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Target is to...

contribution of the BSF since its formation, he said not only has the force played a vital role in safeguarding the borders, it has also strived hard in maintaining internal security in the country.

Referring to the role of the BSF in Jammu and Kashmir, he said ever since its formation in 1965, the force has done a laudable job in maintaining peace on the border and assisting border villagers which is worth praise.

Whether it is District Development Council elections in Kashmir, helping people in COVID-19 outbreak, foiling infiltration (by terrorists) or smuggling of weapons and drugs, the force are performing its duties with great professionalism, devotion, dedication and bravely.

If today, the border residents are contributing without any fear, it is because of the sacrifice of the BSF personnel, who reached them in the challenging situation (cross-border shelling), he said.

Earlier, the Lt Governor took the salute at an impressive march past by the passing out trainees and conducted the inspection of the parade followed by the oath ceremony.

The Lt Governor also presented medals to the achievers who excelled in their training.

Pardeep Katyal, Inspector General of BSF STC, Udhampur presented the welcome address and gave details of various components of training imparted to the passing out recruits.

A colourful presentation on the theme of musical yoga was also organized, followed by one minute weapon drill by recruits.

On the occasion, students of Government Higher Secondary School, Jaganoo, performed impressive cultural items depicting Dogra culture which was highly appreciated and enjoyed by the audiences.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Lal Chand, DDC Chairman; Juhi Manhas Pathania, DDC Vice Chairperson; Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur; Mohammad Suleman Choudhary, DIG Udhampur- Reasi Range; Vinod Kumar SSP, Udhampur; Senior officers of JKP, Army and Para-military forces, besides parents of the recruits and Jawans of BSF were present on the occasion.

Challenges like pandemic...

(SGVP). The PM said his 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwaas' slogan was inspired by Shastriji Maharaj's call for 'sarvjan hitay (everybody's welfare)', and the book, authored by the latter's disciple, Madhavpriyadasji Swami, will serve as an inspiration for readers through his life and teachings.

"Looking at the condition of the world today, everybody is facing new challenges. We experienced coronavirus, and now the Ukraine-Russia war. In today's world, it is difficult to estimate when and what will happen, and how it will affect us," the prime minister said.

Modi, while stating that the world had become so small that a country cannot remain unaffected (by events), highlighted the importance of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and asked people associated with SGVP to promote it.

He urged them to be 'vocal for local,' and said this will generate employment and make the country strong.

The PM asked SGVP members to contribute to the Clean India movement and promote natural farming as a way to serve mother earth.

"Shastriji Swami's life was one of dedication, and he lives among his followers in his divine form. The books on his life, authored by his disciple Madhavpriyadasji Swami, will help recall his words and inspire the readers to act as per his teachings," the PM said.

'Shri Dharmajeevan Gatha', spread across six volumes and over four thousand pages, was launched in a grand ceremony by 108 delegates.

It deals with the life and works of Gurudev Shashriji Maharaj, the founder of the Gurukul-like education system, and also carries the history of Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam (SGVP).

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, former state minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama and Union minister Prashottam Rupala were present in the programme along with former chief justice of Delhi High Court DN Patel.

Srinagar acid attack...

Gul, who represents the victim, said the charges were framed against the accused persons involved in the acid attack on the 24-year-old woman.

"The principal sessions judge, Srinagar, without any delay, listed the matter on an urgent basis. I appreciate the expeditious hearing of the case and the framing of charges," he said.

The victim's father, Nisar, who is with his daughter in Chennai for her treatment at an eye hospital, expressed satisfaction over the framing of charges against the accused and hoped they would be given severe punishment.

"These people have ruined everything. My daughter still has nightmares of the incident. I hope these culprits are dealt with by the law," he said and thanked the judicial system and the Srinagar police for making the case their top priority.

The victim was shifted to Chennai for specialised treatment as she lost her eyesight in the attack. The expenses are being borne by a businessman-turned-politician, who does not wish to be named.

Airzoo, the victim's sister, said she and her family have no words to thank the person paying the hospital bills.

The charge sheet was prepared in a record time of three weeks by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Balval was personally monitoring the case and had also constituted a Special Investigation Team headed by Superintendent of Police (North) Raja Zuhaib Tanveer. SDPO Mohammed Yasir Parray, SHO's Tasir Hamid and Owais Geelani, and Sub-Inspector Shahista Mughal were its members.

Besides Rather and Kumar, the charge sheet has been filed against a juvenile, against whom the police want to press charges as an adult because of his involvement in the crime.

A petition has also been filed before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to try the juvenile as an adult in line with the amended Juvenile Justice Act as he falls in the bracket of 16-18 years and the nature of the crime is heinous.

Subsequently, a board has been constituted by the JJB to conduct an assessment regarding his mental and psychological parameters to decide if he can be treated as an adult in the trial, SSP Balval said.

According to the charge sheet, the juvenile helped the police recover the black glass bottle that was used to throw acid on the victim's face.

Police had also noticed injury marks on the upper side of the juvenile's right hand. He was taken to a hospital for examination and the doctors opined that the injury was caused by some chemical substance.

"During the course of investigation, it also came to light that the victim had rejected the marriage proposal of the accused". This angered the accused and he decided to "teach her a lesson" and "conspired to take revenge from the victim".

The SIT also recorded separate statements of Rather and the juvenile about the route taken by them. Their statements were corroborated by obtaining CCTV footage.

Mobile phone records as well as locations of the accused have also been annexed with the charge sheet to corroborate the conspiracy angle in the case.

Rather, who is the main accused in the case, had returned to the medical store, where he was working as a salesman, after committing the crime.

Pak-sponsored terrorism...

such advantage even as it maintained its secular credentials despite militant-cy.

Azad said that over the past 47 years of his political career, he had delivered over 1.5 lakh public speeches but I will not deliver a political speech today because the politics in the country has downgraded so much, I am forced to think whether we are humans.

Remembering the Mahatma Gandhi, Azad said, a true follower of a religion is the biggest secular like Gandhi, while a pretender is very dangerous.

He also warned people against politicians' divisive rhetoric.

The civil society should own responsibility and counter the narrative of the political parties, whether my party or any other party, who are involved in dividing people 24x7.

I am not going to forgive anyone. You have to lead and guide the people and let them decide whom to vote for, he said.

He invoked the Kathua rape incident as an example of the country's unity, saying everyone demanded justice for the girl irrespective of their religion.

The Congress leader also gave a piece of his mind on the recently concluded Punjab election, saying that SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, 95, should not have fought the election.

Azad during his speech assured full support to the Civil Society members present at the event.

We have to work together to make J&K a paradise once again, he said.

The event witnessed the presence of Senior Advocate M.K Bhardwaj, former Jammu and Kashmir DGP S.P Vaid and many other prominent citizens and dignitaries from various organizations.

Court orders framing...

Watali, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Masarat Alam, Abdul Rashid Sheikh and Naval Kishore Kapoor.

Special Judge Praveen Singh, after discussion of evidence, said prima facie, it is established that Shabir Shah, Yasin Malik, Rashid Engineer, Altaf Fantoosh, Masrat and Hurriyat/Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) were the direct recipients of terror funds.

"So far from the statements of witnesses, a pattern is emerging - Pakistan or its agencies and accused share a common goal and there is an agreement on the means to be used for achieving that goal and the terror funding is also being provided from Pakistan," he said.

The court said, in the conspiracy, The baton was held by conductors sitting across the border in the form of Pakistani agencies such as ISI and each of the conspirators, knowing every other conspirator, was playing his own role as per the directions of the conductor in order to create a symphony of bloodshed, violence, mayhem and destruction with the ultimate object of secession of J&K.

It said the money for terror funding was sent from and by Pakistan and its agencies and even the diplomatic mission was used to fulfil the evil design. Money for terror funding was also sent by proclaimed international terrorists and accused Hafiz Saeed, it said.

It said a criminal conspiracy was hatched with a final object of secession of J&K from the Union of India and within that conspiracy, a conspiracy was hatched to commit certain acts to achieve the object of the original conspiracy and those acts, as discussed above, have been found to be terrorist acts.

After reading a joint press statement issued by Syed Ali Geelani and Mohammad Yasin Malik and others, the court noted that terrorist organisations and JRL/All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) not only share a common goal but from their own official words, it is apparent that they work in unison towards that goal.

The court also noted that prima facie there existed a criminal conspiracy pursuant to which large-scale protests, resulting in violence and arson at a massive scale, were orchestrated.

The court said Malik had set up an elaborate structure and mechanism across the world to raise funds for carrying out terrorist and other unlawful activities in Jammu and Kashmir in the name of freedom struggle .

It said accused Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali was one of the main conduits for the flow of this terror funding and accused Naval Kishore Kapoor had played an active part in facilitating it.

After going through a video, the court said that Rashid Engineer has been trying to incite disaffection towards India and its armed forces.

He is seen issuing subtle but ominous messages to the police personnel of Jammu and Kashmir asking them not to obey the orders of their officers as accepting those orders would amount to committing atrocities on their own brothers, the court said.

According to the NIA, various terrorist organisations such as the LeT, Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM), JKLF, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) among others with the support of the ISI of Pakistan, perpetrated violence in the Valley by attacking civilians and security forces.

It was further alleged that in 1993, the APHC was formed to give a political front to secessionist activities.

The NIA chargesheet submitted before the court said the central government received credible information that Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Amir of Jammnat-ud-Dawah and the secessionist and separatist leaders, including members of the Hurriyat Conference, have been acting in connivance with active militants of proscribed terrorist organisations like HM and LeT for raising, receiving and collecting funds domestically and abroad through various illegal channels including hawala.

The NIA also alleged that this was done for funding separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and as such, they have entered into a larger conspiracy for causing disruption in the Valley by way of pelting stones on security forces, systematically burning of schools, damage to public property and waging war against India.

Vaishno Devi pilgrimage...

the reorganization of the board was issued by Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on March 15.

The eight members include ALIMIL Pharmaceuticals Chairman K K Sharma, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriiji Maharaj of Mumbai, retired IPS officer Ashok Bhan, retired IAS officer Baleshwar Rai and retired judge Suresh Kumar Sharma of Jammu.

The Mata Vaishno Devi shrine is located at an altitude of 5,200 feet, about 12 km from Katra in Jammu district.

COVID: 27 fresh...

territory did not report any new Covid cases, they said.

There are 115 active cases while the overall recoveries have reached 4,48,685, officials said.

There were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory. No fresh case was reported since last evening, officials added.

Meanwhile, Ladakh reported two fresh COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours that pushed the infection tally to 28,202, officials said.

Nine patients recovered from the disease, taking the overall recoveries to 27,934, they said.

The number of active cases stands at 40 - 38 in Leh district and two in Kargil district, officials said.

No Covid-related death was reported in the Union Territory, which has so far recorded 228 fatalities linked to the pandemic since its outbreak.

Of the total fatalities, Leh accounted for the highest 168 deaths followed by 60 in Kargil, they said.

The two new cases were recorded in Leh, they added.

‘Innovation Man’ Prof...

classroom and create an appropriate ecosystem conducive to foster inclusive innovation.

A great visionary, a great scholar and an eminent educationist, Prof Rai served the twin causes of action-oriented learning methods and new innovations. Interestingly, Prof Rai is also credited with bringing a paradigm shift in the education programs of Delhi University where he is currently serving as head of Zoology department.

As a great institution builder Prof Rai successfully implemented semester system in 2011. It is well known fact that semester system was turning point in India's education system to build a modern, knowledge society. His commitment for education reform and tireless endeavor has seen the strengthening of four year undergraduate programme with multiple exit options in 2013 where focus was given to enhance creativity, analytical ability, skill development and entrepreneurship so that students may be empowered with leadership qualities and self-reliance.

He always believed that while improving access to education is important, it should be accompanied by efforts to ensure new innovations with greater emphasis on branches of science relevant to make India "Aatm Nirbhar".

Besides, setting up world-class experimental facilities in Delhi University, Prof Rai is also credited with implementing 'Choice Based Credit System' in 2015.

Prof Rai completed his graduation in science in 1977 from Banaras Hindu University and subsequently finished his master's from Gorakhpur University. He was back to Banaras Hindu University for PhD in Zoology and after being conferred doctorate, Prof Rai began working with CSIR as a research Associate in 1988. He joined Delhi University as a Lecturer; Zoology in 1992. He has also been conferred as a fellow of the national academy of sciences in 2008 and served as council member at several prestigious scientific associations.

Pak exploiting religious...

to shield Pakistan from FATF sanctions and the secondary aim of re-strategising and giving terrorism in Kashmir an indigenous face.

"Pakistan is definitely changing its subversion narrative, giving it a religious tone not only to manipulate the minds of the youth in the Valley but also to exploit the religious fault lines that exist within India," an official said.

Having seen its failure in mobilising locals, especially after the death of veteran separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani in September last year, the ISI believes that religion holds the key to its next move in Kashmir.

"The neighbour has been and still remains the biggest menacing factor that has pulled back Kashmir and its people. Having vitiated and radicalised the Sufi soul of the Valley for the last three decades to meet its nefarious design, the masters of destruction across the border now believe that the time is ripe to infuse religious schism into the mix, and champion itself (Pakistan) as the saviour of religion," the official said.

Analysis of the recent intercepts and questioning of arrested terrorists show

that the ISI and others in Pakistan are desperate to polarise the local population in Jammu and Kashmir and generate dissent against the State in the name of religion, the officials said.

Carrying out a detailed analysis of last year's incidents of targeting of minorities in Kashmir, especially prominent chemist Makhan Lal Bindroo, the officials said that initially terror groups claimed responsibility and labelled him as a government agent but the number of people who joined his funeral was an eye-opener as locals, despite the false claims, expressed their anger at his killing.

The officials said the changing contours of Pakistan's narrative in Kashmir are the outcome of the fact that its rhetoric of the right to self-determination has failed and the propaganda machinery being run from across the border has realised the futility of the call for "freedom movement and resistance against the so-called occupational forces".

Once the vanguard of the indigenous face of terrorism in Kashmir, Hizbul Mujahideen has fallen in the hierarchy of terror groups with its cadres dwindling drastically.

As on January 1, the outfit only had 30-odd terrorists operating in the Valley, primarily in Anantnag district in south Kashmir, and negligible presence in north and central Kashmir.

Amid new bombings...

ordered the Feb. 24 invasion of his neighbor. In recent days, Russian forces have entered Mariupol, cutting it off from the sea and devastating a massive steel plant. But the city's fall could prove a costly victory.

The block-by-block fighting in Mariupol itself is costing the Russian military time, initiative, and combat power, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said in a briefing.

In a blunt assessment of the war, the think tank concluded that Russia failed in its initial campaign to take the capital of Kyiv, and other major cities quickly and its stalled invasion is creating the conditions for a very violent and bloody stalemate.

US. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Ukrainian resistance means Putin's forces on the ground are essentially stalled.

It's had the effect of him moving his forces into a woodchipper, Austin told CBS on Sunday.

In major cities across Ukraine, hundreds of men, women and children have already been killed in Russian bombardments, while millions have raced to underground shelters or fled the country.

At least 20 babies carried by Ukrainian surrogate mothers are stuck in a makeshift bomb shelter in Kyiv, waiting for parents to enter the war zone to pick them up. The infants some only days old are being cared for by nurses trapped in the shelter by constant shelling from Russian troops trying to encircle the city.

In the hard-hit northeastern city of Sumy, authorities evacuated 71 orphaned babies through a humanitarian corridor, regional Gov. Dmytro Zhvyvtskyyy said Sunday. He said the orphans, most of whom need constant medical attention, would be taken out of the country.

Russian shelling killed at least five civilians, including a 9-year-old boy, in the eastern city of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest.

The British Defense Ministry said Russia's failure to gain control of Ukrainian airspace has significantly blunted their operational progress," forcing them to rely on weapons launched from Russia.

A rocket attack on the Black Sea port city of Mykolaiv early Friday killed as many as 40 marines, a Ukrainian military official told The New York Times, in one of the deadliest single attacks on Ukrainian forces.

In a separate strike, the Russian Defense Ministry said a Kinzhal hypersonic missile hit a Ukrainian fuel depot in Kostiantynivka, a city near Mykolaiv. The Russian military said Saturday that it used a Kinzhal for the first time in combat to destroy an ammunition depot in the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine.

Russia has said the Kinzhal, carried by MiG-31 fighter jets, has a range of up to 2,000 kilometers (about 1,250 miles) and flies at 10 times the speed of sound. The Pentagon says it has not yet confirmed its use in Ukraine.

Konashenkov said Kalibr cruise missiles launched by Russian warships from the Caspian Sea were also involved in the strike on the Kostiantynivka fuel depot and destroyed an armor repair plant in northern Ukraine.

Western analysts have played down the hypersonic weapon's significance, saying it did not give Moscow an extra advantage but was a tool the Kremlin could use to advertise its military might and warn other countries against intervening.

It's not a game-changer, but rather a message of intimidation and deterrence towards Ukraine and towards the West, said Valeriy Akimenko, senior research associate at the Conflict Studies Research Centre in England.

U.N. bodies have confirmed more than 847 civilian deaths since the war began but concede the actual toll is likely much higher. The U.N. says nearly 3.4 million people have fled Ukraine as refugees.

Estimates of Russian deaths vary, but even conservative figures are in the low thousands. Ukrainian authorities reported that six Russian generals have died. The death of one general was confirmed by his associate and an officers' group in Russia, but the military has not confirmed any.

Russia would need 800,000 troops almost its entire active-duty military to control Ukraine for a prolonged period, according to Michael Clarke, former head of the British-based Royal United Services Institute, a defense think tank.

Unless the Russians intend to be completely genocidal they could flatten all the major cities, and Ukrainians will rise up against Russian occupation there will be just constant guerrilla war, Clarke said.

Ukraine and Russia have held several rounds of negotiations but remain divided over several issues. Zelenskyy has said he is willing to drop Ukraine's bid to join NATO but wants certain security guarantees from Russia. Moscow is pressing for Ukraine's complete demilitarization.

Mariupol authorities said Sunday that nearly 40,000 people had left the city in the last week, the vast majority in their own vehicles, despite ongoing bombardment. That alone amounts to nearly 10% of the city's prewar population of 430,000.

The Mariupol city council said Saturday that Russian soldiers had forcibly relocated several thousand residents, mostly women and children, to Russia. AP could not confirm the claim.

Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine said Sunday that 2,973 people have been evacuated from Mariupol since March 5, including 541 in the last 24 hours.

Some Russians also have fled their country amid a widespread crackdown on dissent. Russia has arrested thousands of antiwar protesters, muzzled independent media and cut access to social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

In Ukraine, Zelenskyy ordered the activities of 11 political parties with links to Russia to be suspended during the period of martial law. The largest of those parties has 44 out of 450 seats in parliament.

Activities by politicians aimed at discord and collaboration will not succeed, he said. (AP).

Delegation from gulf...

on tourism and hospitality sector, the officials said. The delegation will also visit the famous tourist spots of Pahalgam and Gulmarg to explore investment opportunities there, they said.

JKSSB conducts written...

Out of 20868 candidates scheduled to participate for the aforesaid exam, 15346 candidates (73.53%) participated in the OMR based written test, for the 163 and 35 posts of Junior Engineer (Civil) besides Assistant Law officer, Legal Assistant, Junior Legal Assistant and Reader respectively.

The examination was successfully conducted with the active cooperation and support of respective district administrations including Police, Education, Health, Transport and other related departments. The Private Schools and Colleges also extended their full cooperation in smooth conduct of the examination. Chairman JKSSB expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders including Board team, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar and all the departments for their contribution towards fair and transparent conduct of the examination. The JKSSB deployed a multi layered structure for supervision of the exam with one Centre Observer and Centre Magistrate for each examination centre in addition to Center Superintendent. Besides, 42 Magistrates, 42 Centre Observers and 42 Centre Superintendents and around 880 Invigilators were deployed for smooth conduct of the examination. Also, Flying Squads, General Observers and Chief Inspectors were nominated for effective supervision and monitoring of the examination. Pertinently, one invigilator deployed in Green valley Educational Institute Ellahi Bagh, Srinagar was observed violating laid down SOPs by using mobile phone during live CCTV surveillance and was immediately put in isolation and strict action against the said invigilator has been recommended to the concerned Deputy Commissioner.

Further, the aforesaid examination was strictly conducted in pursuance of SoPs notified under COVID-19 and required medical teams were deployed at the venues.

