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3 new ...

These reforms, he said, are not just about legal provisions but about transforming the justice delivery mechanism to make it faster, more accessible, and responsive to the needs of every citizen, including those living in remote regions like Ladakh.”

The Lt Governor highlighted Ladakh’s preparedness in adopting the new laws, commending Ladakh Police for providing extensive training to personnel, equipping investigating officers with tablets and CUG SIMs for digital evidence collection, and conducting mock drills across districts.

He said Ladakh Police had also taken initiatives to spread awareness among citizens through social media, TV, radio, schools, colleges, trade unions, women’s groups, and NGOs.

Applauding their achievements, Shri Gupta noted that Kargil Police Station became the first in the country to register a case under the new laws, filing a chargesheet within five days and securing conviction.

He also mentioned that the Zero FIR system has been successfully integrated with CCTNS, Ladakh has become the first UT to adopt MedLEaPR for instant medico-legal reports, and all police stations have been connected to the CCTNS CAS application for transparent and digital case management.

“This exhibition reflects our commitment to a citizen-centric and technology-driven justice system. Through live demos, mock cases, and digital policing displays, people can see how the new framework is being implemented effectively in Ladakh,” the Lt Governor said and congratulated Ladakh Police and nodal officers for their tireless efforts and expressed hope that the two-day programme would prove highly beneficial for all.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, in his address, informed the audience about the criminal laws introduced during the British era and the recent enactment of three new criminal laws aimed at replacing them to ensure speedy justice through the use of modern technology. He underlined the provision of community service as a new form of punishment that would help reduce the number of undertials in prisons.

He also highlighted the efforts of the UT Ladakh Administration to establish a strong prosecuting wing and set up a modern, fully equipped forensic laboratory in the Union Territory.

DGP Ladakh, Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, IPS, in his address, highlighted the challenges faced by the Ladakh Police in implementing the new criminal laws in the region.

He, however, praised the force for being one of the pioneering police units in India to enforce these laws despite Ladakh being a newly formed Union Territory. He expressed hope that the new laws would contribute to a crime-free society in Ladakh and inspire more young people to join the police force.

Earlier, a play on the BNSS Act 2023 was also performed on the occasion.

The event was attended by LAHDC Leh Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, DGP Ladakh Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, Executive Councillors and Councillors from LAHDC Leh; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar; Principal District and Sessions Judge, Leh, Manoj Parihar; head of religious, political organisations, members of Civil Society Organisations, former MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Vice-Chancellor, UoL, Prof Saket Kushwaha; Vice-Chancellor, CIBS, Prof Rajesh Ranjan; officials from Ladakh Police, heads of departments, government officials and students from various schools were present during the occasion.

At SCO ...

Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

In his remarks, the prime minister said India has been bearing the "grave scars of ruthless terrorism" for the last four decades.

"Countless mothers have lost their children, and innumerable children have been left orphaned. Recently, we witnessed the most heinous face of terrorism in Pahalgam," he said.

"This attack was not only an assault on the conscience of India, but also an open challenge to every nation, and every individual who believes in humanity," he said.

Modi expressed his "deep gratitude" to all the friendly nations that stood by India during this moment of grief.

The prime minister, elaborating on India's vision and policy towards the grouping, floated an acronym for SCO. "S for Security, C for Connectivity and O for Opportunity," he explained.

"I would like to emphasise that security, peace, and stability form the foundation of any nation's development. However, terrorism, separatism, and extremism remain major challenges along this path."

Modi said terrorism is not only a threat to the security of individual nations, but a "shared challenge to all of humanity".

"No country, no society, no citizen can consider themselves completely safe from it. That is why India has consistently stressed the importance of unity in the fight against terrorism," he said.

The prime minister also underlined the importance of connectivity for regional growth and development.

"We believe that every effort towards connectivity must uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is also enshrined in the core principles of the SCO Charter," he said.

"Connectivity, that by-passes sovereignty, ultimately loses both trust and meaning," he added.

The prime minister also proposed the creation of a Civilizational Dialogue Forum under the SCO.

"Such a platform will allow us to share the richness of our ancient civilisations, art, literature, and traditions on a global stage," he said.

The prime minister also emphasised on ensuring the development of the Global South.

Keeping aspirations of the Global South confined to outdated frameworks is a grave injustice to future generations, he said.

Highlighting India's development journey, Modi said it is moving ahead with the mantra of "reform, perform and transform".

"We are consistently pursuing wide-ranging reforms, which are creating new opportunities for both national development and international cooperation. I warmly invite you all to be a part of India's development journey," he said.

Be it Covid or global economic instability, we have tried to convert every challenge into an opportunity, he said.

Addressing the 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, PM stressed India's three-pillar vision for the grouping — Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity.

The Prime Minister sent a strong message linked to the

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) without naming it directly. “Connectivity that bypasses sovereignty loses trust and meaning. Connectivity projects should respect the sovereignty of nations,” he said.

Turning to opportunity, Modi said India had infused new energy into SCO cooperation under its chairmanship in 2023, introducing areas such as start-ups, innovation, youth empowerment, and shared Buddhist heritage. He proposed setting up a Civilizational Dialogue Forum to strengthen cultural ties.

On global reforms, Modi called for modernization of multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations.

The Prime Minister concluded by reiterating India's commitment to cooperation within the SCO and extended best wishes to Kyrgyzstan's President Japarov, who will take over as the next chair.

LAB—KDA ...

Riginz Jora, educationist Sonam Wangchuk and other prominent figures from Leh, while KDA's delegation was led by Qammar Ali Akhoon, Asgar Ali Karbalai, Asgar Ali Karbalai, Sajjad Hussain, Sheikh Hasnain, Nasir Hussain Munshi and Kunzes Dolma. Their unified endorsement reflected an unusual convergence of voices that have historically stood on opposite sides of Ladakh's political spectrum.

The resolution further cautioned the Union Government against interfering in the internal composition of the Apex Body Leh and the KDA. Both groups asserted that they would retain exclusive authority in constituting their high-powered committees and sub-committees, thereby signaling an unambiguous claim to autonomy in internal decision-making.

Karbalai, while addressing the media, announced that the agitation for Ladakh's demands would be intensified. He noted that the form, timing and strategy of the agitation would be communicated separately, reiterating that the movement is rooted in the aspirations of the people of Ladakh.

The meeting also strongly condemned the recent cancellation of a land allotment in Phayang for the proposed university of the Himalayan Institute of Alternative Learning (HIAL), an institution founded by Sonam Wangchuk. The leaders termed the action of the UT administration, allegedly at the behest of the Ministry of Home Affairs, as a “witch hunt” aimed at suppressing Ladakh’s collective voice on the Four Point Agenda.

Expressing grave concern over the imposition of DANICS and DANIPS cadres in Ladakh, the gathering declared the move unacceptable and recalled that the issue had previously been ruled out of negotiations. Karbalai warned that any further attempt by the Ministry of Home Affairs in collusion with the UT administration to impose these cadres would invite severe consequences, holding the administration solely responsible for any eventual fallout.

The leaders reiterated their demand for the establishment of a Public Service Commission as had been discussed and agreed during the meeting of the High Powered Committee. They also condemned what they described as unilateral action against gobas, a vital component of Ladakh's traditional tribal system, warning that any interference with this institution would be met with strong resistance.

In his address, Karbalai issued an appeal to the people of Ladakh to remain prepared for the next course of action. While emphasizing that the Apex Body and KDA remain committed to peaceful dialogue, he cautioned that their conciliatory approach should not be mistaken for weakness. He added that Ladakhi leadership would only engage in substantive, agenda-driven negotiations and rejected dialogue for the sake of formality.

Speaking separately to The Earth News, Sonam Wangchuk reiterated his claim that he has credible information from a highly reliable source indicating that the UT administration is preparing to raid his school, university, and affiliated establishments by sending teams of the Enforcement Directorate—an action he described as a pressure tactic aimed at suppressing his voice.

Reacting to the recent remarks of Chief Executive Councillor, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson—who alleged that Wangchuk was attempting to mislead the people of Ladakh with fabricated stories lacking substance and credibility—Wangchuk said, “Although I have been informed by a very senior politician from the ruling party that the administration is about to target my establishments by sending the ED, I have no objection and will welcome the officials for any lawful inspection. However, since the CEC Leh has denied such a possibility, I have no objection to that either. In fact, I welcome such generosity,” he quipped.

UT Admn...

Stanzin, at the LG Secretariat.

The Lt Governor assured the members that the UT Administration is 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.

He also urged the delegation to actively participate in monitoring relief measures and provide feedback to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Reiterating the UT Administration’s commitment, Kavinder Gupta affirmed that the recovery efforts would not only address immediate needs but also strengthen the region’s capacity to withstand future natural calamities, fostering sustainable development and resilience.

Earlier, the Councillor from Chushul apprised the Lt Governor about the damages caused by the flash flood on August 12 in Maan and Merak villages. He further apprised the LG about the challenges being faced by people in flood-hit regions, particularly in terms of connectivity, housing, and livelihood.

Similarly, a delegation from Liktse village led by His Eminence Khamtak Rinpoche met the Lt Governor and requested assistance for the sustenance of 1.5 saplings planted over the last three years, along with assistance for developing a community centre where traditional education can be provided to the youth.

A delegation comprising artisans also met the Lt Governor and apprised him of the upcoming Enchanting Ladakh and India International Trade Fair (IITF). They also requested the shifting of stalls of Ladakhi artisans at Dilli Haat.

A delegation comprising members of All Ladakh Transport Association met the Lt Governor and submitted their demands regarding blacktopping, parking space and basic facilities at the site of transport unions in Bomb Garh.

Giving a patient hearing to the visiting delegations, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his satisfaction over the constructive discussions with all delegations and assured that their concerns and suggestions will be given priority in the ongoing recovery and development plans.

He reaffirmed that the UT Administration is fully committed to not only restoring the flood-affected areas but also pro-

moting livelihood opportunities, cultural preservation, and infrastructure development across the region.

Kavinder Gupta emphasised that continuous engagement with local communities and stakeholders will remain a cornerstone of the UT Administration’s approach, ensuring that development initiatives are inclusive, transparent, and sustainable. He reiterated the UT Administration’s resolve to build a safer, resilient, and prosperous Ladakh.

CEC welcomes ...

J&K Bank.

Dr Akhoon stressed that engaging local youth would help create a more customer-friendly environment, improve service delivery, and strengthen customer care by leveraging their familiarity with the community and its needs.

He also requested the opening of new branches, particularly in rural areas, and called for an urgent establishment of a branch and ATM near the Council Secretariat, given the high demand in the area due to the presence of government departments and educational institutions.

Responding to these concerns, Ishfaq Sarwar Malik assured that J&K Bank would extend all possible services and emphasized the importance of collective efforts and cooperation for mutual growth and development.

Modi-led ...

nothing left in the house after last week's deluge," Bhan Singh, a resident of Manguchak, told PITI.

The middle-aged man said he has never witnessed such a flood in his life. "It damaged all household goods like refrigerators, air-conditioners and even clothes," he added.

Another resident, Chain Dass, said he was lucky to survive the deluge, which submerged the entire village.

"We are happy that the home minister visited us and took stock of the situation," he said, hoping that authorities will drain the water and take steps to ensure that such a flood never recurs.

He claimed that the village got flooded due to the construction of a circular road.

After conducting the tour, Shah returned to the Raj Bhawan and chaired three back-to-back meetings attended by Sinha, Abdullah, Sharma, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat and several officials of the Centre and the Union Territory administration on the floods and relief efforts.

He held another meeting that was attended by senior Army, police, paramilitary and intelligence officers, discussing the border security grid, which was also impacted by the flash floods, and the prevailing security situation, the officials said, adding that there was another meeting with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators.

More than 130 people have been killed and 33 have gone missing in cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in Kishtwar, Kathua, Reasi and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir since August 14.

The dead include 34 pilgrims who were hit by a landslide en route to the Vaishno Devi shrine on August 26.

Record rainfall on August 26-27 caused flash floods in low-lying areas in Jammu and other plains, causing heavy damage to infrastructure.

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented monsoon onslaught, with Jammu logging 380 mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period ending at 8:30 am on Wednesday, the highest ever recorded in the city since 1910, when the observatory was set up.

Udhampur received the highest recorded rainfall of 630 mm for the same 24-hour period, surpassing the earlier highest of 342 mm on July 31, 2019, a spokesperson of the meteorological department said.

This is the home minister's second visit to Jammu in three months.

Before this, he had visited the district on May 29, nearly three weeks after the armed forces carried out strikes on terror infrastructure across the border in reprisal for the April 22 Pahalgam attack, in which terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Jammu on August 24 to take stock of the situation following cloudburst-triggered flash floods in Kishtwar district's Chisoti village.

Singh's plan to visit the devastated village, on the way to the Machail Mata shrine, was scuppered by inclement weather and the blocking of a road by a fresh landslide in Paddar sub-division.

Sixty-five people, mostly pilgrims, were killed, more than 100 were injured and 32 went missing after the Chisoti flash floods on August 14.

Meanwhile, amid heavy rainfall in Katra town on Monday, the pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district since a landslide on a yatra route claimed 34 lives last Tuesday.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board said it has cancelled all bookings, including helicopters and accommodations, with a 100 per cent refund until the yatra is resumed.

"Yatra has remained suspended for the past one week. Bad weather conditions still persist, so the decision to continue the suspension of yatra has been taken keeping in view the safety of pilgrims," an official said.

Heavy rains began in Katra and the Trikuta hills, the abode of the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, on Monday.

Helicopter services from Katra to Bhawan, ropeway rides from Bhawan to Bhairon Ghati, hotel accommodations, and other yatra-related bookings have all been cancelled, officials said.

"All bookings stand cancelled with 100 percent refund until the yatra is suspended. Send cancellation requests with details to refund@maavaishnodevi.net.

"Earlier self-cancellations will receive pending refunds within 15 days," the Board announced on X.

Reasi district is one of the worst-hit areas in the Union Territory due to the current spell of heavy rains. A landslide triggered by a cloudburst struck the route to the shrine at Adhkuwari in the Trikuta hills of the Katra belt last Tuesday, killing 34 pilgrims and injuring 20 others.

The yatra was suspended on Tuesday last till further orders. It was followed by the constitution of a high-level three-member inquiry committee by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The committee will be spearheaded by Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Jal Shakti, J&K, and will also include the Divisional Commissioner and the Inspector General of Police, Jammu.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary had accused the Lieutenant Governor administration of allowing the yatra to the cave shrine despite a warning on the weather front.

The Shrine Board has refuted allegations of allowing the yatra to proceed in disregard of weather advisories and at the cost of pilgrim safety, saying that the pilgrimage was suspended at noon on August 26, ahead of the cloudburst that triggered the landslide.

622 killed...

11:47 p.m. local time, centred about 27 kilometres east-northeast of the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, according to the US Geological Survey, reports CBS News.

The tremor was 8km deep, making it especially destructive.

The quake was followed by several aftershocks, including a shallow 5.2-magnitude jolt just after dawn, which sent residents fleeing their homes again. Buildings shook as far away as Kabul and Islamabad, more than 350 km to the south.

Sharafat Zaman, a spokesman for Afghanistan’s Ministry of Public Health on X confirmed that most of the casualties were reported in Kunar province, where more than 610 people were confirmed dead and 1,300 injured. In Nangarhar, at least a dozen fatalities and hundreds of injuries were reported.

Footage from the disaster zone showed desperate residents digging through collapsed homes with their bare hands in the darkness, pulling out survivors and bodies underneath the rubble.

Helicopters and ambulances ferried the wounded to hospitals, while makeshift stretchers carried others to waiting medical teams.

“The quake has killed hundreds and destroyed many houses,” Zaman said. “Rescue operations are ongoing, with medical teams dispatched from Kunar, Nangarhar and the capital, Kabul.”

The United Nations confirmed that its humanitarian staff were working alongside local responders in the stricken provinces.

“Our teams are on the ground, delivering emergency assistance and lifesaving support. Our thoughts are with the affected communities,” the UN mission in Afghanistan said on X.

The full scale of the devastation is still emerging, with officials warning that the death toll likely to rise as rescue workers reach remote villages. The terrain in Kunar and Nangarhar is rugged and difficult to access, with limited road networks and poor infrastructure slowing relief efforts.

Many of the homes in the area are built from clay, stone and mud, leaving them highly vulnerable to earthquakes.

Residents interviewed in Kunar described losing entire families when their houses crumbled. Survivors spent the night in the open, fearing further aftershocks, as temperatures dropped and rain threatened to worsen conditions.

Afghanistan is prone to earthquakes, particularly in the Hindu Kush mountain range, where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. In June 2022, a 6.1-magnitude earthquake in Paktika province killed more than 1,000 people in what was then the country’s deadliest quake in two decades.

Monday night’s quake adds to Afghanistan’s ongoing humanitarian crisis. The country is already grappling with widespread poverty, food shortages, and a strained health care system, exacerbated by international sanctions and the withdrawal of foreign aid since the Taliban takeover in 2021.

SCO concurs

said the member states support the further improvement and reform of the global economic governance architecture and will consistently uphold and strengthen an open, transparent, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory and multilateral trading system based on rules promoting the development of an open global economy.

The declaration mentioned ways to enhance regional security and identified combating terrorism as a major challenge.

"The member states strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22," it said.

The SCO member states also condemned the terror attacks in Khuzdar and on Jaffer Express, both in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

"They (member states) expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the dead and the wounded. They further stated that perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of such attacks must be brought to justice," according to the declaration.

It said the SCO, while reaffirming their firm commitment to the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, stress the inadmissibility of attempts to use terrorist, separatist and extremist groups for "mercenary purposes".

"The member states strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, stress that double standards in the fight against terrorism are unacceptable, and call on the international community to combat terrorism, including cross-border movement of terrorists," it said.

The SCO said the UN has the central role to fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolution and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, in order to jointly combat all terrorist groups.

The SCO member states also strongly condemned the military strikes by Israel and the US against Iran in June.

"Such aggressive actions against civilian targets, including nuclear energy infrastructure, which resulted in the death of civilians, are a gross violation of the principles and norms of international law and the UN Charter, and an infringement on the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the declaration said.

"They undermine regional and international security and have serious implications for global peace and stability," it said.

KBC 17 ...

the team trained tirelessly to follow their passion for the sport. Their journey from frozen lakes in Ladakh to the international arena is a story of courage, perseverance, and unwavering resolve.

On the KBC stage, the players spoke about their struggles — from finding equipment to practicing in sub-zero temperatures — and how their love for ice hockey kept them going. Amitabh Bachchan, visibly moved by their determination, praised them for breaking barriers and making India proud.

“In a place as beautiful yet challenging as Ladakh, pursuing ice hockey is no small feat,” Bachchan remarked. “But these daughters of India have proved that no dream is too distant when courage leads the way. You are true champions, and the pride of our nation.”

Season after season, Kaun Banega Crorepati continues to share real stories of extraordinary Indians, and this episode highlighted how the women of Ladakh are not only transforming Indian ice hockey but also inspiring countless young girls to chase their dreams against all odds.