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G20 meeting: Home...

Army truck carrying fruits and vegetables for Iftar was bombed and strafed with bullets by terrorists in Poonch.

Over the past 18 months, terrorists have killed 35 people, including 26 soldiers, in eight attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Dal Lake cleaning...

around the Dal Lake, and so, the drive to make it beautiful and attractive is on," vice chairman of LCMA, Bashir Ahmad Bhat told PTI here.

Bhat said for the beautification process, the authority is using mechanised interventions, including machines, harvesters, etc, and the work has been taken up in double shifts.

"We are working in double shifts. The labour force is cleaning the shorelines. The drive has been taken up under a mission mode, not just for the G20 event, but for the forthcoming tourist season as well. We will keep the lake clean and I am hopeful that our guests will be happy to see the lake," he said.

The vice chairman, LCMA, said around 400-500 labourers were working every day to clean the lake.

"We have nine harvesters, 8-10 weed grabbers have also been deployed, they are working in double shifts. There is dredging going on near the shorelines as well," he added.

Bhat said many aerators were used, adding that lighting systems have also been installed to give the lake a special look for the G20 event.

Apart from the cleaning process, a thick layer of security has been thrown around the lake to secure the meeting venue, and Marine and NSG commandos will also be deployed as an extra security measure.

At a security review meeting here last week, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar emphasised the importance of river and lake domination in ensuring the security of the G20 summit, a police handout said.

Kumar also emphasised the need for the Marine Commandos (MARCOS) to be deployed to provide a strong security cover for the water bodies around the summit venues, it added.

"The ADGP Kashmir shared with all stakeholders that NSG teams will be used for counter fidayeen attack along with SOG and specialise NSG teams to counter drones will be deployed at all venues," the police said.

NIA searches across...

Anti-Fascist Front. According to the NIA, initial investigations indicated that the accused were involved in collection and distribution of sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, IEDs, cash, narcotics and small weapons.

These weapons, bombs, narcotics, etc. were being pushed into the Indian soil by Pakistan-based handlers and commanders of proscribed terrorist organisations using drones, the federal agency said.

Woman killed, NEET...

to GMC Jammu.

Meanwhile MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh also talked to DC Doda about the incident.

"Just now spoke to DC Doda, Sh Vishesh Mahajan and also former Minister from there Sh Shakti Parihar, after receiving the news of road accident following which 4 of aspirants returning after taking NEET Exam got injured. Arrangements being made to shift 2 of them, who are more serious, to Jammu by helicopter. Meanwhile, all possible assistance being provided," Dr Jitendra posted on social media.

Experts call for..

"Jawans are being martyred. Public is being inconvenienced. They are losing faith in administration," he said. He added that security agencies are working overtime to stop the attacks.

Security experts say that there is a need to change the strategy in the region and strengthen intelligence and deployment in the region to counter the activities of terrorists. Dheman said security agencies need to keep changing their strategies as terrorists too modify their plans as per requirement.

"The moment you get successes, they will change their tactics to counter your moves and you will counter theirs. This cat and mouse game continues," he said.

The defence expert said the strategy should be shifted from kinetic military action, which means aggressive cordon and search operations, to intelligence-based operations. "Strengthen your intelligence agencies and they should pick up moles or over-ground workers and underground workers," Dheman said.

Azad demands airlifting..

paddy crop has been hit hardest, and many farmers will need to replant their crops, the government must stand by the farmers who suffered losses of paddy grains due to the adverse weather conditions. They should be adequately compensated and provided with the paddy seed so that they could replant the crops.

Man injured in..

the man started running and was shot in the foot and taken into custody, the s

ources said. Kumar was hospitalised and is reported to be in stable condition, they said.

Want strong infrastructure...

of India not only strengthens the country's economy but also acts as an ambassador of the nation at our borders. It helps strengthen our bilateral relations with our neighbours," he said at the foundation stone laying ceremony for Maitri Dwar, the second cargo gate of the Authority in Petrapole.

Shah said the BJP government at the Centre, since 2014, has stressed on improving border infrastructure and connectivity.

"Our policy is clear. We want strong infrastructure and better connectivity in bordering areas to boost business and trade," he said.

He lauded the role of the BSF in guarding the nation's borders.

Later, he tweeted, "Our invincible BSF is fortified further today with the inauguration of four joint outposts. Two residential complexes and one officer's mess were also inaugurated along with other projects with a total worth of Rs 108.3 crore."

Shah's praise for the BSF did not go well with West Bengal's ruling TMC, which has repeatedly accused the border force of laxity in dealing with cattle smuggling and excesses on the people living along the border.

"Firstly, Amit Shah should have visited Manipur, which is on the boil due to ethnic violence. Secondly, he praised the BSF; he should first answer why cattle are being smuggled across the border in the presence of the force. The CBI had arrested a BSF officer for involvement in cattle smuggling," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said. Reacting to the TMC leader's comment, BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh said, "The TMC should not dictate what Amit Shah ji should do or not. And regarding the cattle smuggling scam, senior TMC leaders have been questioned and arrested for their involvement."

TMC's Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal was arrested in connection with cattle smuggling cases by the CBI in August last year.

Stage set for...

In an appeal to "brothers and sisters" of the State, Modi sought their blessings in the mission of making Karnataka the number one state in the country.

"My appeal is for the bright future of Karnataka. It is for the bright future of your family, especially the younger generations," said the prime minister, who addressed 19 public meetings and held six roadshows as part of BJP's aggressive campaign in the state.

In a lengthy complaint to the chief election commissioner, Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala asked the commission whether it will remain a "mute and helpless spectator" or fulfil its constitutional duty and act against the prime minster.

With the stakes being high in the mega battle of ballots, the major political parties in contention--the BJP, Congress and JD(S)--have made a strong pitch to boost their electoral prospects. The Aam Aadmi Party(AAP), which is in power in Punjab and Delhi, has also fielded candidates.

Voting will take place from 7 am to 6 pm amid tight security arrangements and the ballots will be counted on Saturday. A total of 2,615 candidates are in the fray.

While the ruling BJP, riding on the Modi juggernaut, wants to break a 38-year-old jinx -- Karnataka has never voted the incumbent party to power since 1985, the Congress is hoping for a morale booster victory to give it a much-needed elbow room and momentum to position itself as the main opposition player in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The battle-ready BJP with its well-oiled election machine ran its campaign with a blitzkrieg by Prime Minister Modi.

It was clear the double-engine Sarkar' sought to heavily bank on Modi's appeal to bolster its campaign, shore up its prospects and fight "anti-incumbency".

Also what needs to be watched out for is whether former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular) will emerge as a "kingmaker" or a "king" by holding the key to government formation, in the event of a hung verdict, as it has done in the past. The Congress manifesto proposing to ban the Bajrang Dal heated up the later half of the campaign as the BJP and Prime Minister Modi aggressively latched on to the issue to portray the grand old party as being against Lord Hanuman and the sentiments of Hindus.

Modi also likened the proposed ban to locking up Hanuman itself.

He also made it a point to chant 'Jai Bajrang Bali' in all his speeches after the Congress released its manifesto.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai (Shiggaon), Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah (Varuna), JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy (Channapattana) and state Congress President D K Shivakumar (Kanakapura) are the among the top candidates in the fray.

Other than Siddaramaiah and Kumaraswamy, Jagdish Shettar (Hubli-Dharwad Central) is the other former CM, who is in the fray. Shettar had recently joined Congress, quitting BJP.

Imran Khan arrested...

government called the Rangers to control the law-and-order situation in the province and imposed section 144 under which not more than five people can gather at one point. The Punjab government also requested the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority to suspend Internet and mobile services in the areas of the province where violent protests took place.

A large number of PTI workers also pelted stones at the residence of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah in Faisalabad city. Similarly, protests were held in Multan, Jhang, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Khanewal, Vehari, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and Gujrat cities.

Interior Minister Sanaullah said that Khan failed to appear before the court despite being issued several notices. "The arrest has been conducted by the National Accountability Bureau for causing losses to the national treasury," he said.

He asserted that Khan was not tortured.

In a pre-recorded video issued by the party after his arrest, Khan said, "till the time these words of mine reach you, I will be arrested in a baseless case. This shows that fundamental rights and democracy in Pakistan have been buried."

"All this is being done because they want me to accept the corrupt, imported government that has been forcefully imposed on us," Khan said.

He said if someone has a warrant, they should directly bring it to me. "Bring the warrant, my lawyer will be there. I'm ready to go to jail myself," Khan said.

His arrest came a day after the powerful Pakistan Army on Monday slammed Khan for "highly irresponsible and baseless" allegations by him against a serving ISI officer without any evidence.

Islamabad police released a brief statement quoting Inspector General (IG) Akbar Nasir Khan as saying that Khan had been arrested in relation to the case which concerns allegations that Bahria Town allotted land worth Rs 530 million to Al-Qadir Trust, owned by the PTI chairman and his wife Bushra Bibi.

The police chief also said that the situation in Islamabad was "normal". He added that Section 144 had been imposed in the federal capital and action would be taken against violators.

It was said that Khan was shifted to NAB office in Rawalpindi where a medical checkup was carried out. However, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry claimed that Khan was shifted to an unknown location.

Geo News reported that Khan's medical examination was performed but the report was not released so far. The channel also said that the NAB was preparing to present him before an anti-corruption court tomorrow and secure physical remand to further probe in the case.

It also reported that a special room has been prepared by NAB's office in Rawalpindi and Khan will be kept there during the night. It is the same room of NAB where former premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was kept when arrested during the government of Imran Khan.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday reserved its judgment in the case about the arrest of Khan from the court premises.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took notice of the arrest by Rangers when Khan was present to mark his biometric attendance before the start of hearing of another case.

The court summoned various officials and heard arguments on the merit of arrest and if it was legal to arrest someone present inside the court.

After hearing the case, the chief justice reserved the judgment without saying when it would be announced.

Quoting Barrister Gohar Khan, who was at the court during Khan's arrest, Dawn newspaper said the former prime minister was "tortured".

"They hit Imran's head and leg...his wheelchair was also tossed aside during the arrest," Gohar was quoted as saying by the paper.

Former minister and senior PTI leader Hammad Azhar said that Khan's arrest was "not acceptable" and asserted that the party chief "is our red line". He called on the nation to take to the streets against Khan's arrest.

PTI Secretary General Asad Umar tweeted that a six-member committee, headed by PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, would determine the next course of action.

Khan has been facing a slew of cases since his ouster through a no trust vote in April last year. He has rejected all these cases as political victimisation by the ruling alliance.

Currently, Khan has said he is facing over 140 cases related to terrorism, blasphemy, murder, violence, inciting to violence.

G-20 Summit...

dissemination and proper coverage of the G-20 event.

He has also been tasked to ensure proper coordination and liaison with the Tourism department and other stakeholders.

Authorities ask raft...

them, including five women, fell into the river but were wearing life jackets and were saved, according to officials.

As many as 14 rafters are carrying out rafting activities from Nambal village to famous religious spot Dera Baba, officials said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, Abdul Star held a detailed discussion with the rafters and issued certain directions to them with regard to observance of safety protocols, they said.

They were directed to refrain from plying rafts when there is heavy flow of water in the river during rainy season and also when warnings are issued by the NHPC authorities and the district Administration regarding the rise of water level due to opening of floodgates of the Salal power station, the officials said.

President Murmu confers eight Kirti Chakras, 29 Shaurya Chakras



President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Thakkar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the recipients of Gallantry Awards at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred eight Kirti Chakras, including five posthumously, to personnel of the Army and paramilitary and police forces for displaying indomitable courage and extraordinary valour in the line of duty. Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.

President Murmu, who is the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, also presented 29 Shaurya Chakras, including five posthumously, to the personnel of the armed forces, Central Armed Police Forces and state/Union Territory police during a defence investiture ceremony held

at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Sudip Sarkar, Constable/GD, in the Border Security Force, Rohit Kumar, Sg, Constable, J&K Police, and three others -- one sub-inspector and two head constables, Chhattisgarh government, have been conferred the Kirti Chakra posthumously, it said.

Three personnel, including one of a Major-rank, from the Army's Rashtriya Rifles, have been conferred the Kirti Chakra, the ministry said.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan later also shared pictures from the ceremony on its official Twitter

handle.

"President Droupadi Murmu presents Kirti Chakra to Major Shubhang, Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, Rashtriya Rifles. He exhibited extraordinary valour despite sustaining gunshot wound and eliminated a terrorist during an operation in Budgam, J&K," it tweeted.

The gallantry awards were given for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty, the ministry said.

"President Droupadi Murmu presents Kirti Chakra to Shri Shravan Kashyap, Head Constable, Chhattisgarh (Posthumous). He displayed extraordinary courage and made supreme

sacrifice for the nation while fighting and killing the Naxals during an operation in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh," the Rashtrapati Bhavan tweeted.

Among the Shaurya Chakra (posthumous) awardees is Rifleman Aurangzab, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, 44th Battlion, the Rashtriya Rifles. This award of Shaurya Chakra (posthumous) was announced on the Independence Day in 2018, it added.

Sepoy Karn Veer Singh (Rajput Regiment) and Gunner Jasbir Singh (Regiment of Artillery), both from the Rashtriya Rifles, are also among those who have been posthumously conferred the Shaurya Chakra.

The other two bravehearts to have been conferred this gallantry award posthumously are Constable Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh, Jammu and Kashmir Police (Baramulla) and Naik Jasbir Singh, 6th Battalion, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, the statement said.

A group of personnel from the Army, the Air Force, Navy and those rendering services under the Ministry of Home Affairs have also been conferred the Shaurya Chakra, according to the statement.

The Shaurya Chakra is India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award after the Ashok Chakra and Kirti Chakra.

Education Deptt issues guidelines for seeking permission, affiliation, recognition of private schools

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Section 11 of Jammu & Kashmir School Education Act 2002 provides that no school shall be established, run or maintained without permission of the Competent Authority. The procedure to be followed for grant of permission to such schools is enshrined in Rule (4) of School Education Rules 2010.

Further Section (12) of the said Act provides that only such private schools, which are recognised, shall be permitted to function. These instructions have been issued from time to time for strict compliance by the com-

petent authorities. However, it has been observed that some institutions are still running without permission or undertaking classes/courses for which they have not been permitted in terms of law/rules.

Accordingly, the Education Department has enjoined upon all the private schools/institutions to run only after seeking proper permission from Competent Authority through online portal https://schedujammu.nic.in/pytschool/.

It has further asked the private schools to impart education for those courses/classes for which they have

been permitted under law/rules; Display the recognition and affiliation status issued by competent authority on their sign boards; Register on Adharshila (online monitoring Portal) www.schedujammu.nic.in/adharshila alongwith their recognition/affiliation order and ensure that the error free information of all the students is updated on the portal; get Management Committee Certificate renewed after expiry of every 03 years and recognition/permission/affiliation after expiry of every 05 years.

Further, the department has impressed upon the parents of the stu-

dents to ensure that the schools in which their wards are seeking admission are recognized/affiliated by Director of School Education/Chief Education Officer/JKBOSE/CBSE etc, as the case may be.

Meanwhile, the Chief Education Officers/Zonal Education Officers have been asked to ensure that no unrecognized school is allowed to run within their respective jurisdiction. The CEOs shall also ensure that the schools are undertaking only those classes/courses for which they have been permitted by the competent authority under rules.

Magotra Biradari Samiti to hold meeting on May 14

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Annual General Body meeting of Magotra Biradari Samiti shall be held on May 14, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Kuldev Mandir Chowadhi. All Biradari members are requested to participate in the meeting.

Agenda of meeting is to discuss annual report and annual account for the year 2022-23 and works programme for the year 2023-24.

DHEW Reasi organises mega awareness programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: District Hub for Empowerment of Women Reasi, on the direction of District Social Welfare Officer, organised an awareness camp at Sirla Panchayat.

During the awareness camp, Gender Specialist Rita imparted information regarding various women centric schemes to PRI members and local women. She informed the participants about the process for availing benefits of Tejaswini, ISSS,

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Benefits of Labour card under JKBOCW, skills development courses under PMKVY, SBI RSETI and on Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan etc.

At the end of the program, the cases of skill development courses, PMMVY and pension were noted down and the women participants were provided the information about eligibility criteria, documentation and procedures to online apply to avail benefits under different schemes.

