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'The Kashmir Files'...

which is under attack from the BJP over its comment on the film, alleged that the Sangh Parivar forces "misinterpreted and misused" its tweet on the issue.

The union home minister posted on Twitter his picture along with the film's team and congratulated the members.

"Today, met #TheKashmirFiles team. The truth of the sacrifice, unbearable pain and struggle of Kashmiri Pandits who were forced to leave their home in their own country has come to the notice of the whole world through this film, which is a very commendable effort," Shah tweeted in Hindi.

Shah said "The Kashmir Files" is a bold representation of truth and it will work to make the society and the country aware in the direction that such historical mistakes are not repeated.

Later, Kher expressed his gratitude to the home minister for abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to J and K.

"Respected Home Minister @AmitShah sir! Not only on behalf of the #KashmiriPandits community but also on behalf of the team #TheKashmirFiles, I got the opportunity to express gratitude to you at your residence for your tireless efforts to remove #Article370," the actor tweeted in Hindi.

Agnihotri also thanked Shah for his encouragement.

"Your consistent efforts for the human rights of Kashmiri people and security forces is commendable. Your vision for a peaceful and prosperous Kashmir will strengthen humanity and brotherhood. #RightToJustice," he tweeted.

In Srinagar, Mehbooba Mufti said instead of healing old wounds and creating a conducive atmosphere between two communities, the Centre is deliberately tearing them apart.

The manner in which GOI (government of India) is aggressively promoting Kashmir Files & is weaponising pain of Kashmiri Pandits makes their ill intention obvious, Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, V D Satheesan, said the tweet by the party's state unit on Kashmir was meant to say that all sorts of atrocities in the Valley should be ended and the issue should not be handled in the name of religion or caste.

"But it is being misused in Delhi. The Sangh Parivar forces misinterpreted it," Satheesan told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, responding to a query on the BJP's attack on the Congress in Parliament over its controversial tweet through the Twitter handle of the party's Kerala unit.

An association of Kashmiri students in Uttarakhand expressed apprehensions that the "disturbing video clips" emerging from different theatres screening The Kashmir Files' could lead to targeting of students of a particular community, especially those from J and K studying in different parts of the country.

"The onus of any unprovoked attempt of hate, physical, verbal abuse aimed at students from the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be on the director of the film," the spokesman of J-K Students Association Nasir Khuehami, who studies in a college in Dehra Dun, said in a statement.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar rejected the demand of BJP legislators to make the film tax-free in the state, saying if the Centre waives GST on the movie, it will apply to the entire country.

Replying to a debate on the state Budget in the Legislative Assembly, Pawar, who is also the state's finance minister, said the central Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the state GST are 50 per cent each.

"The issue in the film is about Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken about the film in Parliament. If the central GST is waived, the tax waiver will apply to the entire country," he said.

Enraged by Pawar's statement, the BJP legislators staged a walkout.

The BJP on Tuesday had submitted a memorandum signed by 92 of its MLAs to declare the movie tax-free.

Amid the opposition BJP's demand for a tax break to the film in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Baghel said the Centre should waive the GST on the movie so that it becomes tax-free in the country.

3 LeT terrorists...

been identified as Adil Nabi Teli resident of Galehial Chandhara, Pampore, Shakir Ahmad Tantray resident of Ronipora Shopian and Yasir Ahmad Wagay resident of Kujer Frisal, Kulgam, the police said.

As per police records, the killed terrorists were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF) and active since year 2021. They were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attack on Police/SF and civilian atrocities.

IGP Kashmir said that all the three killed terrorists were involved in the recent killing of Sarpanch Sameer Ahmad Bhat at Khanmoh Srinagar; adding, they used to carry out attacks on Panchayati Raj institution members and protected persons. Besides they were planning to attack on security forces on the NHW.

He termed the elimination of wanted terrorists as a big success and congratulated the joint forces for conducting successful anti-terrorist operation without any collateral damage.

Terrorist Adil Teli, along with his associates, was also involved in martyrdom of Inspector Pervaiz Ahmad Dar at Manganwari Nowgam on June 22, 2021, killing of Javaid Ahmed Malik at Lurgam Tral. Besides, he was also involved in grenade attack on joint party of Police and CRPF at Barbarshah Srinagar in which one civilian was killed and three civilians were injured.

Similarly, terrorists Shakir Ahmad and Yasir Ahmad were also involved in several terror crime cases including martyrdom of ASI Mohammad Ashraf near PS Bijbehara, Anantnag on December 22, 2021.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 01 AK rifle, 03 AK Magazines, 14 AK rounds, 02 Pistols, 04 Pistol Magazines, 06 Pistol rounds were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investiga-

tion 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.

Pakistani handlers pushing...

Sarpanches Sameer Bhat and Shabir Ahmad Mir were killed in Srinagar and Kulgam districts on March 9 and March 11, respectively, while an independent panchayat member, Mohammad Yaqub Dar, was gunned down by terrorists in Kulgam on March 2.

"Pakistani handlers are pushing them (terrorists operating in J&K) to harm innocent people by targeted killings and grenade throwing. Two civilians, including a girl, were killed in one such grenade attack in Srinagar (on March 6), the police chief said.

On counter-terrorist operations, he said, "Over the past few days, we have carried out over half-a-dozen successful operations, including the one in Srinagar which resulted in the killing of three terrorists (on Wednesday). These three terrorists were involved in the killing of Khanmoh sarpanch (Bhat)."

Eleven terrorists have been killed in seven encounters in different parts of Kashmir Valley since March 10. While two militants were killed in Pulwama and Srinagar's Hazratbal on March 10, three encounters in Pulwama, Ganderbal and Kupara left four terrorists dead and one more arrested. Another militant was killed in Pulwama on March 15.

The DGP said the culprits behind the killing of a sarpanch in Kulgam, a CRPF personnel in Shopian and an Army jawan in Budgam were also arrested.

CRPF jawan Mukthar Ahmad and soldier Sameer Ahmad Malla were killed by terrorists in Shopian and Budgam districts on March 12 and 10, respectively. Both of them had come home on leave when they were attacked by the terrorists.

"Those behind the killing of a sarpanch in Kulgam were arrested and the main terrorist was identified and is being chased. The module behind the CRPF jawan's killing was busted and similarly, the culprits involved in the killing of army jawan were also arrested and the terrorist identified and he too will be neutralised, Singh said.

He said, The operations against terrorists will continue so that the people can live in a peaceful atmosphere and the killings at the hands of Pakistani terrorists and local terrorists at the behest of Pakistani agencies is stopped.

Asked about fear among Panchayati Raj Institution members in the wake of recent attacks, the DGP said there is no need to panic.

"Providing security to every individual is not possible everywhere but we are making efforts to provide a peaceful atmosphere through area security... We are providing security (to individuals) following intelligence input, he said.

'G-23' leaders meet...

at the crucial Congress Working Committee meeting on Sunday.

Two prominent G-23 members Azad and Sharma would also apprise the other members of the developments at the CWC and what they spoke on strengthening the party in the wake of the party's drubbing in the assembly polls in five states, they said.

The Congress performance in these states was poor as it failed to win back any of the four BJP-ruled states including Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur, while it lost Punjab to the AAP.

The G-23 grouping has been critical of the party leadership and has been demanding organisational overhaul, after they wrote a joint letter to Sonia Gandhi in 2020.

The sources said invitations were also extended to the Congressmen who don't constitute the bloc but feel changes are required, including at the leadership level, to revive its electoral fortunes.

The decision to convene a meeting of the G-23 came a day after Sonia Gandhi sought the resignation of Congress presidents of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa following the party's dismal performance there.

Sibal, in his latest salvo targeting the leadership had said the Gandhis should step aside and give some other leader a chance to helm the party, provoking a backlash from Gandhi family loyalists who accused him of speaking the language of the BJP and the RSS.

The G-23 has, however, got weakened over time with senior leader M Veerappa Moily distancing himself from the group, Jitin Prasada joining the BJP, and Mukul Wasnik not attending its meetings in recent times.

Bhagwant Mann sworn...

Arvind Kejriwal, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, and other leaders wearing yellow turbans took part in the ceremony.

The AAP romped home winning 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly, decimating the Congress and the SAD-BSP combine.

State Marriage Assistance...

being provided. Earlier, the benefits under the scheme were limited only to the girls of marriageable age who figured in the poor girls survey, especially conducted for this purpose by the Social Welfare Department.

DGHS New Delhi...

mention that a three member experts' team from Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi had inspected the Eye Bank, Corneal Transplantation and Retrieval facility in the month of February in the Department of Ophthalmology as per the prescribed parameters of Govt. of India under the THOTA, 1994.

Earlier, GMC Jammu had got the provisional registration from the Licensing Authority of Directorate of Health Services, Jammu under the J&K transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1997. The department has already conducted 21 corneal transplants. But after conversion of J&K State to Union Territory, the department had to apply for a new registration to DGHS, New Delhi through State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) J&K. Now this will open up a facility for eye donation and corneal transplant for the people at GMC Jammu.

India's COVID vaccination...

ensure those at the forefront of the fight against Covid get proper protection at the earliest, he said.

In March 2021, vaccination was opened to those above 60 and those over 45 with

to Police station and offered her meals. After this, a team of Police Station Bahu Fort under supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafar led by SHO Bahu Fort Insp. Nayat Ali, after putting in strenuous efforts and connecting various leads, contacted family of minor girl. Finally, the girl was handed-over to her family members after completing all legal formalities.

8 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/POONCH: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which teams made a massive recovery of vehicles involved in illegal mining. The teams from Police Stations Domana, Nagrota & Police Posts Sidhra, Panjirthi and Chinore acted stringently on specific inputs and raided at different locations in their respective areas and seized 5 vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicles include a trolley without registration number seized by Domana Police; a tipper (JK02CL 9965) seized by Nagrota Police; a tractor bearing Chassis No. 28150299 seized by Sidra police; a tractor-trolley bearing Chassis No. MBNAU52AMCK97728 by Panjirthi police and Tractor trolley (JK02BH 8776) seized by Chinore police.

The overall recoveries were made by SHO Domana Insp Mahesh Sharma, SHO Nagrota Insp Vishav Partap, Incharge Police Posts Sidhra SI Shakil Ahmed, Panjirthi SI Rahul Sharma and Chinore SI Amit Roshan in their respective jurisdictions.

Poonch Police also seized 3 vehicles involved in extraction/transportation of illegal mining from a river bed near Potha Surankote and handed-over the same to Mining Department for further action. A fine of Rs 18,810 was imposed on violators by Mining Department. The seized vehicles included 1 JCB and 2 Tractor-trolleys.

Drug peddler arrested with 132 intoxicating capsules

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Police on Wednesday arrested a drug peddler and recovered 132 intoxicating capsules from his possession.

Details revealed that one Yashpal Singh, son of Sukhdev Singh, resident of Kotla, Tehsil Pouni District- Reasi was apprehended with 132 Tramadol Capsules at Kotla Morn by Ransoo police, headed by Inspector Kamalpreet Singh SHO Ransoo. Accused was arrested and FIR No. 04/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Ransoo. The arrest and recovery was made by Inspector Kamalpreet Singh SHO Ransoo under supervision of DySP Hqrs Reasi Iftkar Ahmed and SSP Reasi Amit Gupta.

comorbidities, he pointed out. Later, the vaccination opened for all those above 18, he said.

Modi said it should make every Indian proud that the vaccines are free of cost for those who want it.

"Today, India has administered over 180 crore doses, which includes over 9 crore doses in age group of 15-17 and over 2 crore precaution doses. This forms an important protective shield for our citizens against COVID-19," he said in another tweet.

Over the last year, India's vaccination drive has been people-powered, he said.

Unlike other nations where we are witnessing a lot of vaccine hesitancy, people here have not only taken their doses but also urged others to get vaccinated as soon as possible, the prime minister said, adding that this is "heartening to see".

"I would like to appreciate our state governments for their support towards India's vaccination drive. Several states, especially the hill states and those where tourism is important, have achieved near total vaccination coverage and several big states have also done well," he said.

Situation in J&K...

of him chairing a high-level security review meeting here on Friday, the CRPF DG said, He has no idea about it."

He said this is for the first time that the CRPF Day is being celebrated outside Delhi.

The central government has directed different forces to organise annual day parades at different places in the country and display show of strength to the people.

"It will act as an inspiration and motivation for the personnel as well as the civilian population, especially the youth. It will also help in the national integration work, he said.

Asked about the killing of a CRPF personnel who was at home on leave in Kashmir Valley recently, he said this was the first such incident this year and added the security agencies acted promptly and arrested the culprit within the shortest possible time.

Terrorists shot dead CRPF jawan Mukthar Ahmad at his home in Check Chotipora village of Shopian district on March 12.

"Terrorists also keep a watch who is coming and who is going. He was on leave and was killed but the culprit behind the murder was arrested and the law will take its own course and he will be punished as per the law, he said.

To a question on terrorists using religious places to hide, he said, Terrorists do not have any religion...wherever they are, security forces will reach and neutralise them.

On the annual Amarnath Yatra, the CRPF DG said it is not appropriate time to comment on the pilgrimage. When the orders will come, we will act on those orders.

Asked whether he will arrange special screening of The Kashmir Files' film for his troops deployed in Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "I have not seen the picture so far. Any picture which is good and works as an inspiration and motivation needs to be watched.

Addressing the parade earlier, the CRPF chief lauded the bravery and courage of his personnel and said the year 2021-22 witnessed the force eliminating 162 terrorists and Maoists, arresting 1,500 others and forcing 750 more to surrender in various operations across the country.

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including 415 weapons, 13,000 rounds, 1400 kg of explosives, 225 grenades, 115 bombs, 615 IEDs, 2400 detonators and 5336 gelatin sticks, worth Rs 3.27 crore and 25,775 kg of narcotic substances were seized during the same period, he said.

He said 12 personnel of the force laid down their lives, while 169 others were injured during the period.

In the past 82 years, the CRPF received 2,309 gallantry awards which is the highest among forces, he said, adding 272 awards, including four Kirti Chakra and nine Shaurya Chakra, were given to the personnel for their service to the nation in 2021-22.

Singh said with 246 battalion and over 3.15 lakh personnel, CRPF is the largest paramilitary force in the world which is performing various duties for the nation like maintaining law and order, providing security during elections and religious festivals.

"New challenges do come with the passage of time and we are focused on modernisation of the force and providing our personnel with latest weapons, bullet-proof vehicles and other equipment to enhance operation capabilities, he said, adding medical assistance compact ambulance were also provided to evacuate injured personnel during anti-terrorism operations.

He said CRPF is also making continuous attempts to provide better living facilities to the personnel and their families. The central government is alive to the problems being faced by the personnel and providing adequate assistance to ensure better facilities to them.

He also referred to the handling of the situation in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 that provided special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two union territories in August 2019 and said both central and J&K governments have lauded the force for maintaining peace in the region.

The force has also six women battalions which are deployed across the country, a glaring example of women empowerment, he said.

Jammu records season's...

while Banihal town in Ramtan district recorded a low of 14.2 degrees Celsius which was 10 degrees above normal.</