

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Death of 3 civilians...

Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Anand Jain have been camping in Poonch and are monitoring the situation, officials said.

Videos of the alleged custodial torture surfaced on Friday, after which the authorities suspended mobile Internet services in the two districts, the officials said.

The bodies of the three civilians -- Safer Hussain (43), Mohd Showket (27) and Shabir Ahmad (32) of Topa Peer village of Buzfliaz -- were handed over to their families after postmortem on Saturday morning. They were later laid to rest at their ancestral graveyard in Buzfliaz.

Officials said four other civilians - Mohd Zulfkar, his brother Mohd Betab, Fazal Hussain and Mohd Farooq -- were admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Rajouri with alleged torture injuries.

Additional police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in sensitive pockets of the districts to maintain peace.

Five soldiers were martyred and two injured when heavily armed terrorists ambushed two Army vehicles at a blind curve at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buzfliaz on Thursday. The ambush took place when the security personnel were moving to an ongoing search operation in the general area of Dhera Ki Gali in the Thanamandi-Surankote region.

Soon after the ambush, security forces launched a massive search operation in the densely forested areas, but there was no fresh contact with the fleeing terrorists so far, officials said.

Three Medical Suptts...

Jammu shall report to Principal GMC Jammu and await further orders.

Dr Mohammad Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted at Lalla Ded hospital Srinagar; and Dr Rehana Khurshed, Medical Superintendent, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted at Super Speciality Hospital Jammu.

Dr Muzaffar Hussain Sherwani, Medical Officer, looking after the charge of the post of MS LD Srinagar on inter-cadre deputation to GMC Srinagar, has been deputed to GMC Anantnag as Medical Officer on standard terms and conditions of deputation. He shall temporarily look after the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag.

Dr. Malik Abid Hussain, Medical Officer, looking after the charge the post of Medical Superintendent, Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag on inter-cadre deputation GMC Anantnag has been repatriated to his parent cadre and shall await further postings in the Directorate of Health to Services, Kashmir.

Major infiltration bid...

officials said. Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said the suspected movement of terrorists was captured through surveillance devices during the intervening night of December 22 and 23. "Effective fire brought down. Terrorists seen dragging one body back across the IB," it posted on X.

A Defence spokesman shared a clip recorded on a surveillance device, showing four terrorists making an attempt to cross over into India from across the border under the cover of darkness.

The officials said the area was kept under a tight vigil and a search operation was launched with the first light of the day.

Blood stains confirmed the killing of a terrorist whose body was, however, dragged back by his associates to the Pakistan side, the officials said.

The operation was still underway when the reports last came in, they said.

Money-laundering case...

alleged criminal connivance in the issuance of land between January 4 and January 7, 2011, without mentioning details in respect of violation of the ceiling limit of 100 standard kanals imposed under Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, thereby giving undue pecuniary advantage to trust.

Based on this, the trust acquired multiple pieces of land of about 329 kanals vide three gift deeds executed on January 5 and January 7, 2011, the CBI charge sheet claimed.

Chief Justice inaugurates...

District Development Commissioner, Anantnag, Syed Fakhrudin Hamid, SP (JIC), Furqaan, officers from Prosecution wing Anantnag, Health and R&B.

The inaugural function was also attended by Executive members of Bar Association Anantnag and bar members of Bar Association Tehsil Pahalgam.

The inaugurated Court Complex has been constructed by PWD (R & B) Division Pahalgam with a project cost of Rs 614.04 lakh. With this new complex, the picturesque town of Pahalgam will have a regular Court which besides catering to traditional litigation also help out the tourists who come here including the Amarnath Yatries.

Two Cr tourists...



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chairing a meeting at Udhampur.

Minister Narendra Modi has done a favour for the people by setting right the "mis-carryage of Constitution and miscarriage of democracy".

"Even the architect of Article 370 (former Prime Minister Jawaharlal) Nehru had described it as temporary. But his successors developed vested interests in continuation of this constitutional provision," he said.

The Union minister said the BJP has completed the unfinished job and there is no doubt about it.

Singh was in Kathua, which is a part of his Udhampur parliamentary constituency, to attend a women's symposium and a 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' which aims at raising awareness among the people about the Central government's flagship schemes.

"Through the yatra, people living in far-flung areas of the Union Territory are drawing benefits irrespective of their caste, colour or creed," he said.

The minister announced that Kathua is being developed on many fronts to make it a model district not only for Jammu and Kashmir but also for the rest of the country. In the last 10 years, no other constituency has seen all-round development as the Udhampur-Kathua Constituency, he claimed.

At the women's symposium, the minister asked students to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India by 2047, saying the government has

taken it upon itself to scale up the capacity building of its youth. "It is now incumbent upon the youth to ensure that the India of 2047 reaches the glory it deserves," he added.

Prosecute those responsible...

underscores the importance of addressing and acknowledging the human rights of every individual, irrespective of their background. The right to live peacefully in one's homeland, free from fear and discrimination, is a fundamental human right that should have been protected and upheld since.

Rana said that it was very crucial to identify, expose and prosecute those responsible for the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits. Doing so will not only deliver justice to the victim community but send a strong message that such acts of persecution will not go unnoticed or unpunished. By exposing those actually responsible for such a grave crime against humanity will ensure that history does not repeat itself, he said.

"Let there be no repeat of what Kashmiri Pandits met, faced and are facing even after three decades of their forced exodus", Rana said it is the collective responsibility of all to address the injustices of the past. The government and the society will have to work in tandem towards a future where the safe, secured and dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits is ensured.



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana inaugurating private enterprise in Jagti.

J&K to be among...



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting on Saturday.

besides Principal Secretary, Forests was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF); Secretary Revenue; Deputy Commissioners and other concerned.

While speaking in this meeting the Chief Secretary maintained that this act aims at empowering the tribal forest dwelling communities who had historically been inhabiting such lands for centuries without having any legal rights over it.

Dulloo impressed upon the concerned Deputy Commissioners to certify within a month's time that all claims submitted have been verified and settled on merit. He asked for resolving each of them as per the provisions of this act and make this task a time-bound one for its logical closure.

On the occasion it was revealed by the Principal Secretary, Forests, Dheeraj Gupta that this act envisages recognizing and vesting the rights of occupation on forest lands by Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs).

He further gave out that this act provides for Individual Forest Rights (IFRs) like right to hold or live in forest land for habitation or self-cultivation. It also recognizes Community Forest Rights (CFRs) like grazing, collect/dispose off NTPE, fishing access to waterbodies, pathways, besides other rights.

Moreover it was revealed that under this act 5701 titles have been issued till date. It was added that 45282 cases have been processed across the districts of the UT and 471 cases are pending at different levels right now.

It was given out that all these claims are going to be settled on merit shortly after carrying out necessary verifications in concerned Gram Sabhas, SDLC/DLCs thereby making the UT among the foremost States/UTs in the country to implement the act in letter and spirit.

BJP meet: Party...

and advised them to focus on spreading the word about the government's positive works instead of joining issues with opposition parties in their "negative" campaign.

The consecration ceremony at the Ram temple was one of the highlights of the two-day deliberations as the party is confident it will be a major issue in its favour in the polls.

Opposition parties created many obstacles in resolving the issue, which was mired in legal disputes for decades, and people should be told about it, senior party leaders noted during the meeting.

Shah, like Modi a day before, underlined the primacy of organisation in elections and said it should score such an "overwhelming" win that the opposition thinks many times before challenging it, sources said.

The prime minister emphasised the need to reach out to women, youth, farmers and the poor - whom he has often described as the four biggest "castes".

He asked party leaders to connect a maximum number of these people with the ongoing 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', which aims at saturation of his government's flagship welfare schemes.

The sources said the party's top brass did not set any specific seat target but emphasised on ensuring a win which should be bigger than its 2019 performance when the BJP had bagged 303 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats.

They accused the opposition of resorting to lies and spreading fake narratives but expressed confidence that people would reward Modi with a third straight term at the Centre.

Top party leaders, in their speeches, asked BJP functionaries to strengthen its booth committees everywhere to ensure that its local cadres reach more and more people.

The BJP's big win in the recent assembly polls came up for praise in the meeting, with the party unit presidents of the three Hindi heartland states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh speaking on the victories.

Modi's leadership, the appeal of his government's welfare schemes and the strength of its organisational machinery were cited as big reasons for the win.

Different 'morchas' of the party spoke about their upcoming programmes in the run-up to the general elections.

India making border...

facing China as an illustration. And let the figures speak for themselves. Today, road construction is 2x, bridging and tunnelling 3x, and the border infrastructure budget 4x compared to what was the commitment and achievement of the last decades," he said in his address to graduating students of RRU.

"But it is not just the length and number of the roads, tunnels and bridges, but the consequences that they have for our operational capabilities. In the last decade, we

have seen all-weather connectivity to Ladakh and to Tawang, focus on access to critical passes along the LAC (line of actual control), and the construction, in fact, of the world's highest motorable road," he said.

He said that "complacency" and "neglect" in the domain of security can cost the nation dearly. "We saw that graphically in 1962. But sadly, its lessons were not apparently learned by those who came later. It is only now that we are approaching border infrastructure with the seriousness that it deserves," he added.

The application of new technologies and construction techniques has yielded visible results, accompanied by a reform of entities like the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), he said.

Jaishankar said that even by the traditional metrics of security assessments, India faces exceptional challenges.

"Strenuous efforts have since been made, especially in the last decade, to correct the shortcomings of the previous decades. The overall development of our national strengths that we have seen since 2014 have clearly had positive repercussions in the security field," he said.

Focusing on acquiring and developing weapons and building related capacities has not only been at the core of India's defence policies, but even of its diplomacy, he said.

"Indeed, a large part of our geopolitical calculations rests on which nations are likely to be reliable partners during times of stress. We, therefore, embed the security factor deeply into our strategy, and into our diplomacy," he said.

"We have long been conversant with the concept of dual technology that has extended even more to encapsulate critical and emerging technologies. It has been a signal achievement of Indian diplomacy that we have been successful in forging relationships with multiple and often competing powers to our side," he said.

The external affairs minister said that economic and technological capacities go hand in hand, and both are equally crucial for India's security. The progress of nations and history is to a great measure reflected in the progress of technology, he said.

"In the post-1992 reform era, we understandably opened up our economy, but we did not pay adequate attention to safeguarding and upgrading our manufacturing. Without robust manufacturing, a nation like India can never be updated on technology, let alone emerge as a leader in a particular domain," he said.

Reversing the indifference of the past, India has given thrust to manufacturing through various schemes, Jaishankar said.

With progress comes accompanying downside and increasing vulnerabilities, such as cyber security in the digital age, he said.

"We have since moved on to debates about deepfakes using AI (artificial intelligence). Another is the impact of fake news and disinformation that can shape mass opinion in a dramatic way. The COVID-19 pandemic, too, is a reminder of how exposed we are in a globalised environment," he said.

India is also addressing the concern for external dependence in terms of equipment required for building infrastructure or weaponry for its armed forces that has long dogged it, he added.

Earlier, speaking on the sidelines of the event, Jaishankar expressed concern over the vandalism of a Hindu temple with anti-India graffiti in the US and said extremists and separatist forces outside India should not get such space.

"I have seen the news. As you know, we are concerned about this. Extremists and separatist forces outside India should not get space. Our consulate has lodged a complaint with the (US) government and the police there over whatever happened, and I believe the matter is being inquired," Jaishankar said in response to a query about the incident.

The police department in Newark, California said that approximately 8.35 am on Friday, they received a report of graffiti at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple. According to images posted on social media, the word 'Khalistan' was spray-painted on a signpost outside the temple along with other objectionable graffiti.

J&K to prosper...

possible if people are united irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

Azad said that those living adjacent or alongside the LoC or IB shall be provided 5 Marla land plots while the refugees shall also be provided adequate compensation as one time settlement to rebuild their lives.

Among others present on the occasion included, Vice Chairman G.M.Saroori, Gen Secretary R.S.Chib, Gen secretaries A.S.Micky, Vinod Mishra, Anita Thakur, Ch Haroon Khatana, Ab Majeed Wani, Ch Gharu Ram Zonal President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Hira Lal Abrol Secretary, P.R.Manhas Zonal President, Ashok Sharma VP Province, Masood Choudhary Secretary, Sobat Ali Choudhary GS, Balbir Singh Distt President, Omprakash Bhall, Dr Tariq Azad, Adv Maheshwar Singh, Col Som Nath, Er Rattan Lal, Zahid Sarfaraz Malik, Gurmeet Kaur, Sunita Arora, Vishal Chopra, Gourav Chopra, Ashwani Handa, Ashutosh Raina and Anoop Khajuria.

Mercury stays above...

over isolated places in the higher reaches.

The MeT office said overall, there would be no significant weather activity till December end.

Meanwhile, owing to a cloud cover, the mercury witnessed a remarkable rise on Friday night and settled above the freezing point at most places.

The summer capital of Srinagar recorded a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius on Friday night an increase of about four degrees from the previous night's minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of 0.2 degree Celsius, up over four degrees from the previous night's minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, they said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said. It was the coldest recorded place in the Kashmir valley.

Qazigund recorded a low of 1.4 degrees Celsius, the Kokernag town saw the mercury settle at 1.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded the minimum of 1.3 degrees Celsius.

The improvement in the mercury has provided relief to the residents from the intense cold conditions which had resulted in the freezing of many slow-moving water bodies.

The cold also caused the water supply lines in some areas to freeze, and forced people in the valley to put on extra layers of clothes to stay warm.

With electricity supply erratic in many areas of Kashmir, people are using Kangri, an earthen firepot, to beat the chill. The cold and dry weather has resulted in an increase in respiratory problems among children and elderly.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions continue even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Safar-e-Shahadat week: DGPC Jammu screens animated movie Chaar Sahibzaade at GCW Gandhi Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To commemorate the martyrdom week of four Sons of Guru Gobind Singh, Safar-e-Shahadat Week which is being observed throughout the globe from December 21 to 26, 2023, DGPC Jammu, besides, organizing various programs as also outlined some programs aiming at fostering awareness among student community.

In this context screening of animated movie Chaar Sahibzade was screened in Govt PG College for Women Gandhiji Nagar Jammu in which large number of students from at least ten colleges of Jammu participated in the said screening.

Principal of the college Prof.



Minu Mahajan in her inaugural session while appreciating the role of DGPC Jammu for organizing such programs as these initiatives are crucial for instilling values of scarifies, courage, communal and devotion in the younger generation and to communal harmony.

Before the start of movie, Balvinder Singh vice president DGPC Jammu announced that after the screening of movie a quiz program will be

held in which students were to be asked questions related to the said movie and those who will give correct reply shall be presented a memento having the pictures of Sahibzada's and this announcement delivered an impact all students watched movies very seriously.

After the completion of movies students were asked questions related to the said movie by Surjit Singh Secretary DGPC Jammu and

Dr S Arvinder Singh Ann ret'd. Additional Secretary Academy of Art, Culture and languages and besides Sikh students number of non Sikh students who gave wonderful reply were Bhumi Khajuria, Niranjan Mangotra, Asif Khan, Gurpreet Kour, Gurjit Singh, Amandeep Singh, Simran Kour, Sarabjit Kour, Gurpreet Kour and Gurpreet Singh. Total ten students were presented mementos.

Special thanks were also extended to prof. Ashok incharge auditorium, Dr Prof. Paramjeet Singh of Political science and Dr Shandilya Pervinder Kour of Parade college and number of other prof & associate professors of different colleges of Jammu city attend the programme.

Jasbir Singh Sewadar of Shri Sehaj Path Sewa Amritsar also distributed free literature on the life history and great sacrifices made by four sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh.

The event was graced by prominent community like were Sharanjit Singh, Satinderpal Singh, Parfulta Singh, Tejinder Singh, Ajit Singh, Gurdev Singh and Surinder Sikh Missionary college, Ajeet Singh, Gurjit Singh and Satinder Singh.

Medical-cum-Dental Health camp organised

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A General Medical-cum-Dental Health camp was organised on Saturday by Munshi Ram Khajuria memorial Charitable Trust at Naveen Shiksha Kendra School run by 'SAWERA NGO' at Channi Himmat Jammu in the memory of Lt Dr. R.R. Khajuria (founder of Trust & SAWERA NGO).

Free medicines and dental hygiene kits were provided to slum dweller school children.

In the camp doctors from IGGDC Jammu and Govt Hospital Channi Himmat examined about 300 school children.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reaches at MC Khour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: Tehsildar Khour Monika Sharma, participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and highlighted the importance of the program. All departmental heads from different departments also shared the necessary information by installing their stalls distributing the pamphlets, posters and displaying the exhibits. Public of Khour town thanked Distt administration for reaching and organising such a beneficial and informative program at their door steps. The students of Govt. Middle School Nikkian also displayed cultural programs. Earlier the VBSY Van reached at Nikkian where the message of PM was displayed alongwith the achievements under various schemes in the town Khour. All sectoral officers present on the event also spoke and spread required awareness among the general public regarding various schemes launched by the Govt of India. Stalls for on spot registration under PM Vishwakarma and other online services were also installed. Deputy Ram, Deepak Singh, Pawan Singh, Jaggu Ram, Chaman Lal among other sectoral officers present during the program.

