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Target killing in...

of the terrorists would be spared and the region would be cleared of terrorism. "Cowardly Pakistani terrorists have once again committed a grave crime by killing innocent people. The conspiracy to target innocent people was hatched by Pakistan to create a fear among the people," Raina said.

"None of the terrorists will be spared," he said adding that said Pakistan-sponsored terrorists are desperate and they're targeting innocent and unarmed civilians in frustration.

"They will have to pay a heavy price for their crimes against humanity," Raina said. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Congress strongly condemned the terrorists attack at Dangri.

Terming the incident as serious and shocking, JKPPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, District President Shabir Ahmed Khan have expressed great shock over the martyrdom of four persons and injuries to ten persons in a terrorists attack today evening.

The incident is very serious and belies claims of the government and the security heads regarding the ground situation. The party extended full support to the police & security forces to firmly deal with terrorism and save innocent lives.

The party express sympathies with the families of victims and with the injured and demanded ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh to the families of those killed and Rs 10 lakh to each injured.

Army Chief begins...

visited troops deployed at various locations in High Altitude Area along the Line of Control in #Kupwara Sector," an Army spokesperson said in a tweet.

He said the chief of armed staff interacted with the troops and extended New Year wishes to all ranks and their families.

SC to pronounce...

petitioners' lawyers, including senior advocates P Chidambaram and Shyam Divan.

Calling the scrapping of the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes deeply flawed, Chidambaram had argued that the government cannot on its own initiate any proposal relating to legal tender, which can only be done on the recommendation of the RBI's central board.

Resisting the apex court's attempt to revisit the 2016 demonetisation exercise, the government had said the court cannot decide a matter when no tangible relief can be granted by way of "putting the clock back" and "unscrambling a scrambled egg".

The RBI had earlier admitted in its submissions that there were "temporary hardships" and that those too are an integral part of the nation-building process, but there was a mechanism by which the problems that arose were solved.

In an affidavit, the Centre told the top court recently that the demonetisation exercise was a "well-considered" decision and part of a larger strategy to combat the menace of fake money, terror financing, black money and tax evasion.

The Supreme Court has heard a batch of 58 petitions challenging the demonetisation exercise announced by the Centre on November 8, 2016.

Over 91 lakh...

In 2022, the highest footfall was recorded in June with more than 11.29 lakh pilgrims visiting the temple. At 3.61 lakh, February saw the lowest footfall last year.

In December, 5.67 lakh devotees visited the shrine.

Despite a stampede at the shrine on January 1 last year that left 12 pilgrims dead and 16 injured, over 4.38 lakh devotees visited the temple in the month.

More than 7.78 lakh pilgrims visited in March, over 9.02 lakh in April, over 9.86 lakh in May, over 9.07 lakh in July, over 8.77 lakh in August, over 8.28 lakh in September, over 7.51 lakh in October and over 6.01 lakh in November, according to the data.

CRIME REPORT

Drug peddler arrested, contraband substance recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested a drug peddler on Sunday and recovered contraband substance from his possession. During the investigation of case FIR No. 209/2022 of Police Station Chadoora in which two drug peddlers were arrested yesterday, the investigating team arrested one more drug peddler who has been identified as Abdul Hameed Yatoo son of Abdul Khaliq Yatoo resident of Hayatpora Chadoora. On his disclosure, 34.5kgs of Poppy Straw (Fukki) like substance has been recovered. Further investigation into the case is going on and more arrests & recoveries are also expected.

Robbery case solves within 6 hours; accused arrested, snatched mobile phone recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Police on Sunday solved a robbery case within 06hrs by arresting an accused person involved in the commission of crime and recovered a snatched mobile phone from his possession.

Police Station Khag received a complaint from one lady stating therein that an unknown person stopped her while walking from her native village to Hardusuresh Khag in connection with her personal work. Then the said person threatened and tried to snatch her wallet which contained 01 Android Mobile Phone (Redmi 6). Despite showing some resistance, the person managed to flee alongwith mobile phone from the spot. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 01/2023 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Khag and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation, a police team put forth strenuous efforts to trace the accused person and subsequently arrested the accused person within 06hrs. He has been identified as Muzaffar Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Mohammad Wani resident of Peth Sharan Khag. On his disclosure, snatched cell phone (Redmi 6) was also recovered. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Narco smuggler nabbed, heroin recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Cracking down on Narcotics Smuggling as well as to neutralise the activities of drug peddlers within the district, Kathua Police under the guidance of SSP Kathua R C Kotwal on sunday recovered/seized approx. 03 grams of Heroin-like narcotics near K V School Hiranagar, 01 drug peddler arrested.

As per the details, a police team led by Insp. Sunil Kumar SHO Police Station Hiranagar under the supervision of SDPO Border Pankaj Soodan during Naka/checking duty in its jurisdictional area at K V School Hiranagar apprehended one suspicious person namely Sunil Singh, son of Romel Singh, resident of W. No. 06 Hiranagar Tehsil Hiranagar & District Kathua who was wandering under suspicious circumstances. On thorough checking approx. 03 grams of Heroin(Chitta) like narcotics was recovered from his illegal possession. Thereafter all the recovered narcotics was seized and one person was arrested and FIR No. 161/2022 under section 8/21/22/ NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Hiranagar.



Maha: 2 killed, 17 injured as blast in Nashik chemical plant triggers huge fire; Govt to conduct high-level probe

STATE TIMES NEWS

NASHIK: Two persons were killed and 17 others injured on Sunday when a massive fire was triggered after a blast in a boiler of a chemical factory in Maharashtra's Nashik district, officials said citing preliminary information as the blaze raged on for hours.

The state government has decided to order a high-level probe to identify the exact reason behind the fire.

The blast in the Jindal Poly Films factory, located in Mundhegaon along the Mumbai-Agra highway in Igatpuri taluka, was so powerful that it was heard in nearby villages. The fire and smoke could be seen from a distance. The incident occurred around 11.30 am, officials said.

He said Nadda will offer prayers at the famous temple of goddess Mahakali in Chandrapur city.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP failed to retain the Chandrapur constituency which was won by Congress, the only seat the Grand Old Party currently holds in Maharashtra which sends 48 MPs to Lok Sabha.

The BJP had revised its national target of the "difficult" LS seats it is eyeing

to win in the 2024 polls to 160 from 144.

In Maharashtra, the saffron party has identified 18 "difficult" constituencies.

"Nadda will launch the drive from Chandrapur district on January 2 with a mega Vijay Sankalp rally at Chandrapur," said Devrao Bhongle, district BJP president.

Nadda will address rallies at Chandrapur in east Maharashtra and Aurangabad in the Marathwada region.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won 23 of the 25 seats (out of the total 48) it contested in Maharashtra, while the party's then ally Shiv Sena bagged 18.

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get free medical treatment. Sources said both the deceased were women.

Earlier in the day, CM Shinde said the Air Force Station at Deolali (in Nashik district) will make a helicopter available for the rescue operation.

Later, a helicopter and Army personnel reached the spot. A police official said the rescue was not conducted using the chopper as "the situation changed" but didn't elaborate.

Personnel of the Fire brigade and police rushed to the spot to launch a rescue operation. They were joined by State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said 19 persons were rescued and 17 of them were admitted to a

private hospital for treatment.

A senior official said as it was the first day of the New Year, the number of workers present at the factory was less.

Officials said some workers were present on the premises of the chemical unit when the incident occurred.

Earlier in the day, Divisional Revenue Commissioner Radhakrishna Game told reporters a blast led to the fire at the chemical plant.

"Normally, 20 to 25 people work in the plant. But, as it was the first day of the New Year, the number was less on Sunday. As huge grass has grown on the premises and inflammable material is lying everywhere, our first

aim is to control the fire. The

exact reason behind the blaze is yet to be ascertained. It will take some time," Game added.

The CM also said as it was an automatic plant, there was not much manpower present at the time of the blast.

"The government will make whatever efforts that are needed for the rescue operations, there will be no lacunae," he said.

Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pawar, who hails from Nashik, told reporters at least 100 beds have been kept ready in various hospitals Nashik District Civil Hospital, SMBT Hospital, and other medical facilities (in case of a need).

Even though the exact cause behind the fire is not

known, a senior official said the blaze didn't appear to have been caused by a boiler, a senior official said.

The three boilers out of the five at the Jindal Poly Films in Igatpuri were of waste heat recovery or running on thermic fluid. It does not use any inflammable material to prepare steam.

"The remaining two boilers are of small industrial boilers type, which means there is a minimum chance of it causing a fire inside the plant," Dhaval Antapurkar, Director at the Directorate of Steam Boilers, a Maharashtra government body, said in a statement.

The Deputy director of the department will reach the spot and a review will be conducted to know the exact cause of the fire, he added.

Mission 2024 Lok Sabha polls: BJP chief Nadda to address two rallies in Maha on Jan 2

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDRAPUR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president JP Nadda will on Monday launch a drive from Chandrapur as part of the party's plan to win 18 "difficult" seats from Maharashtra in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, a BJP leader said on Sunday.

Nadda will address rallies at Chandrapur in east Maharashtra and Aurangabad in the Marathwada region.

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Vaishali is J&K's first Divyang to get Diploma in Indian Sign Language

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vaishali Raina, an alumnus of Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SKK) run School for Hearing Handicapped, Jammu, has become J&K's first deaf & dumb to pass the 2- year Diploma in Teaching Indian Sign Language (DTISL).

Earlier, she had done her BCA & was selected in Finance Department.

Vaishali is now qualified to teach Indian Sign Language to deaf students.

She has passed her Diploma course from the

Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Govt of India.

The examination was con-

ducted by the National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Vaishali has secured 82.65 per cent marks.

The Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SKK) encourages its alumni to go for higher studies by reimbursing fifty per cent of the semester fee out of a Fund set up for the purpose.

The President of the SKK, K B Jandial has congratulated Vaishali for her outstanding performance & offered to help her in any other higher course.

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deep concern Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared in September (that) we actually genuinely believe that this is no longer an era of war. You cannot settle differences and issues through violence," Jaishankar said.

"So from the very beginning, our effort has been to urge (Russia and Ukraine) to return to dialogue and diplomacy. The Prime Minister himself has spoken on numerous occasions with President (Vladimir) Putin and President (Volodymyr) Zelensky. I myself talked to my colleagues in Russia and Ukraine," he said.

"We know this is not (an) eas-

ily resolvable situation. But it's important that countries who believe (in)...negotiation, speak up clearly in that regard," he said, adding that "we're on the side of peace and a large part of the world thinks like us."

India has repeatedly called on Russia and Ukraine to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue and end their ongoing conflict.

Prime Minister Modi has spoken to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine on multiple occasions and urged for immediate cessation of hostilities and return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue for the resolution of the conflict.

Gujarat's first woman chief secretary Manjula Subramaniam dies

STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat's first woman chief secretary Manjula Subramaniam died at a hospital in Vadodara on Sunday due to health complications, a district official said. She was a 1972-batch IAS officer, Vadodara collector A B Gor said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed condolences over her death. She had served as a chief secretary of the state during Modi's tenure as the state's chief minister and retired in 2008. "Anguished by the demise of veteran bureaucrat Dr. Manjula Subramaniam Ji. She was widely respected for her understanding of policy related issues and action oriented approach. I recall my interactions with her when I was CM. Condolences to her family and friends. Om Shanti," Modi said in a tweet.

"This (Ukraine) conflict is really a matter of very, very

deep concern Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared in September (that) we actually genuinely believe that this is no longer an era of war. You cannot settle differences and issues through violence," Jaishankar said.

"So from the very beginning, our effort has