts have also suggested that the committee which oversees investment proposals under this press note should be asked to expeditiously clear the FDI proposals from the land border countries, including China.

There is an inter-ministerial committee headed by the Home Secretary to consider applications under that press note.

Though India has received minimal FDI from China, the bilateral trade between the two nations has grown multi-fold.

In 2024-25, India's exports stood at USD 14.25 billion, while imports were USD 113.5 billion.

Trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) rose from USD 1.1 billion in 2003-04 to USD 99.2 billion in 2024-25.

China's trade deficit accounted for about 35 per cent of India's total trade imbalance (USD 283 billion) in the last fiscal. The gap was USD 85.1 billion in 2023-24.