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NIA arrests 9...

neighbouring country and also indulging in radicalisation of local youth for the purpose of recruiting and training them in handling of arms, ammunition and explosives," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said these terrorists and cadres have effected several terrorist acts including the killing of numerous innocent civilians and security personnel, and unleashed a reign of terror in the Kashmir valley, thereby challenging the writ of the state. The NIA said further investigation in the case continues.

Safety, security of...

teachers has been corrected.

The Div Com said this on Wednesday in response to a news item carried by a national daily. He said that all DCs of Kashmir division have been asked to take necessary measures for security of political leaders and representatives, besides ensure one to one meeting with the representative/ leaders of all the political parties for the redressal of their apprehensions regarding security, accommodation besides others.

Pole said that on his instructions the Deputy Commissioners/ SSPs are regularly paying visits at the migrant colonies/ accommodation and they are being briefed about the security/ confidence building measures, facilities and other arrangements being put in place by the Govt for their safety and security.

He also said that the Officers have been issued clear cut directions to preferably post these migrant employees in safe and secure zones instead of far flung and vulnerable areas for the time being.

16 districts achieve...

of above 18 years old. According to officials, 96,550 doses of vaccine were administered in the last 24 hours across the UT bringing the cumulative number of doses administered here to 13,430,141. Across J&K, 99.89 percent of the population above the age of 18 years has been vaccinated. On Covid status, the officials said that 75 new positive cases of virus, 15 from Jammu division and 60 from Kashmir division, have been reported on Wednesday, thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 330741. Moreover, 122 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 44 from Jammu Division and 78 from Kashmir Division.

Sinha pays obeisance...

pilgrims. It will also showcase the awareness about various initiatives commenced by the Shrine Board for the facilitation of the pilgrims.

The project, to be accomplished in two phases includes installation of six large outdoor video walls at prominent locations on the track in the first phase, which was inaugurated today, and 20 Indoor LED screens at major establishments of the Shrine Board during the second phase.

The locations where the video walls would be displayed include Darshani Deodi Banganga, New Darshani Deodi Tarakote Marg, Langer Point at Tarakote Marg, Adhikwari Complex, Bhairoonji platform, and Sanjichhat platform.

This project would primarily facilitate the pilgrims by way of Live Atka Arti, Mata Ki Kahani (Stage Play), and Live Darshans on their way to Bhawan. Moreover, it will also provide advisory/display features (24X7) regarding Disaster Prone Locations on the track during rainy season and otherwise, besides, providing information of missing persons or items, and early warnings of weather forecast.

The project also provides general information to the visiting pilgrims such as medical & ambulance facilities, accommodation & catering arrangements, water & toilet locations, general announcements, assistance information, dos and don'ts, etc.

The Lt Governor directed the concerned officers to devise a Standard Operating Procedure for hi-tech Multipurpose Video Walls so that the facility could be utilized efficiently.

The SMVDSB in its continuous endeavours has recently taken various initiatives for the facilitation of the pilgrims, such as Mobile Application, Home Delivery of Pooja Prasad, round-the-clock Call Centre, e-library, and construction of Durga Bhawan besides others.

Besides Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Charandeep Singh Deputy Commissioner Reasi; Shalindra Singh, SSP Reasi and other officers of the Shrine Board, district administration, and police were present on the occasion.

LG visits family...

Patoli-Mangotri here and assured the family of all support from the Union Territory administration, the spokesperson said.

He told the bereaved family members that the administration fully stands with them in this hour of grief.

Two teachers -- Supinder Kour, a Srinagar-based Sikh, and Chand, a Hindu from Jammu -- were shot dead on October 7 by members of The Resistance Force (TRF), a shadow outfit of proscribed terror organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

They were killed two days after the outfit claimed responsibility for three more killings in the Union Territory.

Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit and the owner of Srinagar's most famous pharmacy, was shot dead at his shop on the evening of October 5. Minutes later, a "chaat" vendor, Virendra Paswan from Bihar, was gunned down elsewhere in the city. Around the same time, another civilian, Mohammad Shafi Lone, was killed at Naidkhain in Bandipora.

On October 2, terrorists shot dead Majid Ahmad Gojri at Srinagar's Karan Nagar locality and Mohammad Shafi Dar at the city's Batamaloo area.

Govt needs to....

Sikhs, both of whom had been targeted in the recent days.

"All of us should try our level best to ensure that we do not see a fresh exodus of minorities from Kashmir", he said, adding that no one community feels safer than the other.

"Whatever can be done to stem this and to restore the sense of security to these communities must be done. Obviously, the lion's share of this work has to be done by the administration but as the majority community, we also carry some of that responsibility. We must fulfil that responsibility", he told PTI in an interview here.

Castigating the administration for trying to "score propaganda and public relations victories rather than focus on the ground realities", Abdullah asked the authorities to "take a long hard look at why we have reached where we have".

CRIME REPORT

Cyber Police Kashmir busts KYC fraud gang

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar was receiving multiple complaints regarding KYC frauds wherein victims were receiving unsolicited communications in form of calls and SMS, urging them to call on some provided numbers for updating their KYC. Thereafter, the victims are asked to share certain personal details, account/login details/card information, PIN, OTP, installing some unauthorized/unverified application through links provided in the communication. Such communications have also been reported to include threats of bank account freezing, blocking or closure. When victims share information over a call/message or access unauthorized application, fraudsters gain access to customers' bank accounts and defraud them. Cyber Police Kashmir also learnt that the messages are sent out to people for updating their KYC on their mobiles. The messages sent to victims are in format as Dear xyz, your SIM card KYC documents will expire soon. Please call on 9xxxxxxxx9 our JIO customer care team. Service will be stopped within 24 hours. Thanks. When the complainants call on these numbers, the cyber criminals pose as representatives of leading telecom companies and ask callers to recharge by very small amounts like Rs 10, 15 etc through mobile apps.

The fraudsters make victims to download remote access applications like 'Anydesk, Quick Support or Team viewer' and then make them to provide their personal and financial details. When unaware victims follow their directions and make recharge payment, they receive messages related to withdrawal of money from their bank accounts. Huge amounts have been siphoned by the Cyber Criminals in Kashmir valley through these frauds.

On receiving such complaints, Cyber Police Kashmir registered FIR No. 19/2021 and started investigations. During the course of investigation, Cyber Police Kashmir Zone Srinagar tracked down two persons involved in such crimes who were arrested from a rented accommodation at New Theed Harwan area of Srinagar. They were identified as Mohammad Hanzala Beigh, son of Mohd Shafi, resident of Court Road Vailoo, Kokernag and Mohammad Rajab Khan, son of Ali Mohammad, resident of Wairad, Kokernag. During preliminary investigation, it came to fore that for illegal monetary gains, the accused persons in connivance with non-local cyber criminals operating from UP, Bihar and other states in

Abdullah, however, refrained from terming the recent attacks as an intelligence failure, saying: "... I think it's the failure to act on intelligence. That is a failure you cannot just blame the police for because the counter-militancy operations are conducted by police, paramilitary and military. It is the collective failure of our counter-insurgency grid."

He reasoned that for the last few months there has been chatter about targeted attacks against minorities, particularly against Kashmiri Pandits.

"So obviously, if somebody like me who has no association or anything like that with the government and is not privy to any intelligence reports, if I could hear this, then I am sure the intelligence agencies also picked it up and if they have picked it up, they would have passed it on to the people who matter," he said.

Expressing concern about locals joining various terror groups, he said this is an issue that the government and political parties should be concerned about.

I am not privy to statistics, I don't know the numbers but from my own colleagues, I do understand that this trend continues and it is not a trend limited to a particular area, we hear these reports from south, central and north Kashmir, he said.

"It is something that should concern us and again it is for the government to create the necessary conditions that these youngsters do not get attracted to the idea of picking up a gun," he added.

Abdullah recalled the statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 24 this year of removing dil ki doori and Dilli ki doori (removing distance between hearts and between Delhi and Srinagar) and suggested, "If we take some concrete steps in this direction, even this move towards joining militant tanzeem, I think we will be able to reduce it to a great extent. We may not be able to eradicate it but we will be able to reduce it".

Abdullah, however, cautioned against detaining people across the valley and said, "We need to be very careful not to get into knee-jerk reactions. Reactions for the sake of reacting, just because we have to show something, we do this."

"I am sure that I don't doubt that perhaps these 400 plus people have some sort of dossier with the government, for whatever reason -- whether they were involved in stone pelting, linked to proscribed organisations. The fact is, are they directly connected to this attack or is there any linkage between them and this attack?

"If there is, by all means proceed and file charges and let the courts decide about the guilt but this sort of random and wanton sort of arrest, it doesn't help the situation and in fact anything it makes the situation worse," Abdullah said while replying to a question about the recent crackdown by police in Kashmir and detaining over 400 people.

He said the government needs to be very careful and should not be seen as carrying out activities with a view to take revenge. Instead, it should be seen as an organisation or as an "entity that delivers justice by all means", he said.

Abdullah, who was the chief minister of the erstwhile state for six years between 2009-14, had been able to clear central and north Kashmir of terrorists and their supporters.

Asked whether he was disheartened that the place has been infested by terrorists again, he said: "Disheartened will perhaps be a strong term, disappointed and concerned yes because we know militants are moving around in areas that have been free of militancy.

"Srinagar city was completely cleared of militancy. Same is true for Ganderbal and Budgam districts. It is disappointing but again the government needs to take a long hard look at why these areas have been occupied again and then see what corrective measures the government needs to take. The corrective measures that are not at the cost of everybody, they know they have to be very careful how they go about their activities," he said.

Abdullah asserted that the situation in Afghanistan would have no impact on the security situation in Kashmir other than the distinct possibility that it may act as a morale booster for terror groups operating in the Union Territory.

Reacts to Rana....

"shielded Davinder Singh Rana and Salathiyas from the "sort of conspiracies in the party".

"In politics there are no permanent friends, no permanent interests, and no permanent enemy's just permanent interests," Omar Abdullah told Karan Thapar in an interview for national channel.

He said, "It clearly did not serve their interest to be associated with the National conference any longer. They are not the first people to leave the National conference, they won't be the last, we have survived many departures, we will continue to survive the departures," he said.

"He said more than a setback for his party, the National Conference; this was a personal loss for him. "Because I have invested a lot in my relationship particularly with Devendra. For years now I have been shielding Devendra Singh and to an extent salathiyas from the sort of conspiracies in the party," he said.

Omar Abdullah looked visibly upset and emotional and took his time before he answered about the resignation of Devendra Singh Rana.

The association with Devender Singh Rana goes back, as he put it, two decades and more.

India, European Union...

Health, Agriculture, Water, Renewable Energy, biotechnology, Electric mobility, ICT, AI, Robotics and Environment. He said that based on the good progress achieved so far, there is a need for advancing the overall India-EU Strategic Partnership through increased efforts on research and innovation.

The Minister said that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the global scenario of the economy and added that science and technology has to play a greater role to address this pandemic by bringing scientists and researchers together. He said, India under PM Modi led from the front in fighting COVID and today we are exporting the indigenously developed vaccines in response to global call of duty.

Dr Jitendra noted that the European Union has recently launched "Horizon Europe (2021-2027)", which is a planned 7-year European Union scientific research initiative and the EU is approaching Indian scientific agencies for its participation in Horizon Europe.

The Minister said, India is willing to participate in this programme provided some of the concerns on issues related to IPR Sharing, scope of the joint call, Signing of Model Grant Agreement and Joint Evaluation are addressed at the satisfaction of both the sides.

Dr Jitendra noted with satisfaction that India is closely collaborating with the European Union in the mission innovation programme which is currently led by EU. He said, India is closely involved in shaping up Mission Innovation 2.0 where focus will be on development of time bound missions with clear deliverables and resource commitment. At the same time India is engaged in development of platforms for

organised ways to cheat/defraud gullible citizens.

The typical mode of operation in such cases usually includes that these fraudsters withdraw money from accounts of victims and transfer it to bank accounts based in different parts of country and ultimately withdraw it. But a very unusual modus operandi was found wherein Kashmir-based bank accounts were found involved in this incident. The two arrested accused were found to have created dozens of local bank accounts fraudulently and provided the same along with their ATM Cards to co-accused located outside J&K. Most of the bank accounts have been created in the name of destitute women from South Kashmir and Srinagar, who have been provided some monetary benefits by arrested persons. Moreover, Cyber Police Kashmir also recovered 7 Mobile Phones, 13 Sim Cards, 47 ATM Debit/Credit cards of different banks, 36 FINO Bank account Kit books, 4 Cheque Books, 6 blank cheques, 7 Passbooks and other documents from their possession.

Rs 21,800 fine recovered from SoPs violators in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across the district Ramban, the Enforcement teams on Wednesday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance. The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 21,800 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs. 59,18,750.

The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC, District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr Suresh informed that as many as 1,995 persons were administered first and second COVID vaccine doses across Ramban district on Wednesday.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 1,485 samples including 351 RT-PCR and 1,134 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccine to 1,995 persons at dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

5 narco smugglers arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA/SAMBAL: Police on Wednesday arrested five narco smugglers in separate actions and recovered heroin from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Hiranagar led by Insp Anil Kumar Sharma SHO Hiranagar under supervision of SDPO Border Sachit Mahajan during Naka checking duty at NH Loni Morh noticed a Maruti Ciaz (JK08E-2492) moving from Jammu towards Kathua and signaled it to stop for checking. On thorough checking, a yellow polythene containing approximately 60 gm

high-level engagement of countries for clean energy transition, especially in the wake of climate change challenges, he added.

In his remarks, the EU Ambassador Ugo Astuto called for deepening people-to-people contact, apart from focusing on areas like clean energy, Genome Sequencing, Marine protected areas in Antarctica and Collaboration on research using high performance computing. The Ambassador also called for greater student exchange programme between India and EU and informed that 200 PhD and 80 higher scholars from India are pursuing scientific studies in the EU.

Astuto informed that in the area of Innovation, a pilot project on match making between Indian and EU Start-ups is underway. He also endorsed the Indian Minister's idea of increasing cooperation in the Blue Economy as Deep Sea mining has global ramifications. India and EU agreed for more structured meetings in near future on subject specific issues.

The EU Ambassador also thanked Dr Jitendra Singh for India's support for protecting the Antarctic environment by co-sponsoring the proposal of the European Union for designating East Antarctica and the Weddell Sea as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) recently.

Both sides agreed that IPR, data sharing and materials/equipment transfer would be done as per relevant provisions in India-EU S&T Agreement and principles and policies of IPR. A joint panel will be created to draft the IPR and data sharing mechanisms.

People-friendly Admin...

administration Samba to resolve the local issues at the earliest, besides the matter requiring central government's intervention may be forwarded with a document to his office.

"A people friendly administration is the prime objective of the central government for enabling governance at doorstep," the minister said.

Immediately after his arrival in Samba, Balyan visited Zero Line village Barota of Ramgarh and far-flung hilly village Goran of Sumb block and assured the people that mobile animal clinics would be opened in each block to felicitate issues through on-call services.

The minister also announced that special schemes for fisheries and dairy would be a thrust in far-flung areas.

The minister also felicitated the vaccination team of Samba for 100 per cent Covid vaccination feat and also carried out a plantation drive at the PHC premises, the spokesman said.

Union Minister Puri...

Dogra Chowk to K.C Chowk have been covered and around 42000 plants of 12 different species are strung on bio-panels with plantation dedicated drip irrigation system for bio-panels which are serviced by two bore wells and four underground tanks has been used in the project. In addition to that landscaping of the area is also done.

The Minister was informed that the vertical garden which is also known as green wall or living wall is self-sufficient and is attached to exterior or interior walls of a building.

The project approach is to bring about an overall aesthetic improvement below the flyover along with adding some greenery to give respite from pollution.

It was informed to the Minister that seats at regular intervals, aesthetic LED lighting, free standing water curtains have also been involved in the project.

In vertical gardens, various types of modular panels have been used along with geo-textile fabrics, growing media, irrigation systems and plants.

While interacting with the media persons, the Minister said that the Prime Minister's commitment regarding J&K's development is in full swing. The Minister said that there are many schemes and projects under Housing and Urban Affairs and Smart City Project is one of them.