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No indication of terror activities going down in hinterland of LoC: Army Chief

NEW DELHI: Talking about the Line of Control (LoC) and the Line of Actual Control (LAC), new Army chief General Manoj Pande on Sunday broadly said that the situation on both sides is nor-

Underlining the challenges, General Pande said while India has made it clear to China that it will not permit any change in the status quo on the LAC, there is no indication of terrorist activities going down in the hinterland of the

"The unilateral and provocative actions by our adversary with an aim to alter the status quo by force, I feel, have been adequate responded to," the Army chief said in an interview with news agency ANI.

On the situation of LoC, the Army chief said the situation for the civilian population on the ground on both sides of the LoC has improved but in terms of reduction in terrorist infrastructure and terrorist training camps, there is no evidence or sign of any improvement. "On the contrary, we find that the number of terrorists operating has increased. Whilst on the LoC, the infiltration and violence levels have gone down but in the hinterland, there is no indication of that



effect," the Army chief said.

Earlier, while speaking to the media after he was presented a ceremonial guard of honour at the South Block lawns, a day after he took charge of the force. Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, the newly-appointed Army Chief said his "utmost and foremost" priority would be to ensure very high standards of operational preparedness to face current, contemporary and future security challenges across the entire spectrum of conflict.

litical situation is changing rapidly "as a result of which we have multiple challenges ahead", asserting that the Army, in "coordination and cooperation" with the Indian Air Force and the Navy, will unitedly deal with any situation.

The Army chief said he would focus on the ongoing reforms, restructuring and transformation of the Army to enhance its operational and functional efficiency besides giving importance to achieving self-reliance in defence.

"My utmost and foremost priority will be to ensure very high standards of operational preparedness to face the current contemporary and future challenges across the entire spectrum of conflict," he said.

The Army chief said his force, in coordination with the Indian Air Force and Navy, will effectively deal with all possible security challenges facing the nation.

"In terms of capability development and force modernisation, my effort would be to leverage new technologies through indigenisation and selfreliance," he said.

"My aim would be to enhance interservices cooperation and synergy," he said adding the Army will actively engage with other services to positively contribute toward **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Two mortar shells defused near LoC

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Two mortar shells were defused by the experts in forward villages of Poonch and Rajouri districts near

the Line of Control (LoC) on

Sunday, officials said. Villagers noticed a live mortar shell at a forest area in Mendhar sector of Poonch and subsequently informed the police and the nearby army camp, the officials said. A bomb disposal

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COVID: 4 new cases in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported four new Covid cases on Sunday that took the infection tally to 4,54,047, officials said.

Of the new cases, two each were reported from Jammu and Srinagar districts, they

There are 66 active cases while the overall recoveries has reached 4,49,230, officials said. The COVID-19 death toll stands at

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Centre asks States/UTs to review health facility preparedness amid rising temperature No respite from scorching heat in

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid rising temperature and heatwave across the country, the Centre has urged states/UTs to review their health facility preparedness for availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines and all necessary equipment while ensuring sufficient drinking water and continued functioning of cooling appliances in critical areas.

In a letter to the states/UTs on Saturday, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan requested them to disseminate the guideline document National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses' to all districts for effective management of cases of heat-

The letter mentions that from March 1, daily surveillance on heat-related illnesses has been initiated under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) in all states and dis-

Jammu; mercury rises in Srinagar JAMMU: The mercury continued to stay several degrees

above normal in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, where Jammu continued to be the hottest place as the mercury on Sunday settled at 40.4 degrees Celsius, 4.7 notches above season's average.

The minimum temperature recorded in the winter capital city was 26.7 degrees, which was also 4.1 degrees above normal during this part of the season, a spokesperson of the Meteorological department said.

He said Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, recorded a high of 36.6 degrees and a low of 23.2 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir valley, on the other hand, continued to enjoy pleasant weather even as the mercury marked an upward trend on Sunday. The summer capital Srinagar recorded a day temperature of 29.0 degrees and a night temperature of 11.8 degrees Celsius against the previous days 26.2 and 12.0 degrees Celsius, respectively, the official said. He said Srinagar's maximum and minimum temperature was 6.7 and 2.1 notches above season's average, respectively. The weatherman has predicted light to moderate rain or snow at wide parts of Jammu and Kashmir from May 3 to May 5.

Please ensure that these daily surveillance reports are shared with the National Centre for Disease Control

(NCDC), it said. The daily heat alerts

shared by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) as well as NCDC with states indicate forecast of heatwave for next three

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Fire at Jammu Civil Secretariat; Law Deptt's record damaged



Smoke coming out of Jammu Civil Secretariat's building.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A fire broke out inside the Civil Secretariat complex on Sunday evening in Jammu and the record of Law department has been

Man jumps to

reportedly damaged.

Flames were first noticed at a room on first floor used by the Law department and blaze quickly spread

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Kashmiri youths travelling to Pakistan on valid visas sneak back in with terrorists; 17 killed so far

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Seventeen Kashmiri youths who had travelled to Pakistan on valid documents but sneaked back into the valley have been killed in anti-terror operations, with officials raising concerns that the ISI has adopted a new modus operandi to paint terrorism here as an indigenous move-

Since 2015, a large number of youngsters procured travel documents to visit Pakistan to pursue higher studies, meet relatives or for marriage purposes, officials said. Recently, the University

Grants Commission and the All Indian Council for Technical Education, the higher and technical education regulators of the country, had issued a statement, advising students not to travel to Pakistan for pursuing higher education.

Indian national/Overseas Citizen of India who intends to take admission in any degree college/educational institution of Pakistan shall not be eligible for seeking employment or higher studies in India on the basis of such educational qualifications (in any subject) acquired in Pakistan,"

the UGC and the AICTE had said in a joint statement. The reason, the officials

said, was that these vouths were brainwashed across the border and some of them were imparted with arms training or used for money laundering. The State Investigation

Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police has filed a charge sheet against a Hurriyat leader and others for selling MBBS seats in Pakistani colleges and using the proceeds for terror activ-

Hundreds of students from Jammu and Kashmir have travelled to Pakistan in recent years for higher studies and a few of them were brainwashed, provided arms training or recruited in sleeper cells with a motive to gather information to be shared with the handlers sitting across the border, the officials said.

They said a well-oiled separatist lobby would arrange recommendation letters from Hurriyat leaders and other valid travel documents from the Pakistan Embassy to facilitate their visit to Pakistan for admission. All the arrangements of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

"On a specific input,

2 hybrid terrorists arrested in Valley

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Security forces on Sunday arrested two 'hybrid' terrorists in Kulgam and Sringar districts, police

"#KulgamPolice & Army (34 RR) arrested one #hybrid #terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT namely Yamin Yousaf Bhat of Gadihama Kulgam," the Kashmir Zone Police said on its Twitter handle.

The police said incriminating material, arms and ammunition, including a pistol, two grenades and 51 pistol rounds were recovered from his possession.

Another 'hybrid' terrorist was arrested from Nowgam area of the city here, the

Srinagar Police & (50 RR) arrested a hybrid terrorist namely Sheikh Sahid Gulzar

of Muchhwa, Badgam from Nowgam, Srinagar," the Srinagar Police said in a Incriminating material

including a pistol and live ammunition was recovered from him, they said.

A case has been registered under relevant sections, they

added. Officials had earlier

explained that a 'hybrid terrorist' carries out a task given to him by his handlers and then goes back to his normal work, waiting for the next assignment.

death from Tawi bridge in Jammu

JAMMU: A 43-year-old man committed suicide on Sunday by jumping from Tawi bridge near Vikram Chowk here, officials said.

STATE TIMEŠ NEWS

Satish Kumar, an autodriver by profession, walked in the middle of the bridge and jumped into the Tawi river, the officials said.

They said Kumar hit the hard surface and suffered critical injuries. He was rushed to Government Medical College hospital, where he was declared dead.

Police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain the motive behind his taking such an extreme step, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the body of 53year-old Bora Begum was fished out from a stream in Bhalessa area of Doda district this afternoon.

The cause of Begum's death was not known immediately, the officials said. adding the investigation is



Sunrise: 05:46 Hours

J&K Bank's digital channels record over 2 million transactions worth Rs 1082 Cr

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Despite intermittent outages, J&K Bank's digital and alternate channels have recorded 2 million transactions amounting to whopping Rs 1082 Crores in last 36 hours

Speaking on the occasion, Bank's President IT on Sunday said, "While we feel delighted in having successfully served lakhs of our esteemed customers ahead of this auspicious Eid occasion, we equally feel pained for having not been able to come up to the expectations of a section of our valuable customers, who experienced

STATE TIMES NEWS

to entertain a

PIL to impose

restrictions to

retire-

from

legislature to enact a law.

saying it cannot direct the

A bench of Justices Indira

best left to the legislature

DELHI:

Supreme Court has refused

failed transactions or timeouts due to unprecedented high usage of the digital channels. Although the services have been restored by our dedicated team of IT professionals working overnight to resolve the issue, however, we feel duty bound to regret deeply the inconvenience the outages have caused to many of our cus-

tomers. "Further, let me assure you that the entire situation is being monitored at the highest level in the Bank and necessary measures are already afoot to ensure that our valu-

able customers don't have to

"In this case, there is no

fundamental

right of the

petitioner or

any group of

persons rep-

resented by

the petition-

has the fun-

damental

right to get a

mandatory

Nobody

complaint of violation of any

order of this court directing

the appropriate legislature to

enact law or the executive to

frame rules imposing restric-

tions on the eligibility of civil

servants to contest elections.

This writ petition cannot,

therefore, be entertained by

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this court," the bench

SC junks PIL seeking cooling off period

for civil servants to contest polls

face any such situation in future. As of now, our mobile banking application, ATMs and all other digital channels are up and running for the convenience of our customers", he added. Meanwhile, notwithstand-

ing the reported instances of time outs or transaction failures due to huge number of database hits generated by the unprecedented high usage of the application, J&K Bank's Digital and Alternate Channels have successfully processed over 2 million transactions since Saturday morning till Sunday 12.30 pm.

As per the data, Bank's Mobile application mPay alone has processed over 6.12 lakh successful transactions since Saturday morning till Sunday 12.30 pm resulting in the transfer of money amounting to Rs 555.25 Crores. The ATMs have also witnessed huge customer footfall throughout the Saturday and Sunday morning dispensing Rs 326.21 Crores of cash in over 4.39 lakh successful transactions. Besides, under the Bank's UPI services, payments amounting to Rs 182.65 Cr have been made in 7.81

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India does not dream of its own rise at cost of others: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India does not dream of its own rise at the cost of others and the welfare of the entire humanity is linked with the country's progress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

Addressing via video link an event at the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre in Canada's Markham where a statue of Sardar Patel was unveiled, Modi said the statue will be a symbol of India-Canada relations.

"India is that high-level thought which talks about 'Vasudhaiya Kutumbakam



(world is one family)," he said, adding India does not dream of its own rise at the

cost of others. India wishes for the welfare of the entire humanity and

development and climate change, India's voice represents the entire humanity, he said. "Our hard work is not just for us. Welfare of the entire humanity is linked with India's progress, the

the whole world, he said. On issues like sustainable GST revenues at all-time high of Rs 1.68 lakh Cr in April

prime minister stressed.

Free education to be

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The GST collection in April touched the highest ever level of about Rs 1.68 lakh crore, up 20 per cent from the year-ago period, on improved compliance and recovery in business activity, the Finance Ministry said on

During the month, 1.06 crore GST returns from GSTR-3B were filed, of which 97 lakh pertained to March 2022. The gross GST revenue collected in

April is Rs 1,67,540 crore, of which CGST is Rs 33,159 crore, SGST Rs 41,793 crore, IGST Rs 81,939 crore (including Rs 36,705 crore collected on import of goods) and cess Rs 10,649 crore (including Rs 857 crore collected on import of goods), the ministry said.

The gross GST collection in April 2022 is an all-time high and Rs 25,000 crore more than the previous highest collection of Rs 1.42 lakh crore recorded

In April last year, the mop-up from Goods and Services Tax (GST) was

about Rs 1.40 lakh crore.

Giving comparable data of April GST return filing, the ministry said there is a "clear improvement in the compliance behaviour, which has been a result of various measures taken by the tax administration to nudge taxpayers to file returns timely, to making compliance easier and strict enforcement action was taken against errant taxpayers identified based on data analytics and artificial intelligence".

During the month, revenues from import of goods were 30 per cent higher and the revenues from the domestic transaction (including import of services) are 17 per cent more than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

The total number of e-way bills generated in March 2022 was 7.7 crore, which is 13 per cent higher than 6.8 crore in February 2022, which reflects the recovery of business activity at a faster pace, the ministry said.

In April 2022, 84.7 per cent of regis-

tered businesses paid taxes by filing GSTR-3B, compared to 78.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

Also, 83.11 per cent of GST registered businesses have filed supply or sales return GSTR-1, compared to 73.9 per

The highest ever tax collection in a single day also happened on April 20 and Rs 57,847 crore was paid as GST through 9.58 lakh transactions. Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said

while the GST collections in respect of March have always been high, the record collections of Rs 1.68 lakh crore reported are on account of multiple favourable factors, including the recent changes on permitting input tax credits only upon timely compliance by the ven-

"The impact of the continuing focus on ensuring timely compliance by all GST registrants by restricting the input tax credits of the buyers together with enhanced analytics to detect evasion has also contributed ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

offered to children of KPs

STATE TIMES NEWS

MANGALURU: An educa institution in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka has announced that they will provide free education for children of Kashmiri Pandits who had been displaced from their homeland and had settled elsewhere in the country.

Ambika Mahavidyalaya in Puttur Taluk of Dakshina Kannada district is the institution which has come forward with the offer.

The institution's Convenor Subramanya Nattoj making the announcement at a press meet at Puttur on Saturday, said he was moved by the plight of Kashmiri Pandits after watching the film 'The Kashmir Files.' Nattoj visited Jammu and after

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