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VDCs reactivated, 15...

CRPF has been deployed in the Dhangri village, officials said. Over 20 companies comprising 2,000 troops will be deployed in militancy-prone and minority areas to strengthen security in the twin border districts, they said. They said 15 companies have reached the border districts while the remainder will be reach in the next few days.

The CRPF personnel are being ferried from outside the union territory for their deployment in the region, they said.

A senior CRPF officer told PTI the security deployment is underway.

"It is being directly supervised by IG CRPF and senior officers", he said.

There is a huge cry from the minority community people over the security of their areas in border districts after the twin attacks.

In a related development, a massive combing operation is going on for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday in Rajouri district to hunt down terrorists involved in the twin attack.

Authorities also re-activated the village defence committee (VDCs) by providing members with new ammunition of .303 rifles to strengthen the self-defence set up in the border district.

A cordon and search operation (CASO) is going on in various villages and forest areas in the district, the officials said.

They said sniffer dogs, metal detectors and at some places drones are also being used during the operation in in-depth areas.

A special camp for VDC members of the Dhangri village in Rajouri was held by police on Thursday wherein members of defence committees were provided with new ammunition of .303 rifles which were cleaned and repaired, they said.

Organised at the government higher secondary school at Dhangri, special weapon trainers and handlers of police further educated the VDC members about various measures of security and weapon handling.

This step was taken to reactivate VDCs in remote and mountainous belts in the wake of the twin attacks.

There has been a demand by villagers of the Rajouri district for strengthening of these committees with people asking for the provision of new weapons to people besides proper maintenance and repair of existing ones.

There are more than six dozen VDC members in Dhangri village where terrorists carried out a deadly attack on Sunday evening in which four people from a minority community lost their lives and six others sustained injuries.

In an IED blast on Monday, two children were killed and nine were injured.

VDC members of the village demonstrated proper use of weapons to the committee members. The working condition of these weapons was also checked. Police also issued new ammunition to these members. They were also taught weapon cleaning practices, they said.

Ashok Kumar, who is a VDC member for the last 22 years, said that VDCs should be strengthened in every possible manner as they play a pivotal role in the fight against terrorism.

He further demanded the issuance of new weapons to those villagers who are retired from the army and other security forces who are trained in weapon handling and firing.

In village Prodi Brahamana, 12 VDC members, including a woman, took up weapons for the security of their village.

"We are ready to take one terrorists if they dare to come to this side. We will eliminate them", a woman VDC member said while the rest of them raised the "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" slogans.

Searches continue to...

police, with the help of locals, chased the two-wheeler and intercepted it at some distance," a senior police officer said on Wednesday night.

However, the three persons, who were riding on the motorcycle, left the vehicle in the middle of road and escaped, he said. Searches have been launched to trace them, the officer said.

'Micheal' saved 3...

terrorists who had entered the premises to kill the family fired off a volley of rounds.

"Me and my granddaughter were in the kitchen when our pet dog started to bark at a high pitch. My granddaughter told me that Michael never barks at a high pitch unless there is some danger," Nirmal Devi said.

Michael, who was tied near the main gate to Nirmal Devi's home, ostensibly noticed the terrorists moving towards the premises and barked and yelled to warn the family of the impending danger.

"I got concerned and ran towards the room where my husband was sleeping. I bolted the room from outside and then rushed to lock the main gate.

"But by then, the terrorists had entered through the gate and were on the premises," Nirmal Devi added.

She said the terrorists fired at Michael but he escaped unhurt. Bullet marks are still visible at the place where he was tied.

"After Michael stopped barking, the two terrorists entered a room, fired at the television and escaped," She said.

Nirmal Devi said Michael's alertness saved her family.

"It gave a feeling to the terrorists that there was no one inside and they did not enter the room," she said.

Nirmal Devi added that Michael's bark also alerted two families living next door and they also bolted the gates to their houses from inside.

"I think many other people in the area are alive due to the alarm raised by the dog and we can say that he saved many lives," she said.

Ram Mandir to...

whereas Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for it after the Supreme Court's order permitting construction.

The Congress and the CPI(M) are the main opposition parties in the BJP-ruled northeastern state and there are indications that the two will fight the assembly election together.

After decades-long legal battle, the Supreme Court on November 9, 2019, paved

CRIME REPORT

DMO Kathua seizes 3 excavators, 14 dumpers for illegal mining



STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A joint team of Mining Department and Kathua Police, headed by District Mineral Officer Rajinder Singh on Thursday seized 3 heavy excavators and 14 Dumpers involved in illegal mining. Acting on a series of complaints lodged by local people and on directions of Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey, the team launched a crackdown at Tarnah and Barma Mangalore and seized loaded dumpers and machinery.

The DMO informed that a total of 1400 MTs of raw material has been excavated and lifted from the locations by the violators. He informed that no vehicle can transport raw or finished mineral from Nallah, rivers, stone-crushers and other mining places without valid documents. All the 3 seized excavators and 14 Dumpers were handed over to Incharge police post Chadwah Muzamal for further legal action as per rules. The overall operation was carried out under close supervision of SSP Kathua R C Kotwal.

5 injured in Paddar accident

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHITWAR: Five persons got injured a road mishap at Paddar.

According to information, a vehicle went out of control and fell into a deep gorge near Tiyari in Paddar area of Kishtwar, due to which 5 persons traveling in it got injured. They were taken to PHC Paddar and after first aid, referred to GMC Doda, where they are under treatment. The injured were identified as Sanjiv Kumar, son of Jodh Ram, resident of Tyari; Ridhi Devi, daughter of Kuldeep Singh, resident of Sohal, Soni Devi, daughter of Kuldeep Singh, resident of Sohal; Susheela Devi, wife of Om Parkash, resident of Pallali and Samridhi, daughter of Rajinder Singh, resident of Sohal.

Rape case reported

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gandhi Nagar police has registered a rape case on complaint of a girl.

According to information, a complaint was lodged by a girl, resident of Punjab with police that she used to work in a shop in Gandhi Nagar area and a youth, working in same shop, has raped her.

She further told that accused is a resident of Nanak Nagar. Acting on her complaint, police has registered a case and started investigation.

Man arrested for cheating shopkeepers

STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Police on Thursday arrested man who used to cheat shopkeepers.

According to information, police was continuously receiving complaints from shopkeepers that a person used to purchase goods from their shops and move away without paying for the same.

During investigation, the police got a clue and arrested him. He was identified as Sandeep Sharma, resident of Maira Mandriyan, at present staying at Talab Tillo. During the investigation, police came to know that he had duped people in many areas of city.

Abortive bid to steal ATM

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Thieves tried to steal an ATM in Narwal area on Thursday.

According to information, thieves tried to steal an ATM in Narwal area. An attempt was made by thieves to steal the machine but they did not succeed. Acting on complaint, police has registered a case and started investigation.

the way for the construction of the Ram temple in the disputed site at Ayodhya, where Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992.

The prime minister performed the "Bhoomi puja" for the construction of the temple on August 5, 2020.

At Sabroom in South Tripura district, Shah flagged off a BJP rath yatra, the second one during the day after Dharmanagar in North Tripura district, aimed at highlighting the state government's achievements.

The country is safe in the hands of Modi, the union minister said.

"Ten days after the Pulwama incident in Kashmir, Indian soldiers went inside Pakistan and carried out a successful operation under Modi's leadership," he pointed out.

A CRPF convoy was attacked by a suicide bomber in Pulwama district killing 40 personnel on February 14, 2019. The Indian Air Force raided a terrorist camp at Balakot in Pakistan on February 26.

SIU conducts raids...

& sections 17, 18, 20, 38, 39, 40 of UA(P) Act.

The crackdown on terrorist elements operating within the district and those from Pakistan is a step towards dismantling of terror ecosystem working in the valley. The searches were conducted in the residential houses of relatives of some eight (8) terrorists who have crossed LoC illegally and joined terrorist ranks and are affiliated with banned terrorist organisations like HM, LeT and JeM etc.

As per initial investigations, these terrorists have been found involved in actively conspiring and facilitating infiltration of terrorists, supplying of arms and ammunition in addition to using of Cyber space in radicalising Kashmiri youths to join terrorist ranks besides raising funds for terrorists activities.

The searches were conducted at Hyama, Kralpora, Mirnag, Lolab and Sulkoot localities of the district after search warrants were obtained from the designated Court. During the searches, vital evidences including mobile phones and other materials have been seized which are relevant for investigation of the case for corroborating the role of these persons in perpetuation of terrorism. With the investigation at its initial stages, more searches shall be carried in due course of time.

Mayor appeals Jammuites...

Union Territory of J&K, in general, and the petitioner-authority, in particular, shall ensure that no structure of any kind is allowed/ permitted to be raised on public road, street, pathway, lane etc. which is part and parcel of the public property and belongs to the UT.

If any such structure is erected or re-erected within a period of last five years, the same shall be removed forthwith. If any encroachment is made on roads, pathways, streets or lanes in future, the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of that area shall be responsible for the same, the High Court directed.

Meanwhile, the Mayor Jammu launched an awareness tour this afternoon from Dogra Chowk for removal of encroachments and visited a number of areas of the city - Jewel area, Gumat Bazar, Gurudwara Sunder Singh Road, Raghunath Bazar, Hari Market, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Kanak Mandi, Lakhdata Bazar, Jain Bazar, Chowk Chabutra, Panjirithi, Pacc Danga and Parade. He appealed to all Jammuites for removal of encroachments at their own.

The citizens and shopkeepers of these areas welcomed the initiative taken by Mayor Jammu, which is first of its kind, and appreciated the move for generating awareness and appealing for removal of encroachments by taking all into confidence. During the tour, the Mayor Jammu and his team was assured that they will definitely cooperate with the Jammu Municipal Corporation for removal of encroachments.

Peace, tranquillity along...

Ladakh for over 31 months. The bilateral relationship came under severe strain following the deadly clash in Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh in June, 2020.

India has been maintaining that the relationship cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border area.

"I have a lot of faith in our armed forces to defend our territory," Bagchi said when asked about some reports of China allegedly carrying out certain constructions in areas claimed by India.

He said discussions were underway between India and China through military and diplomatic channels.

These are the mechanisms through which our concerns about Chinese activities are conveyed, he said.

Bagchi said both sides are also focusing on getting back to a degree of normalcy and de-escalation and disengagement at the border.

There has been a fresh spike in tensions between India and China after troops from the two sides were engaged in a clash along the LAC at Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on December 13 that the Chinese troops tried to "unilaterally" change the status quo in the Yangtse area but the Indian Army compelled them to retreat by its firm and resolute response.

To a separate question on the World Health Organization (WHO) holding that China is under-reporting COVID-19 infection numbers, Bagchi only said: "We hope countries will closely coordinate with WHO and share necessary information so that we can come out of Covid faster."

ST IMPACT: Expert...

ICU, alleged that condition of patient is worsening due to lack of proper care by doctors, medical assistants and nursing staff.

While speaking to STATE TIMES, Sharma said that LG Manoj Sinha gave clear instructions that patients should be fully taken care of by hospital staff so that

Three die in accidents

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three people died in accidents in different areas of the city on Thursday.

According to information, Sanjay, son of Suraj, resident of Langar Kunjwani was going on his motorcycle and got injured after getting hit by another bike coming from opposite direction in Gangyal area. He was taken to hospital where he has died during treatment.

Apart from this, Jagdish, son of Mohan Lal, resident of Udhampur met with an accident in Katra and got injured. He later died during treatment in hospital. Another person got hit by a vehicle in Miran Sahib and died. He was identified as Ajit Raj, son of Dewan Chand resident of Darsopur.

Two die in suspicious conditions

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two persons died under suspicious circumstances in different areas on Thursday. According to the information, body of a youth was found near Selfie Point in Nagrota, who was identified as Sunil Singh, resident of Udhampur. Police took his body into custody and sent it to the hospital.

Apart from this, body of another person was found in the warehouse area. Police took body to the hospital and kept in morgue for identification.

Meanwhile, one person also died after consuming poisonous substance in Pacc Danga area. He has been identified as Afzal Khan, resident of Ustaad Mohalla.

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