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LG Gupta emphasizes ...

the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Thiksey. The system has been developed jointly by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Alfen Alfa Group on a pilot basis to address the pressing challenge of heating requirements during Ladakh’s extreme winters. Highlighting the significance of the project, the Lt Governor said that if the pilot proves successful, the eco-friendly heating model could be scaled up across health centres, schools, and government institutions in Ladakh. He noted that such sustainable solutions not only reduce the dependency on conventional fuels but also provide a cost-effective and reliable means to improve infrastructure in remote and high-altitude areas. The Lt Governor reaffirmed the UT Administration’s commitment to making Ladakh a carbon-neutral Union Territory and said that the adoption of clean technologies is integral to achieving this goal. He stressed that initiatives like the geothermal heating project will play a crucial role in protecting the fragile ecology of the region while simultaneously improving public service delivery and healthcare infrastructure.

Ladakh leaders ...

these issues should be addressed with proper consideration from a defence perspective, to which the officials agreed and assured support.

The meeting also discussed the progress under the Vibrant Villages Programme. CEC cited Demchok as an example, where reverse migration has begun after the programme’s implementation, reflecting visible improvements in the region.

Brigadier Surjeet Kumar Singh assured the CEC of his full support on the matters discussed.

The other day, Gyalson discussed issues concerning Ladakh union territory with National General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), B. L. Santosh in New Delhi.

The delegation led by CEC comprised of State President, Tashi Gyalton Khachu, and State General Secretary, Kunzang Namgyal.

During the meeting, the delegation held detailed discussions on issues concerning the welfare and development of Ladakh, as well as organizational matters of the region.

B. L. Santosh assured the delegation of full support from the central leadership on the matters discussed.

Meanwhile, the CEC also chaired a review meeting to take stock of the ongoing interior construction works of the Assembly Hall at the Council Secretariat.

During the meeting, CEC held a detailed discussion with the concerned officials and stakeholders regarding the pending works and the progress made so far.

He further directed that all remaining tasks be completed with proper finishing and ensured within the timeline of mid-October.

Following the meeting, CEC carried out a detailed inspection of the Assembly Hall. He carefully examined the progress in different sections of the building and assessed the quality and pace of the ongoing works.

The meeting was attended by SE PWD Dorje Gyatso, AEE Construction Division Spalzes Dolma, JE PWD Stanzin Chosdon; Principal Design Consultant Monika Chauhan, Sandeep Gupta, executing contractor from Sristi Enterprises Chandigarh, along with other stakeholders.

Op Sindoor ...

cooperation across international borders. Addressing the gathering, Singh said, "As we look towards future, two things are certain -- fast evolving character of warfare and the increasing relevance of military power."

"Operation Sindoor stands as a shining testament to our unparalleled prowess. The Indian armed forces demonstrated their capability to deliver a swift, precise and decisive blows to the enemy. You, as the future of these forces must understand that defence forces have always been and will always be the first responder," he said.

Appealing to the officer cadets, he said, "Remember our strength comes not just from individual excellence but from cohesion of the whole team. No service operates in isolation, whether in the sky, on the ground or at sea."

"You must keep furthering the spirit of jointness as you grow in service," he said.

Underlining that every officer cadet has a vital role to play, he said, "Make sure that you understand your role and the role of others and give your best to bring glory to this Motherland."

Complimenting the officer cadets for their outstanding display of military and synchronized drill, he said, it shows the exceptional standards of the Academy.

Singh acknowledged the efforts of the officers of the academy for the successful completion of yet another course "with high standards".

He said, "I am confident that the training has equipped you (officer cadets) with the knowledge, skill and discipline required to excel as officers and leaders. The professional conduct of these young officer cadets in their service career will be a strong reflection of the instructors' mentorship and the high training standard of this academy," he said.

Singh also extended his gratitude to the parents and relatives of the officer cadets, stating, "Your rock-solid support has enabled them to achieve their dreams. Your sacrifice and trust will remain incremental in their success."

Addressing the cadets, he said, "This moment has not been given to you on a platter; you have earned it through your relevant perseverance, discipline and unwavering commitment."

On the 21 cadets from friendly foreign countries who have successfully completed their course at OTA, he said, "Let me tell you, we are proud of your achievement. Hope you take back memories to cherish and the training given

here to strengthen the bond between India and your country."

Before concluding his speech, he urged the young cadets to expand their horizon and discover their true potential. "The battlefield is going to be more complex," he said, and insisted that they need to get trained continuously to succeed in future conflicts.

Later, he presented the Sword of Honour and silver medal to Raj Biswas, the OTA gold medal to Parul Dhadwal and the bronze medal to Pranjal Dixit.

Modi hails ...

We just have moments on occasion," he said in the Oval Office.

Getting back to UNGA development, the 80th session of the UN General Assembly will open on September 9. The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US.

US President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House.

According to a revised provisional list of speakers for the high-level General Debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly released Friday, India will be represented by a ‘minister’.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the session on September 27.

According to a previous provisional list of speakers issued in July, Modi was scheduled to address the General Debate on September 26.

The heads of government of Israel, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh are scheduled to address the UNGA General Debate on September 26.

Modi had travelled to the US in February this year for a bilateral meeting with Trump at the White House in Washington. Trump has imposed tariffs totalling 50 per cent on India, including 25 per cent for Delhi’s purchases of Russian oil.

The UNGA list of speakers for the General Debate is provisional and there is always possibility of changes in schedules and speakers ahead of the commencement of the high-level week.

The list will continue to be updated accordingly.

Considered the “busiest diplomatic season” of the year at the United Nations Headquarters, the high-level session opens in September annually.

The session this year comes amid the continued Israel-Hamas war as well as the Ukraine conflict. The theme for the 80th session is ‘Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights’.

The session will open with a meeting to ‘Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations’ on September 22.

Marking the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the UN General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting centred on the theme “Recommitting to, resourcing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.

The meeting will reflect on progress since the landmark 1995 conference in Beijing and highlight achievements, best practices, gaps, and ongoing challenges in advancing gender equality worldwide, the UN said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will convene a Climate Summit on September 24 to serve as a platform for world leaders to present their new national climate action plans and seize the benefits of the new clean energy era.

Other high-level meetings to be held during the week include Summit for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Global Economy; Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health and Well-being; 30th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth; Launch of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance; International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons; and Situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

CEC inspects ...

He reiterated that these initiatives are aimed at ensuring holistic and sustainable growth of the village.

The CEC emphasized the importance of active community participation in all developmental activities to ensure quality, transparency, and smooth execution.

He urged the villagers to avail themselves of the benefits of various government schemes and assured them of the administration’s commitment to address their genuine concerns.

To strengthen people’s involvement, he also announced the constitution of a village-level monitoring committee to oversee the execution of developmental projects in close coordination with the concerned departments.

In a significant announcement, the CEC informed the villagers that a new settlement has been proposed for Sangrah, wherein adequate land shall be allotted to the residents. This step has been necessitated as the existing village faces severe constraints due to recurring flood-related incidents and the lack of sufficient land.

The proposed new settlement will be developed with all modern facilities and essential amenities to provide a safe and sustainable living environment for the people.

He further urged the villagers to project their remaining developmental needs, assuring them that the same would be addressed in a phase-wise manner.

The CEC also conveyed that he would always remain available and accessible to address any kind of issues being faced by the villagers, ensuring timely redressal of their grievances.

The villagers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Hon’ble Chairman/CEC for his visit and his continuous efforts for the upliftment of the village, and assured their full cooperation in the successful implementation of developmental works.

BRICS:EAM...

chair of the BRICS. The 10-member grouping also includes India, China, Russia, South Africa, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

"The Brazilian chair of BRICS has called for a virtual meeting on September 8," External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday.

"From our side, it will be the external affairs minister who will be participating in (the meeting). This BRICS Summit is at the leaders' level," he said at his weekly media briefing.

Lula had dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 7 during which both the leaders pledged to strengthen bilateral trade and energy ties.

The US slapped 50 per cent tariffs on Brazilian exports like in the case of India.

The Brazilian president is likely to discuss the tariff issue at the BRICS virtual summit, according to reports from Brazil.

People familiar with the matter said New Delhi decided to nominate Jaishankar to attend the summit as part of “balancing act” with Washington getting increasingly suspicious about the agenda of BRICS.

US President nald Trump has made a series of comments cautioning BRICS against any "de-dollarisation" efforts.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

It has emerged as an influential group representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade.

New laws ...

organized a special programme in Kargil on the implementation of the three new criminal laws.

Quoting, ‘Nip the evil in the bud,’ the CEC called for joint efforts with the DC, SSP, and other officials to keep Kargil a crime-free district.

Akhoon also highlighted the role of religious scholars, who he said contributes to 90% to crime prevention, and encouraged feedback from students.

The event was also attended Principal & Session Judge Spalzes Angmo, Executive Councillor Syed Mujtaba, Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police Kargil, Shree Raam Ragavan (IPS), Brigadier Rahul Oberoy, Vijayak Ashish, and heads of religious organisations.

The programme began with the welcome address by SP AIG CIV, UT Ladakh, Kacho Ishtiyak Ahmad. Traditional khataqs were presented to the dignitaries by SSP Shree Raam.

A special drama performance by the Police team explained the provisions of the new laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), replacing the Indian Penal Code; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), replacing the Code of Criminal Procedure; and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), replacing the Indian Evidence Act.

The drama highlighted how these laws, effective from 1st July 2024, modernize the criminal justice system. Special focus was given to digital evidence, forensic support, speedy trial mechanisms, victim protection, and technology-driven investigation tools such as the e-Sakshya App, forensic kits, and video conferencing from jails.

As a doctor by profession, the CEC emphasized the importance of post-mortems in criminal justice and urged religious leaders to spread awareness in society.

Following his remarks, it was underlined that Ladakh UT is the first Union Territory to implement the new laws with advanced technology. This includes 443 CCTV cameras (some AI-enabled) for crime detection, BNSS provisions to inform families in case of arrest, E-prosecution and FSL facilities, and video conferencing from jails for speedy trials. The system also has provisions for first-time offenders, giving them an opportunity to reform within 90 days.

SSP Shree Raam in his address, highlighted the importance of digital evidence, fast-track processes, and proper collection of material from crime scenes. He stressed that the use of forensic tools and technology will ensure more effective justice delivery.

The vote of thanks was presented by Additional SP Nitin Yadav, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and students for their active participation.

Inclusive development ...

took part and highlighted their issues.

In the public durbar, DC Leh, Romil Singh Donk; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora; Tehsildar Nyoma, Councillor Kyungyam, Thinles Nurboo; Councillor Nyoma, Ishay Spalzag and district officials were present.

While addressing the public gathering, the Lt Governor underlined the importance of making citizens active stakeholders in grassroots development. “When people are aware of their rights and voice their concerns, it ensures accountability, strengthens democracy, and enables the administration to design development plans that reflect local aspirations,” he observed.

Commending the people of Ladakh, particularly those in far-flung areas, for raising their concerns with courage and awareness, the Lt Governor said that such participation is vital for building a just society and responsive governance.

He highlighted education, healthcare, and tourism as the three key pillars for shaping Ladakh’s future. “Education provides the skills and innovation needed for economic growth, healthcare ensures a healthy and productive society, and tourism generates livelihoods while promoting Ladakh’s rich cultural heritage,” he stated.

The Lt Governor also emphasised the need to bridge the gap in educational access, pointing out that a 100 km

distance to an institute often becomes a barrier, especially for students from rural and resource-poor families.

“The administration is working to reduce these hurdles so that students, particularly girls, are not held back due to long travel, safety concerns, or financial constraints,” he assured.

Stressing that inclusive growth must reach every village, the Lt Governor said citizen participation, combined with government initiatives in key sectors, would ensure equitable development across the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor visited the Chumathang Hot Springs, famous for its therapeutic mineral-rich waters, which are believed to have medicinal properties, especially for skin ailments and joint pain.

UoL 2nd ...

the Lieutenant Governor as the Chief Guest, whose vision and guidance have been instrumental in shaping the educational landscape of Ladakh, and other distinguished guests”

The University of Ladakh, established in 2019 as the first university in the Union Territory, has made remarkable progress in academics, research, and infrastructure in a short span of time.

The Convocation will serve as a platform to celebrate the achievements of students, faculty, and the institution as a whole, while also reinforcing the University’s mission to contribute to the sustainable development of Ladakh.

Dignitaries from academic, administrative, and civil society circles will attend the ceremony, making it a significant event in the educational calendar of the region.

Sitharaman thanks...

she said. She said the work at the Council was truly "remarkable".

Despite apprehensions over loss of revenue from classifying most products into categories: 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else, and doing away with 12 and 28 per cent slabs, the GST Council took a unanimous decision for the GST rejig.

The panel was to meet for two days starting September 3 to discuss the proposal made by the Centre but ended up approving it on the very first day after a marathon day-long meeting.

"So the sense of the house was, this is a proposal which is going to undoubtedly benefit the common man. There is no point in standing against it... Ultimately everybody came together for a good cause, and I'm truly very grateful," Sitharaman said.

The minister said states were always in favour of rate reduction and their only concern was with regard to their revenue implications post-tax cuts.

"I even appealed to them, saying, for the sake of the people of India, Please. It's not just the states. It's even the Centre that is going to get affected by the reduction. But we'll make up for it because once the rates come down, people are going to come out to buy, and that will take care of it (revenue impact). That's how consensus was arrived at," she said.

Sitharaman, speaking at a press conference following the GST Council meeting, had expressed her gratitude to the states for their cooperation and collaborative efforts in implementing one of India's most significant tax reforms.

On Saturday, she noted that the Council had given a patient hearing to every comment and suggestion put forward by its members.

"All points were thoroughly deliberated before arriving at a consensus," she said.

She also highlighted the inclusive nature of the discussions, adding that several ministers who wished to speak again after their initial points had already been debated were given the opportunity to do so.

"Their additional inputs were heard and taken into account," the Finance Minister emphasised. She also credited states for their constructive participation in the GST Council and their commitment to driving tax reform.

Committed to ...

of customer expectations and play a crucial role in designing products and services aligned to their needs. “We are committed to taking every practicable suggestion into account so that our services continue to evolve and improve,” he added.

Highlighting the importance of frontline service, Gupta advised operational heads to strengthen monitoring of customer services, particularly ensuring that staff behaviour remains consistently courteous and professional. “Customer service is the bedrock of our institution. We must make sure that every customer interaction reflects our values of respect, responsiveness, and reliability,” he stressed.

Zonal Head Rosy Tickoo expressed her gratitude to the participants and reiterated the Bank’s commitment to further strengthening relationships with clients in the region. The meet witnessed active participation, with customers sharing their experiences, suggestions, and expectations.

Appreciating the initiative, one customer noted, “It is heartening to see the leadership of J&K Bank personally listening to us. Such meets not only build confidence but also make us feel valued as partners in the Bank’s growth. We hope more such interactions are held regularly.” Another participant added, “The Bank’s openness to feedback and willingness to act upon it is truly satisfying for me as a customer.”

The session concluded with assurances from the Bank’s leadership that all feedback gathered during the meet would be carefully reviewed and that necessary steps would be taken to further enhance the customer experience across all touchpoints.