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Jawan martyred; number...

policemen were martyred. After the Zewan attack, I had shared with you that JeM carried out the attack. Security forces personnel will be happy to know that this is the same group which carried out the attack in which three policemen were martyred, he said.

Kumar identified the three terrorists behind the attack as Suhail Ahmad Rather, resident of Zaffran Colony, Peer Altaf Hussain alias Mufti Altaf, resident of Nathipora Dooru, and a Pakistani national Sultan, alias Rayees.

Rayees was active in south Kashmir since 2017. His aim was to inflict heavy casualty on the forces. Although, our forces had retaliated heavily (in Zewan), but still three were martyred. We had promised to neutralise this group before the end of the year, Kumar said.

He said so far this month, 24 terrorists, including five Pakistani nationals, have been killed.

Two US-made M-4 Carbine rifles, 15 AK-47, two dozen pistols and some grenade and IEDs have been recovered. This proves that Pakistan wants to foment trouble here, he said.

The IGP said security forces have delivered a huge setback to JeM this year by killing its number one and number two.

However, he said, the outfit is still planning attacks on forces and there is a danger of IED blasts.

But, police and security forces are on alert. Our intelligence network is fully alert and we will give a befitting reply to it, he added.

He said if Pakistan claims the bodies of the foreign JeM terrorists, police is ready to give back the bodies.

According to a police spokesperson, based on specific input generated by Police regarding presence of terrorists in Mirhama area, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, 9RR and 18BN CRPF in the said area.

During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, three terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM were got killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. They have been identified as Shahid @Shahzaid resident of Pakistan (a foreign terrorist), Mohammad Shafi Dar resident of Tral and Uzair Ahmad resident of Mirhama.

As per police records, the killed foreign terrorist Shahid listed among the top most wanted terrorists operating in J&K while as the other two killed terrorists were also categorized terrorists linked with proscribed terror outfit JeM. As per police records, the killed terrorists were part of a group involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities.

Below 200 terrorists...

total number of active terrorists across Kashmir has fallen below the 200-mark. "It is also for the first time that the number of local terrorists is below 100 -- at 85 or 86," he said.

Kumar said 128 youngsters have joined the terror ranks so far this year, of whom 73 have been killed in encounters and 16 arrested.

Lt Gen. Pandey said compared to the last two years, the recruitment of youngsters by terror outfits was down in 2021.

"Last year, it was more than 180. It shows that there is an awakening in the civil society. People have realised the futility of taking up violence. They understand what is happening across (the border).

"We should look at it positively. The civil population is helping us neutralise the terrorists and also enabling us to break the cycle of violence.... I am sure we will see greater peace and a lesser number of youngsters coming out to join the terror ranks in the next year or so," he said.

The GoC said those aged above 20-21 years are not falling prey to the terror outfits' plans and thus, the latter have started recruiting boys aged 15-16 years.

"Also, the second trend which is coming out is that they (youngsters) are no longer proud of themselves picking up weapons, so they are not declaring their names. Whosoever is joining is hiding his identity," he added.

"It was very clear and evident during a recent operation, which came into spotlight for various reasons, that all the family members belonging to the OGW network or the local terrorists came out in the open and claimed innocence.

"Today, I feel the society does not want to accept OGWs (overground workers) and terrorists into their houses or in the proximity," Lt Gen. Pandey said, apparently referring to a recent encounter in Hyderpora, in which the families of the three victims claimed that the slain men were innocent.

Asked about the increase in the number of foreign terrorists killed in encounters, the GoC said the local terrorists are now refusing to carry out operations.

"That is another challenge that they (terror outfits) are facing and therefore, Pakistani terrorists are now coming to the fore to lead operations. As they will emerge from the heights, from the cover and carry out the operations, they will be neutralised," he added.

Kumar said the foreign terrorists were on the higher ridges of the mountains in the summer months but as the winter has arrived, they have come down to the plains.

"So, a foreign terrorist is killed in almost every encounter, which is good for us," he said.

On a question about the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), Lt Gen. Pandey said it is absolutely fine and the ceasefire is being honoured.

"People are going about their routine activities, they are pretty happy on either side of the LoC," he said.

The GoC, however, said the terror launchpads across the border continue to be full and there are inputs of attempts to cross over to the Indian side in the winter as well. "But I can assure you that we are fully ready for any such eventuality to ensure that no infiltration takes place. If any does take place, we will be neutralising them the way the operations are being conducted in the hinterland," he said.

The GoC said infiltration "will happen", but "it has been controlled". "This year, the infiltration numbers are far lesser compared to the previous years," he added.

Six JKAS officers...

of 39 Time Scale officers to the Selection Grade of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service in pay level 12 (Rs. 78800-209200), with effect from December 10, 2021," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, the officers who have been promoted to the Selection Grade include Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din, Bilkees Jan, Ashima Sher, Mridhu Salathia, Ideel Saleem, Muddasir Latif Tasir, Atul Kumar, Inteeaz Ahmad Khan Kachro, Sarfaraz, Sukriti Sharma, Muzaffar Malik, Ashok Kumar, Aaveen Kour Bali, Vikas Verma, Shazia Koser, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Virender Kumar Manyal, Sundeeep Singh Bali, Garbi Rashid, Khalid Hussain, Vishwajeet, Kulbushan Khajuria, Mohammad Rouf Rehman, Vinay Khosla, Mohammad Akbar Bhat, Rakesh Kumar Vaid, Subash Chander, Kewal Kumar, Farukh Qazi, Sohan Lal, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Vivek Modi, Vinay Samotra, Pankaj Bhagotra, Sanjay Kumar Bhat, Rajesh Lakhani, Mohammad Aiyas Khan and Kamlesh Rani.

Consequently, the aforesaid officers shall continue at their present places of posting(s), till further orders while Muddasir Latif Tasir, Muzaffar Malik, Vikas Verma, Virender Kumar Manyal, Vinay Khosla, Subash Chander, Kewal Kumar, Vinay Samotra, Pankaj Bhagotra have been designated as Additional Secretaries in the respective Departments whereas Sarfaraz has been designated as Officer on Special Duty with Advisor (B) to the Lieutenant Governor.

SIA files charge...

money had been put into channels that ended up supporting programmes and projects pertaining to terrorism and separatism, which included the unrest after the killing of Burhan Wani, the poster boy of banned Hizbul Mujahideen terror group, in 2016. The money was also used in failed efforts to disrupt peace after the abrogation of the erstwhile state's special status in August, 2019.

Centre asks 19...

"However, it is observed that there has been a considerable decline in COVID-19 testing in some states, which is a cause of serious concern," she said.

The official advised the states and UTs to ensure focussed and comprehensive testing as per extant ICMR guidelines and to ramp up testing in a big way to identify Covid-positive case promptly and also to restrict transmission.

It is also important to ensure other logistics like sufficient stock of testing reagents and kits etc are maintained so that there are no stock-outs or shortages.

She asked the states and UTs to review the same and ensure sufficient stock as well as regular arrangement of testing facilities, consumables and logistics.

A total of 961 cases of the Omicron variant have been detected across 22 states and UTs so far, while the daily rise in COVID-19 cases crossed the 13,000-mark after around 49 days, taking India's total tally of infections to 3,48,22,040.

The count of active cases in the country has increased to 82,402, according to the data updated at 8 am.

Govt notifies new...

will have jurisdiction to entertain complaints up to Rs 50 lakh worth value of goods or services as against the earlier limit of up to Rs 1 crore, according to an official statement.

State commissions will now have jurisdictions for more than Rs 50 lakh and up to Rs 2 crore.

Earlier, the limit for them was more than Rs 1 crore and up to Rs 10 crore.

"National commission shall have jurisdiction to entertain complaints where the value of the goods or services paid as consideration exceeds Rs 2 crore," the statement said.

The Centre has notified rules for the Consumer Protection (Jurisdiction of the District Commission, the State Commission and the National Commission) Rules, 2021.

"The revised pecuniary jurisdiction for entertaining consumer complaints shall be up to 50 lakh for district commissions, more than Rs 50 lakh to Rs 2 crore for state commissions, more than Rs 2 crore for the national commission," the statement said.

The new rules have been framed under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which promulgates a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism for redressal of consumer disputes namely district commissions, state commissions and national commission.

The Act stipulates the pecuniary jurisdiction of each tier of consumer commission.

"After the Act came into force, it was observed that the existing provisions relating to pecuniary jurisdiction of consumer commissions were leading to cases which could earlier be filed in national commission to be filed in state commissions and cases which could earlier be filed in state commissions to be filed in district commissions," the statement said.

This caused a significant increase in the workload of district commissions, leading to a rise in pendency and delay in disposal of cases, it added.

This defeated the object of securing speedy redressal to consumers as envisaged under the Act.

With regard to revision of pecuniary jurisdiction, the Centre held wide consultation with states/UTs, consumer organisations, law chairs etc.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, stipulates that every complaint shall be disposed of as expeditiously as possible.

The endeavour should be made to decide the complaint within three months from the date of receipt of notice by the opposite party where the complaint does not require analysis or testing of commodities and within five months if it requires analysis or testing of commodities.

The Act also provides for filing consumers complaints electronically.

The Centre has set up the E-Daakhil Portal, which provides a hassle-free, speedy and inexpensive facility to consumers to conveniently approach the relevant consumer forum, dispensing the need to travel and be physically present to file their grievance.

The portal has many features like e-Notice, case document download link and VC hearing link, filing written response by the opposite party, filing rejoinder by complainant and alerts via SMS/e-mail.

Currently, the facility of E-Daakhil is available in 544 consumer commissions, which includes the national commission and consumer commissions in 21 states and

3 UTs.

So far, more than 10,000 cases have been filed using the E-Daakhil Portal and more than 43,000 users have registered on the portal.

To provide a faster and amicable mode of settling consumer disputes, the Act also includes a reference of consumer disputes to mediation, with the consent of both parties.

This will not only save the time and money of the parties involved in litigating the dispute but will also aid in reducing the overall pendency of cases, the statement said.

J&K reports 139...

8219 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1294 in isolation and 432036 in home surveillance. Besides, 4746707 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded 15 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 22,155 in the Union Territory, officials said.

The Union Territory has recorded 219 Covid-related deaths -- 161 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said.

A total of 968 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said, adding 32 patients have recovered taking the total number of cured patients to 20,739.

The total number of active cases in Ladakh has decreased to 197 including 148 in Leh and 49 in Kargil district.

India's Omicron COVID...

per cent of the latest samples of regular COVID cases analysed in the national capital.

The Goa government has decided to test for COVID all international passengers, including those travelling from 'non-high risk' countries on their arrival at the airport while West Bengal is to suspend all direct flights from the UK and other 'high-risk' countries from January 3.

According to the latest data available from the Centre and the states in the night, the total number of Omicron cases in the country was around 1,200.

Maharashtra reported 198 new cases of the Omicron variant, including 190 in Mumbai alone, the state health department said in a release. With this, the tally of these cases in the state rose to 450.

Of the 198 Omicron cases reported by the National Institute of Virology(NIV) during the day, only 30 have recent international travel history, the release said.

While the daily rise in COVID cases crossed the 13,000 mark after around 49 days, the country also recorded the highest single day rise of Omicron infections with 180 fresh cases, taking the total of those infected with the new strain to 961, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated at 8 am. It was not clear whether the total number of COVID cases included the Omicron variant.

2 passengers killed...

Kouser, daughter of Mohd Ishaq, resident of Palma Chowkan and Sharaz Ahmed, son of Mandi, resident of Galthutti while the injured were Mohin Khan, son of Mohd Bashir, resident of Manjakote; Mohd Din, son of Noor Din, resident of Ghambir Mughlan; Amir Hamid, son of Shabir Ahmed, resident of Galthutti; Aftab Ahmed, son of Mohd Hussein, resident of Ghambir Mughlan; Nazira Begum, wife of Mohd Hussain, resident of Ghambir Mughlan; Shabina Akhtar, wife of Mohd Shabir, resident of Galthutti; Hamida Begum, wife of Mohd Nazir, resident of Ghambir Mughlan and Mohd Din, son of Mir Mohd, resident of Galthutti.

Delimitation Row: 43...

Kashmir. Separation of Jammu province from Kashmir will help the Modi Government strengthen the nationalistic constituency in this sensitive border region and deal with secessionists in a more effective manner. It's hoped that the Modi Government would take one more concrete step to further break the backbone of the secessionist movement in Kashmir by granting statehood to Jammu province and maintaining Kashmir as a UT.

Baldev Prakash takes...

who was flanked by Presidents, Vice-Presidents and other senior officers warmly welcomed the MD & CEO on his first day at the corporate headquarters here.

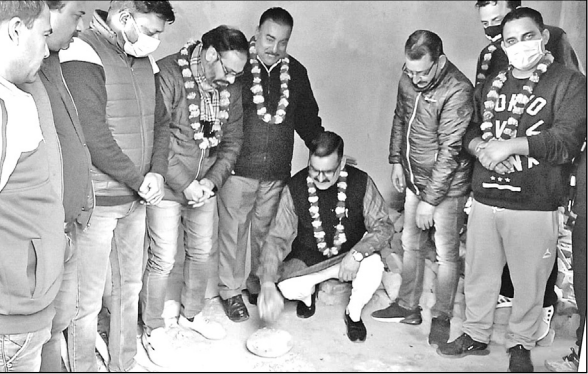
With his national level knowledge of policy making and strategizing in critical areas of banking at State Bank of India (SBI) besides international exposure in remittances business including treasury operations at Muscat (Sultanate of Oman), Baldev Prakash brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Bank's maiden position of Managing Director & CEO.

Notably, his appointment was approved by the Bank's Board of Directors during its meeting held on Tuesday, a day after J&K Government appointed him as Director on the board of the Bank. Reserve Bank of India had accorded approval on October 26, 2021 to his candidature as MD & CEO of the Bank for a period of three years from the date of taking charge. Soon after taking the charge from the outgoing CMD, R K Chhibber, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash called a meeting of Presidents and other Vertical Heads to get a brief about the overall organisational structure of the Bank besides taking a preliminary review of different departments and their functions. Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "I have come to know very well that J&K Bank has a remarkable legacy of serving the people for over 83 years. With a strong emotional connect of people, it has a systemic significance in the financial landscape of J&K and Ladakh UTs."

Commending the role played by the outgoing CMD, R K Chhibber in steering the institution out of testing times, MD & CEO said, "Chhibber has played a vital role at the critical juncture and steered the Bank out as a better institution. He has also succeeded in inculcating compliance culture firmly in the Bank."

He further said, "I see it as my responsibility to build further upon the Bank's legacy and work towards transforming it into a new-age financial institution. However, I believe financial institutions today succeed only because of better customer-services, excellent team-work and effective compliance culture. So, let us keep focus and work as a team so that going forward together we make this institution better in every respect." Pertinently, having joined State Bank of India (SBI) in 1991, he has over 30 years of experience in banking in various roles at small and large size branches at SBI. Lastly, he was the Chief General Manager, Digital and Transaction Banking Marketing, at SBI, Mumbai.

Real development in JKUT evident on ground after 73rd, 74th amendments: Baru



JMC Councilor Sanjay Kumar Baru inaugurating renovation work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Senior Leader and JMC Councilor Sanjay Kumar Baru inaugurated the renovation work of JMC ward office with an estimated cost of 7.5 lakhs at Wazir Lane, Bohri in Ward-41. Speaking on the occasion Sanjay Kumar Baru said that by following the "Antyodaya" ideology of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya our Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is always dedicated to development at grass-root level and welfare of poor, deprived, dalits, tribals, backwards and farmers, youths especially students. After decades of neglect these sections of society are being heard by the Modi

Government and they have also been delivered and empowered to fulfill their aspirations.

Sanjay Baru further said that the Abrogation of Article 370 & 35/A benefiting the Masses and enhanced real development at gross root level is on its peak. We were getting development works of construction of streets, drains and black toping of roads done in routine, but now an era of overall development begin with door to door garbage collection by Autos, construction of Ward offices, Community Hall at ward level, refurbishment of Parks, Cremation ground and Graveyard Yards.

Recently PHE department also sanctioned 10 lakhs in every ward for works of

emergency nature to change and upgradation of old pipes etc. It is prime duty for all of us to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Modi so that the dream of making India a World Guru can be realized, he added. BJP Ward-41 President Ashok Wazir, Rakesh Sharma, Bubesh Thappa, Atul Chopra, Jugal Kishore, Jangjeet Singh, Rajesh Thakur, Gresh Sharma, Daleep Mithas, Kali Bhagat and local JMC employees were present on the occasion.

BJP Govt selling-off nation's assets: Sawhney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister J&K and Senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney on Thursday reacted strongly to disinvestment of Indian Government in PSU Central Electronics Limited (CEL) and said that 'it's sale to a 'dubious' private firm by the Government". Condemning BJP Government for selling-off profitable Indian assets, built with blood and sweat of people, to its industrial friends and cheating people. The former Minister stated that BJP Govt must answer what is logic behind selling a profit-making PSU that

LIC Chairman inaugurates 'LIC Digi Zone'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India inaugurated "LIC Digi Zone" to enhance the Digital Operations of LIC i.e. sales and services for its customers.

It was inaugurated at the hands of LIC Chairperson M.R Kumar, in the presence of Managing Directors-Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty, B.C Patnaik and C. Vikas Rao, Zonal Manager, Western Zone and other senior officials of the Corporation. With an intention to become a tech driven life insurer, LIC will offer information regarding LIC products and services through kiosks installed in the premises. Customers can use LIC's Digi Zone to buy policies online, pay premium and avail other services as well. Soon after the inauguration, the operation went live by walk-in customers who made digital transactions in the new "LIC Digi Zone".

M R Kumar said, "The launch of LIC Digi Zone is a big day for our Corporation. LIC plans to undertake the next wave of digital transformation to unlock several benefits of accelerating growth, driving customer satisfaction and improving intermediary productivity and loyalty".

manufactures defence-

related and strategic electronic products to a private company with less than 10 employees and no prior experience in defence manufacture industry, at a much lower price than its value?

Criticizing Government for its actions, Sawhney said that it is really shocking that the government could do this huge blunder in innocence or ignorance. "As per rules, Government sales require a minimum of three bidders while sale for CEL was done with two bidders. On top of that, sources reveal that both the bidders were inter-connect-

ed," said Sawhney, adding that there are many red flags in whole undertaking and if such process continues, BJP Government will end up selling off all Indian assets. "Government's actions are widening the rich-poor divide day by day; rich are accumulating wealth and climbing ladder of success while the poor are descending into deeper depths of poverty. All major strategic plans and projects so far have been handed over to such 'friends' of BJP and other factors such as experience, competence and intention are thrown out the window and ignored," he maintained.

Mayor inaugurates Garbage Transfer station

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his endeavour to provide best possible civic amenities to the people of Jammu, the Mayor JMC Chander Mohan Gupta on Thursday inaugurated "Garbage Transfer station" opposite Tanga stand near Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

The Mayor was accompanied by Advocate Purnima Sharma Deputy Mayor, Satpal Karlupia Councilor of ward no.32, Parmod Kapahi Councilor of ward no.14 Sucha Singh Councilor of ward no.31, Sahil Sharma, Rajesh Saini, Gureharan Singh & other prominent inhabitants of Bhagwati Nagar , Puran Nagar & its adjoining localities. Besides this, Firdous Ahmed Qazi Executive Engineer (project Division),



Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta and others inaugurating Garbage Transfer station.

Neeraj Vaid Asstt. Executive Engineer; Ishan Verma , K.K Bali both Junior engineers & other supervisory staff of project division JMC & concerned contractor were also remained present there during the inauguration function which was held in every simple manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor told that the First part of Garbage collection station has already been completed & with the sincere efforts of con-

cerned councilors & Engineers of JMC, the much needed 2nd part of this prestigious project which is a part of "Sawch Bharat Mission " and an endeavour to make the Jammu city neat, Clean & green has been completed today with an estimate cost of Rs 22 lakh only and the work for construction of 3rd part of "Garbage Collection station " at this site will also be started immediately.

BJP nominates State Co-Convenors, District Convenors, Convenors for Ladli Beti Abhiyan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP Convenor Ladli Beti Abhiyan Veena Gupta in consultation with J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and other senior leaders of party announced State Co-Convenors and District Convenors & Co-Convenors of the Abhiyan. Reena Slathia, Kusam Gupta and Roshni Sambyal are nominated as State Co-Covenors of the Ladli Beti Abhiyan. In District Jammu, Surinder Kour as Convenor; whereas Rama Rampal and Suman Kapoor as Co-Convenors. In District Jammu West: Tripta Jamwal as Convenor, whereas Suman Kapoor and Saroj Manhas as Co-

Convenors. In District Kathua, Sushma Mahajan as Convenor, whereas Shoba Gupta and Anju Sharma as Co-Convenors. In District Basmoli, Sushma Jamwal as Convenor; whereas Manju and Pali Devi as Co-Convenors. For Akhnour, Neelam Devi as Convenor; whereas Meenakshi Dalia and Rama Devi as Co-Convenors. For Jammu Rural, Kuldeep Kour as Convenor; whereas Sunita Devi and Shivalli as Co-Convenors. In District R.S. Pura, Sukandya Devi as Convenor, whereas Veena Devi and Deepu Choudhary as Co-Convenors. In District Samba, Promila Devi is nominated as Convenor; whereas Rekha Devi and Sushma Sambyal are nominated as Co-Convenors of the Abhiyan.