

Abhay Mahajan lauds PM Modi's strong message at SCO

Backs PM's call for decisive global action on terrorism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Abhay Kumar Mahajan, IPS (Retd), Co-convenor of J&K BJP Senior Citizen Cell and Chairman of the National Advisory Board NFJM, has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong and clear message at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China.

Mahajan praised the Prime Minister for firmly exposing Pakistan's support to terrorism while addressing more than 20 foreign leaders and 10 heads of international organisations. PM Modi recalled the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 people were killed, and underscored

that terrorism, remains the biggest challenge to global peace.

Highlighting India's approach towards SCO, the Prime Minister outlined three core pillars - Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity. He stressed that while India seeks cooperation under these pillars, terrorism, separatism and extremism pose serious obstacles. "Terrorism is not only a challenge to the security of

one country, but a common threat to entire humanity," he said.

PM Modi also raised concern over terror financing and radicalisation, pointing out that India has been facing the brunt of terrorism for over four decades. He expressed gratitude to friendly nations that stood with India after the Pahalgam attack, noting the immense loss of innocent lives to terrorism.

The Prime Minister further reiterated India's resolve to move ahead with the mantra of Reform, Perform and Transform, turning challenges such as the Covid pandemic and global economic instability into opportunities.

He also suggested the creation of a Civilizational Dialogue Forum under SCO to promote people-to-people ties and showcase

ancient civilizations, art, literature, and traditions on the global stage.

Calling for peace, security, and stability as the foundation of prosperity, PM Modi urged member countries to take firm and coordinated action against terrorism in all its manifestations. Without naming any country, he underlined that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism and stressed accountability for those supporting cross-border terror.

Mahajan said the Prime Minister's "clear and bold stand" at the SCO sends out a strong message that terrorism must be opposed in all forms and colors, adding that it reflects India's duty towards humanity and its commitment to global peace.

PM Modi strengthening international cooperation like never before: Rekha

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JAMMU: Praising India's growing global engagement, B-JP J&K Vice President, Rekha Mahajan lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for strengthening international cooperation with key global powers including China, Russia, and other countries.

"Under PM Modi's leadership, India has taken remarkable strides in foreign diplomacy," Mahajan said.

"His proactive engagement with nations like China and Russia demonstrates India's commitment to constructive dialogue and global stability. Modi's vision goes beyond bilateral talks; it focuses on fostering economic partnerships, strategic collaboration, and mutual trust." Mahajan emphasized that Modi's diplomacy is not just about political ties but also about addressing global challenges. "From cli-



mate change initiatives to trade and technology partnerships, India is emerging as a reliable global partner. Modi has consistently worked to balance relations with multiple countries, ensuring India's voice is heard on the international stage," she added. Highlighting Modi's recent initiatives, Mahajan said, "The Prime Minister has strengthened India's position in multilateral forums, collaborated on defense and infrastructure projects, and facilitated cultural and economic exchanges that benefit millions. His outreach to both regional neighbours and world powers

reflects a forward-thinking approach to global diplomacy."

She further noted that Modi's efforts have opened doors for Indian businesses, students, and researchers to engage internationally. "Through strategic cooperation, India is not only safeguarding its national interests but also contributing to global peace and development. This is diplomacy with a vision, executed with precision," Mahajan remarked.

Rekha Mahajan concluded by stating, "Prime Minister Modi's leadership in international cooperation is unprecedented. His ability to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes while promoting India's development agenda sets a new benchmark in diplomacy. India is now recognized as a country that can collaborate effectively across borders, and Modi's role in this transformation cannot be overstated."

Bharat Priye demands special relief package for J&K farmers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Kissan Congress Chairman, Bharat Priye, has urged the Central Government to release a special economic package for farmers affected by recent rains and floods in the Jammu division.

Highlighting the widespread destruction, Priye said that farmers have suffered immense losses - including damaged crops, loss of livestock, and destruction of essential equipment like tractors, water motors, and trans-formers.

He added that even stored grains and household provisions were washed away, leaving families in distress.

"The biggest challenge farmers face now is feeding their families while also dealing with the financial burden of recovering lost assets," Priye stated. He stressed that the already struggling farming community in Jammu and Kashmir is now in deeper crisis due to the floods.

Calling for immediate intervention, Priye appealed to the government to issue a comprehensive compensation package to help farmers recover and rebuild their livelihoods.



Using criminal law for vengeance cannot be allowed: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed an FIR filed in Nowshera against an 85-year-old man and his sons, ruling that the allegations stemmed from a family property feud and were a blatant misuse of criminal law to settle personal scores.

Justice Rajesh Sekhri, while allowing CRM(M) No. 786/2022 filed by Nanak Chand and others, observed that the complainant, daughter-in-law of the petitioner, had attempted to give a civil dispute a criminal colour, and that such "malicious litigation" could not be permitted.

The complainant alleged that after locking her house and leaving with her husband, she returned to find the petitioners had broken in, assaulted her, tore her clothes, outraged her modesty, and stolen gold and cash. On this basis, FIR No. 208/2022 was registered under Sections 457, 382, 354, 427, 323, and 506 of the IPC at Police Station Nowshera.

The petitioners argued that the FIR was fabricated to exert pressure on Nanak Chand, who had earlier cancelled a power of attorney and will deed executed in favour of his eldest son (the complainant's husband) and further disinherited him through a registered deed in 2018.

They contended that the allegations were improbable, pointing out that one son was serving in the CRPF in Jharkhand, while another was settled in Manali, away from the scene of the alleged crime. The petitioners claimed the FIR was part of a larger effort by the complainant and her husband to reclaim property rights revoked by the elderly father.

Justice Sekhri noted that while police investigations cannot normally be halted at the threshold, courts are empowered under Section 482 CrPC to intervene when proceedings are patently malicious.

"Allegations that an 85-year-old father-in-law, along with his sons, assaulted the complainant, tore her clothes, outraged her modesty and stole ornaments are not only absurd and inherently improbable, but are actuated with malice."

He added that criminal law must not be misused as a tool for vengeance in personal or family disputes.

The court held that the case was essentially a domestic feud over property rights wrongly projected as a criminal offence. It ruled that the FIR had been filed "to wreak vengeance" and "feed fat the grudge" of disinheritance, and therefore ordered its quashing along with all proceedings arising from it.

Sanjay Singh takes over as CMD of NHPC Limited

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director (Projects), NHPC Limited, has assumed the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a Navratna PSU under the Government of India, effective 1st September 2025.

A graduate in Civil Engineering, Singh brings with him over 33 years of extensive experience in the Power and Infrastructure sectors, having played key roles in the execution of major hydro-



electric projects across India and Bhutan.

Since his appointment as Director (Projects) on 24th July 2024, Singh has overseen significant project milestones

at NHPC. The 800 MW Parbati-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP), a highly challenging project featuring a Head Race Tunnel of approximately 31.5 km, was successfully commissioned under his leadership. Additionally, the 2000 MW Subansiri Lower HEP - one of India's largest under-construction hydro projects - is now nearing completion. Other NHPC projects, including those under joint ventures and subsidiaries, have also registered remarkable progress during his tenure.

Singh has also held the addi-

tional charge of Director (Technical) at NHPC from 8th August 2024 to 16th April 2025. He currently chairs the Boards of NHPC Renewable Energy Limited and Jalpower Corporation Limited, both wholly owned subsidiaries of NHPC. Furthermore, he serves as Nominee Director on the Boards of Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited, joint ventures with JKSPDCL.

Before joining NHPC, Singh held several senior roles at SJVN Ltd., where he served

as Chief General Manager and CEO of SJVN Thermal Pvt. Ltd. He was instrumental in the execution and planning of multiple projects, including the Nathpa Jhakri (1500 MW), Tala HEP (1020 MW, Bhutan), Sumi Dam, Naitwar Mori, and Luhri Stage II.

Singh has demonstrated expertise across the project lifecycle - from survey and investigation, DPR preparation, bidding, contract management, and construction, to strategic liaisoning with key ministries for securing statutory clearances.

New Criminal Laws replace Colonial-era system, ensure faster justice: LG Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: India marked a historic step in reforming its criminal justice system on July 1, 2024, with the implementation of three new laws-the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). Replacing colonial-era legislation, the new framework seeks to deliver faster justice, empower victims, strengthen technology use, and safeguard citizens' rights.

This was stated by Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, while inaugurating a two-day exhibition on the new criminal laws organised by Ladakh

Police at the Arya Nagarjuna Auditorium Hall, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Choglamsar. He was accompanied by First Lady, Bindu Gupta.

The event was attended by LAHDC Leh Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angehuk; Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal; DGP Ladakh Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar; Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh, Manoj Parihar; former MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Vice-Chancellor, UoL, Prof. Saket Kushwaha; Vice-Chancellor, CIBS, Prof. Rajesh Ranjan, along with executive councillors, officials, religious leaders, and students.



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta speaking at a programme.

The Lt Governor said the laws reflect Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a transparent, citizen-centric, and technology-driven justice system rooted in justice, equality, and modern governance.

"These reforms are not only

about legal provisions but about transforming justice delivery to make it faster, more accessible, and responsive, including for citizens in remote Ladakh," he stated.

He commended Ladakh Police for their preparedness-

training personnel, equipping officers with tablets and CUG SIMs for digital evidence collection, and holding mock drills across districts. Awareness drives have been conducted through social media, schools, trade unions, women's groups, and NGOs.

Applauding their achievements, Gupta noted that Kargil Police Station became the first in India to register a case under the new laws, filing a chargesheet within five days and securing conviction. Ladakh also pioneered the integration of the Zero FIR system with CCTNS, adopted MedLEaPr for instant medico-legal reports, and connected all police stations to the

CCTNS CAS application for transparent case management.

Chief Secretary Dr. Kotwal highlighted community service as a new form of punishment to reduce undertrial prisoners and informed about plans for a modern forensic laboratory and stronger prosecuting wing.

DGP Dr. Jamwal praised Ladakh Police for being among the first to implement the laws despite challenges as a new UT. He hoped the reforms would help build a crime-free society and inspire youth to join the force. The event also featured a play on the BNSS Act 2023, along with live demos, mock cases, and digital policing displays showcasing the reforms in action.

Eligible contractual lecturers to be regularized under 2010 Act: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark ruling that offers major relief to hundreds of contractual teachers in Kashmir, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has held that lecturers engaged on academic arrangements, if found eligible, are entitled to regularization under the J&K Civil Services (Special Provisions) Act, 2010.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar, while deciding a series of petitions and appeals including, ruled that posts held by such lecturers must be protected. The court directed that in cases where petitioners qualify for regularization, those substantive posts will be withdrawn from the impugned recruitment advertisements, provided they have not already been filled.

The petitions arose after the government issued advertisements inviting applications for engagement of Lecturers and Teaching Assistants on purely academic arrangements in Kashmir Division colleges. Petitioners argued

that fresh hiring was arbitrary and overlooked their long-standing service and right to regularization under the 2010 law.

The Bench clarified that its directions in WP(C) No. 416/2024 and connected matters would govern the disposal of these cases. This ensures uniformity in handling disputes related to contractual teaching staff across the Union Territory.

Alongside the writ petitions, several contempt cases were also pending, alleging non-compliance with interim relief orders. However, the court observed that since the main writ petitions and appeals had been finally disposed of, the interim directions had merged with the final order.

Accordingly, contempt petitions including CCP(D) Nos. 09/2020, 10/2021, 76/2024 and 17/2025 were closed. One contempt petition-CCP(S) No. 257/2022-arising from an earlier Single Bench order, was directed to be listed before the concerned roster bench on September 15, 2025.

DB overturns life sentences in 1995 Batote killing, acquits three

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nearly three decades after a gruesome killing at Batote, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has overturned the conviction and life sentences of three men, ruling that their guilt could not be sustained once the principal accused had been acquitted.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar allowing the appeal filed by Mohd. Akhter, Shafiq Ahmed, and Mohd. Sadiq, all residents of Batote, Ramban district.

The case dates back to July 2, 1995, when Narsingh Dev was shot dead while sleeping inside his Maruti car near a tea stall at Batote. According to the prosecution, the attack-

ers arrived in a Maruti van, armed with an AK-56 rifle and pistols. While the main assailant, Tanveer Ahmed, allegedly fired the fatal shots, the three appellants were accused of facilitating the attack by surrounding the vehicle and preventing escape.

In 2004, the trial court convicted the appellants under Sections 302, 149, and 120-B RPC, sentencing them to life imprisonment and a fine of ₹5,000 each. Meanwhile, three co-accused who had absconded initially were later acquitted in 2017, a verdict upheld by the High Court in 2024.

The Bench noted the inconsistency of convicting alleged facilitators when the main assailants had already been acquitted on the same evi-

dence. "When on the same set of evidence, the main assailants stood acquitted... the conviction of the co-accused on the same evidence would not sustain," the judges observed.

The court also rejected the State's reliance on conspiracy charges, pointing out that no such charge was framed in the charge-sheet, and the acquittal of co-accused effectively ruled out that theory.

Allowing the appeal, the High Court set aside the convictions and sentences of the three appellants and discharged them of their bail bonds. The court also declined the criminal reference for confirmation of their life terms, bringing closure to one of the region's longest-running criminal trials.

Brahma Kumaris launch relief efforts for flood victims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the wake of the recent floods caused by heavy rainfall in Jammu, Brahma Kumaris Jammu, led by BK Sudarshan, launched a relief drive to support affected families living along the Tawi River.

The initiative, conducted in the presence of MLA Yudhvir

Sethi, involved the distribution of essential relief materials, including clothing, footwear, ration kits, utensils, and other vital supplies.

BK Sudarshan stated that the organisation remains committed to serving humanity, especially in times of crisis, by extending care and compassion to those in need.

Ritu Singh felicitated at BGIF



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a grand celebration of India's industrial resurgence, the Bharat Global Industries Forum (BGIF) hosted its landmark mega event at the iconic Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Rooted in the ethos of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch and dedicated to shaping India's industrial future, the forum brought together leading industrialists, policymakers, innovators, and changemakers in a showcase of the nation's march toward self-reliance and global prominence.

The event witnessed the august presence of eminent dignitaries, including Dr. Vikranjit Singh Sahney, MP; Rajya Sabha; A.S. Mittal, Vice Chairman, Sonalika Tractors; Madhusudan, Vice-President, Haldiram's; Bhupendra Yadav, Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change; R. Sundaram, National Convener, SJM; and

Satish Kumar, Akhil Bhartiya Co-convenor, SJM.

Amidst this distinguished gathering, Ritu Singh, scion of the Royal Dogra dynasty of Jammu and Kashmir, was felicitated for her extraordinary contributions to nation-building.

The honour recognized her unwavering commitment to empowering women, promoting indigenous entrepreneurship, and preserving India's rich cultural heritage through sustainable economic initiatives. Her leadership exemplifies the fusion of modern Indian vision with deep-rooted traditional values.

The national forum also featured strong representation from Jammu & Kashmir through Anita Sharma, Convener, and Deepali Handa, Co-Convener of the J&K Province, highlighting the region's active role in advancing the Swadeshi industrial movement.

Termination without enquiry unconstitutional: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has reinstated a young Special Police Officer (SPO) from Kishtwar, ruling that termination without enquiry or notice is unconstitutional and contrary to the principles of natural justice. Justice M.A. Chowdhary, while delivering judgment in WP(C) No. 270/2020, quashed the disengagement order issued against Tyed-ul-Firdous (24), resident of Puchhal, Kishtwar, who had been removed from service in October 2018 after serving more than four years as an SPO. Firdous was appointed as an SPO in August 2014 and served with the district police until October 2018, when he was suddenly removed on allegations of prolonged unauthorized absence. He challenged the disengagement, contending that no show cause notice or departmental enquiry was conducted before action was taken, making the order arbitrary and violative of his constitutional rights. The court empha-

sized that under Section 19 of the J&K Police Act, 1983, SPOs enjoy the same powers, privileges, protections and liabilities as ordinary police officers. When read with Rule 359 of the J&K Police Rules, 1960, this requires that no police officer can be dismissed or removed without being given a reasonable opportunity to defend himself.

"The disengagement of the petitioner without enquiry or notice is not legally and constitutionally permissible... Such action is arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional," Justice Chowdhary observed. The court set aside the disengagement order and directed that Firdous be reinstated as SPO. However, it clarified that he would not be entitled to honorarium for the intervening period of disengagement. At the same time, the Bench granted liberty to the authorities to initiate proper disciplinary proceedings against him, if necessary, but directed that any such enquiry must be completed within two months.

Dogri needs revival through innovation, technology & youth: Prof. Umesh Rai



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Speaking at the Cheten Di Lari Scholarship event during the 10th Kunwar Viyogi Utsav 2025, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, issued a strong call to action for the revival of Dogri. He warned that Dogri risks extinction unless it is integrated with technology, connected to global languages like Sanskrit, English, Urdu, and Punjabi, and translated for wider reach. Prof. Rai highlighted the University's ongoing efforts to promote Doggar culture under the banner of Jammuryat and pointed to the declining admissions in

the Dogri Department. The event, jointly organised by the Departments of Dogri and English, also witnessed the unveiling of the blueprint of the upcoming Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium by architect and KVM Trustee Aarushi Juneja Janwal. She described the 150-seater semi-hexagonal structure as a modern, inclusive space for nurturing language, literature, and the performing arts. Meritorious students were awarded scholarships instituted by the Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust. Rupali Devi, Pankaj Sharma, and Aisha Talhat received awards for academic excellence in MA Dogri

and English. Trust Founder Poonam Singh Janwal questioned the absence of Dogri writers in school curricula and called for equal representation of regional and English writers, including Kunwar Viyogi, whose works like Temple Bells of Jammu deserve global recognition. Music director Brij Mohan introduced a new Dogri bhajan Maaauwa sung by Padma Shri Anoop Jalota, and emphasised the role of music in reviving Dogra identity.

Padma Shri awardees Lalit Mangotra and Mohan Singh Sathia urged the University to integrate comparative literature and technology to broaden Dogri's reach and job potential.

The event concluded with the launch of a student journal and cultural performances, reaffirming that Dogri's future lies in active revival through education, creativity, and collective resolve.