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Azad urges Centre...

and Kashmir, he added.

"Former prime minister Indira Gandhi used to say that we need to take more care of the border residents as they are the ones who are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our forces to safeguard the country and also suffer the major brunt in case of shelling and firing," Azad said.

Paying tributes to the people and the security forces, he said the government of the day should serve the people of border areas with an open heart.

Appealing to the people to reject political parties seeking votes in the name of religion, the Congress leader said, "Let the people decide who they should vote for based on the report card of the government."

He also lauded the people of Poonch district for maintaining brotherhood and communal harmony.

"We are proud of our nation which is based on secularism and binds people of different faiths together. There is complete harmony among various communities," Azad said.

"People doing politics on the basis of religion, region, creed or caste have no right to govern the public," he said, adding, "People can be won over by love and not by the use of power."

Jaish's IED expert...

Kashmir Police described Furqan alias Ali Bhai as a ruthless category 'A+' Pakistani terrorist who was known to be active with the Jaish-e-Mohammed since June, 2020.

He was sent to Kashmir to radicalise youths and incite them to take up arms to commit atrocities on innocent locals and prominent businessmen.

According to police spokesperson, terrorist Abu Furkan was active in Kashmir valley since 2018 figuring among the list of top 60 terrorists and used to operate in Pulwama and Pakharpura area of Budgam. He was involved in various terrorist activities, recruitment of local youth into JeM terror folds and mentoring active terrorists of JeM. He was responsible for providing capabilities on fabrication of IEDs.

Moreover, he along with terrorist Yasir Parray were the main conspirators of Avangund Rajpora VB-IED in which 50Kg IED laden Santro Vehicle was recovered and defused by Police and security forces. They were also involved in killing of a civilian Azad Ahmad Dar resident of Kangan Pulwama.

The second terrorist, Parrey, was a notorious category 'B' terrorist, who was known to be associated with various Pakistani terrorists and he acted as a guide for bringing them into Kashmir.

Parray was a known associate of Pakistani terrorist Abu Saifullah alias Lambu, who had planned the Pulwama convoy attack on the CRPF in February, 2019 that left 40 CRPF personnel dead, the spokesperson added.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 02 AK-series rifles, 02 pistols were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. Police has registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated, the police spokesperson added.

J&K logs 234...

Union Territory, officials said.

Ladakh has reported a total of 214 deaths due to the viral disease -- 156 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said.

Twelve patients were cured and discharged from various hospitals in Leh. The total number of recoveries has gone up to 20,088 in the Union Territory, the officials said.

All the 38 fresh cases were reported in Leh, they said, adding that a total of 1,451 sample reports in Ladakh were found to be negative in a 24-hour period.

Of the 276 active COVID-19 cases in the Union Territory, 255 are in Leh and 21 in Kargil.

Art 370 was...

claims (of the BJP) have fallen flat as there was no benefit of its decision on the ground. They talked about development, investment, jobs, peace and end to militancy and separatism but none of this happened over the past nearly two and a half years," he alleged.

Abdullah claimed that the situation in Kashmir valley is grim "not because of Pakistan or some other country but growing militancy due to joining of local disgruntled youth into the ranks of militants".

Referring to the removal of 40 security pickets from Srinagar with the improvement in security situation during his rule in 2009-2015, he said the community centres built by his government to facilitate marriage ceremonies in congested downtown Srinagar were converted into security camps.

"Militancy has not gone as claimed by the government after August 2019. They claimed that Article 370 was the obstacle in the return of Kashmiri migrant Pandits. Over two years have passed now, but none of the Pandits returned to their homes," Abdullah said, adding selective killings including that of pharmacy owner M K Bindroo, who did not leave even during the peak of militancy, in October exposed their claims.

"One has to respond to their falsehood and false promises," he said.

CRIME REPORT

Rs 50,400 fine recovered from SoPs violators in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across district Ramban, the Enforcement teams on Wednesday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance. The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 50,400 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs 69,02,900.

The Enforcement officers urged people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr Suresh informed that as many as 933 persons were administered first and second COVID vaccine doses across Ramban district on Wednesday. As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer Ramban, Dr Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 2,428 samples including 426 RT-PCR and 2,002 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccines to 933 persons at dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

Kingpin including 4 arrested; 1,390 Kg stolen iron bars recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Wednesday arrested 4 persons including Kingpin and recovered 1,390 Kg Saria (Iron bars for railway projects) besides seizing three vehicles involved in crime.

As per details, an information was received through reliable sources at Police Station Bahu Fort regarding major fraud in iron rods of Steel Authority of India on basis of which police teams were formed under the supervision of SDPO City East Sajad Sarwan. A team led by SHO Police Station Bahu Fort, Insp Deepak Pathania assisted by ASI Manzoor Ahmed conducted raid at Yard No 2, Narwal and found that some persons were loading Saria (iron-bars) in a truck (JK02V/6067) from two Trallas (JK02AW/3210 & JK02AE/1013). During investigation, it came to fore that Trallas were loaded from depot of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Narwal and loaded Saria (iron-bars) were supposed to be delivered/unloaded at different sites of Railway projects in District Ramban. On seeing police party, the accused tried to run away but were over-powered by the alert cops. On search, huge quantity of Saria (approx 1,390 Kg) was recovered from truck (JK02V/6067) which was supposed to be sold in black market. All the three vehicles have also been seized in the instant case.

The accused, identified as Inderjeet Singh alias Rinka (Kingpin), son of Jaswant Singh, resident of Gole Gujral, Jammu; Satpal Singh, son of Bhagwan Singh, resident of Ghagwal, Samba (Tralla driver JK02AW/3210); Sikander Singh, son of Kartar Singh, resident of Lehar, Sungal Akhnoor (Tralla driver JK02AE/1013) and Krishan Singh, son of Shiv Ram, resident of Ramnagar (Truck driver JK02V/6067) were arrested and FIR No. 382/21 under section 407 of IPC was registered against them at Police Station Bahu Fort.

During investigation it came to fore that modus operandi of accused was that they use to take out Saria (iron rods) from Trallas after coming out from

Referring to picturesque Bhaderwah, he said this is the only place in the entire Jammu region which has the potential for tourism growth and where holidaymakers can stay at least for four or five days but there was no investment either from the present government or the private parties which it promised will bring investment from outside.

"There has been no development of tourism related infrastructure here since 2015. I am myself witness to unscheduled power cuts during my night stay at the hotel. The room heaters were useless... God willing when the centre rule will end and we have our own popular government, the National Conference will ensure major tourism projects like a cable car for the valley," he claimed and asked the Lt Governor administration to focus on the development of the region till the formation of a popular government.

He also promised justice with the people of Bhaderwah and said the "aim of his visit to Chenab valley along with other senior party leaders was to strengthen the party where it is weak".

"We have not done justice with Bhaderwah and took several decisions in the past which led to the fall of the party. We left the assembly seat to Congress in 1987 and again to BSP in 1996 and both the times the candidates supported by National Conference won, while our party became weak," he said.

Terror incidents decline...

terrorists have been killed.

He said during last year, October 2020-21, 32 security forces and 19 Jammu and Kashmir police personnel were "martyred".

The minister said a total of 251 terrorist incidents have been reported between October 2020 and October 2021.

Rai said the incidents of infiltration and terrorist attacks have decreased significantly since 2018 in Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2018, 143 incidents of 'Estimated Net Infiltration' were reported from Jammu and Kashmir which had dipped to 141 in 2019, 51 in 2020 and 28 (up to October 30, 2021, the data provided by the minister in his response showed.

In 2018, 417 terrorist incidents were reported in Jammu and Kashmir which had decreased to 255 in 2019, 244 in 2020 and 200 (up to November 21, 2021, it showed.

Don't leave High...

Chandrabhup, Surya Kant and Vikram Nath batted for creation of specific cadre for tribunals and said that the Centre can contemplate creating an All India Tribunal Service for effective administration of tribunals.

The bench said: We have found that infrastructure work gets completed fast when funds are allocated by the Centre. We appreciate the efforts of the Central government for speedy allocation of funds for creation of court infrastructure.

"We recently held a meeting of Chief Justices of different High Courts and all of them said one thing that they don't know when the funds will be allocated by the State government. So, don't leave the High Courts at the mercy of state governments for funds. You must create a centralised mechanism for development of judicial infrastructure.

The top court was deliberating upon the recommendation of Justice (retd) A K Sikri made in his report on the National Court Management System.

The bench said: You see, we have inherited our judicial infrastructure from the British. Till the 1970s and 80's the approach was to increase the strength of the judiciary by creating new vacancies and filling them.

"Now after that period, the approach of the judiciary and government has also changed. Now, at the time when the government is talking about ease of business, speedy disposal of corporate cases, settlement of disputes through arbitration and mediation and inviting foreign direct investment, it also understands the need for creation of additional infrastructure.

It asked Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj to seek instruction on creation of an umbrella body like National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation, a sub-committee at the national and state levels and a central mechanism for allocation of funds for creation of infrastructure.

We cannot wait for the Chief Justices' benches to take up the matter of creation of judicial infrastructure. Several Chief Justices' benches have passed certain directions in the past. Some Chief Justices have longer tenure and some have shorter tenure. It is very difficult to pursue the matter, the bench said.

It accepted that the problem is also at the end of the judiciary as even if the funds are allocated, they remain unutilised, as the judges are unable to spend it.

In that sense, we can say judges are misers. They don't know how to spend it. Judges are not supposed to do these things and they have other work to do. They are reluctant to get into all this. They will have to issue a tender and then oversee completion of work on time, it said.

Nataraj said that courts can seek information from the high courts as to how many vacancies are not filled for want of adequate infrastructure.

The bench said, Is this your case, that the judiciary is not filling vacancies because there is no adequate infrastructure. You cannot say that the judiciary should first fill the vacancies and then you will create judicial infrastructure.

It said that a problem in tribunals is that there are no specific cadres and besides judicial members, people from various departments are made non-judicial members.

In consumer tribunal, besides judicial members, people from other fields and

the depots of Steel Authority of India (SAIL). The iron rods taken out of the Trallas was replaced by the stones weighing equivalent to weight of stolen items. Due to it, the weight of vehicle loaded with Saria (iron-bars) was recorded same at the destination, as it was in depot while actual quantity used to be quite less than that. After this, stolen iron bars were sold in black market. The overall arrest and recoveries were made under the supervision of SP City South Deepak Digras.

Major criminal activity averted, one arrested with sharp-edged weapon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: A major criminal activity was averted with the timely action of police, which arrested a notorious criminal along with a sharp-edged weapon.

As per details, information was received at Police Station Bishnah regarding a notorious criminal carrying a sharp-edged weapon in the area. On this a team of Police Station Bishnah led by SHO Bishnah Insp Joginder Singh laid a Naka and rounded up criminal, identified as Ramzan Kumar, son of Bodh Raj, resident of village Pindi Kathar, Tehsil Arnia, District Jammu. During search, a sharp-edged weapon was recovered from possession of accused. He was arrested and FIR No 174/2021 under section 4/25 A Act was registered against him at Police Station Bishnah. It is pertinent to mention that accused is a notorious criminal and was earlier also involved in many cases.

Bootlegger arrested with 36 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: Police on Wednesday nabbed a bootlegger and recovered 36 bottles of illicit liquor from his possession. As per details, a team of Police Station Bishnah led by SHO Bishnah Insp Joginder Singh while on Naka duty in Bishnah area rounded up a suspect who acted suspicious on seeing Police Naka. During search, 36 bottles of illicit liquor i.e., 6 bottles (750 ml each) and 30 bottles (180 ml each) were recovered from him. The accused, identified as Janak Raj, son of Banarsi Dass, resident of Deoli Tehsil Bishnah District Jammu, was arrested and FIR No. 173/2020 under section 48 of Excise Act was registered against him at Police Station Bishnah.

Man from Nowshera dies in custody of Himachal Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A person, resident of Nowshera in Rajouri district, died in the custody of Himachal Police. The cause of death was reported to be ingestion of a substance. However, magisterial inquiry has been ordered in the matter.

Raj Kumar, son of Sai Das, resident of Seri Nowshera was arrested by Himachal Pradesh police in a cheque-bounce case. When he was being taken to Himachal, Raj consumed some poisonous substance near Samba following which he was shifted to GMC hospital, where he succumbed during treatment.

departments are made members. The presiding officer does not have disciplinary control over them. All it can do is to recommend repatriating the member to the parent department. Hence, there is a need for creation of specific cadres under the All India Tribunal Service, which will cater to the needs of various tribunals. Like it is in the UK Her Majesty's Tribunals Service , it said.

The bench said that every time a central legislation is passed there is a creation of special courts and the burden of cases on judiciary is increased.

You see, like for NDPS, PMLA and commercial matters, special courts are created. But where are the judges. Every time a central legislation is passed it increases the burden on the judiciary. For commercial courts, no specialised training is imparted to the judges. You should have a centralised training institute, where judges are trained on the subject , it said.

Senior advocate Vibha Datta Makhija, who has been appointed amicus curiae in the matter, said that creation of a sub-committee at the national and state levels under the umbrella body will help in expeditious creation of infrastruc-

Two SHOs among...

Mandal to DPL Jammu; Inspector Ravi Kumar from Police Post Hari Market to DPL Jammu; Inspector Lakhvir Singh from Police Post Gadigarh to DPL Jammu; Sub Inspector Ravinder Singh from Police Post Canal to Police Post Gadigarh as Incharge; PSI Ishfaq Ahmed Kasana from Police Station Arnia to Police Post Canal as Incharge; PSI Arun Kumar from Police Station Bakshi Nagar to Police Post Hari Market as Incharge; PSI Mahender Kumar from Police Station Peer Mitha to Police Post Jourian as Incharge; PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal from Police Station Kanachak to Police Post Phallain Mandal as Incharge.

As per another order issued by Police Headquarter Samba, PSI Nirmal Singh has been transferred from Police Station Samba to Police Post Mansar as Incharge; PSI Manish Kumar from Police Station Bari Brahmana to Police Post Supwal as Incharge; and ASI Vinod Kumar from Police Post SIDCO to Police Station Samba as Investigating Officer.

Besides PSI Priya Rani, Incharge Women Cell Samba shall hold the charge of Incharge PP SIDCO in addition to her duties.

Cycle tracks with...

users about the nature of bicycle infrastructure and act as advance warning signs to caution the user of the subsequent situation.

"Pathway streetlights at regular intervals will illuminate the pedestrian walkway and cycle track," he added.

Smart Cities Mission is an innovative initiative of the central government to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology to create smart outcomes for citizens.

Migration of KP...

Border Firing and Mine/IED Blasts on the Indian Territory," he said.

The minister said a robust security and intelligence grid is in place to ensure safety of the minority community in Srinagar.

"In addition to group security in the form of static guards, day and night area domination and patrolling is being carried out in the areas where the minorities reside, besides proactive operations against terrorists," he said.

In October this year, terrorists targeted a prominent Kashmiri Pandit chemist M L Bindroo, a Sikh government school principal, a Hindu teacher hailing from Jammu and some roadside vendors from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Srinagar records coldest...

from minus 1.5 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

This was lowest minimum temperature recorded in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir this winter, they said.