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### Targeted killings of...

threats. "The overall situation is progressively improving due to the proactive Rashtriya Rifles-gridded deployment leading to a positive and conducive environment for accelerating the developing initiatives of the government," the Army commander said.

He said dividends of peace have started reaching the people and they are further getting motivated to preserve and sustain it.

As per reports, as many as 17 Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) and non-locals have been killed by militants in Kashmir after the special status of J-K was revoked in 2019. In 2021, three KPs, one Sikh and five non-local labourers were killed.

Ten KPs and non-local labourers have been shot at and injured by terrorists in South Kashmir and Srinagar so far this year.

Three Kashmiri Hindus have been targeted since March this year. Two of them – Satish Kumar Singh and Rahul Bhat, a revenue department employee were killed in the attacks. A Kashmiri Pandit, Bal Krishan, who did not migrate in the 1990s and ran a medical shop, was also shot at and injured in Shopian in April.

### KPs continue to...

12, and shouted slogans like "we want justice", the officials said.

Similar protests were also held in Anantnag where the protesters also set afire effigies depicting the present government.

The union territory administration has ordered a probe by a Special Investigation Team into Bhat's killing.

### Kejriwal urges Centre...

central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday.

"A group of terrorists barged into his office, asked his name and shot him there and then. It felt like a premeditated killing where the terrorists had decided to murder a Kashmiri Pandit. The Indian Army killed two terrorists in just 24 hours after the incident. But today a question faces the nation - why aren't the Kashmiri Pandits safe in Kashmir even today?" He said.

He also said the Kashmiri Pandits who protested against the incident the next day were lathicharged and stressed that they are mourning the loss of a loved one and "deserve our love and care not our animosity".

"After this incident, all Kashmiri Pandits living in the region are completely terrified. When these people set out to protest to voice their anger against the brutal killing, they were met with brute action. They were stopped. Their voices were suppressed. They had to face teargas and lathicharge. They were locked inside their own colony. Why? This is not right at all. The officers behind this action must be suspended immediately," he said.

He said this "is not a political issue but a national issue".

"Kashmiri Pandits want security. They don't feel safe there. If Kashmiri Pandits don't get proper security in their homeland then how will the Kashmiri migrants living all over the country rehabilitate to their homes? There won't be any assurance greater than law and order that will motivate them to rehabilitate the valley," he said.

"With folded hands I request the Centre, please do whatever you can and help the Kashmiri Pandits lead a dignified life. No matter how much it costs, every provision needed must be implemented," he added.

"We all must come together to work for the upliftment and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits living all over the country," he said.

### Shivling found in...

to lose "a not the mosque" after the Babri Masjid.

Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar issued directions on sealing an area of the mosque on an appeal by the lawyers re-



resenting the Hindu petitioners.

Along with the counsels representing the mosque management committee, they had accompanied the team conducting the survey, headed by a court-appointed advocate commissioner.

The judge directed the district magistrate, police commissioner and CRPF commandant in Varanasi to ensure the security of the sealed area.

The local court is hearing a plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily prayers before the idols on the mosque's outer walls.

The survey was ordered during this hearing and was initially stalled by the mosque management, alleging that the commissioner assigned to the task was biased.

Monday's survey of the mosque complex started at 8 am and ended around 10.15 am.

"All parties were satisfied with the work," Varanasi District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma told reporters.

He said the next order of the court will be known only on Tuesday, the deadline set by it for the advocate commissioner to submit the survey report.

Till then nobody should disclose what has been found inside the court complex, the DM said. "However, if anyone is disclosing it on his own, then its authenticity cannot be proved. Only the court is the custodian of this information," he said.

Earlier while reporting the "finding" to the media, Madan Mohan Yadav, who represents the Hindu side, said he and senior advocate Harishankar Jain had submitted an application in the district court to secure the Shivaling.

### Let module busted...

Lone, resident of Gundpura. The arrested terrorists were tasked to carry out attacks on Police/SF and other soft targets particularly in Bandipora district.

He said the Pakistan-trained terrorist has been identified as Arif Ajaz Shehri alias Anfal, who went to Pakistan on a valid visa in 2018 through Wagah Border and infiltrated back to this side after obtaining illegal arms training.

He said the four terrorist associates have been identified as Riyaz Ahmad Mir alias Metha Shehri, son of Gh Mohammad Mir, resident of Plan Bandipora; Gh Mohammad Waza alias Gul Bab, son of Gh Qadir Waza, resident of Tawheedabad Bagh; Maqsood Ahmad Malik, son of Mohammad Jamal Malik, resident of Chittandby Aragam and Sheema Shafi Waza, daughter of Mohammad Shafi, resident of Tawheedabad Bagh.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested terrorist associates were involved in harbouring terrorists, providing logistics and material support including transportation of terrorists in Bandipora district. The arrested female terrorist associate was also involved in providing Wi-Fi hotspot, accommodation and ferrying terrorists in Bandipora town, the spokesman said.

Incriminating material, arms and ammunition including two pistols, three pistol magazines, 25 pistol rounds and three hand grenades were recovered from their possession, he said, adding one van, bearing registration No. JK15A-1528 which was being used in ferrying of terrorists from Bandipora to Srinagar was also seized.

Besides, three scooters, one Maruti-800 car and one Pulsar Bike were also seized. These were being used for doing reoce of police, security establishments, monitor movement of security forces and ferrying of terrorists, he added.

### India categorically rejects...

delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are dismayed that the OIC secretariat has once again made unwarranted comments on the internal affairs of India," Bagchi said.

"As in the past, the Government of India categorically rejects the assertions made by the OIC secretariat on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral and inalienable part of India."

Bagchi was responding to media queries on the OIC statement on the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The OIC should refrain from carrying out its communal agenda vis-a-vis India at the behest of one country," he said.

India has been hitting out at the OIC for its comments on Jammu and Kashmir.

In statement earlier, the general secretariat of the OIC "expresses deep concern over India's attempts to redraw the electoral boundaries" of Jammu and Kashmir, alleging it is a violation of the rights of the Kashmiri people.

"Referring to the long-standing and principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and relevant decisions of the Islamic Summit and OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, the general secretariat reiterates its solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir," it said.

### Centre to train...

undertaken by the Department of Administrative Reforms, Union Ministry of Personnel," the minister said.

Kumar, son of Jagdish Raj along with pillion rider Sunil Kumar, son of Jaginder Pal, both residents of Bari Brahma; Motorcycle Apache (JK02CA/6342) driven by Sandeep Kunjana, son of Israel, resident of Bari Brahma along with pillion rider namely Ravi Kumar, son of Ram Saran, resident of Baba Farid Nagar Seora and Motorcycle Yamaha Version 3 without registration number driven by Sunil Kumar, son of Bodi Raj, resident of Rajpura, Bakshi Nagar.

### Four missing persons traced, reunited with families

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Monday traced four missing persons and reunited them with their families.

As per details, four different complaints were lodged at Police stations Gandhi Nagar, Bus Stand & Police Posts Chinore and Pargwal by legal heirs of a woman and three persons namely Vinod Sharma, son of Puran Chand, resident of Gho Manhasan, who was missing since May 10, 2022; Suresh Singh, resident of Ganga Nagar and Pritam Singh, son of Chaggu Singh, resident of Pargwal, stating that they went missing from their respective homes.

In this regard, 4 different missing reports i.e., missing report dated May 13, 2022 of regarding woman was registered at Police Station Bus Stand, missing report dated May 9, 2022 regarding Suresh Singh was registered at Police Post Chinore and missing report dated May 9, 2022 regarding Pritam Singh was registered at Police Post Pargwal and missing report regarding Vinod Sharma was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar. On this special police teams of respective police stations/police posts were formed and all missing persons were traced successfully. The persons were traced by special teams of concerned police stations/police posts formed under supervision of SHO Gandhi Nagar Pankaj Sharma, SHO Bus stand Insp Vishal Shoor, Incharge Police Post Chinore PSI Amit Singh and Incharge Police Post Pargwal PSI Baljeet Singh Parihar in their respective jurisdictions. Subsequently, families of missing persons were informed and all traced persons were handed-over to their respective family members after completing all legal formalities.

### Youth held with contraband substance

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Monday detained a youth and recovered 251 psychotropic tablets from his possession.

As per details, a team from Police Station Domana led by SHO Domana Insp Tilak Raj while on Naka duty rounded up a suspect namely Vikas Bakshi, son of Ashok Kumar Bakshi, resident of Rehari, Jammu. On search, 251 psychotropic capsules i.e., 162 Alprazolam tablets and 89 Clonazepam tablets were recovered. He was arrested and FIR No. 178/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Domana. The overall arrests and recoveries were made under supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh.

### Two narco-smugglers arrested, 23 gm heroin recovered

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Monday achieved major success by arresting two narco smugglers and recovered 23 gm heroin from their possession at two different locations under jurisdictions of Police Station Gandhi Nagar.

As per details, a team of Police Station Gandhi Nagar constituted under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma and led by SHO Gandhi Nagar Insp Pankaj Sharma while on Naka duty at two different places, rounded up two different suspects. During search, 23 gm heroin i.e., 15 gm from accused namely Charanjeet Singh, son of Ram Singh, resident of Nanak Nagar and 8 gm from Karanveer, son of Sukhdev Singh, resident of Nai basti was recovered. Duo was arrested and FIR Nos 113 & 114/2022 under sections 8/21/22/27 of NDPS Act were registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar.

### Minor girl raped, impregnated; accused held

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped and impregnated by a man in Reasi district, officials said on Monday. As per details, a resident of Pouni lodged a complaint with police on Saturday alleging therein that

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accorded top priority in bringing the overall development in J&K.

"Prime Minister's objective scientific approach even in designing, structuring and planning in administrative reforms has worked to a great benefit as it is based on very objective parameters," he said, inaugurating a two-day regional conference.

The conference, on the theme "Bringing Citizens and Government Closer Through Administrative Reforms", is being organised by the DARPG in collaboration with UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

It is being held in the backdrop of replication of good governance practices in J-K. Sixteen awardees of prime minister's awards for excellence in public administration presented their innovations at the event, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Singh informed that the Jammu & Kashmir grievance system had already been integrated with the central grievance portal in October, 2020, thus making it the first Union Territory of India to have its district level grievance offices integrated with the Centre's Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRMS).

Describing it as a successful story of the first-ever experiment to integrate district portal with state and thereof with the national portal, the minister hoped that this mechanism will also be emulated by more states and Union Territories, the statement said.

Singh said, Jammu and Kashmir became the first UT in the country to have Good Governance Index and was also the first to launch District Good Governance Index for 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in January this year.

He said, the index represented a major administrative reform in bench marking good governance at district level and a significant step for timely collation and publication of statistics at state/district level.

Singh said the central government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all.

In his address, Secretary, DARPG, V Srinivas said the conference is an effort to bring the government and citizens closer through various administrative reforms at centre, state and district level.

This is being enabled by the use of digital technology, pursuing next generation reforms and innovations with policy objective of "maximum governance, minimum government", entailing government process re-engineering, universal access to e-services, excellence in digital initiatives at district level and excellence in adopting emerging technologies and use of ICT management, he said.

Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K informed about the various reforms around good governance and effective implementations of schemes and initiatives over the recent past.

### Atmosphere of hate...

this constant Hindu-Muslim debate on TV channels for four hours is further fuelling this. It also directly affects the people of Jammu and Kashmir because when you target Muslims, it widens the gap, Mehbooba said.

Asked about the ongoing survey at Gyanvapi mosque complex, she said the BJP should give a list of all mosques they want to take over. Babri mosque was brought down and now they want to build something else there...These claims on mosques are only to fuel hate, she said.

Mehbooba wondered if the government would focus on development agenda like providing two core jobs annually and bringing down the fuel costs to pre-2014 levels once these mosques were given to them.

"I have said this earlier as well. For us Muslims, Allah is where we prostrate," she added.

Mehbooba said the BJP and other right wing groups were going after assets build by the Mughals.

"What all will they bring down? Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Red Fort. All these were built by the Mughals. Fifty per cent of tourists come to our country to visit these historical places, she added.

The delegation of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan in Srinagar on Sunday.

### J&K reports two...

positive cases, 51 are Active Positive (39 in Jammu Division and 12 in Kashmir Division), 449345 have recovered and 4752 have died; 2328 in Jammu division and 2424 in Kashmir division.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases during the past 24 hours, the Bulletin stated that Jammu and Srinagar districts recorded one case each while no other district across the Union Territory reported any fresh case.

### French Prime Minister resigns

#### AGENCY

PARIS: French Prime Minister Jean Castex resigned Monday in an expected move after the reelection last month of centrist President Emmanuel Macron, who will quickly name a replacement.

Castex came to the Elysee presidential palace on Monday to formally offer his resignation, which the president accepted, the Elysee said in a statement.

Macron is expected to name a new prime minister shortly. French media say Labour Minister Elisabeth Borne is the favourite for the job. In France, it's common for presidents to have more than one prime minister during their terms.

Macron and his new prime minister will then hold talks in order to appoint France's full new government in the coming days.

The new prime minister's first mission will be to make sure that Macron's centrist party and its allies do well in France's parliamentary election in June. The vote, scheduled for two rounds, will determine which group holds the majority of seats at the National Assembly, which has the final say over the Senate in France's law-making process.

Macron also promised a bill addressing the rising cost of living in France, where food and energy prices are surging. It will be prepared by his new government and is expected to be presented just after the parliamentary election.

If Macron's party wins a majority in the Assembly, the prime minister will then need to ensure that pension changes promised by the president are put into law, including raising the minimum retirement age from 62 to 65. The proposed changes have been criticized by workers, unions and left-wing voters.

Macron also promised that the new prime minister would be directly in charge of green planning, seeking to accelerate France's implementation of climate-related policies. Macron vowed to go twice as fast in his second term to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

### 2 timber smugglers arrested; illicit timber seized

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Police on Monday seized illicit timber at Rathsun crossing of Budgam and arrested 2 persons involved in crime.

As per details, a party of Police Station Beerwah at a checkpoint established at Rathsun crossing intercepted a Load Carrier (JK13E-8766) and during checking, recovered 39 logs of illegal timber laden it in. Two smugglers identified as Siraj-u-Din Bhat, son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat & Sajad Ahmed Bhat, son of Sona-ullah Bhat, both residents of Rathsun Beerwah were arrested on the spot and shifted to Police Station where they remained in custody. The vehicle used in commission of crime was also seized. Accordingly, FIR No. 56/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Beerwah and investigation started.