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Holed up terrorist..

operation is underway to track down the terrorists. The two incidents come just days after terrorists attacked a bus carrying pilgrims from the Shiv Khori temple to Katra, causing it to veer off the road and fall into a deep gorge. Nine people died and 41 were injured in the Sunday evening attack. Police have announced Rs 20 lakh reward for information on the whereabouts of the terrorists involved in the attack on the bus and have also released the sketch of one of the terrorists.

Authorities have claimed that attempts by Pakistan to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir were the reason for the spurt in terror activities in the Jammu region.

In Kathua's Saida Sukhal village near the International Border -- around 60 kms from Jammu -- the second holed-up terrorist was killed on Wednesday noon in an intense gunfight after being cornered by the joint security parties of the police, Army and CRPF, officials said.

The terrorist tried to break the cordon by firing indiscriminately at the security forces around 3 am. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan Kabir Dass, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, was critically injured in the firing and later succumbed to injuries in a hospital, they said.

During the operation, official vehicles of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Sunil Gupta and Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Anayat Ali Choudhary were hit by several bullets but the officers escaped unhurt.

The officials said that the cavalcade of the two police officers came under attack after a hiding militant fired over two dozen rounds. "There however was no harm caused to any of the officers' or any of the personnel," the official said. In a related development, the security forces recovered arms and ammunition around the ongoing gunfight site.

Talking to reporters after the encounter ended, Additional Director General of Police (Jammu zone) Anand Jain, who supervised the operation, said both the terrorists have been killed and a large quantity of weapons, improvised explosive devices and grenades recovered from them.

"A search is still on as there is a possibility of some more terrorists hiding in the area. The terrorists had freshly infiltrated (from across the border) and a joint operation was launched immediately after getting information about their presence in the village," he said.

He lauded the bravery of the slain CRPF jawan and said, "We salute his sacrifice." Earlier, the ADGP said, "Two terrorists entered the village around 8 pm on Tuesday and asked for water from a household. The people got frightened and as soon as they informed us, a police team rushed to the village."

"One of the terrorists tried to hurl a grenade at the police team and was killed in the exchange of fire," he said.

Officials said both the slain terrorists are believed to be Pakistanis. An M4 carbine, an AK assault rifle and over Rs 1 lakh in cash besides Pakistan-made food items and medicines were seized from the encounter site, they said, adding the identity and group affiliation of the terrorists were being ascertained.

A civilian was also injured in the terrorist firing and was hospitalised on Tuesday night, the officials said.

In Doda, terrorists fired on a joint checkpost of the 4 Rashtriya Rifles and police at Chattergalla area late on Tuesday night, leading to a fierce gunfight which continued for several hours, officials said.

They said five Rashtriya Rifles personnel and an SPO were injured and they were taken to hospital. Additional security personnel have been rushed to the area to intensify the operation against the terrorists, they said.

According to the officials, traffic movement has been completely suspended on the busy Bhadarwah-Pathankot interstate highway in view of the ongoing search and cordon operation in Chattergalla, Guldandi, Sarthal, Shankh Pader and Kailash mountain range.

Without naming Pakistan, ADGP Anand Jain said the "hostile" neighbour is always making attempts to disturb peace in the Jammu region.

Meanwhile, a search and cordon operation has been launched in the Kalal area of the Nowshera sector in Rajouri district following suspicious movement of two persons.

Security forces have been put on high alert following intelligence reports about possible attempts by terrorists to carry out an attack, especially in Poonch and Rajouri districts which has been seeing a spurt in terror activities over the past two years, officials said.

According to a police handout, on June 11, 2024 after receiving an information from reliable source that two terrorists surfaced in the village Saida Sohal near Koota Morh area of Police Station Hiranagar in the late evening hours. They asked for water from a few houses to which villagers grew suspicious and slammed the doors on them and a few raised hue and cry. The terrorists panicked and fired randomly in the air and also at one odd villager, who was passing by. SHO Hiranagar and the SDPO Border rushed to the spot, engaged the terrorists and as a result one terrorist got killed last night while lobbing a grenade at the police party."

"Whereas, Search for the other terrorist was going on who got neutralised today. J&K Police in its joint operation led by Senior Police Officers/officials, J&K Police Special Operation Group (SOG) alongwith the help of CRPF and Indian Army had cordoned off the area. Thereafter the search parties cleared the houses one by one and rescued one injured person along with his wife who were evacuated to the hospital. While the wife is unhurt, the husband Omkar Nath, son of Nath is injured in the arm and appears to be stable. Whereas One CRPF personnel namely C1/GD Kabir Dass No.115062756 of 121 Bn CRPF, son of Shiv Charan, resident of Madhya Pradesh who suffered bullet injuries last night later succumbed to his injuries during treatment at SDH Hiranagar and gave supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

Moreover, the huge cache of arms and ammunition recovered includes:- 01 AK 56 Rifle, 01 M4 Rifle, 10 Magazines alongwith total 382 rounds, 08 live grenades, Rs. 2,10,000 Currency Notes, eatables including Pakistan-made chocolates, dry chenna and stale chapatis, Pakistan-made medicines and pain killer injections, and electronics were also recovered/seized by the police party on spot. In this regard FIR No. 101/2024 U/S 307/120-B/121/121-A/122/IPC, 13/16/18/23/UAPA ACT & 7/27 Arms Act has already been registered at PS Hiranagar while the further investigation is underway.

Another terror attack..

been rushed to the area to strengthen the cordon, they added. The injured constable rushed to hospital. This was the second terror-related incident in Doda in the last 24 hours and fourth in three days in Jammu and Kashmir.

Won't rest till..

Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman, All J&K Folk Artists Association, senior officials and prominent artists were present on the occasion.

Police issues advisory..

officials to stay vigilant in their areas of operation, they said. This heightened security measure follows intelligence inputs indicating a terror threat.

Police have provided contact numbers for officers in Jammu and Samba districts, encouraging residents to report any potential terror-related concerns, they said.

This alert comes in the wake of three terror attacks in the Reasi, Kathua, and Doda districts over the past three days, resulting in the deaths of 10 persons, including a CRPF jawan and two terrorists and injuries to 48 people, including seven security personnel.

Search and combing operations are ongoing in the Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

JKRLM inks MoU..

sectors. One of the key objectives of the program is to provide mentorship and training to JKRLM staff and community cadres. This initiative will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively support and guide rural entrepreneurs.



Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary along with Mission Director, JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib and representatives from CII during the event.

Additionally, the program will facilitate market linkages, branding, and raw material sourcing for SHGs involved in tourism and food processing sectors, enabling them to enhance their competitiveness and accelerate growth.

Indu Kanwal Chib, expressed her gratitude to Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary for his unwavering support and commitment to the mission's initiatives. She commended his approval for establishing JKRLM's own offices and training centres in every district, which will provide a dedicated space for rural women entrepreneurs to work and learn.

Indu Chib highlighted the significance of collaboration with CII, emphasising that it will facilitate a gap analysis to identify the challenges faced by rural entrepreneurs and provide them with the necessary guidance and resources to scale up their businesses. She further said that JKRLM has identified tourism and food processing as the two key sectors for the initial phase of collaboration. She said that these entrepreneurs often face limitations due to the lack of proper guidance, branding and licensing information. The collaboration with CII aims to address these challenges by providing expert mentorship and equipping the entrepreneurs with the necessary knowledge and skills to expand their businesses legally and sustainably. She shared data on the existing food processing units under JKRLM, with approximately 2698 units in Jammu and 2803 units in Kashmir.

MD, JKSRML drew attention to the potential of the dairy industry, suggesting that JKRLM could aim to reach the level of success achieved by brands like Verka in Punjab. She highlighted the opportunity to diversify dairy products and explore areas such as milk, curd, paneer, chocolate and other value added products. She highlighted other focus areas, including mushrooms, spices, pickles, dry fruits, pomegranate, flour, sattu (roasted gram flour), bakery items, cereals, nutritious food products and animal feed and fodder.

J&K advances strategic..

Consul General to India, Neera Arora, Business Development Manager for India and Keith Mitchell, Customer Manager from NZTE, Mischa Mannix-Opie, Executive Director of NZ G2G and TAG's leadership team, Jon Manhire, Managing Director, Stuart Ford, Director, Dave Luceock, Director and Warren King from AgResearch.

The agreement was signed by Jon Manhire, Managing Director of TAG and Naseem Javed, Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu. This partnership emphasizes leveraging New Zealand's world-class techniques to elevate local sheep farming practices in Jammu & Kashmir.

The core areas of collaboration included 'Advanced Training programs for master trainers, Genetic and Breeding Innovations, Expert Visits and Workshops; New Zealand experts will visit J&K to conduct workshops and set long-term objectives for the project, focusing on breeding values, AI, ETT and digitization besides Value Chain Optimization; a detailed examination and overhaul of wool and mutton value chains led by New Zealand specialists will aim to boost efficiency and profitability across the sector'.

This strategic agreement, valued at approximately Rs 20 crore, spread over 5 years represents not just a continuation, but an expansion of the collaborative efforts to enhance the sheep sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The partnership is expected to bring about transformative changes, increasing productivity and improving the economic conditions of local communities.

The ongoing partnership between Jammu & Kashmir and New Zealand promises to redefine agricultural practices in the region, driving innovation, sustainability and prosperity for the local sheep farming community.

CS led SBC..

the readiness of all the Panchayats for installation of OFC and functionality of VSATs, provided earlier. He enjoined upon the telecommunication agency to facilitate the department as per the earlier MoU signed between them.

He stressed on giving them access to the Customer Management Portal and establishing the helpline for registration of grievances with proper follow up of the same by provisioning a team of technicians for each block. He also asked for accomplishing these tasks within next few days. He assured the company of all possible assistance by the UT government enabling better environment for execution of its programmes. He said that the government is committed to provide the amenities like land, power and other requisite support to help the agency complete its works in time.

In a presentation, the BSNL threw light on overall performance regarding each of its works undertaken here under this broadband mission. It was informed that the objective of this mission is to bridge the digital divide for digital empowerment and inclusion, provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.

It was apprised that the outcome of this national mission is to ensure broadband access to all villages, availability of high broadband speed besides accelerating fiberization there. It was added that the company is going to enhance connectivity and improve quality of service by increasing tower density, fiberization of telecom towers and facilitating roll out of 5G network and strengthening of 4G network in rural areas.

It was revealed that out of the 847 identified sites in J&K, land has been allotted for 751 locations by both Revenue and Forest Departments for 4G saturation in the UT. It was informed that the foundation work at 333 locations has been completed while the same is under process in 118 more locations. Moreover, 231 towers had been erected, of which, 26 have been commissioned and 11 BTS put on air; so far.

Regarding the status of VSAT in Gram Panchayats, it was informed that the same has been provided at 692 locations. It was added that some of those had developed technical snags or other problems rendering many of them non-functional.

The CGM, BSNL, assured of framing roadmap for restoration of these non-functional GPs shortly.

As far as the Amended Bharat Net Program (ABP-Phase III) is concerned, it was informed that GoI has approved it for pan India including J&K. It was revealed that all 427 GPs and BHQs covered in the Phase I shall be covered in OFC ring architecture and all 692 GPs covered on satellite would be brought on OFC ring.

For the remaining 3180 uncovered GPs and BHQs, it was said that under ABN there is provision to bring them on the OFC ring architecture with MPLS routers to be installed at all the 4299 GPs and 285 BHQs.

Further, it was informed that OLT shall be installed at all GPs for extending the FTTH high speed broadband connections to the GPs, BHQs, adjoining government institutions and the rural population in the vicinity.

Dialogue with Pakistan..

end unless there is an understanding between the two nations (India and Pakistan). Terrorism will continue and we will have to face it. The tragedy is that innocent people are getting killed... and that is unfortunate."

More innocent people would lose their lives unless "we wake up" and "find a solution to this", he said.

Referring to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks that India will focus on resolving issues along its borders, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said "dialogue" is the only way forward.

Shortly after taking charge of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for the second term, Jaishankar on Tuesday said efforts will be made to address cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan as it cannot be the "policy of a good neighbour." Jaishankar also said India will focus on resolving the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

"The foreign minister himself said yesterday that with China, we have to have a dialogue and for the first time, he mentioned Pakistan also. I hope they continue and find a solution to it," Abdullah said.

"We are the ones facing tragedies. Innocent people of the state are facing tragedies and a reflection of this happens in the rest of the country. I hope they realise that the time has come to end this," he added.

49 people, mostly..

southern Ahmadi Governorate, officials said, adding that the building reportedly had 195 people living in it, who are workers of the same company.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry said that the death toll from the tragic fire has reached 49, the Kuwait Times newspaper reported.

The ministry said that criminal evidence department personnel are currently working on identifying the victims on site and revealing the cause of the fire and added that strict measures will be taken against building owners who violate the law.

"Unfortunately, we received a report of a fire at... exactly 6:00 am (0830 IST) in the Mangaf area," Major General Eid Al-Owaihian, head of the interior ministry's General Department of Criminal Evidence, said.

The majority of the deceased were Indian nationals from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and north Indian states. Their ages ranged between 20 and 50 years, he was quoted as saying by English language daily Arab Times.

The building is rented by the NBTC group. Sources said that a few nationals of other countries were also among victims. Five firefighters sustained injuries during the rescue operation, they said.

"In connection with the tragic fire accident involving Indian workers today, the Embassy has put in place an emergency helpline number: +965-65505246. All concerned are requested to connect over this helpline for updates. Embassy remains committed to render all possible assistance," the Indian Embassy in Kuwait said in a post on X.

Indians constitute 21 per cent (1 million) of the total population of Kuwait and 30 per cent of its workforce (approximately 9 lakhs).

Witnesses quoted by local media highlighted the closure of ground passages with-

in the building as a contributing factor to the severity of the suffocation experienced by many victims. This obstruction hindered residents' movement and further compounded the challenge of evacuating the building swiftly, they said.

They said the sight of flames engulfing the building instilled fear among onlookers.

One eyewitness recalled an incident where a resident worker leaped from the fifth floor, meeting a tragic end as he struck the balcony's edge.

"The fire mishap in Kuwait City is saddening. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait is closely monitoring the situation and working with the authorities there to assist the affected," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh is rushing to Kuwait to oversee assistance to Indians injured in the fire and to ensure early repatriation of mortal remains of those killed.

"Deeply shocked by the news of the fire incident in Kuwait City. There are reportedly over 40 deaths and over 50 have been hospitalized. Our Ambassador has gone to the camp. We are awaiting further information," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in a post on X.

"Deepest condolences to the families of those who tragically lost their lives. Wish early and full recovery to those who have been injured. Our Embassy will render the fullest assistance to all concerned in this regard," he added.

Indian Ambassador Adarsh Swaika visited the fire incident site and later different hospitals (the Al-Adan hospital, Farwaniya Hospital, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital and Jahra Hospital) where over 50 injured Indian workers have been admitted.

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah on Wednesday ordered authorities to probe the massive fire and vowed to hold accountable those responsible for the tragedy.

Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah condoled the deaths and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah, serving as the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Minister of Defence, has ordered police to arrest the owner of the Mangaf building where the fatal blaze occurred Wednesday, the building's janitor, as well as the owner of the company responsible for the workers pending the end of the criminal evidence personnel's examination of the scene, the Kuwait Times reported.

Terrorist design to..

forces in every form and therefore the terrorists and their sponsors should understand once and for all that the misadventure of seeking to sow the seeds of anti-India terrorism in this region will not only boomerang on them but also teach them a befitting lesson.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism as the basic Mantra of government's approach, Dr Jitendra Singh said such incidents are also an indication of terrorism having entered its last phase and terrorists finding themselves at their wit's end. He said, unlike the earlier governments, the government headed by PM Narendra Modi has proven to the world its ability to strike at the right moment and at the right place which was evident in the surgical strike and similar other decisive proactive operations which were undertaken in the last one decade and have contributed to the restoration of peace and normalcy in the Kashmir Valley.

Appreciating the coordination between the civil administration and the security forces, Dr Jitendra Singh said, certain important suggestions have been received today from the security experts which will be placed before the concerned authorities and which might serve as further deterrent for any possible future terror activities.

The VDGs (Village Defence Groups), said Dr Jitendra Singh, are in the process of being revived and made more effective. Security posts will also be set up wherever required, he said.

During his visit to the bereaved family of Amarjeet Sharma, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the family will be provided much more relief, assistance and help than is normally expected after such incidents.

Moreover, he said, he, his supporters and the entire team of BJP takes up the responsibility of looking after the family members of the deceased and ensuring the smooth education of their children. He said a proposal is being mooted to provide nursing job to one of the trained members of the family and similarly other members will also be taken care of.

Dr Jitendra Singh also appreciated the administration and the medical staff of GMC Kathua for having carried out timely and successful orthopaedic surgery on the left humerus of Omprakash who is completely out of danger.

Samba police recovers..

was recovered from the terrace of Tarseem Lal's house at village Burj Tanda near Supwal, the officials said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba Vinay Sharma said the drone appears a toy, having a very low range.

"However, we will conduct proper forensic examination of the object before reaching to any final conclusion," the officer said.

Preparing traffic cops for summer challenges, SANJY 2024, a top priority: DIG Traffic Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To have the field assessment of the summer traffic challenges on Jammu-Lakhanpur highway and prepare a meticulous plan to overcome such Traffic management issues, DIG Traffic Jammu Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal, accompanied by Vinay Kumar, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, Javaid Iqbal Tabassam, DySP Traffic Samba Kathua along with concerned Traffic officers visited the trouble spots created due to the ongoing construction activities. Subsequently, DIG Traffic held an interaction programme with field traffic police officers and officials at Jatwal, Samba.

The assessment of ongoing construction activities and the challenges being posed during these activities were assessed on ground. The bottle necks and choking points were identified on ground. Requisite guidelines, instructions were given to the concerned officers on the spot.

After the field inspection round, All DTIs and SOs (Traffic) and other officers/officials of traffic Samba-Kathua attended the interaction programme.

The motive behind the interaction programme was to actually know the upcoming summer challenges like boom in tourism, trade-transport activities and the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and to sensitize the traffic police officers and men.



DIG Traffic Jammu Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal along with other traffic cops after the meeting.

All the officers, officials who attended the interaction, put forth

their point of concerns, their on-field problems while handling the daily traffic and also suggested a way forward. A large number welfare issues were also raised by the officers and officials. On spot directions were given to the traffic officers and men to remain in constant liaising with road construction agencies to ensure that the regulation of tourist as well as yatra vehicles is ensured in hassle free manners. Beside ensuring proper traffic regulation, traffic police must ensure that no overloading in passenger vehicles should take place in their area of responsibilities, he added. He also stressed for taking strict action against the menace of dangerous/drunken driving which attribute to the accidents causing loss of precious lives. DIG Traffic also said that special drives for awareness on account of wearing crash helmets, maintaining road discipline, check rash and negligent driving etc. The main focus should be on visible traffic offences. DIG Traffic, emphasized on developing better coordination with all construction companies and other stake holders so that an efficient system is created to meet out any Traffic management challenges.

Lastly, the DIG traffic Jammu patted the traffic officers and men of Distt. Samba and Kathua for ensuring smooth conduct of religious functions at Vjajpur where a mammoth gathering of around 3.5 lakh pilgrims attended the function. Smooth movement of the Police and CAPF during the recently conducted General Elections through the length and breadth of the area was also ensured by the meticulous deployment of the Traffic Rural Jammu, was highly appreciated.

Despite the worst road condition right from Lakhanpur to Jammu in view of ongoing road construction activities, all such challenges have been met successfully by the Traffic cops. DIG Traffic Jammu inspired the officers and officials to continue with better zeal and dedication to take on the forthcoming Traffic management challenges.... DIG Traffic Jammu emphasised to Keep up the good work and develop a better public interface.