

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Suicide bomber among...

(Riyaz) was assigned to carry out similar kind of fidayeen attack. Digital evidences recovered from his mobile show that he was prepared by terror outfit for fidayeen attack, the spokesman said.

In another overnight encounter in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, two terrorists, including a district commander of the HM outfit, were killed.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Chancer village in the Chawalgam area of Kulgam on Thursday following inputs about the presence of terrorists there.

During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained, they were given opportunity to surrender, however, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party. The joint teams ensuring safety of civilians rescued and shifted them to safer places. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter, the spokesman said.

In the initial exchange of fire, one terrorist was killed. However, due to darkness, the operation was suspended for the night, he said.

The spokesman said in the early hours of Friday, repeated announcements were made to the hiding terrorist to surrender but he fired on the joint search party which was retaliated leading to his elimination.

The dead bodies of both the killed terrorists were retrieved from the site of the encounter, he added.

He identified them as district commander of proscribed outfit Hizbul Mujahideen Shiraz Ahmad alias Shiraz Molvi alias Abu Haris, a resident of Souch Kulgam, and Yawar Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ponipora Kulgam.

As per police records, both the killed terrorists were linked with proscribed terror outfit HM and were part of groups involved in several terror crimes including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities, the spokesman said.

Shiraz Ahmad was an A++ (plus plus) categorised terrorist and was active since 2016, figuring among the list of most wanted terrorists, he said.

He was also involved in recruiting innocent youth into terror ranks and in spreading a reign of terror by killing civilians as well as political workers in Devars and Brazlao areas of Kulgam. There are 15 FIRs registered against him for several terror crimes, the spokesman said.

Incriminating material and arms and ammunition including an AK-rifle and a pistol were recovered from the Kulgam encounter site. An AK-rifle was also recovered from the Bemina encounter site, he said.

The recovered material has been taken into case records for further investigation. Police have registered cases under relevant sections of law and investigations have been initiated, he added.

The spokesman said Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar has congratulated the joint teams for carrying out both the operations in a professional manner resulting in elimination of three terrorists including a most wanted terrorist. Kumar also congratulated police and security forces for working with great synergy and coordination on the ground that lead to the killing of 133 terrorists including many top commanders during this year.

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LG calls for...

Demand Reduction in 2018 which is having a greater impact in rooting out the evil of drugs from the society, the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor also underlined the importance of implementing multi-pronged strategies like effective prevention strategies based on the community level and having an awakened social setting. "Now is the time for more synergized and comprehensive efforts to fight drug menace", he said.

Along with this, the youth clubs that have been set up in all the Panchayats and wards of urban local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir will act as a catalyst in this direction, he added.

The Lt Governor expressed happiness over the awareness programs that are being run in Rajouri, Kishtwar, Budgam districts by connecting Gram Sabha and Anganwadi workers to this campaign.

The Lt Governor asked the DCs to identify fake de-addiction centers being run in both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions and take action against such centers within the ambit of law.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar commended the administration of 10 districts of J&K for performing well under this campaign and tackling the social evil of drug menace to a larger extent.

"This award ceremony showcases the great work of people whose tireless efforts have reduced this problem across the country", the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister highlighted the important role of public representatives, PRIs, local population and NGOs in making the society drug-free.

On the occasion, the Union Minister also announced that a special camp for specially-abled people at Jammu and Srinagar will be held soon for the distribution of various aids to them.

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Radhika Chakarvarthy gave a brief background of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan across the country.

A rehabilitated substance user also spoke on the occasion and narrated the ill effects of drug abuse faced by him and his family. Awards were also conferred to Rehabilitated Youth Substance Users.

Under the category of best Deputy Commissioners, DC Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla, DC, Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza and DC Rajouri, Rajesh Shav bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively.

Similarly, under the category of NGO's, Cultural Educational and Environmental Organization, Budgam bagged first prize while Ali Sports Academy, Banipora and Human Welfare Voluntary Organization Pulwama bagged 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Likewise, Government Degree College Anantnag bagged the first prize in best college category and Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kulgam in the best school category.

A booklet on the last 15 months achievements of Jammu and Kashmir under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan was also released on the occasion.

Farooq Khan, Advisor to Lt Governor; Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sheetal Nanda, Administrative Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department; Deputy Commissioners; District officers; Anganwadi workers and other officials were present on the occasion.

Govt directs HoDs...

any HoD office, which is yet to initiate the implementation of E-office, shall immediately contact the Nodal Officer (s) notified for the purpose vide the aforementioned Government Order, by or before 20th of November, 2021 for any further assistance/ handholding, after which it shall be presumed that all HoDs are functioning on E-office only.

"Further, failure of any Head of the Department in switching over to e-office mode shall be his/her personal responsibility and shall invite appropriate action," reads the order.

It is further clarified that HoD office(s) whose scanning activities have not yet been started shall immediately start using E-office with current Dak, without waiting for scanning of all files/documents. The scanning of such left over files/dak of these Departments shall start separately, for which the roster shall be issued by Information Technology Department.

In order to ensure the compliance to the above directions, the order stated, "it is enjoined upon all Administrative Secretaries to intervene personally and issue necessary directions to all the concerned that communications/files are entertained only through E-office mode from their HoDs after 30th November, 2021."

Over 111 Cr...

16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2.

The next phase of the 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 more than 45 years from April 1. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

J&K's underground water...

water across Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary was informed that Ground Water aquifers are safe for use. The Chief Secretary directed testing of water from these resources on 16 defined parameters along with checking the presence of heavy metals as per defined protocol.

Dr. Mehta entrusted the Jal Shakti Department task of preventing depletion of identified groundwater resources in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jal Shakti Department was also asked to undertake extensive IEC activities through the newly engaged ISAs and promote water conservation efforts through enhanced public participation in Jal Jeevan Mission which aims at providing functional tap water connection to every household.

PM launches RBI's...

increasing the impact of the big decisions that the government has taken in recent times."

Lamenting that banking, pension and insurance sector used to be like an exclusive

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Five persons got killed in separate road mishaps on Friday.

As per the details, a bolero (JK02CZ-9391) which was on its way to Nagrota from Jammu fell in a gorge near Firing Range Nagrota, due to which h driver got injured and was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to injuries. The deceased was identified as Manjit Singh, son of Kuldeep Singh, resident of Satwari.

In another incident, Kailash Devi, wife of Late Chunilal, resident of Ghagwal who was traveling on a bike, died after bike got hit by bus in Hirnagar area.

Meanwhile, a pedestrian was hit by SRTC Bus in Trikuta Nagar area due to which he died on the spot. His body was shifted to morgue for autopsy and identification.

At Bishnah, two bikes collided in Joia village of Bishnah, due to which four persons on bikes got injured. They were shifted to hospital where doctors declared two of them as brought dead. The deceased were identified as Rajesh Kumar, resident of Raika and Abhi Kumar, resident of Kotla. The injured were identified as Suraj Kumar, resident of Jammu and Shefali Devi, wife of Rajesh Kumar.

Woman dies after consuming poison

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARH: A woman died after she consumed poison in her house at Ramgarh.

As per details, Nisha Kumari, wife of Saleem Kumar, resident of Chhattisgarh, presently staying at Ramgarh consumed poison in her house and was shifted to hospital by her family members, where doctors declared her as brought dead. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

FIR lodged against two over overcharging

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBAL: Police on Friday booked two persons for overcharging royalty.

As per details, Maonhaw Singh, resident of Supwal lodged a complaint with Police that he has been overcharged by royalty contractors for extracting sand from Basantar river. He further disclosed that aforesaid contractors have also overcharged others. Acting on complaint, police lodged FIR against two persons namely Nirmal Singh and Sunil Kumar and started investigation.

Man held with 4 Kg poppy straw

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police on Friday arrested a man with 4 Kg poppy straw at Udhampur.

As per details, Udhampur police during Naka in the area intercepted a vehicle and during checking recovered 4 Kg poppy straw from it. The driver namely Mohd Younus was arrested and a case under relevant sections of law was registered against him.

Missing woman traced

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBAL: Police on Friday traced a missing woman and handed her over to family.

As per details, husband of the missing woman, resident of Chatta Chuaudi Jammu lodged a missing report with police after she went missing from her parental house at village Kulliyan Kamala, Ramgarh. Acting on complaint, police started a search for her and finally traced her from Vijaypur Bus Stand. She was later handed over to her family.

Youth arrested for eve-teasing

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday arrested a youth for eve-teasing in Kanachak area on Friday.

As per details, a girl lodged complaint with Kanachak police that one Rishah, resident of Swaran Vihar, Purkhoo had teased her. Taking cognizance in the matter, police arrested the accused and registered a case under section 354-D against him.

Youth nabbed with sedatives

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Friday nabbed a youth with sedatives in Nowabad area.

As per details, Nowabad police during Naka near St Peter School intercepted a youth and during frisking recovered 20 banned medicines and 20 injections from his possession. The youth, identified as Sahil Khan, resident of Nai Basti, was arrested on the spot.

Two theft cases reported

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two theft cases have been reported in Jammu city on Friday.

As per details, Navneet Kohli, resident of Upper Roop Nagar lodged a complaint with Janipur Police that thieves targeted his house when he along with family was at his relative's house. He further stated that thieves decamped with a gold-chain with locket, two rings and Rs 20,000 cash from his house.

In another incident, thieves targeted a house at Resham Ghar belonging to one Ramesh Kumar and decamped with 8 Tolla gold and Rs 1,500 cash. Police has registered both the cases and started investigation.

club in India till 6-7 years ago, he said, all these facilities were not accessible to the common citizens in the country, poor families, farmers, small traders-businessmen, women, dalits-deprived-backward, etc.

Criticizing the earlier system, the Prime Minister said "those who had the responsibility of taking these facilities to the poor never paid any attention to it. Rather, various excuses were made for not changing. It was said that there is no bank branch, no staff, no internet, no awareness, no idea what the arguments were."

On the importance of fintech, he said Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has made India the world's leading country in terms of digital transactions in a very short span of time.

"In just 7 years, India has jumped 19 times in terms of digital transactions. Today our banking system is operational 24 hours, 7 days and 12 months anytime, anywhere in the country," he said.

Praising efforts undertaken by the Finance Ministry and institutions like RBI during the pandemic, he said, "This period of Amrit Mahotsav, this decade of the 21st century is very important for the development of the country. In such a situation, the role of RBI is also very big. I am confident that Team RBI will live up to the expectations of the country."

He underlined the need to strengthen trust and confidence of investors in the financial market.

"We have to keep the needs of the citizens of the country at the center and keep on strengthening the trust of the investors. I am confident that RBI will continue to strengthen India's new identity as a sensitive and investor-friendly destination, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the coordinated effort of both the finance ministry and RBI in time has led to recovery of economy by COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of concerted efforts, she said, the economic revival is taking place at faster than expected pace.

She said the Retail Direct Scheme will facilitate retail participation, deepen the bond market and allow for a fair market determined rates for all across the yield curve.

"The retail participation has been hesitant all these years, because of the cost involved and because of the traditional intermediary system which has prevailed. Now this will probably bring in a direct cost free, convenience driven, and also build confidence in the retail participation in the government securities," she said.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank has been leveraging technology and innovation for enhancing the efficiency of its services.

"The Reserve Bank with its multifarious role touches the lives of people in varied ways. Be it through the currency system, the banking system, the financial markets, or the 24 into 7 seamless digital payments," he said.

Das further said that the Reserve Bank's developmental role is focused on further deepening of financial inclusion and undertaking people centric initiatives.

The scheme offers retail investors a new avenue for directly investing in the securities issued by the Centre and the state governments. The investors will be able to easily open and maintain their government securities accounts online with the RBI for free.

Srinagar records season's...

north Kashmir also recorded sub-zero temperature as mercury settled at minus 0.9 degree Celsius, they said.

Srinagar recorded a low of 0.7 degree Celsius Thursday night, the lowest minimum temperature recorded this season, officials said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded 0.0 degree Celsius, while Kokernag witnessed a low of 1.8 degrees Celsius Thursday night.

Gulmarg resort in Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of 0.6 degree Celsius.

Kashmir Valley is slipping into wintry conditions much ahead of the beginning of extreme harsh weather conditions. The extreme weather usually starts during third week of December.

Chillai Kalan, the 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir, begins on December 21 every year.

ARTO, two MVIs...

Motor Vehicle Inspectors Khursheed Ahmad and Abdul Hamid are placed under suspension, with immediate effect, in terms of Rule-31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

It has also been directed that Transport Department will initiate departmental proceedings (RDA) against the suspended officers/officials in terms of extant rules.

The suspended officers shall remain attached with the office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the order further read.

NCC pays tributes to Naib Subedar Chunilal

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: On the occasion of the Veterans Day, 2 J&K (I) Coy NCC, Bhaderwah under the aegis of NCC Directorate JK&L organised a wreath laying ceremony and paid homage to the Naib Sub Chunilal decorated with Country's highest Gallantry Award : Ashok Chakra, Veer Chakra and Sena Medal at Bhaderwah Tehsil in District Doda (J&K). The event was telecasted live on National Gallantry Award Portal on 12 Nov 2021.

Statue of Na