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2 policemen martyred...

details on the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. He has also expressed condolences to the families of those security personnel who have been martyred in the attack."

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and mainstream politicians and parties condemned the terror attack.

"Strongly condemn the cowardly terrorist attack on J&K Police bus in Srinagar. My homage to our brave martyred police personnel. We are committed to ensure that perpetrators are punished. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, Sinha said on Twitter.

He said the security forces were determined to neutralise the evil forces of terrorism.

Directed the concerned authorities to provide best possible treatment to the injured. I pray for their speedy recovery. Our police and security forces are determined to neutralize the evil forces of terrorism, he said.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, strongly condemned the terrorist attack terming it as despicable act.

"The culprits behind this dastardly attack will not be spared at any cost", warned the Advisor while advocating stringent action against those responsible for the unfortunate incident.

Advisor Khan said that such attacks reflect the frustration among the terrorists and their mentors across the border.

He expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved families of the martyred police personnel and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured. "Jammu and Kashmir police has always given supreme sacrifices for upholding the security and integrity of the country and such cowardly acts will be given a befitting reply", asserted Advisor Khan.

Condemning the attack, National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah tweeted, "Terrible news of a terror attack on a police bus on the outskirts of Srinagar. I unequivocally condemn this attack while at the same time send my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased & prayers for the injured."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said while the attack on policemen was terribly sad, it exposed the Centre's false narrative of normalcy in Kashmir.

Terribly sad to hear about the Srinagar attack in which two policemen were killed. GOIs false narrative of normalcy in Kashmir stands exposed yet there has been no course correction. My condolences to the bereaved families, Mehbooba said in a tweet.

BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana expressed anguish over the terror ambush on a police vehicle near Zewan in Srinagar, saying such barbaric acts were highly reprehensible.

"My heart goes to the families, who have lost their valiant sons in the dastardly act", Rana, currently on a two-day visit to the border district of Rajouri, said in a message, adding that terrorism has no place in a civilized world and those indulging in such barbaric acts were the enemies of humanity.

Rana conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families, prayed for peace to the departed souls and strength to their relatives and friends to bear this irreparable loss.

The BJP leader also wished speedy recovery to the valiant injured personnel and prayed for their well-being. He expressed solidarity with their families.

The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit spokesman Altaf Thakur said the attack reflects the frustration on the part of militants as they choose darkness to target the police bus.

He expressed deep condolences on the death of two policemen.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) condemned the attack as an mindless and inhuman act.

The party said the security situation has deteriorated to a largest extent and the government must take measures to contain loss of lives.

Peoples Conference led by Sajad Lone also condemned the attack.

Terrible sad news. We unreservedly condemn the terrorist attack on @JmuKmrPolice personnel in Zewan today. Deepest condolences to the families of deceased. Join us in praying for speedy recovery to the injured, the PC wrote on Twitter.

According to police statement, terrorists fired indiscriminately upon a police vehicle near Zewan Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar. Senior police officers along with reinforcement reached at the terror crime spot.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that three terrorists had fired indiscriminately upon a police vehicle carrying police personnel of 9th Battalion near Zewan Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar. The said police party were coming back to their campus after finishing their duties. Although the fire was retaliated however taking advantage of darkness the terrorists managed to escape from the spot. In this terror incident 14 police personnel were injured and were shifted to hospital for treatment. Among the injured personnel, ASI Ghulam Hassan & SgCT Safique Ali succumbed to their injuries and attained martyrdom, whereas the condition of other injured personnel is stated to be stable.

IGP Kashmir on behalf of Police Parivaar has paid rich tributes to these martyrs, who laid down their lives in the line of duty. He further said that the credible sources revealed that the attack was carried by Kashmir Tigers, an offshoot of JeM. In the retaliatory firing, one of the terrorists got injured and the group involved in this gruesome terrorist attack will be soon brought to justice, states the police.

Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law and officers continue to work to establish the circumstances which lead to this terror crime. Area has been cordoned off and search in the area is going on, adds the police statement.

Pak intruder shot...

but the intruder kept running towards border fencing aggressively," Sandhu, who is the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of BSF, Jammu, said.

He said alert BSF troops fired and neutralized the intruder near BSF fencing inside the IB and thwarted the infiltration attempt.

BJP worker's PSO...

said. During investigation, it came to light that two rifles were also missing from Zargar's residence, they said.

A close associate, also neighbor, of Saqib Tantray, identified as Arif Ahmad Mir, has also been missing since morning, they added.

Two LeT terrorists...

were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT," he said.

According to police records, the spokesperson said that the terrorists were involved in several terror crime cases and civilian atrocities, and played a key role in number

of recent killings in Srinagar city.

"On March last year, Wani, along with his associates, fired upon police party post Warpora Sopore in which a police personnel Wajahat Asadullah was martyred and a civilian Shaban Wagay was killed.

"Besides, the slain terrorist was also involved in several grenade attacks on police or security forces establishments, including a grenade attack at the Sopore bus stand in which 19 civilians were injured, a grenade attack at Police Post Bus Stand Sopore in which two police personnel were injured, he said.

Arms and ammunition, including two AK rifles, and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter and they have all been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes, the spokesman said.

J&K ranks second...

30 years Plus Population, its early detection and timely treatment is the major focus under Ayushman Bharat- Comprehensive Primary Health Care. In this regard a special drive was launched for NCD Screening and Wellness activities under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from 16th November to 11th December 2021, where all the Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres actively screened 30-Plus Population for Hypertension, Diabetes, and three leading Cancers (Oral, Breast & Cervical), he added.

A total of 3,09,541 persons were screened for Hypertension 2,94,592 for Diabetes, 2,51,758 for Oral Cancer, 1,26,564 for Breast Cancer and 42,866 for Cervical Cancer during the campaign.

The theme for UHC day this year is "Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all". The theme resonates with resolve to ensure that everyone in the country should have access to quality and affordable healthcare, closer to their homes. The event was organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA/ Jhpiego.

Court frames corruption...

to the Govt Exchequer. Accused namely Gopal Singh, Madan Lal, Fateh Singh, Tara Singh, Gandeep Singh and Jaktar Singh, in pursuance of criminal conspiracy, have received excess compensation at the costs of genuine claimants. Therefore, accused Nasir Iqbal Paray and Mohd Saleem Banday are charge-sheeted for the commission of offences under sections 5 (1) (d) and Section 5 (2) of J&K P.C. Act read with Sections 467/468/471 and 120-B of RPC.

119 new coronavirus...

pandemic last year, they said

The active cases in the union territory have come down to 190, officials said.

All the fresh cases were reported in Leh, they said.

A total of 401 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said.

Tyrants like Aurangzeb...

constituency, Modi paid obeisance at the Kaal Bhairav Temple and then took a dip in the Ganga, from where he collected holy water for worship at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

A new history is being created, he said in the speech that mentioned Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, Muslim invader Salar Masud and British governor-general Warren Hastings.

Sultanae rose and fell but Benaras remained, he said.

"Tyrants attacked this city, tried to destroy it. History is witness to Aurangzeb's atrocities, his terror. He tried to change civilisation with the sword. He tried to crush culture with fanaticism.

"But the soil of this country is different from the rest of the world. Here if an Aurangzeb comes, a Shivaji also rises," Modi said. The PM raised the chant of 'Har Har Mahadev', associated with Lord Shiva, several times.

"If a Salar Masud marches on, warriors like Raja Suheldev make him realise the power of our unity," he said. People of Varanasi forced Hastings to escape on an elephant's back, he added.

"See how the times change. Today, those synonymous with terror have been consigned to the black pages of history while my Kashi marches ahead and is writing a new chapter of its glory," the prime minister said. Whenever the city has taken a turn, the country's fate has also changed, he added.

Many historians believe that Aurangzeb had ordered pulling down the temple to build a mosque. Modi also lauded Rani Ahilyabai for rebuilding the temple and Sikh Ranjit Singh for gold-plating its domes.

He said the new complex of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham is not just a grand building, but a symbol of the "Sanatan culture" of India, its spiritual soul antiquity and traditions.

Modi expressed his gratitude to workers involved in the construction project, saying they did not let even the Covid pandemic stop them. In an attraction, he showed a group of them with flower petals and later had lunch with them.

The visit triggered a loaded remark by Akhilesh Yadav, whose Samajwadi Party is the main opposition to the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh, where Assembly elections are due in less than three months.

"Why only a month, he said when told by reporters in Etawah that Modi planned month-long celebrations in Varanasi.

He should stay for two months, three months. That is a good place to stay. When the end is near, people stay in Banaras," he said.

In his speech at the temple complex, the prime minister said if India is building a Ram Temple and the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, it is also laying down thousands of kilometres of optical fibre in sea, building millions of houses for the poor and working to send people to space.

He also recalled the work done on Buddhist and Sikh pilgrimage centres.

"The new India has heritage as well as development. It is not only proud of its culture but has equal belief in its capabilities," he said.

The premises, he said, is a confluence of the ancient and new. It is a testimony to our capabilities and nothing is impossible if there is a firm resolve".

"The strength of destroyers can never be bigger than India's 'shakti' and 'bhakti'. The world will look at us in the same way we look at ourselves," he said.

Prime Minister Modi also urged people to commit themselves to 'swachhata' (cleanliness), 'srijan' (creation and innovation) and continuous effort towards an 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) India.

"In this Amrit Kaal", in the 75th year of independence, we will have to work for what India will be like when India celebrates a hundred years of independence," he said.

The prime minister said earlier the Kashi Vishwanath temple area was only 3,000 square feet which has now enlarged to about 5 lakh square feet.

He said Kashi is "imperishable" and is under the patronage of Lord Shiva.

People chanted Har Har Mahadev as the PM's cavalcade rolled through the city.

Modi also stopped at one place to accept felicitations.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP president J P Nadda and

hundreds of seers and saints from across the country attended the ceremony.

Pahalgam BDC chairman...

leaders from different political parties, social activists and members of the civil society are joining the BJP.

He said the BJP as a political party has succeeded in gaining the trust of the masses from all the regions of J-K.

In J&K, one can serve the nation, society and people with a clear heart and soul, said Sethi.

Where is much...

guarantees were eroded and its abrogation was made a perfect pretext for rescinding our constitutional status. All we are asking is that where is the much touted change?" he said.

The NC leader asked where is the era of development, investment, job extravaganza and inclusion that the people were promised beckons us.

"A new dawn is arising, we were told. Where is it?... It was said that whenever accountability was sought local politicians took shelter behind Article 370," he said.

Abdullah said people in J&K were in "trouble" and desperate for good governance. Bureaucracy is out of touch with people. Civil administration has taken a direct hit as a consequence of a new undemocratic project that is in place in Jammu and Kashmir. A change in the composition of the civil services after disbanding J&K cadre has only deepened the administrative inertia in the region.

The parochial bureaucrats are at loss to understand the issues of the local populace. The incumbent unrelated administration has also failed to forge informal relationships with the people," he said.

He said the government has also lost sight of the predicaments suffered by the elected panchs, sarpanchs, and DDCs.

"Airdropped bureaucracy is treating these elected representatives as having no value. There is growing anxiety among such grassroots level elected representatives across Jammu and Kashmir. There is a groundswell of anger and despair found in such representatives. Most of them have been confined to hotel rooms," he said.

Referring to the criticism by certain quarters that the NC was part of the BJP-led government at the Centre headed by A B Vajpayee, he said his party was a constituent of the NDA headed by the person who extended a hand of friendship towards Pakistan at Srinagar.

"There is no denying it. I was a minister in the NDA led by Vajpayee who opened trade and bus service with Pakistan. I worked with a PM, who started the Lahore bus service. I worked with a PM, who sought to approach the issues playing J&K within the framework of Insaniyat, Kashmireyat, and Jamhooriyat," he said.

The NC vice-president, however, said the same cannot be said for those who are pointing fingers at his party.

"There is no comparison between the then NDA led by late Vajpayee and the present BJP. Vajpayee was the first to weave the twin threads of India-Pakistan relations and Kashmir outreach into a single tapestry. He continued holding an olive branch on the reef of thorns.

In him, Kashmir had a pair of ears that heard their tribulations, predicaments, ears that heard voices of reason and was aware of the historicity of Kashmir's unique identity. Can this be said for the present BJP? Is there any comparison? I don't think so," Abdullah said.

J&K moving towards...

two years under the guidance of the Prime Minister, top priority is being given to the equitable and holistic development of all sections, and the areas which were kept backward since independence have been included in the mainstream development. The policies that have been implemented on the ground after 2019 have brought social justice to all sections for the first time since independence, he added.

Underlining that everyone is being provided opportunities to lead a better life irrespective of religion, caste, class, the Lt Governor said that countless schemes have been started for the Youth in the economic, social, and educational fields, and a host of opportunities have been created for women to become independent and successful.

The Lt Governor observed that mechanization and reforms done in J&K's Agriculture and Horticulture sector in the last two years has resulted in substantial increase in the monthly income of the farmers, much higher than the national average.

The Lt Governor observed that it is due to transparent, responsive, corruption-free, and accountable administration that the common man is feeling connected with the journey of development and prosperity in J&K. Now every penny that is spent for development is accounted for and the details of every project are kept in public domain, he added.

The Lt Governor also elucidated great strides achieved by the UT administration in the past two years in the health, tourism, and industrial sectors.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor paid tributes and remembered the teachings and values propagated by Bharat Ratna Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyaji.

He observed that Mahamana Malaviyaji made an invaluable contribution to the Indian Renaissance, Nationalist Ideology, Public Awakening, Welfare, Justice and Freedom, and in the fields of Education and spirituality.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyaji always emphasized on the upliftment of the last man in the queue and improvement in socio-economic condition of the country, he added. Devendra Swaroop Shukla, Secretary, Mahamana Malaviyaji Mission, office bearers of Narayan Seva Sansthan, and large number of people were present on the occasion.

LS nod to...

Bill, 2021 was passed by a voice vote and some amendments moved by opposition members were rejected by the House.

Responding to concerns raised by members that the provision for implementing the law with retrospective effect was in violation of Article 20 (1) of the Constitution, Sitharaman said according to the opinion of the Solicitor General, the amendment could be permitted as it was not substantive, but clarificatory in nature.

She said the retrospective amendment was allowed as the government did not want to create a new law but only correct a mistake.

Jammu Admn retrieves