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Cross border terror in J&K: Resolved to show 'zero tolerance' to terrorism, says Army Chief

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army is resolved to show "zero tolerance" to terrorism and is committed to extracting "dire costs" for it, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane said on Wednesday, referring to Pakistan's cross-border terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference ahead of the Army Day, he said the concentration of some 350 to 400 terrorists in terror launch pads and training facilities on the other side (Pakistani side) of the Line of Control (LoC) and repeated infiltration attempts "expose" the "nefarious intents" of the adversary.

At the same time, he said last year's ceasefire understanding between the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of Indian and Pakistani armies resulted in some improvement in the situation along the LoC.

"Along the Line of Control,

Threat in Ladakh has 'by no means reduced'

NEW DELHI: The threat in eastern Ladakh has "by no means reduced" and the Indian Army will continue to deal with the Chinese military in a "firm" and "resolute" manner, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane said on Wednesday referring to the 20-month-long border standoff that has seriously strained ties between the two countries.

Gen Naravane also said that war or conflict is always an "instrument of last resort" but if it is thrust upon India, then the country will come out victorious.

He said his forces have been maintaining the highest level of operational preparedness in eastern Ladakh and the threat assessment and internal deliberations have resulted in re-organisation and re-alignment of the troops.

The Army chief asserted that China's new land boundary law was not binding on India and that the Indian Army is more than adequately prepared to deal with any military ramifications of the legislation.

after a heightened situation for a prolonged period, the

DGMOs understanding in February last year was aimed

at achieving mutually beneficial, and sustainable peace," he said.

"Resultantly, the situation has witnessed marked improvement. However, increase in the concentration of terrorists in launch pads, across the LoC and repeated infiltration attempts, once again expose their nefarious intents," he said.

Gen Naravane further said: "We, on our part, have resolved to show zero tolerance to terror, and commit ourselves to extract dire costs, should that be forced upon us," he said.

In a significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian and Pakistani armies on February 25 last year announced that they would cease firing across the LoC while recommitting themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

The Army chief said that the "proxy war" continues as terrorists are still there

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India, China hold 14th round of military talks to resolve Ladakh standoff

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: After a gap of over three months, India and China on Wednesday are holding another round of high-level military talks to resolve the 20-month-long military standoff in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, sources in the security establishment said.

The 14th round of Corps Commander-level talks are taking place at the Chushul-Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The Senior Highest Military Commander Level (SHMCL) talks were scheduled to begin at around 9:30 am.

It is learnt that the major focus of the talks will be on disengagement in the Hot Springs area.

The Indian delegation at the talks is being led by Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, the newly appointed Commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps. The

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PM's security breach; SPG Act, Blue Book provisions are comprehensive: SC

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the provisions of the Special Protection Group Act and contents of the Blue Book are "comprehensive" in ensuring proximate security of the prime minister and other SPG protectees and any lapse in following these can lead to "devastating and serious consequences".

These observations on presence of adequate legal and other procedural schemes for ensuring security of the prime minister and other SPG protectees were made in an order by which a five-member committee headed by former apex court judge

the parties at considerable length and studied the provisions of the Special Protection Group Act, 1988 along with the relevant contents of the Blue Book. The



legislative scheme of the Act is quite comprehensive with respect to ensuring proximate security of the Prime Minister, or a former Prime Minister, or their family members, as the case may be," the bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana noted.

The Blue Book contains an

unambiguous and detailed procedure to be observed by the state authorities and the special protection to ensure full safety and security of the prime minister while he is touring a state, the order said.

"The additional object is to avoid any human error, negligence or any willful omission or commission which may hamper and/or expose the safety and security of the Executive Head of the of the nation while he is travelling in a particular State. Any lapse in this regard can lead to devastating and serious consequences," ordered the bench which also comprised justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli. The apex court, while appointing the panel, took note of the war of words between the Centre

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JSCL inks pact for installation of static advt panels at 110 locations in Jammu

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu Smart City Ltd (JSCL) on Wednesday signed a pact for the installation of Static Advertisement Panels at 110 different locations here to improve the public information system along with enhancing the aesthetic value of the city, officials said.

The agreement was signed and exchanged between JSCL Chief Executive officer (CEO) Avny Lavasa and Parth Buildwell Vice-President Jatinder Singh, the officials said.

The officials said the static ad panels will be installed at

110 locations, which are different in sizes according to the available space as well as according to the aesthetic value of the city.

The prominent identified locations are Kunjwani Chowk, Gole Market, Tawi Bridge, BC Road, Vivekanand Chowk, Bahu Road, Trikuta Nagar, Greater Kailash Road, Narwal and Indira Gandhi Chowk.

The installation of ad panels in the Jammu city is intended to disseminate information regarding the government policies, drives undertaken from time

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J&K records 1,695 COVID cases, 1 death IIT Jammu to conduct all classes online after 18 tested positive at campus

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday witnessed a 50 percent jump in daily COVID-19 with 1,695 people confirming positive for the disease on Wednesday, raising the tally to 3,48,201, official said.

The union territory also reported one fresh death due to the virus in the past 24 hours, they said.

Of the fresh cases, 812 were recorded from the Jammu division and 883 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

They said Jammu district recorded the highest of 438 cases, followed by 320 cases



A health-worker collecting nasal swab sample for COVID-19 testing in Jammu. (Pic by Shilpa Thakur)

in Srinagar district.

There are 6,242 Covid active cases in the union territory.

The number of recovered patients was 3,37,412, the officials said.

The death toll rose to 4,547

Active COVID cases in country highest in 211 days
Ensure adequate buffer stock of medical oxygen: Centre to states/UTs

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: India added 1,94,720 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,60,70,510 which includes 4,868 cases of the Omicron variant, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The active cases have increased to 9,55,319, the highest in 211 days, while the death toll has climbed to 4,84,655 with 442 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Of the total 4,868 cases of the Omicron variant, 1,805 people have recovered

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CS asks H&ME Deptt to activate war rooms, isolation facilities

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday sought immediate activation of emergency control rooms and decentralized COVID war rooms besides re-activation of Panchayat level isolation facilities and COVID Care Centres to contain the rural spread of pandemic.

Chairing the Covid task force meeting, the Chief Secretary also asked the Department to prioritize administering booster doses in vulnerable populations, besides, expediting vaccination in the 15-17 age group and replenishing the stock of

COVID specific medicines. The Department was directed to ensure strict enforcement of CAB, COVID SOPs, and protocols towards ensuring the highest caution and preparedness and lowest fatality.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Administrative Secretaries of Home and Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction along with other officers of H&ME Department were present in the meeting.

In view of the surge in COVID cases, the Task Force reviewed the public health

response and various mitigation measures being put in place for effective containment and mitigation of the infection in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Task Force was apprised that Jammu and Kashmir has administered 1.94 crore vaccines to vaccinate 107% and 101% eligible population with the first and second dose, respectively. The UT is further speeding up its vaccination drive in the 15-17 age category and has already achieved 32% coverage. Dr. Mehta emphasized that Omicron has a growth advantage over the

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JeM terrorist killed; cop martyred, five injured in Kulgam encounter

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: A Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist was killed while a policeman was martyred and five people, including three soldiers, injured in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Pariwan area of the district following information about the presence of terrorists there, officials said.

They said the search operation turned into an encounter after terrorists opened fire towards the position of security forces.



Inspector General of Police (Kashmir zone) Vijay Kumar said one policeman was martyred and one Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist was killed in the encounter.

"One police personnel Sg Ct

Rohit Chhib attained martyrdom, three Army soldiers got injured. Two civilians also got minor injuries. One terrorist of terror outfit JeM killed. Operation continues," Kumar tweeted.

PM's Security breach Channi, Sidhu treachery needs to be exposed, was it to please Imran Khan? Chugh asks

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh said Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and his team was completely responsible for hatching a conspiracy to threaten the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and for leaving him stranded within the range of Pakistan artillery.

In a statement here today Chugh welcomed the high-level committee constituted by the Supreme Court to unravel the conspiracy in the entire incident and to fix the responsibility of officers and politicians responsible for endangering the life of the prime minister.



Chugh said Channi demonstrated more abiding relationship with Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan by conspiring against the prime minister.

He said it was not only shameful and disgraceful the way Channi

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 19.3°C Min: 5.8°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 6.7°C Min: -3.6°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 59

Sunset : 17:46 Hours
Sunrise : 07:34 Hours