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Pakistani among 3...

found to be in contact with terrorist commanders based in Pakistan, the officials said.

They said some of the terrorist commanders these individuals were in contact with, and who are based in Pakistan, include Sajad Gul, Ashiq Nengroo, Arjunand Gulzar and others. They all have been notified and designated as terrorists by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

These terrorist handlers who are based in Pakistan are involved in serious terror crimes and as well motivating and inciting the young gullible boys to join terror ranks to commit terror crimes, the officials said.

J-K Police -- both in Kashmir and Jammu division -- have raided the residences and work places of such people and investigations with regard to the level of their involvement are underway, they said.

Raids have been carried out at several places across the union territory including in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kulgam -- in the valley, and in Jammu, Ramban, Udhampur, Kathua - in Jammu region, they added.

Many target killings and other terrorist crimes have been instigated from across using local hybrid terrorists. As on today, dozens of suspected have been picked up across J-K, the officials said.

They said Director General of Police (DGP), J-K, Dilbag Singh has passed unambiguous and very strong directions to all formations that anyone found in touch with any such entity in Pakistan or in any other country should be taken to task.

The policy of zero tolerance of such anti-national activity has to be more strictly imposed, the J-K police chief has directed.

J&K Govt upgrades...

Director SKPA Udhampur is declared equivalent in the rank and status to that of Additional Director General of Police, till it is held by the aforesaid officer," reads an order issued by R.K. Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

"Further, in terms of Rule 3 of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir's Special Security Force Rules, 2020, the post of Director, Special Security Force (SSF), J&K, is temporarily upgraded and declared equivalent in the rank and status to that of Deputy Inspector General of Police from June 4, 2022," it stated and added, "Consequent to this, Shakti Kumar Pathak, IPS, shall be deemed to be working as Director, SSF (I/C DIG) with effect from June 4, 2022, till further orders."

Plea in SC...

August 15, 1947.

The plea, filed by a retired Army officer, has challenged the constitutional validity of sections 2, 3, and 4 of the 1991 Act claiming that they violate the principles of secularism.

While section 3 of the Act deals with the bar of conversion of places of worship, section 4 pertains to the declaration as to the religious character of certain places of worship and the bar of jurisdiction of courts.

By making the impugned Act, Centre has arbitrarily created an irrational retrospective cut-off date, declared that character of places of worship shall be maintained as it was on August 15, 1947, and no suit or proceeding shall lie in court in respect of disputes against encroachment done by barbaric invaders and lawbreakers and such proceeding shall stand abated, said the plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

In his plea, petitioner Anil Kabotra has claimed that the Centre has transgressed its legislative power by barring remedy of judicial review which is the basic feature of the Constitution.

The petition alleged that the injury caused to the Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs is extremely large because sections 2, 3, and 4 of the 1991 Act have taken away the right to approach the court and thus, the right to judicial remedy has been closed.

It said the Centre neither can close the doors of courts of the first instance, appellate courts, constitutional courts for aggrieved Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs, nor take away the power of High courts and Supreme Court, conferred under Article 226 and 32.

It claimed that the Act has barred the right and remedy against encroachment made on religious places of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

The plea has sought to declare that sections 2, 3, and 4 of the 1991 Act are void and unconstitutional for allegedly being violative of Articles, including 14 (equality before law), 26 (freedom to manage religious affairs), and 29 (protection of interests of minorities) of the Constitution, in so far as it legalises the ancient and historical places of worship and pilgrimage, illegally occupied by the barbaric foreign invaders.

It said while enacting the Act, the Centre has excluded the birthplace of Lord Ram at Ayodhya but not the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura, though both are the incarnations of Lord Vishnu.

Several other pleas, including the one filed by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, challenging the validity of certain provisions of the 1991 Act has already been filed in the apex court.

Recently, the Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has filed a plea in the top court seeking intervention in a pending petition which has challenged the constitutional validity of sections 2, 3, and 4 of the 1991 Act.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has said that petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay has raised grounds that have already been considered and decided by the constitution bench of the top court.

Even if all the allegations of the petitioner are assumed to be true, it is nothing but seeking a correction of historical wrongs, the Muslim body has said.

The top court in March last year had sought the Centre's response to a plea challenging the validity of certain provisions of the 1991 law, which prohibit the filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947.

The petition has alleged that the 1991 law creates an "arbitrary and irrational retrospective cut-off date" of August 15, 1947, for maintaining the character of the places of worship or pilgrimage against encroachment done by "fundamentalist-barbaric invaders and law-breakers".

LG inaugurates 9...

of people, while strengthening disaster management system in J-K.

The vital road projects will strengthen road connectivity to flood-prone areas and provide the people living there with faster and improved access to markets, health and educational facilities. Besides, Decision Support System, Multi Hazard Risk Assessment Report and Disaster Risk Database, and Upgraded Building Codes for J-K will improve the disaster management response in the UT, he added.

Sinha directed J-K ERA and JTFRP to identify left out bridges and roads damaged during 2014 floods and take up their upgradation and construction on priority.

Experts must be deputed to conduct a detailed study, make necessary interventions and find solutions to develop a strong Disaster Risk Mitigation mechanism for Jhelum and Tawi rivers, he said.

Taking an overview of the functioning of JTFRP, the Lt Governor was informed that during the last two years, 132 sub-projects under World Bank funded JTFRP out of the total of 213 sub-projects costing Rs 428.79 crore have been completed, while work on remaining 81 sub-projects is in advanced stage of execution, the spokesman said.

Implementation of JTFRP has witnessed a dramatic turnaround with 90 per cent of procurement and 80 per cent of disbursements under the project having been undertaken during the year 2020-21 as against 10 per cent of procurement and 20 per cent disbursements achieved during the initial four years of the project, he said.

Installation of 29 Oxygen Generation Plants in CHCs and SDHs of various remote areas of the UT will add 11,000 LPM to the existing capacity. The vital road projects will strengthen road connectivity to flood-prone areas and provide the people living there with faster and improved access to markets, health and educational facilities. Besides, Decision Support System, Multi Hazard Risk Assessment Report & Disaster Risk Database, and Upgraded Building Codes for J-K will improve the disaster management response in J-K, added the Lt Governor.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, while congratulating J-K ERA and JTFRP for the new projects, advised them to compile a compendium of their completed projects highlighting the work done.

He further asked the concerned officials to prepare a comprehensive future plan of action and work for its effective implementation, besides conducting training programmes in collaboration with Mission Youth and other stakeholders.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/ JTFRP briefed the Lt Governor about the projects worth Rs 137.35 crores inaugurated today.

He informed that the installation of Oxygen Generation Plants in various remote areas of J-K, completed at a cost of Rs 69 crores, is one of the most significant accomplishments under the JTFRP, which will benefit more than 16 lakh people living in areas like Mendar, Sunderban, Surankote, Gandoh, Batote, Banihal, Chenani, Hajin, Tangmarg, Chowki Choura, Bani, Ramgarh, Gurez, Tangdar, Tral, Kellar, Kangan, Uri, Kreeri etc.

The study on the Multi Hazard Risk Assessment in J-K and significant IT based tools like development of Decision Support System and Disaster Risk Database

would revolutionize the Disaster Management Infrastructure in J&K, and give Disaster specialists and concerned line agencies dealing with emergencies a latest and modern tools to timely forecast various impending calamities thus preventing loss of precious lives and property, it was informed.

The other projects inaugurated today includes Rigid Concrete Pavement of IG Road from Civil Secretariat to Rambagh; Anji-Panasa Road, Reasi; Parimpora-Soibagh Road, Srinagar/Budgam; Halmullah-Panchpora-Kralkut Road, Anantnag; Litter-Pulwama Road and Steel Decked Foot Bridge Over Anji Nallah at Sukhal Ghati, Reasi.

Directors of different wings of J&K ERA and JTFRP - Dr. Meenakshi Thakur; Ifthikhar A Hakim; Javeed Iqbal Bukhari; Ifthikhar Ahmed Wani; Ajay Kumar Raju; Tasawuf Amin, besides consultants, project managers and other senior officers of the concerned agencies were present on the occasion at Raj Bhavan.

Govt widens CDS...

officer who has retired in the rank of Air Marshal or Air Chief Marshal but has not attained the age of 62 years on the date of his appointment," the notification issued under the Air Force Act 1950 said.

It further said that the government may extend the service of the Chief of Defence Staff for such a period as it may deem necessary subject to a maximum age of 65 years.

Identical notifications were issued under the Army Act 1950 and the Navy Act 1957.

The tenure of three service chiefs is three years of service or when they turn 62, whichever is earlier.

In effect, the retired Chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are unlikely to be considered for the post of the CDS as the age to become eligible for the post has been put at 62 years.

On January 1 2020, Gen Rawat took charge as India's first CDS with a mandate to bring convergence in the functioning of the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force and bolster the country's overall military prowess.

Another key mandate of the CDS was to facilitate the restructuring of military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through the establishment of theatre commands.

A high-level committee set up to examine the gaps in India's security system in the wake of the Kargil war in 1999 had recommended the appointment of the CDS as a single-point military adviser to the defence minister.

Srinagar bench of...

To cater to the needs of litigating employees of the newly created UTs, the 19th bench of the CAT at Srinagar was inaugurated on November 23, 2021 by Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh.

The bench at Srinagar presided over by D S Mahra, judicial member, started functioning physically from the very same day -- November 23, 2021.

"The bench has since disposed of a sizeable number of cases received on transfer from the J&K High Court, as also fresh cases instituted by the employees, the statement said.

Manjula Das, chairman, CAT inaugurated the library room and bar room for the members of the bar association, and a separate bar room for female advocates attending the Srinagar CAT bench, it said.

Das also inaugurated a room for the standing counsel representing the central government and the UTs, and a litigation cell at the bench, the statement said.

Mahra, members of the bar, and CAT officials attended the inaugural ceremony.

After the setting up of the bench at Srinagar in November 2021, there was a constant demand and need for the creation of facilities to ensure the convenience of the bar and the litigating public, it said.

With the best efforts on the part of the tribunal, the authorities of the UT administration ultimately allotted five extra rooms for the creation of such facilities, the statement said.

Former BJP MLA...

the passing away of former MLA, Shri Rajesh Gupta Ji. He was a dynamic leader who tirelessly worked for public welfare. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family, friends and admirers in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," Sinha tweeted.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh also condoled untimely demise of BJP leader and former legislator Rajesh Gupta.

"I am deeply shocked to learn about the untimely demise of former MLA Rajesh Gupta, an enduring friend, committed colleague and dedicated leader of BJP who was among those who selflessly struggled for sustaining the Party in Jammu during the most difficult times. Rajesh's organisational skills and consistency of belief will be missed for long. My sincere condolences to his wife, Anu Gupta who courageously faced the trying times in his last days" Singh tweeted.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina offered condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

"We both were elected as legislators in 2014 and he proved his mettle within and outside the assembly. He was very popular among the masses and rose from an ordinary party worker to become a legislator; Raina, who visited Gupta's house after his death, said.

"The party has lost a promising leader and his untimely demise has left a void which is very hard to be filled, he said.

Media secretary of BJP Pardeep Mahotra said Gupta's cremation will take place on Wednesday.

We have lost a leader who was very close to the public and his departure is a big loss for all of us, Mahotra said.

Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta today condoled the untimely demise of BJP leader and former legislator Rajesh Gupta.

Extending profound condolences to the bereaved family, the former deputy chief minister prayed for peace to the departed soul. He said that Rajesh's contribution in strengthening BJP in Jammu and Kashmir was exemplary and the development works executed by him as the then MLA Jammu East were phenomenal.

"Rajesh ruled the hearts of people by his down to earth personality and dedication towards public welfare", he maintained.

Meanwhile, JK Pradesh Congress deeply condoled the sad and untimely demise of Former BJP MLA Jammu East Rajesh Gupta.

In a condolence message, JKPPC President G A Mir, Working President Raman Balla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma General Secretary Yogesh Sawhney, Th Mamnoon Singh and Rajesh Sharma Treasurer have expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Shri Rajesh Gupta, who was a thoroughly gentleman and people's man. The party has shared the grief of the family and friends and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

DGP reviews security...

pilgrimage, and also inspected the parking facilities for the vehicles of the pilgrims.

He gave directions for making adequate parking arrangements for the yatra as well as for better traffic management and security.

Singh directed for increasing the parking space by levelling the ground at important locations to avoid inconvenience to the pilgrims.

He inspected police deployments, the JPCRs and the police post at Baltal, and stressed on the round-the-clock functioning of the joint control rooms and supervision of arrangements by senior officers.

The DGP emphasised on creating a conducive environment for a smooth conduct of the yatra and said the security protocols should be strictly adhered to for regulating the pilgrimage in a desired manner.

He also said all possible assistance should be provided to the pilgrims.

The DGP directed for better coordination among all the agencies for a smooth conduct of the yatra.

He said the quick response teams should be put on a high alert so that necessary help and assistance is provided to the pilgrims as and when required.

Singh said sufficient manpower from different security agencies is being put on the pilgrimage duty to strengthen the deployment grid.

Vector and Scorpion...

security forces. It exceeds the performance of the current tactical UAS platforms in most services in difficult terrains and urban environments all over the world, representatives of the company that has manufactured the drone said on Tuesday.

"Between Russia and Ukraine, they (some countries) are flying these drones in that area (the battle zone). It will undergo a test trial on the LAC in Ladakh in July," Kushagra Agrawal, vice-president, Roter Precision Instruments Private Limited, the firm that has manufactured the drone, told PTI.

Giving further details, he said the "Vector and Scorpion" drone was introduced last year and was recently showcased at the North Tech Symposium 2022 at the Army's Northern Command headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, drawing a huge response from the officers of various formations of the armed forces.

"It is the first drone that has a telemetric range of 65 kilometres. For example, if I am sitting in Udhampur, the drone can give me live feed from Jammu," Agrawal said.

"No other Indian company can give you a 65-kilometre range," he added.

Officials said it is an IP 66-rated drone. "That means it can fly during a drizzle.

It can fly when it is snowing. It has already been tested 5,000 metres above the ground level. That makes it a fool-proof drone," Agrawal said.

The drone is being used by the US Marine Corps, the French police and the

German police.

The officials said the mathematical definition of a vector fits very well for the latest UAV from Quantum-Systems. "It can face any direction -- upward, forward or down. That is exactly what the Vector from Quantum-Systems is capable of doing. A vertical take-off, energy efficient, long-range, fixed-wing flight and back to a vertical landing. All automatic, no pilot or operator input needed, just fly," an official said.

The Vector 2-in-1 vertical take-off reconnaissance UAV is flexible and enduring, provides flight and surveillance characteristics that exceed the performance of the current UAV platforms in service all over the world.

The officials said the ability to operate in the most difficult terrain (VTOL), combined with extremely low noise emission (motor off, silent mode) makes the Vector the perfect UAV for a wide range of non-invasive aerial operations.

"An encrypted mesh IP link sends video streams up to a range of 15-plus kilometres. A flight time of up to 120 minutes speaks for itself. All combined in a compact and robust electric VTOL UAV," the official said.

The two-in-one system design opens up further applications with the "Scorpion" configuration -- by removing the wings and attaching a separate set of copter arms, a dedicated multi-copter platform becomes available for an even wider variety of mission applications -- the officials said.

"Either use a VTOL fixed-wing