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Five soldiers martyred...

from the scene of the gunfight, he said.

The Bravehearts who were martyred include Nb Subedar Jaswinder Singh, SM, resident of VPO- Mana Talwandi, Distt- Kapurthala, Punjab; Nk Mandeep Singh, resident of Vill- Chalha, PO- Sirha, Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab; Sep Gajjan Singh, resident of Vill- Panchranda, PO- Jhaj, Distt- Ropar, Punjab; Sep Saraj Singh, resident of Vill- Akhtyarpur Dhavkal, PO- Bhabhi, Distt- Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh and Sep Vaisakh H, resident of Vill- Odanavattam, PO- Kudavattoor, Distt- Kollam, Kerala.

The encounter with the terrorists was going on and further details are awaited, the spokesman said in the evening.

There has been a spurt in terrorist attacks in recent weeks in which several civilians, including a prominent Kashmiri Pandit businessman and a school teacher, were killed.

The officials said there were inputs about the presence of a group of heavily-armed terrorists in Chamrer forest after they managed to sneak from across the LoC.

After the initial encounter, the terrorists fled to nearby Bhangai village, which falls in Rajouri district, and an encounter is underway to neutralise the ultras, they said, adding all possible escape routes have been plugged.

The twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, resulting in the killing of nine terrorists in separate encounters.

Three soldiers also laid down their lives in the previous operations.

Activists of Shiv Sena and Dogra Front held anti-Pakistan protests after the death of five army personnel and burnt an effigy of the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress expressed shock and grief over the martyrdom of five Army personnel and urged the BJP-led government to take effective measures to contain Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the Union Territory.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president G A Mir and other senior party leaders described the terrorist attack as a "cowardly act" and saluted the bravery of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

The party, in a statement, expressed serious concern over the rising incidents of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

JKPCC Vice President and former Minister Raman Bhalla said. "My thoughts are with the families of those martyred while fighting terrorists. The sacrifices of the brave martyrs will never be forgotten. May the injured recover at the earliest. I salute the supreme sacrifice made for the nation by these bravehearts."

2 terrorists killed...

into an encounter after terrorists opened fire on the security forces, who retaliated, he said.

The police official said that while one terrorist has been killed, a policeman suffered injuries.

He added that the operation is going on.

In another encounter, which broke out at Gundjahangir in Bandipora district's Hajin area, a Lashkar-e-Toba terrorist was killed.

"Killed terrorist has been identified as Intiyaz Ahmad Dar affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF). He was involved in recent civilian killing at Shahgund Bandipora," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar tweeted.

Home Minister Amit...

top functionaries of the state government.

The home minister will be in Andaman and Nicobar Islands from October 15 to 17 and during his tour, he will take stock of various development initiatives in the archipelago, an official from the ministry said.

He is expected to visit the Cellular jail and attend programmes related to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' there.

Shah will go to Jammu and Kashmir for three days from October 23 to 25 as part of the central government's mega outreach programme in which 70 Union ministers are visiting the UT, the official said.

During his trip, Shah will visit remote areas of the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region, and take stock of various development initiatives.

The home minister will also attend a high-level law and order meeting with senior officials of the UT administration, the police, the paramilitary and the Army, another official said.

A number of central ministers have already visited the UT while tours of several others are in the pipeline.

Shah will also visit Uttarakhand on October 30 during which he will hold meetings with top functionaries of the state government, the official said.

Security cover of...

while condemning the recent targeted killings of civilians, said some unscrupulous elements have attempted to damage the communal fabric of the society in J-K, which upholds a long history of brotherhood and hospitality.

He said he, along with SSP Kupwara Yougal Manhas, interacted with the migrant community residing at a migrant colony and other places.

Various issues were discussed with them and on the demand of residents, solar lights were installed in the colony, he told reporters.

Inamuddin assured all necessary support to the migrant community and said there was no need to panic.

He said a nodal officer has been designated to keep a close liaison with the community for instant redressal of their issues.

He appealed to all stakeholders to come together and denounce the nefarious elements who are hell-bent to damage the peaceful atmosphere.

Manhas assured full cooperation to the minority community and said police will not allow any element to damage the peace and congenial atmosphere in the district

He said necessary security has been provided wherever required.

India, China fail...

of Uttarakhand on August 30.

In its statement, the Indian Army said the Indian side pointed out that the situation along the LAC had been caused by "unilateral attempts" by the Chinese side to alter the status quo and in violation of the bilateral agreements.

"The Indian side pointed out that the situation along the LAC had been caused by unilateral attempts of Chinese side to alter the status quo and in violation of the bilateral agreements," the Army said.

"It was therefore necessary that the Chinese side take appropriate steps in the remaining areas so as to restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the Western sector," it added.

The Indian side also referred to the talks between the Chinese and Indian foreign ministers last month in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe on the sidelines of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

"This would also be in accord with the guidance provided by the two foreign ministers in their recent meeting in Dushanbe where they had agreed that the two sides should resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the Indian Army statement said.

"The Indian side emphasised such resolution of the remaining areas would facili-

tate progress in the bilateral relations," it added.

The Indian Army statement also said the two sides have agreed to maintain communications and also to maintain stability on the ground, the statement said.

"It is our expectation that the Chinese side will take into account the overall perspective of bilateral relations and will work towards early resolution of the remaining issues while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols," it added.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zhao Lijian alleged that the Indian statement has "no factual basis" and that the Chinese side made great efforts to ease the border situation. "However, the Indian side still persisted with unreasonable and unrealistic demands which added difficulties to the negotiations. China is firm in its resolve to safeguard national sovereignty," Zhao told a regular media briefing in Beijing.

The Chinese PLA statement had also said that China's determination to safeguard sovereignty is "unwavering", and that it hopes India will not misjudge the situation and take actions with sincerity to safeguard the peace at the border.

The Indian delegation for the Sunday talks was led by Lt Gen PGK Menon, the Commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, while the Chinese side was headed by Maj Gen Zhao Zhidan.

On Saturday, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane said if the Chinese military continues with its large-scale deployment in the eastern Ladakh region, then the Indian Army too will maintain its strength on its side which he said is "as good as what the PLA has done."

The border standoff between the armies of India and China erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the Gogra area in August and in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February.

The two sides held the 12th round of talks on July 31. Days later, the two armies completed the disengagement process in Gogra, which was seen as a significant forward movement towards the restoration of peace and tranquillity in the region.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the mountainous sector.

AC enhances mandate...

on Small Hydro-Projects will also provide indirect employment/entrepreneurial opportunities in the field of transportation, tourism and other small scale businesses. On the basis of this decision, 70 Small Hydro-Projects shall be completed within 54 months in EPC/IPP mode after allotment of the site. As most of the hydropower potential is located in the higher reaches, it will result in overall socio-economic development of the region by providing direct employment in the power sector.

PM launches 'Indian...

decisive government in India as it is today. The major reforms that are happening in India today in the Space Sector and Space Tech are an example of this. He congratulated all of those present for the formation of the Indian Space Association - (ISPA).

The Prime Minister remarked that the Government's approach to space reforms is based on 4 pillars-First, the freedom of innovation to the private sector; Second, the role of the government as an enabler; Third, preparing youth for the future; and fourth, to see the space sector as a resource for the progress of the common man.

The Prime Minister said that the space sector is a major medium for the progress of 130 crore countrymen. He remarked that for India, the space sector means better mapping, imaging and connectivity facilities for the common people.

Also, the space sector means better speed from shipment to delivery for entrepreneurs, this also means better security and income for fishermen and better forecast of the natural calamity, he added.

The Prime Minister remarked that a self-reliant India campaign is not just a vision but also a well-thought, well-planned, integrated economic strategy. A strategy that will make India a global manufacturing powerhouse by enhancing the skills capabilities of India's entrepreneurs and India's youth. A strategy that will make India a global centre of innovations, based on India's technological expertise.

He added that it is a strategy, which will play a big role in global development, enhancing the prestige of India's human resources and talent, globally.

The Prime Minister said the government is moving ahead with a clear policy regarding public sector enterprises and is opening most of these sectors to private enterprises where the government is not required. The decision regarding Air India shows our commitment and seriousness, he said.

The Prime Minister said that, during the last 7 years, space technology has been converted into a tool of last-mile delivery and leakage-free, transparent governance. He gave examples of the use of geotagging in housing units for the poor, roads and infrastructure projects. Development projects are being monitored by satellite imaging. The space technology is being used in settlement of Fasal Bima Yojna claims, NAVIC system is helping fishermen, disaster management planning is also being carried out through this technology, the Prime Minister informed. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of making technology accessible to everyone. Giving an example of digital technology, he said that India is among the top digital economies today because we could make the power of data accessible to the poorest of the poor.

Talking about the young entrepreneurs and startups, the Prime Minister said that the government encourages industry, young innovators and startups at every level. He elaborated that to develop a strong startup ecosystem, a platform approach is very important. He defined the platform system as "an approach where the government creates open-access public controlled platforms and makes that available to the industry and enterprises. Entrepreneurs prepare new solutions on this basic platform".

The Prime Minister illustrated this with the example of the platform of UPI which became the basis of a strong fintech network. He said similar platforms are being encouraged in space, geospatial fields and for use of drones in various areas.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that through the suggestions of the gathering today and active engagement of the stakeholders very soon a better Spacecom policy and Remote Sensing Policy will emerge.

The Prime Minister noted how the 20th-century tendency of trying to rule the space and the space sector; divided the countries of the world. Now in the 21st century, India will have to ensure that space plays an important role in uniting and connecting the world, he concluded.

Dr Jitendra, while speaking on the occasion, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has truly democratized India's Space sector and ensured that Space Technology benefits reach the common man. Space technology has today entered every Indian household, he said.

Under his inspiring leadership India, has achieved outstanding feats like, Mission Mangalyaan; Chandrayan which found water on moon as well as putting 104 satellites in a single mission, said Dr Jitendra.

Lawyers abstain from...

not constituted and notified the same till date.

There is no information about the pending cases and the files. For the convenience of the advocates and public at large, the location of the Central Administrative Tribunal, registration work and other tribunals must be shifted in the court premises under one roof, he said.

The government has already transferred the registration work to the revenue officers. Earlier the registration work was with the judicial officers in court premises but due to shifting of the registration work, the members of the bar and public at large are facing inconvenience and difficulties, he said.

Bhardwaj said the advocates who are working in far flung areas and courts would also face difficulties in contesting their debt recovery cases at Chandigarh and this decision will also affect the public at large.

It has come to our notice that there is no regular presiding officer for the last nearly two years at Chandigarh and members of the Debt Recovery Tribunal Bar Association Chandigarh are on strike against the non-availability of bench at Chandigarh, he said.

After resigning from...

business organisations, primarily demanding restoration of statehood for the Jammu region and not for the whole Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2019, the Centre had revoked the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

NC gets another...

two municipal corporators, one block president and several district and block committee members of National Conference from Jammu district resigned from the party and conveyed their support to Rana, an aide in the office of Rana said.

He said the leaders, who resigned from the National Conference include Arshad Choudhary, Provincial Secretary Jammu Province, Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, District President, Jammu Urban, Som Nath Khajuria, District President Jammu Rural 'A' and Ashok Singh Manhas Block President Bhalwal & Municipal Corporator; Sucha Singh Municipal Corporator; Rekha Langeh, Block President Women Wing, Block Mathwar.

Meanwhile, members of the District Committee J&K National Conference, District Jammu Urban also tendered their resignations from their posts as also from the basic membership of the party.

They include Sucha Singh, Sanjeev Gupta, Sanjeev Handa, Ajeet Pal Singh, Dalbir Singh, Rahul Sharma, Sanjeev Dewan, Kuldeep Ghai, Jaswinder Singh, Sanjeev Mahajan, Gurinder Singh all vice Presidents and Ashok Kumar, Jt. Secretary of district Jammu Urban Block Committee members of J&K National Conference Block Jammu West have also tendered their resignations.

They include Surinder Khanna, Block Secretary, Rajinder Bandral, Chain Singh Jamwal, Balram Singh Anthal and Kulbushan Singh Block Vice Presidents of Block Jammu West.

7 districts achieve...

conducted in the last 24 hours.

Till date 3629322 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 7952 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1049 in isolation and 458261 in home surveillance. Besides, 3157634 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases reported during the past 24 hours, the Bulletin said that Srinagar reported 22 cases, Baramulla reported 05 cases, Budgam reported 08 cases, Pulwama reported 01 case, Kupwara reported 06 cases, Anantnag reported no case, Bandipora reported no case, Ganderbal reported 02 cases while Kulgam and Shopian reported no fresh cases for today.

Similarly, Jammu reported 04 cases, Udhampur reported no case, Rajouri reported 04 cases, Doda reported no cases, Kishtwar reported no case, Poonch reported 01 case while Samba, Kathua, Ramban and Reasi reported no fresh cases for today.

Cong attacks Modi...

FDI come in big numbers after the abrogation of Article 370. The reply is a big no," he said.

He claimed that the employment level and capital inflow got reduced in comparison to the era when Article 370 was in place.

"Whatever you do is for political reasons and not for the betterment of people. Today terrorist activities in Kashmir are increasing. Your misgovernance has led to all this," the Congress leader alleged.

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress expressed grief and shock over the killing of the Army personnel and urged the BJP-led government to take effective measures to contain Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the Union Territory.

The party described the terror-attack as a "cowardly" act and also paid rich tributes to the soldiers.

PM's idea of...

He appealed to young people to come forward and become a part of nation building. He said that trout farming has emerged as an important source of income and the people should take every possible benefit from it.

The Minister was apprised that the fisheries department has established hatcheries in all the districts and is supplying fingerling fish to the farmers. The Minister was also informed that sale centres have been established at various locations to increase the market availability of the trout.

Sikh delegation meets...

ensuring enhanced security arrangements for minority population of the UT. He reiterated that the government is committed to address all issues of minorities in J&K.

Downpour brings winter...

mountainous areas while rains lashed almost the entire Valley for several hours since Sunday evening, they said.

The maximum temperature recorded in Srinagar on Sunday fell by over two degrees to settle at 24.4 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature on Sunday night was below 10 degrees Celsius.

The downpour has ended an extended summer which saw the maximum day temperature hover around 30 degrees Celsius till the start of October this year.

The weatherman has forecast the possibility of light rain in Kashmir over the next 24 hours with another western disturbance likely to hit the valley on October 16 and 17.

D K Boora...

force's Jammu frontier, officials said.

Boora succeeds N S Jamwal who was elevated to the rank of additional director general (ADG) of BSF Western Command, Chandigarh, said DIG S P S Sandhu, a spokesperson for the force.

The officer has vast experience of serving in western and eastern command theatre, and before assuming charge here, he was posted as the IG BSF at eastern command, the spokesperson said.

Boora has also served in the prestigious SPG which looks after the after security of the country's prime minister, he said.

In his 35 years of service, Boora has been decorated with the President's Medal for Meritorious Service, Antrik Suraksha Seva Padak, and innumerable Directional General's Commendation Rolls.

He is an alumni of the BSF Academy Tekanpur. He joined the force in 1986. He also remained as the commando instructor in the BSF Academy, the PRO said.

Union MoS I&C commences visit to Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Continuing the public outreach initiative of the Central Government, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industries Anupriya Patel on Monday visited border district Rajouri. She is on a two-day tour to the district.

The MoS on the first day of her tour inaugurated the much-awaited Dhandani Bridge at Lamberi completed under a languishing scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 4.40 crore. While inaugurating the bridge, Smt. Patel said that the Union Government is committed to the all-round and equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir.

While attending a public outreach camp at GHSS Lamberi, the Minister inspected stalls installed by different Departments depicting their public welfare schemes/programs, local handicrafts products, fruits and vegetables. She also interacted with the staff to get ideas about how these welfare initiatives are being implemented on the ground.

In her address, the Minister said that

inclusive, all-round and substantial development of the Jammu and Kashmir UT is the major goal of the Union Government and much emphasis is being laid to push every sector to take the UT to newer heights and new levels of prosperity.

Highlighting the objectives of the special outreach programmes by the Central Government to the UT, she said that these programs are being organised to assess the situation relating to developmental and other aspects on the ground so that after taking proper stock of all this, appropriate measures are taken to further mitigate the development deficit for the larger public interest.

"For 70-yrs, Article 370 and 35 A kept J&K deprived of everything but after the abrogation of article 370 and 35 A, Jammu and Kashmir is ushering in a new era of development and people are getting what they were deprived of for 70 years", she said.

For industrial growth, she said that a new industrial policy has been launched

which is incentive based and with the development of industries, the young generation will have better employment avenues and hence a better life.

"Rs 25000 crore investment have been made as per new industrial policy but we are hopeful to touch the figure of Rs 500000 crore", she added.

She said that the objective for this huge investment is maximum utilization of industries, manufacturing, services sector, village industries, handicraft, tourism and technology to create more jobs in rural areas of Jammu & Kashmir because there is a vast and yet untapped talent pool in our villages waiting for an opportunity.

"To tap the export potential of agricultural and industrial products, the Government is engaging with states and union territories to implement the Districts as Export Hub (DEH) initiative in all districts of the country in a phased manner", she informed.

She further informed that under the DEH initiative, District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) have

been constituted in most of the districts and products/services with export potential have been identified in each district.

The Minister also stressed upon the market linkage and formulation of a suitable district export plan and asked the concerned to deliberate upon the core issues which need to be addressed to make the district an export hub and assured of all possible assistance from the Central Government in this regard.

While elaborating the measures being taken for the promotion of handlooms and handicrafts, she informed that special district plans are to be prepared in each district and value addition of the local handicrafts and handbook products would also be done.

She also felt delighted to know that the representation of women in Governance is fifty per cent and said women are nowhere less than the men in their calibre and the need of the time is to just provide them suitable opportunities where they can exhibit their talent.

Union Govt keen on holistic development of J&K: Danve

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has moved the Ministers of Union Cabinet to review the pace of progress of developmental activities being carried out in the UT of J&K under different sectors, Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal and Mines, Raosaheb Patil Danve on Monday said that the Union Government is keen on the holistic development of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister, who is on a 2-day visit of district Ramban in UT of J&K as a part of the Union Government's Public Outreach Programme, said this while addressing a public gathering at Sangaldan.

Congratulating the PRIs at

Sangaldan for actively participating in the electoral process and becoming member of District Development Council, the Minister appreciated the people in general and members of PRIs in particular for extending helping hand and cooperation in execution of railway project. He asked the PRIs to work in unison with administration to implement all developmental schemes at grass-root levels to ensure holistic development of their respective areas. He directed the construction agencies to explore possibilities to provide job opportunities to local qualified engineers. He asked people to register an organization to open a CBSE School in the area.

Highlighting various devel-

opmental projects being carried out in the UT of J&K, the Minister said that funds to the tune of Rs. 32000 crores are being spent to complete the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. He also urged upon the people to come forward to avail the benefits of schemes launched by the Union Government for their welfare and well-being.

Inspecting the Railway yard at Sangaldan, the Minister said that Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project is the most ambitious railway project in India post-Independence and added that executing agencies are working in full vigour to ensure its timely completion.

