

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Stern direction to...

the states of Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Speaking at a press conference on the occasion of the 60th Raising Day of the force, the DG said that in Kashmir, the BSF works under the command of the Army to secure the Line of Control (LoC).

About 2.65 lakh strength force was raised on December 1, 1965. It is primarily tasked to guard more than 6,300 kms of Indian fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country.

An electronic surveillance of vulnerable patches is being undertaken along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders where a total of 635 vulnerable patches, covering 484 kms of the two IBs are being covered, as per the BSF, he said.

Chawdhary said there was "very little" area on the India-Pakistan front that was not fenced.

"We are using drone penetrating radars in Jammu and Punjab border areas to find and dismantle under-ground tunnels that are used by terrorists to infiltrate into India from Pakistan," he added.

The DG said there was not an "exact estimate" about the number of infiltration attempts getting successful from the Pakistan border but the force undertakes "all necessary" measures to stop such crossings of terrorists.

He said illegal entry of drones from Pakistan into the border areas of India was a "big challenge" but while these unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flights have gone up, the volume of drugs smuggled from this border had gone down.

As per data recorded by the BSF, more than 257 drones have been seized by the force this year as compared to more than 110 recovered last year.

He said the Border Security Force has initiated a special electronic surveillance project to secure over 600 "vulnerable patches" along the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders, covering areas where physical fencing is not feasible, the force chief said on Friday.

He said said approximately 800 km of the 4,069 km India-Bangladesh border remains unfenced due to rivers and other geographical challenges.

Last year in December during the BSF Raising Day at Hazaribag in Jharkhand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that India's two most important borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh will be completely secured in the next two years.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to officiate as the chief guest of the Raising Day parade at a BSF camp here, about 340 kms from state capital Jaipur, on December 8.

Answering a question about the current situation of fencing along the two borders, the DG said, "Hardly about 800 kms of the India-Bangladesh border remains unfenced...this is that area where it is not feasible to erect a fence, like the riverine areas."

However, efforts are underway to set up an electronic surveillance and vulnerability project consisting of infra red sensors and alarms to dominate vulnerable patches on this IB, the DG said.

The force, along the Bangladesh front, is also undertaking a "detailed vulnerability mapping to strengthen surveillance by deploying additional manpower, special surveillance equipments and vehicles, Chawdhary said.

For the western front with Pakistan, the DG said the force was planning to erect a "new design fence" and CCTV, PTZ (pan tilt zoom) and bullet cameras have been installed in vulnerable areas for better surveillance of this front.

Similarly, this year the force has seized over 432 kg of drugs at this front as compared to 895 kgs recovered last year.

Chawdhary said BSF was on "continuous alert" along the Bangladesh border post the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in that country in August.

The force was "in touch" with its Bangladeshi counterpart BGB and they "always responded" to them post these latest developments in the neighbouring country, he said.

Issues are immediately sorted out, he said pointing out to the good working relations between the forces of the two countries.

"There has been no unnecessary movement or encroachment on this border. Only people with valid visa are being allowed to cross over to India. We have been able to stop illegal infiltration from this area (Bangladesh border)," he said.

BSF data said over 172 gold and 178 kg silver was seized along the India-Bangladesh border this year.

Joint patrolling conducted...

and cautious while performing their duties to avert any eventuality.

Various parameters and measures vis-a-vis security were also discussed to further strengthen the border security grid in the district, the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Anand Jain visited the Special Operations Group camps in the Bani-Machedi axis near Kathua to review the operational preparedness in the district.

The ADGP was accompanied by Inspector General CRPF, Jammu Sector, R Gopala Krishna Rao and Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua Shobhit Saxena, the spokesperson said.

He said the ADGP inspected the infrastructure, equipment, and training facilities at the SOG camps in Lowang and Duggaini. He interacted with the SOG personnel and reviewed the security arrangements, counter-insurgency strategies, and preparedness for addressing emerging challenges in the border district, the spokesperson said.

The ADGP directed the personnel to remain vigilant and to take proactive measures to prevent crime and terrorism. He encouraged the teams to maintain high levels of alertness, professionalism, and collaboration with other security agencies to ensure the safety and security of the region, the spokesperson said.

The security along the borders across Jammu has been strengthened to thwart any attempt by Pakistani terrorists to infiltrate this side during the winter.

Police and Border Security Force (BSF) conducted a joint patrolling exercise along Indo-Pak Border in the R.S.Pura-Arnia Sector.

SP Hqs Jammu along with officers of 7 Bn. BSF, 120 Bn. BSF and 165 Bn. BSF and Police officers of Sub Division R.S.Pura, IC BPP Agrachak, SHO R S pura, SDPO RS Pura, participated in the intensive patrolling exercise. The exercise aimed to assess security preparedness and strategic locations along the International Border (IB) falling in District Jammu/ Sub Division R.S.Pura.

The team also inspected Nallahs, Culverts and Canals to identify potential vulnerabilities in the region, including the assessment of fair weather roads and metalled roads.

They also interacted with local residents to enhance Police-Public co-ordination and encourage timely sharing of information with Law Enforcement Agencies.

During the exercise, officers interacted with Jawans and asked them to remain extra vigilant & cautious while performing their duties to avert any eventuality. Various parameters and measures vis-a-vis security were also discussed to further strengthen the Border Security grid in District Jammu/ Sub Division R.S.Pura.

Vacations for schools...

Jammu division will be observed from December 10 to February 28 next year. For the Classes 5 to 12, the winter vacation will be observed from December 16 to February 28, 2025, according to the order.

It asked teaching staff of government high and higher secondary schools to remain available at respective headquarters from February 10, 2025, onwards for preparatory arrangements for the ensuing board examinations of Class 10, 11 and 12.

"All teachers shall remain available as required for any online guidance to students during vacation period," the order said.

Any default on the part of heads of institutions or teaching staff in observance of the schedule shall attract strict action under the rules.

Survey to identify...

youth studying in different Universities/ Colleges here to take part in this survey for making it a meaningful exercise to know about your aspirations regarding self employment and the challenges you are facing to fructify them.

The Chief Secretary also advised the concerned to fetch as much data as possible from this survey to generate multiple analytics for the lucid understanding of all. He made out that this data would guide administration in the implementation of several other schemes and formulation of future policies.

He stressed on the respective Deputy Commissioners to designate a senior officer as nodal officer for continuous monitoring of this exercise there. He advised for holding training sessions for the investigators besides running sustained informational campaigns in both social and mainstream media for the awareness of masses.

In his presentation the Secretary, L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan informed the meeting that this activity has two major components to survey the existing enterprises for looking into the challenges they are facing in addition to identify potential entrepreneurs from our population.

He further gave out that for the same an online app had been developed by BISAG-N for the Department which would capture the data on real time basis posing a set of questions based on devised questionnaires.

It was given out that its objective is to foster entrepreneurship culture and desirable ecosystem for helping those in the age group of 18-49 years of age to start at least 1.37 lakh new enterprises generating around 4.25 lakh job opportunities in next 5 years here.

Regarding the carrying out of survey the DG, E&S, Satveer Kour informed the meeting that a group of Master Trainers from each district would be identified by the respective DCs to be trained for a week at both Srinagar and Jammu.

She further added that a tabulation plan and work flow would be done for 2 weeks to be followed by training of field staff for two weeks who would carry out the enumeration exercise in towns and villages of the UT supervised by the employees of Labour and Planning Departments here.

Moreover 'Youth Skill & Entrepreneurship App' has been developed for the implementation of Mission YUVA here. It was revealed that the app is quite inclusive to develop the much requisite culture of ecosystem here by engaging 1000 motivators, 80 Business Help desks, Incubation Centres, and innovation hub at IIM Jammu.

It would also be a one stop solution for bringing job opportunities to registered youth, imparting them skill courses in both online and offline mode, get soft skills, receive career counselling, provide them platform to apply for credit from different financial institutions in a hassle-free manner with the much needed interest subvention and subsidies.

It was given out in the meeting that this portal is also going to be beneficial for them to get job alerts, generate their CVs to apply for different jobs, fetch DPRs for enterprises using Artificial Intelligence along with enhancing their capacity and market linkages through e-commerce and markets all over the world.

Misusing taxpayers' money...

Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Of this whopping assistance, the major chunk of aid to Afghanistan from 2014-15 to 2017-18 was Rs 2,232.94 crore, to Bangladesh it was Rs 514.13 crore, to Bhutan it was Rs 15,680.97 crore, to Maldives during the same period was Rs 270.39 crore, to Nepal it was Rs 1,322.54 crore, and to Sri Lanka it was Rs 1,080.55 crore. In return what the poor taxpayers' nation got, Jihadis trained in Afghanistan, sitting ministers of Maldives mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sri Lanka hobnobbing with China to demean this nation, Nepal being used as safe haven by terrorists to bleed India. The aid and assistance is continuing because India feels elated to be 'Dhaanveer'.

As if 'Dhaanveer' syndrome was not enough, the policy of appeasement back home has eaten up very vitals of this country. The best example of this syndrome lies in the famous quote of Prime Minister Dr Manoharan Singh in December 2006 when he said 'plans for minorities, particularly Muslims, must have the first claim on resources so that benefits of development reach them equitably'. This remained the Mantra of non-NDA governments. However, the legacy of distributing 'doles' at the cost of 'tax-payers hard earned money' for functioning of Madrassas or subsidies for performing religious pilgrimages remained symbol of India's secularism but for the course correction made by Narendra Modi government in 2018 by stopping the Haj subsidy, requiring the pilgrims to meet the costs of their pilgrimage. This government also bade farewell to the culture of hosting 'Iftaar Parties' with fanfare by those holding constitutional positions, ironically at the cost of public exchequer. The pseudo-seculars' appeasement knew no bounds, as the Congress led Union Government and Maharashtra Government spent Rs 28.46 crore on food, security, medicines and clothes of Pakistan terrorist Ajmal Kasab in Arthur Road Central Prison in Mumbai and Yerwada Jail in Pune. The radicalised Kasab along with nine Jihadis including Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Ismail Khan unleashed mayhem, leading to the death of over 160 people during 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008.

Having not learnt any lessons, even the BJP partnered Mahayuti caretaker government in Maharashtra, led by Eknath Shinde, issued a government resolution (GR) just a week ago for the release of Rs 10 crore funds to strengthen the State Waqf Board. This sent shockwaves in the BJP rank and file that is girding up its loins to amend the Waqf Act. It was argued that the decision had been taken at the administrative level. This led to withdrawal of the order, as the BJP pleaded that Waqf Board has no place in the Constitution. State Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik confirmed that the order has been withdrawn.

Graduating from spending taxpayers' money to appease some religious segments has now manifested in freebies to win the elections. The norm to utilize the tax revenues judiciously for the public good gets butchered when the political class opens up government coffers to lure the voters in their favour by way of free rides for women in government transport, free electricity and drinking water, waiver of loans to some sections, whopping health insurance cover, stipends etc. All these 'so-called welfare measures' are taken only when the elections are round the corner-not love for the poor and marginalized but votes and votes only. Is this the democracy Indians had envisioned or craved for?

Country which let...

staying true to its traditions.

"We are more aspirational, more ambitious, more capable, and more confident. But most of all, we are an India that is more Bharat. We can actually see in the eighth decade after Independence that democracy has delivered," Jaishankar said.

The minister also said he felt empowered by the changes he saw in the country that has been the co-inventor of the Quad formation and progenitor of the International Solar Alliance.

"India is a country of ideas, it is a country which is shaping global conversations. That too is a reason why I am particularly fortunate to represent the country and hold this responsibility," he said.

India is a country undergoing transformation, staying true to its traditions and at the same time using technology to look ahead into the future, he said.

"We are today more representative as a selection of people than we have ever been. There is equal opportunity in every walk of life in every part of India. This success is not something that is elitist or metropolitan," Jaishankar said.

Raids in Srinagar...

the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The investigation is focused on certain individuals who, at the behest of adversaries and in a criminal conspiracy, have been involved in manufacturing and disseminating twisted, false information, the spokesman said.

He said, "This campaign of misinformation is intended to provoke violence and disrupt public order". After the acquisition of search warrants from the NIA Court, Srinagar Police carried out searches at the residence of Abdul Hamid Parry, a resident of Budshah Nagar, Natipora, the spokesperson said.

During the raid, incriminating materials and electronic devices were seized, he added. Further searches are planned at the residences of other identified suspects linked to this malicious propaganda. Police had last week conducted raids in Batamaloo and HMT areas at the residences of two suspects who were identified as key figures in orchestrating the unlawful narrative.

The Police urged the public, particularly youth, to be vigilant and responsible while using social media platforms. "Citizens are reminded to refrain from sharing or uploading content that promotes false, inciteful narratives and could lead others to engage in acts of terror," the spokesperson said. He said the police have identified additional suspects connected to the ongoing investigation and are planning further raids. "These actions are part of a larger effort to combat the misuse of social media for spreading harmful and misleading information that threatens public order and safety. "The public is urged to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace and ensuring that such divisive and harmful narratives do not spread," he said.

Army personnel dies of cardiac arrest during search operation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An army personnel died of cardiac arrest during a search operation in the upper areas of Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

The search operation was going on in the forest area of Harwan here in the aftermath of an encounter in the nearby Dachigam on Tuesday in which Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Junaid Ahmed Bhat was killed.

Bhat, a category "A" terrorist of the LeT, was involved in the October 20 attack near a tunnel construction site in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal in which a local doctor and six non-local labourers were killed.

While the security forces were conducting searches for terrorists in Faqeer Gupree, Dara, in the Harwan area of the city, this morning, an army jawan died due to cardiac arrest, the officials said.

They identified the jawan as Jasvinder Singh of the Army's 34 Assam Rifles.

Since the encounter on Tuesday, security forces have launched search operations in the vast forest area to trace terrorists.

Currency note bundle at Singhvi's seat rocks RS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A wad of Rs 500 notes found from the seat allotted to Abhishek Singhvi in the Rajya Sabha rocked the Upper House on Friday with the opposition and ruling alliance MPs trading charges and the Congress MP demanding a probe into the 'security lapse'.

Singhvi also suggested that glass enclosures should be erected to prevent anyone from planting "ganja" on seats in an MP's absence.

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the day within minutes of meeting after lunch as treasury benches were on their feet seeking answers from the opposition.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who was in Chair, sought to pacify the members of the ruling party and urged them to sit down and allow the House to function. As unrelenting BJP members continued to raise slogans, he adjourned the House for the day.

Soon after the official papers were laid on the table in the morning, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said security staff had recovered a wad of Rs 500 notes from the seat allotted to Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi, leading to an uproar in the House.

While Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the chairman should not have named the member without an investigation being completed, Leader of the House J P Nadda accused the opposition of showing eagerness on "some issues" while wanting to cover up other issues.

The currency was recovered from seat 222, which is allotted to Singhvi, during an anti-sabotage check on Thursday, Dhankhar said.

"After the adjournment of the House yesterday, a wad of currency notes was apparently recovered by security officials from seat no 222 presently allotted to Abhishek Manu Singhvi, elected from the state of Telangana."

An investigation has been ordered in accordance with practice, he said, adding it was not clear if the currency notes were real or fake.

The chairman said the wad has Rs 500 notes and there appear to be 100 notes. "It was my duty and I'm obliged to inform the House. This is a routine anti-sabotage check which takes place," he said.

Dhankhar added that he was expecting someone would claim the currency notes, but no one has so far. "Does it reflect the state of the economy that people can afford to forget it," he posed.

As a ruckus broke out, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju asked, "Why should there be an objection to the name being taken? The chairman has pointed out the seat number and the member who occupies that. What is the problem with that?"

He said carrying bundles of notes in the House is not appropriate and agreed that there should be a serious investigation into the matter.

Dhankhar added that the anti-sabotage check was done in view of the security challenges.

"I have been careful that anti-sabotage checks must be very severe because in these highly technological situations where chemicals are used, the first and foremost is security... From that perspective it was done," he said.

According to Nadda, the matter was serious and the opposition and treasury benches should not be divided as it is an attack on the dignity of the House. He also suggested that the Rajya Sabha should pass a resolution stating the proceedings of the House should never be disrupted.

"Taking a jibe at opposition members, Nadda said, "On some issues, you show eagerness, while you want to cover up other issues."

Kharge objected, saying, "Why is Mr Nadda saying we are trying to suppress the matter... You do that, we don't do that."

Union Minister Piyush Goyal said it is a serious issue. "We don't know what else may be found on that side," he said. Without taking any names, Goyal accused the opposition of stalling Parliament over 'fake narratives'.

The Rajya Sabha then proceeded with Zero Hour, which was followed by the Question Hour.

As the controversy spiralled, Singhvi termed the incident bizarre and added that politics on issues such as this showed the system in a bad light and "demeans our level".

The Congress MP clarified that he carries only one Rs 500 note when he goes to the Rajya Sabha. "I reached inside House at 12.57 pm yesterday and the House rose at 1 pm; then I sat in canteen till 1.30 pm with Ayodhya Rami Reddy then, I left Parliament!" he said in a post on X.

"I feel there should be a glass cabin for every seat in Parliament. This will allow an MP to lock his seat before leaving for home and no person can keep anything like 'ganja'."

"Possibly we should now have a barbed wire fencing around the entire seat or a glass enclosure around the seat which could be locked... so that anybody cannot put 'ganja', rupee or anything else on that seat when you are away," Singhvi told reporters.

The Congress MP said fortunately or unfortunately, he came to the House only for three minutes on Thursday and then again left for court after having lunch.

Radha Mohan Das Aggarwal of the BJP expressed surprise over the incident and said, "It is clear that there has been a split in the opposition bloc and several parties are running away from them. To keep them united they are sending money through their MPs."

He said the amount found in the House was only "leftover" and asked what was the "real amount that had come in and how much money was distributed to parties". People have the right to know and there should be a probe, he said.

Aggarwal also said that Singhvi claimed that he was in Parliament for only three minutes and spent 30 minutes in the canteen.

"Is he paid to attend the House for only three minutes? Do we elect MPs for this or will there be a law to ensure that MPs get paid with public money only to attend for three minutes? This is Congress' corruption," he alleged.

Congress MP Imran Masood later said the government was trying to distract attention from the Adani issue and was running away from a debate on it.

BJP Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari said he was "shocked" by the incident and it should be investigated. "You find money from their seat and also from their homes... Where so much black money comes from needs to be probed," he said.

India asks Pakistan to take strong action against Masood Azhar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Friday demanded strong action from Pakistan against Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, after a report emerged that he delivered a speech recently at a public gathering in Bahawalpur.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said if the report is correct, then it has exposed Pakistan's "duplicity" in containing terrorist activities.

"We demand that strong action be taken against him (Azhar) and he should be brought to justice. There has been denial that he is not there in Pakistan," Jaiswal said.

"If the reports are correct, then it exposes the duplicity of Pakistan. Masood Azhar is involved in cross-border terror attacks on India and we want that strong action be taken against him," he added.

Jaiswal made the remarks in response to a question at his weekly media briefing.

Cold conditions intensify across Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Cold conditions tightened their grip on Kashmir on Friday, with the minimum temperature dropping several degrees below freezing point, making it the coldest night of the season in most areas of the valley, officials reported.

The night temperature across Kashmir fell further below freezing due to dry weather, they added.

Temperatures were recorded at 1.2 to 3.2 degrees below the normal for this part of the season, officials said.

Srinagar recorded its season's lowest temperature at minus 4.1 degrees Celsius -- two degrees lower than the previous night.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley in South Kashmir, also registered its season's lowest at minus 4.4 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature at Pahalgam, a popular tourist resort and a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, dropped to minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest so far this season. Gulmarg, the famous ski resort, recorded a low of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara saw minus 3.4 degrees Celsius and Kokernag recorded minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, according to officials.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted generally dry weather until Saturday, with further drops in the night temperature expected. Daytime temperatures would be warmer, the MeT department said. There is a possibility of light rain over some plains and hilly areas of Jammu Division, and light rain or light snow in higher altitudes late on December 8 into the morning of December 9, the IMD said.