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CDS Gen Rawat...

and student officers of the staff course when the fatal accident happened. Group Captain Varun Singh SC, Directing Staff at DSSC and the sole survivor, was undergoing treatment for injuries at the Military Hospital, Wellington, IAF added. Earlier, the Nilgiris Collector SP Amirth confirmed to PTI that 13 persons were killed in the crash while there was one survivor.

The IAF said a Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the accident, involving a Mi-17VH helicopter which took off from the Sulur IAF Station in nearby Coimbatore. While the helicopter took off around 10:30 am on Wednesday, the Coonoor Fire Station received a call at 12 noon, following the accident, official sources said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, who left for Coonoor, expressed shock over the accident.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi about the crash and the IAF chief has been asked to reach the site.

Singh also visited the residence of Rawat in the national capital and spoke to his daughter.

The prime minister-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was briefed about the crash and top cabinet brass expressed condolences on the death of General Rawat.

Besides Prime Minister Modi, the meeting was attended by Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, official sources said.

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister PK Misra and Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba also attended the meeting, in which the CCS members were briefed about the tragic incident.

According to accounts of official sources and a local eyewitnesses here, the helicopter was flying at a low altitude in the foggy conditions when it crashed into a valley near Coonoor, before falling through trees. Fire engulfed the helicopter by the time it crashed on the ground.

Although it brushed a house during its fall, there was no human casualty or injury since the residents were not at home. The building suffered damage in the episode. Two persons, who were ablaze, fell down from the helicopter, Perumal, an eyewitness said.

The helicopter carrying Rawat and others had left Sulur IAF station around 10:30 am on Wednesday and was supposed to land at DSSC in Wellington at Udhagamandalam about an hour later. However, the Coonoor fire station received a call about the mishap around noon.

The helicopter crashed in the Katteri-Nanchappanchathram area near here in the hilly Nilgiris district.

The copter crashed in the forest area, reducing trees to pieces of logs and ashes due to resultant fire, even as the local people turned first responders to try and save the injured. However, they could not help the victims due to the raging flames and informed authorities. Apparently, a major tragedy was averted as the helicopter fell at some distance away from the human habitation, averting possible mass casualties.

The accident site was a scene of despair with flames from the helicopter engulfing the wooden logs resulting in billowing smoke and personnel scurrying to douse the fire, including using buckets and water hose. What seemed to be some charred bodies were also seen lying around. Rescue personnel apparently picked up charred, severed limbs strewn around.

The mangled and burnt remains of the IAF copter were strewn along the accident site which remained out of bounds for civilians.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Stalin in a tweet, said "I am deeply shocked & disheartened on hearing the army chopper with CDS General Bipin Rawat and 13 others has met with an accident near Coonoor."

Meanwhile, police and defence sources said a wreath-laying ceremony is slated at The Madras Regimental Centre (MRC), Wellington on Thursday, where Stalin and other top officials, including IAF Chief VR Chaudhari, are expected to participate. Post the event, the mortal remains will be taken to Coimbatore and later flown to New Delhi from there, the sources added.

'Nation has lost...'

at a hospital. President Kovind said it was deeply painful for him to learn of the loss of lives in the helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu.

"I join fellow citizens in paying tributes to each of those who died while performing their duty. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he tweeted.

"I am shocked and anguished over the untimely demise of General Bipin Rawat and his wife, Madhulika ji. The nation has lost one of its bravest sons. His four decades of selfless service to the motherland was marked by exceptional gallantry and heroism. My condolences to his family," the president said.

Vice President Naidu said he was deeply shocked by the tragic death of Rawat, his wife, senior officials of the armed forces and others in the helicopter crash in Coonoor.

"I spoke to the Hon'ble Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and conveyed my deep anguish. My thoughts & prayers are with the bereaved family members in this hour of grief," Naidu said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he is deeply anguished by the helicopter crash in which "we have lost General Bipin Rawat, his wife and other personnel of the armed forces".

"They served India with utmost diligence. My thoughts are with the bereaved families," he said.

Hailing Rawat as an "outstanding soldier", Modi said he was a "true patriot" who greatly contributed to modernising the armed forces and security apparatus.

"His insights and perspectives on strategic matters were exceptional. His passing away has saddened me deeply. Om Shanti," he said in a series of tweets.

"As India's first CDS, General Rawat worked on diverse aspects relating to our armed forces including defence reforms. He brought with him rich experience of serving in the Army. India will never forget his exceptional service," Modi said.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi condoled the death of General Rawat, his wife and others in the crash in Tamil Nadu and said it is an unprecedented tragedy.

"I extend my condolences to the family of General Bipin Rawat and his wife. This is an unprecedented tragedy and our thoughts are with their family in this difficult time," Gandhi said on Twitter.

"Heartfelt condolences also to all others who lost their lives. India stands united in this grief," he said.

Expressing deep anguish over General Rawat's death, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said his untimely demise is an irreparable loss to the armed forces and the country.

"Deeply anguished by the sudden demise of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 other armed forces personnel in an extremely unfortunate helicopter accident today in Tamil Nadu," Singh tweeted.

"His untimely death is an irreparable loss to our armed forces and the country," the defence minister said.

Singh said General Rawat had served the country with exceptional courage and diligence.

"As the first Chief of Defence Staff he had prepared plans for jointness of our armed forces," he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah said it was "very sad day" for the nation as "we have lost our CDS, General Bipin Rawat Ji" in a very tragic accident.

"He was one of the bravest soldiers, who has served the motherland with utmost devotion. His exemplary contributions & commitment cannot be put into words. I am deeply pained," Shah said.

"I also express my deepest condolences on the sad demise of Mrs Madhulika Rawat and 11 other armed forces personnel. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. May God give them the strength to bear this tragic loss. Praying for the speedy recovery of Gp Capt Varun Singh," the home minister said.

Several politicians, including senior ministers, also condoled the loss of lives in the chopper crash.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said India will always remain grateful to General Rawat for his impeccable service to the nation at the most crucial moments.

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed shock over the tragic death of General Rawat.

"Deeply shocked at (the) tragic demise of chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 other armed forces personnel...The nation has lost one of its bravest sons, Lt Governor Sinha said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, while conveying sympathies with the bereaved family, said that with untimely demise of General Rawat, the country has lost an outstanding soldier whose contribution towards modernising our armed forces and security apparatus will always be remembered.

Due to his exceptional abilities the country excelled on diverse aspects relating to our armed forces including defence reforms, maintained the Advisor.

Director General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh also condoled the sad demise of General Bipin Rawat and other who killed on crash.

DGP in his message has said that General Bipin Rawat's untimely death is an irreparable loss to the country and added that General Rawat served the country with utmost professionalism and courage. He said that his contributions in protecting the interests of the country will always be remembered.

Singh has expressed his sympathy with the bereaved families who lost their dear ones in the tragic incident and prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls.

Former Legislator and Sr. BJP Leader, Devender Singh Rana expressed shock and grief over the tragic demise of Chief of Defence Staff, his wife and others, describing it as an irreparable loss to the Nation.

"No words are enough to pay homage to the great soldier, whose services will form a golden chapter of Indian Military history", Rana said while conveying his condolences to the bereaved family.

He also wished for speedy recovery of injured Group Captain Varun Singh and expressed solidarity with the families of other army personnel who lost their lives in this unfortunate accident.

JKPCC President G A Mir and other senior leaders expressed great shock over the tragedy and loss of precious lives.

The party leaders conveyed heartfelt condolences to the family members and entire ranks of forces as well as the nation.

Prominent those who mourned the loss of lives include Mula Ram, Raman Bhalla, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawnhey, Kanta Bhan, Th Balbir Singh, Rajnish Sharma, Th Manmohan Singh, Th Hari Singh, Gurdarshan Singh, Uday Chib, Satish Sharma, Kuldeep Verma, Shashi Sharma, Sanjeev Panda, Manjit Jatt, Karan Bhagat, Ram Saroop Sharma, Prem Singh and several others.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers -- veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah -- also condoled the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat.

"It's very sad & shocking to hear about the demise of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife and other Armed Forces personnel in the unfortunate helicopter accident today. It's an irreparable loss to the country. I pray to Almighty that their souls may rest in peace," Azad said in a tweet.

Omair Abdullah said, "Condolences to the families of General Rawat & the others killed in the helicopter crash earlier today. May their souls rest in peace."

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar; SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, former chief minister Amarinder Singh and Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal have expressed deep anguish over the death of General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 others in the helicopter crash.

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje also condoled the deaths.

CCS briefed about...

Rajiv Gauba also attended the meeting, in which the CCS members were briefed about the tragic incident.

The sources said the top cabinet brass expressed condolences on the death of General Rawat. Separately, Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane briefed the defence minister about the crash and related issues. The defence minister also visited General Rawat's residence and spoke to his daughter.

The CDS was on his way to the Defence Staff College in Wellington when the helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. The Indian Air Force (IAF) said a Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the accident.

29 Patwaris transferred...

been posted to PH Khairi, Tehsil Bishnah; Shashi Kumar, Office Patwari, Niabat Mandala, Tehsil Mandala has been posted to PH Flora Nagbani, Tehsil Marh vice Mohd Ashraf, who has been posted to PH Baspur, Tehsil Suchetgarh; Deepak Kumar Sharma, PH Naugran II, Tehsil Bishnah has been posted to PH Chibba, Tehsil Nagrota; Vishal Bhagat, PH Laswara, Tehsil Bishnah has been posted to PH Bahu, partially Tehsil Bahu vice Sushil Sharma, who has been posted to PH Gharota, Tehsil Bhalwal; Vikas Bali, PH Prahadpur; Tehsil Mandala has been posted to Office Patwari, Niabat Mandala, Tehsil Mandala; Arvind Manyal, PH Chak Kirpalpur, Tehsil Akhnoor to PH Prahadpur; Tehsil Jammu South; Davinder Kumar, Office Patwari Akhnoor shall hold additional charge of PH Chak Kirpalpur, Mohd Rafiq, PH Maralian, Tehsil R S Pura has been posted to PH Rakhi Dhok, Tehsil Jourian vice Sanjeev Kumar, who has been posted to PH Kanachak, Tehsil Marh; Ajay Kumar, Office Patwari, Niabat Miran Sahib, Tehsil R S Pura shall hold charge of PH Maralian, Tehsil R S Pura, Sunil Kumar, Office Patwari Bishnah shall hold additional charge of PH Salehar, Tehsil Bishnah; Pranav Dev Singh, PH Bain Bajalta, Tehsil Jammu shall report to Deputy Commissioner's office for further posting, Mohd Bashir, PH Chowdhari Tehsil Bahu has been posted to PH Deoli, Tehsil Bishnah; Padam Dev Sharma, PH Jindrah Tehsil Dalsal has been posted to PH Chowdhari, Tehsil Bahu; Sajjad Ali Zia, PH Kanya Tehsil Dalsal shall hold additional charge of PH Jindrah Tehsil Dalsal.

Asif Ali, PH Gharota has been posted to PH Bain Bajalta Tehsil Jammu; Anoop Singh, PH Khairi Tehsil Bishnah has been posted to PH Surinsar Tehsil, Jammu. He shall hold additional charge of PH Aithem, Jammu.

Ravinder Kumar, PH Kharah Tehsil Kharah has been posted to PH Akhnoor Khas, Tehsil Akhnoor; Mohd Akram, PH Akhnoor Khas Tehsil Akhnoor to PH Laswara Tehsil Bishnah; Varun Dogra, PH Suchetgarh presently attached in DC office to PH Hakkal, Partially Tehsil Jammu South; Mohd Altaf, awaiting orders of posting to PH Jagti, Tehsil Nagrota; Shakti Kumar, PH Chak Mulo, Tehsil Suchetgarh to PH Naugran II; Mohd Younis, PH Pariah, Tehsil Suchetgarh shall hold additional charge of PH Chak Mulo, Suchetgarh.

Vishal Sharma, PH Chibba Tehsil Nagrota has been posted PH Muthi Tehsil Jammu North; Vikas Khajuria, PH Rathana Tehsil R S Pura to PH Bishnah Khas, Tehsil Bishnah; Mohd Sultan, PH Aithem Tehsil Jammu to PH Kharah, Tehsil Kharahballi.

No Govt order...

has informed that no such order has been issued," he stated.

He was asked if the J&K administration has issued orders under which journalists can be stopped from reporting if their work threatens peace and public tranquility, and which directs unauthorised/unregistered journalists to complete their registration or obtain approval of the administration before they can be allowed to perform their duties.

Three LeT terrorists...

Village Rakha, the spokesman said.

Terrorist Haseeb Yousuf was also involved in several terror crime cases in the areas of Kulgam," he said.

The spokesman said incriminating material and arms and ammunition including one AK-74 rifle and two pistols were recovered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

Inspector General Police, Kashmir congratulated the joint teams for carrying out operation in professional manner without any collateral damage.

Police have registered case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. "People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any", the police spokesperson said.

Kansal posted as...

and Managing Director, J&K Power Corporation Limited in addition to his own duties.

Mandeep Kaur, IAS (AGMUT:2004), Commissioner/Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Prerna Puri, IAS (AGMUT:2006), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department has been posted as Secretary, Information Technology Department relieving Amit Sharma, JKAS of the additional charge.

Sushma Chauhan, IAS (AGMUT:2009), Administrative Secretary, Higher Education Department has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department.

J&K reports 151...

till date. Besides, 55,107 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 4693883 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 4181 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1639 in isolation and 429506 in home surveillance. Besides, 4254441 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases reported today, the Bulletin said that Srinagar reported 47 cases, Baramulla reported 18 cases, Budgam reported 14 cases, Pulwama reported no cases, Kupwara reported 06 cases, Anantnag reported 01 case, Bandipora reported 06 cases, Ganderbal reported 15 cases while as Kulgam and Shopian reported no fresh cases for today.

Similarly, Jammu reported 22 cases, Udhampur reported 01 case, Rajouri reported 02 cases, Doda reported 01 case, Kathua reported 04 cases, Samba reported 04, Poonch reported 09 cases, Reasi reported 01 case while as Kishtwar and Ramtan reported no fresh cases for today.

The bulletin further informs the general public that they can contact helpline numbers 0191-2520982/2674444/2674115/2674908/2549676 in Jammu Division and 0194-2440283/2430581/2452052/2457313/2457312 in Kashmir Division for any kind of guidance and assistance.

DM Jammu notifies...

tested and any refusal in this regard shall invite action including filing of FIR under relevant provisions of Disaster Management Act," the order stated adding that the Tehsildar Bahu shall be the overall incharge for enforcement of Micro Containment Sops in the notified zone.

"Chief Medical Officer, Jammu shall ensure deployment of sufficient teams for sampling and surveillance of the designated zones. He shall ensure contact tracing of positives and their testing as per the SOP," the order stated adding that the District Control Room shall monitor strict home and medical isolation of all positives reported

from the zones twice on a daily basis.

Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under section 188 of Indian Penal Code and other relevant sections of Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005, it added.

75 vehicles used...

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, DGP J&K has accorded sanction for seizure of this vehicle, the spokesperson said.

He said a total of 75 vehicles, mostly four-wheelers and two-wheelers, have been seized under the UAPA this year.

Terror funding: Court...

from various authorities and statements of accused was recorded, he told the court. The ED also attached several properties during the investigation.