

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

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 Brahmana, 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...

policemen, 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 yelped 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

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 Hyhama, 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, Lakhdatta Bazar, Jain Bazar, Chowk Chabutra, Panjtirthi, Pacea 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

attendants need not to run from one room to other to locate doctors and other test reports.

"LG Sinha Sb also said that no payment will be charged from attendants but on the contrary, the hospital staff refused to perform X-ray without payment, Sharma said.

Contrary to directions of LG, the Hospital staff expected all type of assistance and even nursing care from the dependants," said Sharma, who has lost whole family in Dangri massacre and Prince Sharma is the only surviving member in the family. He further alleged that attitude of GMC staff is irresponsible, rough and pinching. The attendants demanded immediate intervention of LG Manoj Sinha and requested him to issue suitable instructions to the hospital authorities for saving the precious lives.

Training for first...

of interest in Agniveer recruitments and the recent recruitment rallies have shown tremendous enthusiasm in the form of huge numbers turning up, a defence spokesman said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi visited the state-of-the-art Agniveer training facility located at JAKLI regimental centre at Dansal to review the preparedness and arrangements for the first batch of Agniveers being trained, he said.

Recently the Ministry of Defence signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with various stakeholders like the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the director general of training for facilitating continued education of serving Agniveers and providing appropriate skill certificates.

"In keeping with the vision of Nation Building and National prosperity the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre has been transforming the youth to become brave soldiers for the Nation", he said.

The selected Agniveers will undergo 10 weeks of basic military training (BMT) followed up by 21 weeks of advanced military training (AMT) at this regimental centre, the spokesman said.

After successful completion of the prescribed training, Agniveers will be dispatched to the different Jammu and Kashmir light infantry battalions located in various parts of the country, he added.

Gurpurab celebrated with...

Rainawari area and extended warm greetings to the members of Sikh community on the auspicious occasion of Prakash Purab marking 357th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner accompanied by senior functionaries of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee took round of the Gurudwara and paid obeisance to the Guru Granth Sahib.

The Gurudwara authorities expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and conveyed their gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner in this regard.

Srinagar, other places...

5.2 degrees Celsius the night before.

The officials said that last night was the coldest of the season so far in the city. The minimum temperature recorded was also the second lowest in the month of January in the last five years.

In 2021, the city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 8.8 degrees Celsius on January 31.

Apart from Srinagar, Qazigund and Kupwara also experienced the coldest night of the season, according to the officials.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, registered the minimum of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius a degree down from the previous night.

Kupwara, a frontier district, also recorded the minimum of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius. Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.4 degrees, the officials said. The tourist resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered the low of minus 9.2 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir. The minimum temperature in Gulmarg, the famous ski resort town in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recorded a temperature of minus 7.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Bail plea of...

accused Bajinder Singh & other accused persons. In pursuance to the criminal conspiracy, he arranged hotels for stay of the accused and for arranging venues for providing leaked question papers to candidates at Karnal. "The accused was present at Royal Hut hotel when candidates were taken inside and was aware that these were candidates and not officials of Horticulture department. He was in regular touch with accused Bajinder Singh through mobile. Documents seized from hotel Kurukshetra Haveli reveals that booking was done by him and his known person Sudhir Singh," they Court observed. C/JM Jammu Anjum Ara further observed that the offences involved in the present case impact the whole society especially the meritorious students/candidates whose future is ruined by such unfair methods. Such offences have an impact on the social and economic well being of society. "Accused persons who are involved in grave socio economic offences being influential can tamper with evidence and hamper/frustrate further investigation if released on bail.

Further investigation of the case is still going on and the involvement of many more accused is yet to be ascertained by the investigating agency as such the release of accused at this stage will hamper the investigation. Thus, accused are not found entitled for any leniency of bail at this stage. The arguments put forth by the counsel for petitioners cannot be considered while deciding bail applications which can be looked into in the main case during trial," they Court observed and rejected bail applications.

Three die in accidents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three people died in accidents in different areas of 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 Devan 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 Pacea Danga area. He has been identified as Aftab Khan, resident of Ustaad Mohalla.

People defrauded of lakhs in name of plots, job

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: City police has registered a case on complaint of the people wherein there stated that a man had cheated many of lakhs in name of a providing plots, government jobs etc.

According to the information, people lodged a complaint alleging that one Riaz Ahmed, resident of Kashmir has defrauded them.

They told that about thirty to forty lakh rupees have been defrauded promising a plot but people didn't get the same. After that, he promised a job which was also not provided. Acting on the complaint, police has registered a case and started investigation.

DC Pulwama holds open air public grievance redressal camp within office premises



DC Baseer-UI-Haq Choudhary listening to people's issues.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer-UI-Haq Choudhary on Thursday held an open air Public Grievance Redressal Camp in DC office premises to listen to the public grievances/ issues for on spot redressal.

The Grievance Redressal Camp witnessed large participation of public/ applicants from different areas of the district.

During the Redressal Camp, Public delegations and scores of individual applicants projected various issues before the DC.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all the grievances and demands of the public and sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp. He also redressed hundreds of

grievances on the spot. During the redressal camp, Choudhary handed over financial assistance to scores of needy people. He also settled scores of issues related to cash compensation under SRO-43, Land disputes, compensation to widows, health/ illness related cases, issuance of birth certificates, issuance of hearing aids etc.

Further, the DC assured the people of Pulwama/ applicants that all issues and grievances will be looked into on priority for their speedy redressal.

During the programme, applicants thanked the Deputy Commissioner for conducting an open air Public Grievance Redressal Camp for the people to take stock of their grievances and issues.

ACR Pulwama, Sub Registrar Pulwama and other officers/ officials were present at the event.

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 Barna Mangloore 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 Chadwal 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

KISHTWAR: 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 Sanjit Kumar, son of Jodh Ram, resident of Tyari; Ridhi Devi, daughter of Kuldeep Singh, resident of Sohla; Soni Devi, daughter of Kuldeep Singh, resident of Sohla; Sushela Devi, wife of Om Parkash, resident of Pallali and Samridhi, daughter of Rajinder Singh, resident of Sohla.

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.