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Pak using social media, narcotics to radicalise Kashmiri youth: Army

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Pakistan is using a mix of social media, local influencers and narcotics to radicalise the Kashmir youth to pick up the gun but Army has launched various people-friendly initiatives to counter the propaganda of the inimical elements, a senior army officer has said.

General Officer Commanding of Army's 15 Corps Lieutenant General ADS Aujla said the attempts from across the Line of Control (LoC) to push narcotics was a cause of concern as it was destroying the future generation of Kashmir.

"Social media plays a very important role in this (radicalisation) and that is where the western adversary invests very heavily and that is where the narratives are built, the themes are built...which then are let loose in the environment and caught out by the youngsters here," Lt Gen Aujla told PTI in an interview last week.

GOC-in-C Northern Command calls on LG



GOC-in-C Northern Command, Lt General Upendra Dwivedi accompanied by Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC 15 Corps and Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, GOC 16 Corps calling on LG Manoj Sinha on Sunday.

SRINAGAR: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Northern Command, Lt General Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

He discussed the present security scenario with the Lt Governor and also briefed him on the elaborate security arrangements made by the security forces for Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2023. The Lt Governor appreciated the role played by the Indian Army in restoring and preserving peace in the Union Territory.

Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC 15 Corps and Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, GOC 16 Corps accompanied the GOC-in-C Northern Command.

The officer, who has spent considerable part of his career in Jammu and Kashmir, said besides social media, the local cadres of Jamaat-e-Islami also play a major role in the indoctrina-

tion of the youth.

"The local Jamaatis, they also play the major role in radicalising the youngsters. So, a combination of both of these gives them (youths) this high of falling on a

wrongful path or joining a tanzim or picking the weapon and doing something wrong," he added. Lt Gen Aujla said the youth of Kashmir are

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Mega nursery in J&K all set to cater to local fruit growers this monsoon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ahead of monsoon, a mega nursery of fruit plants set up by the Jammu and Kashmir horticulture department near the India-Pakistan border fence is all set to provide saplings of guava, mango, litchi and other fruits to the local farmers from next month.

The nursery spread over 100 acres in the Chakroi area of R S Pura was inaugurated in January by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"It was set up in a record period of one and a half years and was inaugurated in January by the lieutenant governor. We have sown 12,000 mother plants," district level subject specialist at the nursery Sandeep Kumar Sharma told PTI.

According to locals, the border belt has witnessed a massive transformation with majority of plants in the nursery have grown 4 to 5 feet.

"It is the biggest nursery of Jammu and Kashmir for sub-tropical plants. The capacity of this nursery

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28K J&K Govt employees under IT Deptt scanner for claiming bogus refunds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: More than 28,000 government employees working in Jammu and Kashmir, including 8,000 police and paramilitary force personnel, are under the scanner of the Income-tax department for allegedly claiming bogus refunds worth a few crores of rupees while filing their ITRs, official sources said.

The taxman has found that this purported fraud took place during the Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filing seasons in 2020-21 and 2021-22 even as the department has registered two criminal FIRs against a Chartered Accountant (CA) and 404 other people, with the J-K Police crime branch after a similar fraud was detected for the last few fiscals.

The alleged irregularities came to light sometime back after the Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) wing of the department located in Srinagar found that a number of people who are assessed in the Union

Territory of J-K had claimed "excessive and ineligible deductions" under various heads leading to claim of bogus refunds, the sources said.

Documents accessed by PTI show that the Principal Director of I-T (J-K and Ladakh) M P Singh sanctioned filing of police FIRs against the CA and 404 other people that includes some dubious tax advisors and filers for "entering into a conspiracy and defrauding the exchequer of a sum of Rs 16.72 crore between the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20."

The department found that many among these people had filed incorrect or false ITRs and had identically claimed around Rs 4 lakh in refunds, they said.

The department, as part of the complaints that resulted into two FIRs filed on May 25, has shared with the police the names, addresses, PAN and bank accounts of these 405 people after which the crime branch froze these

bank deposits, the sources said.

The police has booked these people under various sections of the IPC like 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery), 471 (using a forged document as genuine), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and section 66D of the Information Technology Act (cheating by impersonation).

The department has also written to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) seeking cancellation of the accused CA's licence, who runs a consultancy firm in Rajbagh area here and whom it considers the "prime accused" in the case, the sources said.

Alarmed by this development, the department ran a fresh check in November last year for the ITRs filed by salaried employees working in J-K and found similar instances of bogus claims of deduction made by them to seek refunds. The employees, as per the sources, belong to the police

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Training camps organised in Rajouri to sharpen firing, weapon handling skills of VDC members

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Police in Rajouri district have started a programme to enhance weapon handling and firing skills of members of Village Defence Committees, which were established in various regions of Jammu and Kashmir in the early 2000s to combat terrorism.

Several training camps were conducted across the district on Sunday, officials said.

To further develop weapon handling and firing skills of Village Defence Committee (VDC) members and ensure proper maintenance of their weapons, the Rajouri police have undertaken a significant training exercise, they said.

Training camps were

organised at multiple locations within the district, with hundreds of VDC members participating, the officials said. Specially designated weapon trainers from the District Police Line Rajouri led these camps, delivering presentations to VDC members on effective weapon handling, cleaning and firing techniques, they said.

Village Defence Committee (VDC) member Madan Mohan Sharma termed the exercise as fruitful and said it will sharpen the skills of VDC members amid repeated terror incidents in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

"The situation in our area is not that much peaceful... as multiple terrorist incidents and encounters

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Centre taking holistic approach to revolutionise healthcare: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOCHI: The Centre has taken a holistic approach to revolutionise healthcare by implementing a series of initiatives including Ayushman Bharat, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Sunday.

Shah, who was in town to take part in the silver jubilee celebrations of the Kochi-based Amrita Hospital, also inaugurated two research centres under the institution.

Addressing the gathering, Shah said Mata Amritanandamayi has made immense contribution in creating appreciation for India's rich, spiritual culture and traditions.

"She has taught the art of giving to the world. Even



after 50 years of serving millions of people, her humility is striking. Amma's ashram built 1,200 houses in Gujarat after the 2001 earthquake. Those villages are locally called Amma's villages. That is the gratitude of the people for the help provided by her in their hour of need," he

said.

Shah said in the last nine years, the central government has taken a holistic approach to transform healthcare with the launch of initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Poshan Mission, Mission Indra Dhanush, Ayushman Bharat

and Jal Jeevan Mission.

"In 2013-14, there were 387 medical colleges in India, compared to 648 today. The number of MBBS seats has gone up from 51,000 to 99,000, and PG seats from 31,000 to 64,000 in the same period. Also, the government has sanctioned 22 new AIIMS to be opened across the country," he added.

The hospital, run by Mata Amritanandamayi Math, also announced Rs 65 crore for charitable care.

The research centres are being set up at the Amritapuri campus of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kollam district and another one adjacent to the Amrita

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US Defence Secretary in India, to hold talks with Rajnath today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin arrived in India on Sunday on a two-day visit to explore ways to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, especially in areas of transfer of critical technologies for co-development of military hardware.

Secretary Austin's trip comes over two weeks ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington during which the two sides are expected to unveil initiatives to expand the India-US global strategic partnership.

"I'm returning to India to meet with key leaders for discussions about strengthening our Major Defense Partnership. Together, we're

advancing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," the US defence secretary tweeted shortly after landing in New Delhi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Austin are set to discuss in their talks on Monday General Electric's proposal to share technology with India for fighter jet engines and New Delhi's plan to procure 30 MQ-9B armed drones at a cost of over USD 3 billion from US defence major General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc besides other issues, people familiar with the matter said.

India has been looking at manufacturing of jet engines in India under the framework of technology transfer to power its fighter

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Forest officials seize 400 Kg Bhoot Keshi Herb on J&K- Himachal Border

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAI: A team of Forest Department has seized about 4 Quintal (400 kg) of semidry Minor Forest Produce Bhoot Keshi, a rare medicinal plant found in the high altitude of the Himalayan region in remote area of Bhalesa touching the border of neighboring Himachal Pradesh state.

The led by Range Officer Suresh Jamwal comprising officials from the Forest and Forest Protection Force, acted promptly on a tip-off and conducted a raid. The

team traversed the difficult terrain of Kahi Kandahwad and Jijed Talai located on the remote J&K and HP border. After a strenuous trek, the team seized the huge quantity of Bhoot Keshi, a rare medicinal plant.

Scientifically known as Selinum vaginatum, the root of the Bhoot Keshi plant is used to treat high blood pressure, sleeping disorders, and other ailments.

Range Officer Suresh Jamwal reiterated the crucial responsibility of

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Odisha train crash: Railways seeks CBI probe, hints sabotage



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BALASORE: The railways on Sunday sought a CBI inquiry into the Balasore train crash, hours after minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the "root cause" of the accident and the people behind the "criminal" act have been

identified.

Railway officials also indicated that possible "sabotage" and tampering with the electronic interlocking system, which detects the presence of trains, led to the Friday accident.

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ATTENTION !

Eligible residents of J&K under PMAY(G)

To achieve the target of construction of **199550** PMAY-G Houses in the year 2023-24 by saturation of Awaas+ Permanent Waiting List (PWL)

Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, J&K

is organising

One Week Block Level

PMAY(G) REGISTRATION CAMPS

4-10 June, 2023

ACROSS J&K

All households enlisted in the Awaas+PWL available on <https://www.jkpr.gov.in> are informed to participate in the camps and register to avail the benefits under the scheme

Bring the following documents compulsorily:

- Aadhaar Card
- Bank credentials - bank passbook
- MGNREGA Job card
- Copy of Ration Card
- Revenue extract of land
- Self attested declaration (format on <https://www.jkpr.gov.in>)
- Phone Number

DIP/J-2649/23