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Two army personnel martyred in Mendhar encounter

Ammunition recovered from hideout in Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two army personnel were martyred in an encounter with terrorists in Poonch district, officials said on Friday.

The operation is still going on in a forested area in the district's Mendhar sub-division, they said.

"In an ongoing counter-terrorism operation in the general area of Nar Khas forest in Mendhar sub-division there was an exchange of fire between army troops and terrorists during the evening hours of Thursday," a Defence Public Relation Officer (PRO) said.

During the exchange of fire, two army personnel were critically injured and they later succumbed to their injuries, he said, adding that the operation is still going on.

Earlier, the PRO had said that the body of a junior commissioned officer (JCO) is yet to be recovered.



Martyrs Rifleman Yogambar Singh & Vikram Singh Negi.

However, he later said the body was identified of that of a jawan and not of the JCO. Efforts are being made to trace the missing JCO and the area is prone to danger, the officials said.

Rifleman Vikram Singh Negi (26) and Yogambar Singh (27) were killed in the encounter. They displayed exemplary courage, devotion and made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, the PRO said.

"The nation will always remain indebted to these brave hearts for their supreme sacrifice," he said.

Rifleman Negi, is a resident of Viman village in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district, while Rifleman Singh, who also hails from the state is a resident of Chamoli district's Sankari village, the PRO said.

On October 12, five army personnel, including a JCO,

were martyred in an encounter in Dera Ki Gali in the Surankote area of Poonch district.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police had said that the terrorists involved in the October 12 incident were in the area for two to three months.

On September 12, a terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces following a search operation in the upper reaches of Manjakote in Rajouri district.

On August 19, a JCO was martyred in an encounter with terrorists in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district.

On August 6, two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Thanamandi belt.

With terrorism spreading tentacles in the Jammu region, the security

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Terrorists resorting to targeted killings in Kashmir to bring back fear: RSS Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGPUR: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said terrorists were carrying out "targeted killings" in Jammu and Kashmir to instill fear, and asserted that military preparedness on the borders must remain very high. Addressing the annual Vijayadashmi rally of the Sangh at Reshimbagh Ground here, he also called for a reformulation of the National Population Policy and also touched on the issue of control of Hindu temples.

Consul General of Israel at Mumbai Kobbi Shoshani, Union minister Nitin Gadkari and BJP leader Devendra Fadnis were also present at the event.

Bhagwat in his speech also stressed the need to regulate OTT platforms and expressed concerns over 'uncontrolled' cryptocurrencies and the drug menace.

Referring to his recent visit



to Jammu and Kashmir, the RSS chief said after the nullification of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, common people there were reaping benefits. But efforts were now needed for emotional integration of the region with the rest of the country.

"The minds should connect. The relation of any Indian with the country is not a business transaction. We need to inculcate that feeling in the minds of people of

Kashmir," Bhagwat said. The government and people are working towards it and these efforts should be stepped up, he added.

"After (the nullification of special provisions under Article 370), the fear of them (terrorists) has vanished. But since they use fear to achieve their means, it is important for them to bring back that fear.

"This is why they (terrorists) resort to targeted killings to demoralize, like

they did before. Their objective is to again instill fear," Bhagwat said.

The government has to deal with this effectively, he added.

His statement came in the wake of the killings of at least seven civilians in Jammu and Kashmir by militants in a span of five days earlier this month. Of those killed, four belonged to minority communities.

Speaking about the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, Bhagwat said their predisposition passionate fanaticism, tyranny and terrorism in the name of Islam "is enough to make everyone apprehensive of them.

But now China, Pakistan and Turkey have formed an "unholy coalition" with the Taliban, the RSS chief said.

The Taliban may have changed, but have Pakistan and China changed, he asked. "We cannot lapse into complacency. Our

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COVID Containment Measures LG lauds 100 pc coverage of first dose of vaccination

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday congratulated the Health Department and District Administrations for achieving a new milestone with 100 percent coverage of first dose of vaccination in UT for above 18 age group and asked Deputy Commissioners to prioritise the saturation of the second dose.

Chairing the weekly meetings to review Covid containment measures and status of vaccination coverage with the Task Force and DCs, SPs, the Lt Governor called for

robust implementation of protocols and following of SoPs in their respective districts.

During the meeting, the DCs were directed to take prior measures for preventing Dengue in their districts.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor also passed directions to all the DCs on a number of issues of public importance, including check on the rates of minor minerals, implementation of transportation charges for minor minerals fixed by the Transportation department, besides others.

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Pak-sponsored elements making attempts to disrupt peaceful atmosphere in J&K: DGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Pakistan-sponsored elements are time and again making attempts to disrupt the growing peaceful atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir to disturb normal life, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said on Friday.

He emphasised on the collective measures to tackle security situation and subversive acts by terrorists and their masters across the border.

"Pakistan-sponsored elements are time and again making attempts to damage growing peaceful atmosphere



DGP Dilbag Singh chairing security review meeting at Srinagar on Friday.

here to disturb normal public life but these evil attempts would be dealt with fortitude," Singh said at a security review meeting of police

officers here.

He stressed upon officers to put in place effective measures for maintaining peace and order in J-K in coordina-

tion with paramilitary forces.

Underscoring the need of the pro-active role of law enforcement agencies, the DGP directed the officers to make optimum use of modern tools to monitor the suspected movement of anti-national elements.

The improvement in the security situation is upsetting the elements inimical to it and it is paramount for us to defeat such designs of anti-national and anti-social elements," he said.

The DGP stressed for enhanced security measures and anti-terrorist

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J&K records 51 new COVID cases, Ladakh 6

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 51 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Friday, taking the number of infected persons to 3,30,885 while no fresh death was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Of the 51 fresh cases, four were from the Jammu division and 47 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

They said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of cases at 27, followed by five in Budgam.

There are 895 active cases in the union territory, while the number of recovered

patients was 3,25,564, officials said.

The death toll due to the pandemic was 4,426, they said.

The officials said there were 47 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded six fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 20,867, while the number of active cases in the union territory reached 44, officials said.

Ladakh has registered 208 coronavirus-related deaths -- 150 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of

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JEE-Advanced 2021: Mridul Agarwal from Delhi zone bags top rank

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Mridul Agarwal from Delhi zone has topped the JEE-Advanced this year by scoring the highest marks ever in the IIT entrance exam, results for which were announced on Friday.

Agarwal, 17, who plans to pursue B.Tech in Computer Science from IIT Bombay, has scored 348 out of 360 marks in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced.

Agarwal, who hails from Rajasthan, had also scored 100 percentile in JEE-Main exam and shared the top rank with 17 others.

Kavya Chopra, also from Delhi zone, who became the first female to top the JEE-Main exam, has emerged as the topper in JEE-Advanced among females. She has scored 286 marks out of 360 with her overall rank being 98.

Second and third ranks in the coveted exam have

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CS reviews arrangements to mitigate dengue outbreak

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday reviewed the medical preparedness in mitigating dengue breakout in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, along with concerned officers and medical professionals participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the Jammu province is witnessing a rise in dengue cases which has necessitated a dedicated campaign to prevent accumulation of stagnated water; breeding of vector mosquitoes; early detection of dengue

infection; and availability of suitable medical care.

The Additional Chief Secretary briefed the meeting about the need to undertake extensive thermal fogging exercises across the region as a precautionary measure and introduction of larvivorous fishes in ponds besides making arrangements of free testing for early detection of dengue infection. He stressed the processing of test samples within 12 hours to reduce the response time in cases where the patient tests positive for dengue.

Chief Secretary Dr. Mehta impressed upon the

Department to issue cautionary advisories/alerts and carry out an extensive IEC drive highlighting the Do's and Don'ts to contain and mitigate the disease by preventing water pile up; mosquito breeding; mosquito bites, besides, making operational a dengue helpline to extend telephonic consultation on dengue-like symptoms.

The Health and Medical Education Department was also asked to ensure proper treatment facilities for dengue patients through dedicated cell/wards and appropriate human resource deputation.

Terrorist involved in civilian killings in Srinagar gunned down in Pulwama

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A terrorist involved in the recent civilian killings in Srinagar was gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district on Friday, police said.

Security forces received information about the presence of terrorists in the Wahibung area of Pulwama, following which a cordon and search operation there, they said.

Police said the search operation turned into an encounter in which one terrorist was killed.

"One #terrorist of



#Srinagar City involved in recent civilian killing, neutralised in #Pulwama #encounter," IGP, Kashmir,

Vijay Kumar tweeted. The slain ultra was identified as Shahid Bashir Sheikh, a resident of

Srinagar, police said.

They said one AK-47 rifle, along with ammunition, was recovered from the site of the encounter.

"He (Sheikh) was involved in the killing of a civilian, Mohammad Shafi Dar -- an employee of Power Development Department, on 2/10/21. An AK-47 rifle was used in that killing, police said. Meanwhile, another encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces in the Bemina area of Srinagar on Friday evening, a police spokesman.

Further details are awaited, he added.

GoI to extend all support to provide 24X7 power to all in J&K: Union Power Minister

Streamlining power infra which remained dilapidated for decades: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Government of India is committed to providing all possible support to J&K across generation, transmission and distribution sectors in order to make J&K power surplus, remove all supply constraints and provide 24X7 quality power to all citizens of J&K.

This was affirmed on Friday by Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh who is on a two-day visit to J&K. He also reemphasized the commitment of the government to provide 24X7 quality power supply across the UT of J&K for improving the 'Ease of Living of citizens' and 'Ease of doing business for the industries'.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of 6 transmission and distribution projects worth Rs 118 crore which were jointly e-inaugurated by the Union



Union Power Minister, R. K. Singh and LG Manoj Sinha e-inaugurating power projects in J&K.

Minister and Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan.

These projects include 100 MVA, 132/33 KV GSS Nowbugh Chadura with 18 Kms D/C 132 kV Transmission Line; Distribution Strengthening works in Circle Bijbehara, Sumbal, Kupwara and

Shopian towns; 33/11kV 10MVA Sub Stations at Industrial Estate Khonmoh, Super Speciality SMHS Srinagar and Cheeniwader completed under various UT and Central Schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha outlined the efforts made by the government to

meet the power supply-demand of the people.

"A strong power sector means Ease of Living, Industrialization, Employment Generation. We are strengthening J&K's power infrastructure which remained dilapidated for the last several decades", said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor further outlined how the UT had attained remarkable progress not just in adding over 150% transformation capacity but also succeeding in increasing revenues by over 23%. The UT Government was already working on detailed plans to add infrastructure, address obsolescence and cut down losses, he added.

We have eliminated the past practices of delays and have accelerated the pace of execution of power projects. Now long overdue upgradation of power

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 35.0°C Min: 17.1°C

Humidity

Max: 75 Min: 55

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 24.9°C Min: 7.8°C

Humidity

Max: 54 Min: 52

Sunset: 18:00 Hours

Sunrise: 06:36 Hours