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We won't rest...

called upon the civil society, social and religious organizations to speak in unison to fight terrorism.

I salute the families of the martyrs and assure them that J&K Government will always stand by them. My sincere homage to the civilians who lost their lives in terror attacks, to the police personnel and frontline workers who laid down their lives while fighting Covid, said the Lt Governor.

As the entire country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we must ensure stories of bravery and sacrifice of our policemen reach future generations and pass on the legacy of courage and valour, said the Lt Governor.

J&K Police is also entrusted with the responsibility of earning the trust of common people, protecting the unity and brotherhood in the UT. People must acknowledge the sacrifices made by our police and security personnel in ensuring a safer environment for them, he added.

Despite the conspiracies by the enemies, J&K is marching on the path of development, growth and prosperity. I believe that the police personnel who are working 24x7 have an important contribution in this developmental journey, the Lt Governor observed.

Terming Youth as the biggest asset of the future socio-economic growth, the Lt Governor asked the Police department for institutional mechanism to connect with the youth, spread awareness regarding various programmes under Mission Youth, through their Civic Action Program and encourage the younger generation to be an integral part of the nation building process.

The Lt Governor advised the police personnel to counter modern challenges through technology interventions and make policing more effective. The use of technology is the need of the hour to deal with the elements creating an environment of fear and insecurity in Jammu and Kashmir, he further added.

Dilbag Singh DGP J&K, while speaking on the occasion, paid homage to the martyrs of JKP and other forces.

Our police and security forces are working tirelessly to protect the J&K UT from enemies. Police is always there to serve people facing traditional as well as modern challenges, added the DGP.

GP J&K read out the names of Police personnel martyred in the last one year. Contingents presented Roll of Honour in the memory of the martyr Policemen. The arms are reversed and a two-minute silence is observed in the honour of the Martyrs.

Later, the Lt Governor handed over SRO Orders to the wards of the martyrs. A Blood Donation Camp was also organized on the occasion.

Pertinently, the Commemoration Parade is observed every year on October 21 as a mark of respect and remembrance of martyrs, who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr B Srinivas, DGP Prisons; RR Swain, Special DG CID; A. K. Choudhary, Special DG Crime; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department; SJM Gillani, ADGP Armed; Dr. SD Singh Jamwal, ADGP Security; MK Sinha, ADGP Headquarters; Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir besides senior officers of Police and Civil Administration and Family members of the Martyrs were present on the occasion.

Govt hikes DA...

on the exchequer. Earlier in July, the government had restored the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) and increased the rate of allowance from 17 per cent to 28 per cent.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Government had frozen the three additional instalments of the DA and DR, which were due from January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021.

IEDs planted in...

bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot which took the IED to an isolated place and safely defused it.

Meanwhile, Army troops recovered an improvised explosive device (IED) and later defused it in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said.

An army patrol party detected the IED fitted in the branch of a tree in the forest area of Sawalkot in Ratangiri ridge, he said.

The IED was destroyed later, the spokesman added.

With the destruction of the IED, a potential tragedy was averted.

History Scripted: PM...

pandemic in 100 years, the country now has a strong protective shield of 100 crore vaccine doses. This achievement belongs to India, every citizen of India," he said, expressing gratitude to the those engaged in the programme.

Modi tweeted, "India scripts history. We are witnessing the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore Indians. Congrats India on crossing 100 crore vaccinations. Gratitude to our doctors, nurses and all those who worked to achieve this feat."

He added, "Today, when India has achieved a #VaccineCentury, I went to a vaccination centre at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The vaccine has brought pride and protection in the lives of our citizens."

From discussing beneficiaries' hobbies to talking about the experience of healthcare workers, Modi touched upon various subjects during his visit to the RML Hospital.

He also visited the vaccination centre at the hospital after the milestone was achieved.

"Today, when India has achieved a #VaccineCentury, I went to a vaccination centre at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The vaccine has brought pride and protection in the lives of our citizens," he tweeted.

During his interaction, Modi asked a wheelchair-bound beneficiary, who had come to get her vaccine dose, about her hobbies.

"The PM asked me what are your hobbies and I told him I like singing, then he asked me to sing two lines of a song which I did," she said.

For the beneficiary's mother, it was "like a dream that the prime minister of India is meeting us".

Arun Rai, who is differently-abled, said the prime minister has honoured them by calling them 'Divyang'.

"I told the prime minister that by calling us Divyang, you have given us so much respect and we feel so good about it. He said look at the paralympic players and the laurels they are bringing to the country. I told him that I used to be a cricketer player as well," Rai said.

Modi stood beside Rai as he was administered his first vaccine dose.

He interacted with healthcare workers and a security guard too.

India took 279 days to administer 100 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses, according to Union Health Ministry data.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

The country launched vaccination for all people aged over 45 years from April 1.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing all above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

It's time sections...

which means that 66 per cent of the population were born during these three decades (of militancy) and are the children of conflict.

"They were born and brought up during the gun culture, strikes, curfews and crackdowns. They have grown up with a scar on their psychology. They have grown through radicalization and propaganda...so there is a problem and we need to understand their psychology," he said.

"Who's to be blamed and who is the loser? The loser is a Kashmiri wife, loser is a Kashmiri mother...Kashmiri mother because her child could not go to proper school, did not get proper education, whose child was pushed into madrasa and was indoctrinated, joined the rank and file of a terror group and lost his life within a day or a year, leaving her grieving for the entire life.

"The grief of that mother stems from the rot of terrorism and we need to address it as a society," said Lt Gen Dhillon, who during his tenure had initiated "Operation Maa" to educate mothers about the ills of terrorism and prevent their children from joining terror groups.

Citing an instance during security checks at airports abroad, Lt Gen Dhillon said that "calling someone Paki (Pakistani) in the western world is an abuse and do you (Kashmiris) want to be a society like that."

"Are we heading that way? We have a rich history of 5000-plus years which is peaceful, based on coexistence, Kashmiriyat, insaniyat and Sufiyat," he said.

He said the economic side of the recent killing of innocents by terrorists was to trigger panic to prompt prospective tourists to cancel hotel bookings so that common people suffer and become fodder for their terror groups.

"The mainstay of young Kashmiri is tourism, it may be yatra (pilgrimage), trekking, skiing in Gulmarg...the tourists come and contribute to the economy, whether in Indian or foreign currency. If peace is not there, who will come? We have

seen seasons in the past when there were no tourists and the local people suffered," Lt Gen Dhillon said.

"We need to understand that we are being attacked at the very root -- be it education, business, livelihood -- and those doing it cannot be a friend of mine. This has to be understood by a common Kashmiri," said Lt Gen Dhillon, who served as a captain in north Kashmir during 1990 and went on to head the XV Corps overlooking security along the Line of Control as well as hinterland.

Referring to the period he was posted as a captain in north Kashmir's Kupwara district in January 1990 when Pakistan-sponsored terrorism erupted in the valley, he said the percentage of the people affected by it and those involved in it were both in single digits, but 80 to 90 per cent of the population remained silent to the happenings.

"Kashmiri Pandits were made to leave Kashmir. It is not just Kashmiri Pandits, but a part of the soul of Kashmir left. Kashmiri Pandits were the mainstay of the education system in the valley. What happened in 1989-90 when terrorism started, the first casualties were the schools that have been burnt down," he said.

He said the people who were doing this did not want an education system in the Kashmiri society and wanted to crush the spirit of Kashmiriyat .

He also added that terrorists ensured that Jammu and Kashmir lacked behind the rest of the country and the main reason for it was the eruption of militancy in the erstwhile state.

"When the benefits of global economy accrued and India started getting its benefits, it was the same time when terrorism started in the valley in 1990 as a result Jammu and Kashmir lost this opportunity to be part of the global economy and avail its benefits," he said.

Kashmir has witnessed a spate of targeted civilian killings in the past few weeks.

Ladakh situation required...

challenges faced in the harsh atmosphere of the region, "we have realised, where we fell short" whether it was in terms of adequate clothing, shelters for people to live there.

"The situation that developed in eastern Ladakh last year was something that we were not very familiar with, particularly in the kind of environment that we needed to operate. It required acclimatisation of a large number of personnel at short notice, required stretching our equipment to limits, which some of it were not cleared for," he said.

The IAF chief said, "We have moved equipment to altitude, well above the altitudes they were tried and tested for, when we acquired those systems."

Following the escalation in tension in eastern Ladakh in mid-June last year, the IAF deployed almost all its frontline fighter jets like Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft as well as its attack helicopters in the key air bases in eastern Ladakh and elsewhere along the Line of Actual Control.

At the conclave held at the Constitution Club of India, the IAF chief, in response to a question, also shared other challenges faced by the air force in the region.

There was also the challenge of continuously rotating the manpower, to take care of their health, he said.

"As a result, over the last one year, we have realised, where we fell short, whether it was in terms of adequate clothing, shelters for people to live there. So, we have overcome all those shortages now, and I think, we are better prepared, in case there is a long haul, we are prepared this winter, much better than what we were last year," he said.

During the 89th IAF Day speech at Hindon Airbase on October 8, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari had asserted that the IAF's prompt actions in response to developments in eastern Ladakh last year were a testament to its combat readiness.

The year gone by was "quite challenging yet extremely rewarding",

In response to another question on threats faced by India, he said, "I can assure you that we are fully aware of the threats that we face, and our acquisitions, training, and tactics developed to counter such a threat".

"I can say with some degree of confidence that the way we go about analysing the threat perception, carrying out global scan of the political situation, of the acquisitions and modernisation of the adversaries, and to counter that we plan are our own acquisition for air force, and linked to that is training, and development of new tactics," he said.

He also spoke about the contract signed with state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to deliver 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas aircraft to the IAF.

"We are in the process of acquiring 12 additional Su-30s, 21 additional MiG-29s. And, we have placed our trust and given our commitment in acquiring the AMCA, and beginning next decade, we will probably start inducting the AMCA (next-generation advanced multi-role combat aircraft)," the IAF chief added.

He also mentioned about the 56 C-295 medium transport aircraft which will replace Avro-748 planes of the IAF.

"The vision of being Atmanirbhar has been enunciated. And, we are very clear on the future course planning, to be based largely on indigenous efforts... This is where I find there is a large scope for the Indian industry to stand up and meet the challenges, to meet our requirements," he added.

He said that the IAF has upgraded some of the foreign platforms like MiG-21, MiG-29s the Jaguar, but "we are now focussing on procuring and upgrading most of the systems within the country".

Also, to add, when it comes to ground system, almost every radar that is operating on ground, is made in India or is largely made in India, the IAF chief said.

On planned theatreisation, he said, "We have proposed some alternative models that can capitalise on the three aspects, strengths of three forces, reducing decision-making cycles, and being future-ready."

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said he was "satisfied" with the quality of intake of airmen and officers, adding, as they pass out, "we ensure that personnel are quite future-ready and capable of handling high technology and understanding network and data".

We shouldn't expect...

Thursday. "There were 4-5 points of friction (between India and China during the border talks) and we have resolved all but one. I am sure in another couple of rounds -- I can't give a definitive figure whether one more or two more -- we will be able to resolve these issues also as we proceed," Gen Naravane said.

Earlier this month, India and China failed to make any headway in resolving the 17-month standoff in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh during the 13th round of military talks between the two countries.

The Indian Army had on October 11 stated the "constructive suggestions" made by it at the 13th round of military talks were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor Beijing could provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

In an interaction at a defence conclave here, the Army Chief said that the situation at the eastern Ladakh border with China is better and more stable now from what existed almost a year ago.

India and China have had a number of rounds of talks and as a result of those talks, we have been able to achieve a fair amount of disengagement, he added.

"What I would like to put across is that we should not expect a favourable outcome in every round of talks. There are always going to be some points of convergence, some differences," he said.

"As long as we keep talking, we will be able to resolve those points of divergence and come closer and closer together and by and by resolve all the issues that are there," the Army Chief said.

The current border standoff between the Indian and Chinese armies erupted in May last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area. Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

Gen Naravane said the talks and the interlocations with China are taking place at the political plane, at the diplomatic level and at the military level.

"So once all of this is put together and I am sure we will be able to come up with a satisfactory resolution. And when I say satisfactory, it has to be satisfactory for both the sides and I am confident that will happen sooner or later," he said.

He asserted that the Indian Army was not for a moment letting its guard down or imagining that things can not worsen in the future.

"It is always our hope that all the differences can be resolved through dialogues and discussions but if that is not there and if the situation is forced upon us, then we are always ready to man our borders and protect our territorial integrity and sovereignty and that is a year-round affair," he said.

"It is not as if it is only during the summer months...we are 24x7 always ready to take on whatever is thrown at us," he added.

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

As far as the last year or so is concerned, the two Cs -- China and COVID-19 -- did take up most of the Indian Army's time, the Army Chief said.

"Because of the challenges that were happening on the eastern Ladakh, we did have to mobilise a large number of forces in a very short time span but we were able to achieve that once again because of very good synergy between services," he said.

He also thanked the Indian Air Force because of whom the Indian Army were able to mobilise forces in a short span to eastern Ladakh.

"I think it is the speed of our mobilisation and the speed with which we could

induct forces over such difficult terrain and such difficult climatic conditions....that caught our adversary little bit by surprise and we were able to stabilise the situation," he said.

BJP spreading hate...

disintegration cannot be stopped. "We have to fight communalism. We have to bring down the wall of hatred being created between Hindus and Muslims. We have to end this hatred. Without this, neither India survives nor this state (J&K). If we have to save India, we have to put an end to this hate," Abdullah told his party workers here.

He said that the politics of hate has been made a weapon based on which elections are being won since Independence. "...I have seen this in every election since Independence. Muslim leaders are taken to Muslim areas and Hindu leaders go to Hindu areas," he said.

Abdullah accused the BJP of propagating the politics of hate and divide to win elections in UP. "Last election was also won in Balakote. The BJP government came to power. Today, they are doing the same thing. Today, they are again spreading hate even in Jammu to win elections in UP," he said, referring to the Balakot air strike following the Pulwama terror attack in 2019.

"Has the Line (Line of Control) changed. Have we taken back any area from Pakistan? The line exists on the ground. They were instrumental in shooting down their own plan there," he said.

Maintaining that the National Conference (NC) will save J&K from disintegration, he said that Jammu is the gateway to Kashmir and Kashmir is the gateway to Ladakh. "If they (BJP government) think they will break this state, I want to tell them: Beware, do not have this mindset. This country will not survive," he said.

Abdullah warned the ruling party in Delhi that growing hatred can disintegrate India. "If this hatred continues to grow here, I want to tell those who are ruling in Delhi that beware, India will be disintegrated in parts that they cannot stop. They cannot save it."

"Unless we have brotherhood here, nothing will happen. There is no threat from outside but from inside if brotherhood ends here. We don't have threats from China and Pakistan. They cannot do anything as long we are strong here. So strengthen that brotherhood and make this part strong," he added.

On the National Conference and its leaders being dubbed as pro-Pakistan, Abdullah said that the party lost 3,000 of its men, including its ministers, to militancy but kept the Indian flag flying high in Kashmir.

The NC leader also slammed the central government over hike in prices of essential commodities and said the rates of petrol and diesel are touching the sky, making the lives of commoners miserable.

He alleged that the BJP has made Jammu and Kashmir a hell instead of a paradise that it had promised to the people.

Rejects as lie...

has gone viral, Malik is purportedly seen claiming that the Abdullahs and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti had got plots of land under the Roshni scheme.

Farooq Abdullah rejected Malik's charge as lies.

Malik, who was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir when Article 370 was abrogated, now holds the gubernatorial post in Meghalaya.

Addressing his party workers here, Abdullah said, "First he (Malik) lied to us that Article 370 will not be scrapped. It will continue. Later he said that the prime minister had told him that only Article 35-A will be removed, and not Article 370. He tells lies."

Abdullah said that lies are being spread all over the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Roshni Act was brought in by the Farooq Abdullah government with the aim of granting proprietary rights to occupants of state land in lieu of charges. The money thus generated was to be used for setting up hydroelectric power plants in the erstwhile state.

However, the scheme was disbanded after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court declared it illegal and directed the CBI to investigate the beneficiaries of the scheme.

In November last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration named former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah in a list of scheme beneficiaries and alleged a residential house in Jammu was built on illegally-possessioned land. The Abdullahs have denied it.

On some Jammu-based NC leaders quitting the party, Abdullah said such developments will not affect the party.

"NC will never die.... Jammu and Kashmir will only be saved by the NC. The BJP and the RSS will be wiped out," he said.

Internet snapped in...

Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar tweeted. The internet services on a dozen towers -- mostly in the areas where non-local labourers were killed in the last week -- were snapped two days ago while police have started stringent checking of documents of two-wheelers plying on the roads.

Many riders have alleged that their two-wheelers were seized by police without even checking the documents and were asked to collect their vehicles after October 26.

Petrol, diesel prices...

litre; while in Delhi, it costs Rs 95.27 per litre. This is the second consecutive day of price hike. There was no change in rates on October 18 and 19, prior to which prices were hiked by 35 paise per litre each on four straight days.

While petrol has already hit the Rs 100-a-litre mark or more in all major cities of the country, diesel has touched that level in over a dozen states and is treading towards that mark in places from Srinagar to Chennai.

Diesel costs Rs 99.14 a litre in Srinagar while it is priced at Rs 99.59 in Chennai.

The costliest fuel was in the border town of Ganganagar in Rajasthan, where petrol comes for Rs 118.59 a litre and diesel for Rs 109.41 per litre.

Since the ending of a three-week-long hiatus in rate revision in the last week of September, this is the 18th increase in petrol price and the 21st time that diesel rates have gone up.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

International benchmark Brent crude on Thursday was trading above USD 85 per barrel, USD 11 more than last month.

Being a net importer of oil, India prices petrol and diesel at rates equivalent to international prices.

The surge in international oil prices ended a three-week hiatus in rate revision on September 28 for petrol and September 24 for diesel.

Since then, the diesel rate has gone up by Rs 6.85 per litre and the petrol price has increased by Rs 5.35 a litre.

Prior to that, the petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 per litre during this period.

President MC Pahalgam...

is demanding illegal gratification for release of payment," ACB official said.

"The complainant alleged that Owais Ahmad, President, Municipal Committee, Pahalgam is demanding Rs. 80,000 as bribe for release of payments due to him for supply of Garbage Vehicles (Two Hopper Tipper Dumpers)," official said and added, "On receipt of the complaint Case FIR No. 31/2021 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered in the Bureau and investigation taken up."

During the course of investigation, official said, a trap team was constituted.

"The trap team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Owais Ahmad, President, Municipal Committee, Pahalgam while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs. 80,000 from the complainant," the official said, adding, "Owais Ahmad was arrested and taken into custody by ACB Team."

UT Delhi gives...

may be around 150000 (as per some reports appearing in media in 2014 PHE Jammu had a total of 1,21,814 domestic water connections in Jammu city, 78,970 water connections in City-I Division (Old city) and 42,844 in City-II division. There were 13,549 commercial water connections in Jammu city, comprising of 12092 connections in City I division and 1457 in City-II division. May be if needed the department corrects data and makes public the exact number of domestic and commercial water connections in Jammu and Srinagar cities as on date . Effort was made to have the data for 2020/2021 but that could not be obtained from the websites of department concerned (not even from the site of J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority appointed under Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) ACT, 2010).

No doubt better means need be devised to reduce the water losses / theft/ capacity loss like making it mandatory for the field departments to attend the individual consumer complaints within set time limit but surely also recording the "Connection Number of the Consumer " while taking the complaint in and disposing the same in the records (with this the unauthorised connections could be better identified , the undue labour / water losses will reduce and ofcourse the revenue will also increase).

No doubt as suggested earlier also for this the PHE officers atleast of the level of Assistant Engineer and above will have to be provided regular security in the form of PSOs.

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