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India commemorates Kargil...

forever remain etched as a defining moment in India's history.

"On Kargil Vijay Diwas, India salutes the bravery, courage and sacrifice of our armed forces. They fought valiantly in extremely harsh conditions to defend our motherland. Their act of valour & indomitable spirit will remain etched forever as a defining moment in India's history," he tweeted.

Pakistan tried to redraw the boundary with India in 1999 through the Kargil misadventure but the Indian security forces foiled the evil design.

To mark the day, Singh, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in the memory of the fallen heroes.

"During the Kargil conflict, the gallant soldiers of the Indian Army, with the help of the Indian Air Force, overcame insurmountable odds, hostile terrain and inclement weather to win against the enemy that had occupied dominating heights," the defence ministry said.

The Army said Kargil Vijay Diwas is a reminiscence of the "undaunted bravery and courage" of the "bravehearts" who inscribed a golden chapter in history with their blood and sacrifice.

"They gave a befitting reply to enemy's misadventure and a resounding victory to India," it said.

Over 500 soldiers laid down their lives in the conflict.

Events to mark the success of Operation Vijay were held at Northern Command in Udhampur; Tiger division in Jammu, and other formations in Rajouri, Poonch, and Doda.

A wreath laying ceremony was held at War Memorial, Northern Command Headquarter. The day saw top Army officers, joined by the JCOs and soldiers, paying rich tributes to those martyred in the war, a defence spokesperson said.

Major General K Vinod Kumar laid a wreath in the morning at Dhruv War Memorial at Northern Command headquarter, the official said. In remembrance of supreme sacrifices of soldiers during Kargil war, the Tiger division organised the Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations at Tiger War Memorial & Balidan Stambh in Jammu, today, the spokesperson said. Major General Neeraj Gosain, GOC, Tiger division, and all ranks of the Tiger division paid their tributes.

Lt Col Rishma Sarin, wife of Major Mohit Sharma, also paid tributes to the war martyrs. Brigadier Manpervesh Herr, Commander Shivalik Brigade, placed a wreath at Balidan stambh in Jammu. A large number of veterans and Jammu residents were also present on the occasion to remember the Kargil war heroes. A 10km-marathon was organised by prominent citizens of Jammu to express their gratitude to the gallant soldiers, the spokesperson said.

The run culminated at Balidan stambh, with runners carrying the national flag and raising slogans for soldiers, he said.

Col Virender Kumar Sahi, VrC, Col Sham Lal, Captain Shamsher Singh, Havaldar Harbans Lal, and Havaldar Bachan Singh, who took part in the Kargil War gave chilling accounts of their experiences during the event.

Meanwhile, soldiers were remembered for their courage during the war waged along the Line of Control in Kargil area of Ladakh Union Territory.

To commemorate the 23rd Kargil Vijay Diwas, a host of events were organised under the aegis of Northern Command, culminating into the final event on 26th July 2022," he said.

Feroz Ahmed Khan, Chief Executive Councillor Kargil, was the chief guest and Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C, Northern Command was the chief host for Tuesday's event, the spokesperson said.

The events included two cycle rallies, one of which was carried out from Siachen to Kargil War Memorial, and another from Delhi to Drass - both held under a joint initiative by Indian Air Force and Indian Army, the spokesperson said.

Two motorcycle expeditions -- one flagged off by the Vice Chief of Army Staff from Delhi to Drass, and the other from Turtuk to Drass, an ultra-marathon run by Sufiya from Siachen to Drass, and a mountain expedition by Bachendri Pal and team, which traversed 37 passes from Arunachal Pradesh to reach Drass, were also part of events this year.

Kargil Victory Flame was moved through the entire area of Northern Command finally reaching Dras. These events culminated at Kargil War Memorial paving way to a grand ceremony, with multiple cultural and ceremonial programmes, he said.

The events were followed by laying of wreaths by Air Marshal Shreekumar Prabhakaran, AOC-in-C, Western Air Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Lt Gen Anindya Sen Gupta, GOC 14 Corps, and other military dignitaries.

The Kargil Victory Flame was received at Kargil War Memorial by Air Marshal Prabhakaran, Lt Gen Dwivedi, Col Sonam Wangchuk, Brig Mohit Saxena, and Col Praveen Tomar, all being the awardees of Kargil War, the spokesperson said.

A team of Sikh soldiers performed Gatka, a martial arts form with roots in Punjab. The team was part of a battalion that had taken active part in the 1999 War.

It had come all the way from Andaman and Nicobar Islands to be a part of the event. Commemoration of the Kargil War is not merely a revisit to the war account but showcasing of the indomitable spirit, unflinching dedication and selfless service displayed by soldiers. Each story of the war is a saga of honour, courage and sacrifice which is an example to the youth of the entire nation to emulate and strive to make this nation stronger. It is also about sharing with the nation and world at large as to what being a soldier means," the Army statement said.

Police encounters: 9-fold...

and the number has gone up to 151 in 2021-22.

According to the data tabled in Lok Sabha, there were just five police encounters in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020-21 and such cases have been increased to 45 in 2021-22.

Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh had 16 and six encounters in 2020-21 respectively, and numbers have come down in 2021-22 with the former registering 11 cases and the latter recording just two such cases, according to data.

There were just four police encounters in Assam in 2020-21 and the number has gone up to 18 in 2021-22, the data says.

Among other states, there were 24 police encounters in Chhattisgarh in 2020-21 and the number has risen to 30 in 2021-22.

Similarly, in Jharkhand, there were five encounters in 2020-21 and number has increased to nine in 2021-22, the data showed.

Three IPS among...

Commandant, Home Guards, Jammu, vice Vikas Gupta, who has been posted as OSD in Prisons Department. Maqsood-Ul-Zaman, SSP, awaiting posting in the Police Headquarters, has been posted as SO to IGP Traffic, J&K; Dr S D Choudhary, SP, PTWS Srinagar; has been transferred and posted as SP Enforcement; Sunim Kotwal, SP, awaiting posting in the Police Headquarters, has been posted as Dy.CO IR-14th Bn.; Zulafqar Ahmad, Addl. SP Kulgam, has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP CID CI, Rajouri; Surinder Kumar, Dy.CO IR-9th Bn., has been transferred and posted Addl. SP Samba; Balwant Raj, Addl. SP CID CI Rajouri, has been transferred and posted Dy.CO JKAP-8th Bn.; AND Feroz Ahmad, Dy.CO IR-I 1th Bn., has been transferred and posted SP, PTWS Srinagar.

SIA files charge-sheet...

The case pertains to the seizure of Rs 43 lakhs by the Jammu police at Sidhra bridge from three persons travelling in a passenger taxi towards Kashmir on November 16, 2021.

The original chargesheet was filed on May 14 against two accused persons -- Mouzamm Parvez and Umar Farooq, both residents of Dalipora village of Pulwama who had collected the cash from Amritsar in Punjab.

"Investigations have revealed that the accused Parvez and Farooq had conspired with Muzammil Malik and accused Nengroo and knowingly facilitated the movement of terror funds which were to be further distributed to JeM terrorists operating in valley for launching terrorist attacks in India," the official said.

He said the terror funding was facilitated by Malik, who had managed the travel of accused Parvez and Farooq in his truck, and Punjab based gangsters and narcotics smugglers who delivered the terror funding amount.

Parvez and Farooq had received the illegal terror funding amount of Rs 15 lakhs as per the directions received from Pakistan-based designated terrorist (Nengroo) from Amarbir Singh at Amritsar at a pre-decided location on Amritsar highway. He was assisted by his close associates Ravi Kumar and Jaideep Dhawan. Arms and ammunition were also recovered from the residence of Kumar at Amritsar," the official said.

He said Amarbir Singh is a gangster in Punjab associated with narcotics and weapons smuggler Baljinder Singh alias Billa Mandiala, and involved in more than 23 FIRs of murder and extortion.

LG expresses gratitude...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning the ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the families of those who lost their loved ones in the tragic incident of flash-flood near Shri Amarnathji cave", said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also thanked the central government for extending the financial assistance of Rs 50,000 to the seriously injured.

Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board has already disbursed Rs 4 Lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased.

Amarnath Yatra suspended...

away few tents and langar stalls.

Rescue operations went on for six days.

Earlier, A fresh batch of over 2,100 pilgrims on Tuesday left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here to offer prayers at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

A total of 2,189 pilgrims, the lowest till date this year, formed the 26th batch that left in a convoy of 73 vehicles amid heavy security of the Central Reserve Police Force this morning, they said.

The officials said 815 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Jammu camp in 23 vehicles, followed by the second convoy of 49 vehicles carrying 1,374 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

The number of pilgrims visiting the cave shrine has drastically fallen in past two days. The reason, however, is yet to be ascertained, officials said.

The annual 43-day yatra commenced from the twin base camps -- traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- on June 30. Over 2.30 lakh pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, officials said.

Court cannot enter...

as well as commandments of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) prohibiting interest. "It is of common knowledge that receiving and giving of interest (Riba in Quranic parlance) besides being prohibited for Muslims is widely disliked by other faiths as well," the Forum said. "In Hinduism it is said that Brahmana and a Kshatriya shall not lend anything at interest." The Forum submits that even the United Nations has acknowledged the role of Zakat in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). "The United Nations Organization set up an Millennium Development Goals in 2000 and laid down the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) blueprint and the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expiring at the end of the year 2015- are composed of 17 goals and 169 targets. The said programme was renewed for another 15 years in 2015. Among other goals to achieve the sustainable development, United Nations Development programme has identified that Zakat as main factor for achieving the goal", reads the PIL. On March 19, 2018, the High Court had asked Union Finance Ministry, Reserve Bank of India, Jammu and Kashmir Government and Jammu and Kashmir Bank to respond to the PIL.

The DB, after hearing both the sides observed that 4. A counter affidavit has been filed on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India and it has been stated that in the year 2013, Ministry of Finance, Government of India had requested the Reserve Bank of India to give its opinion on introduction of Islamic Banking in India. An inter-departmental group was constituted under the Chairmanship and one Rajesh Verma to examine the feasibility of introducing Islamic Banking in India. The said committee vide its report declined to introduce Islamic Banking, however, the Government appointed another committee headed by Deepak Mohanty in the year 2015 to look into the above aspect. The said committee vide its report submitted to the Reserve Bank of India on December 28, 2015 made certain recommendations permitting interest free banking in certain respects but the said report was not accepted by the Government. The Government vide its letter dated March 21, 2017 specifically conveyed its decision that Islamic Banking is not feasible and Shariah Banking Window cannot be opened. The said communication of the Government, is on record as Annexure-I, to the counter affidavit of the Reserve Bank of India.

While closing the Public Interest Litigation, the DB further observed that the above decision of the Government is a policy decision which is beyond the purview of judicial review more particularly in a public interest petition. DB holds that the Court cannot enter into the realm of policy decision of the Government. In case petitioner or any person is aggrieved by the above policy decision it may take appropriate steps to challenge it before the proper forum, if advised and disposed of the PIL.

J&K Govt constitutes...

the rank of Chief Engineer to be nominated by the Government of Member Himachal Pradesh, Representative from Central Water Commission, Representative from Central Engineering Board, Representative from NIT Srinagar and Representative from IIT Jammu.

The order said that the members of UT Dam Safety Organization include Superintending Engineer, National Hydro-Member electric Power Corporation, Superintending Engineer, Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Doda, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Baramulla and Director Monitoring and Appraisal Central Water Commission Jammu.

As per order these bodies shall function in terms of mandate provided in the Dam Safety Act, 2021.

Record 19 MPs...

government, which insisted that the discussion will be held once Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recovers from COVID-19.

An unrelenting Opposition created a ruckus in Rajya Sabha, with the penalised MPs refusing to leave the House, and alleged that "democracy has been suspended" in the country.

Of the 19 MPs suspended from Rajya Sabha, seven belong to the Trinamool Congress, six are from the DMK, three from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), two from the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and one from the Communist Party of India (CPI).

The first seven days of the Monsoon session were virtually washed out as the two Houses were rocked by Opposition protests to press for an immediate discussion on rising prices of fuel and essential commodities as well as levy of GST on wheat, rice, flour, curd and other daily use items.

On Tuesday too, Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned for an hour after it assembled but Deputy Chairman Harivansh managed to conduct Question Hour despite opposition MPs trooping into the well and shouting slogans.

But in the post-lunch session, when the government legislative business was to be taken up, Harivansh repeatedly asked the protesting members to return to their seats and warned them of action.

Senior opposition leaders like Ramgopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party, TMC's Derek O'Brien and others demanded the suspension of business to discuss price rise but the chair wanted The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 to be discussed.

When his pleas went unheeded, Harivansh asked the treasury benches to move a resolution for suspension.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan moved a motion to suspend 10 MPs - seven from the TMC, Mohammed Abdulla and Kanimozhi NVN Somu of the DMK and AA Rahim of the CPM - from the sitting of the House for the remainder of the week for their "misconduct" by showing "utter disregard to the House and authority of the chair".

The TMC MPs were Sushmita Dev, Mausam Noor, Shanta Chhetri, Dola Sen, Santanu Sen, Abir Ranjan Biswas and Md. Nadimul Haque.

Nine more names - B Lingaiyah Yadav, Ravichandra Vaddiraju and Damodar Rao Divakonda of the TRS; S Kalyanasundaram, R Girirajan, NR Elango and M Shanmugam of the DMK, CPM's V Sivadasan and Santhosh Kumar P of CPI were added - when Harivansh put the motion to vote.

MPs from Congress, which has been part of the protests over the price rise issue, were agitating outside the House over ED action against party president Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case.

The motion to suspend was passed by a voice vote. When some opposition MPs demanded a division of votes, the chair said he would do so if the members returned to their seats and the House was brought to order.

With the MPs refusing to budge, he said it seems they are not interested in the division and declared that the motion has been adopted.

This is the highest number of suspensions at a go in Rajya Sabha as the previous record was on the first day of the Winter session in November last year when 12 MPs were suspended for the ruckus they had created in the previous Monsoon session in August.

A 13th MP, Derek O'Brien, was suspended on the last day of that session, while seven MPs were suspended for "unruly" behaviour during the passage of farm laws in the Monsoon session of 2020.

ED questions Sonia...

under scanner in the case, officials said.

She was questioned for nearly 2.5 hours at the ED office in central Delhi from 11 AM which continued after 90-minute lunch break before ending at around 7 PM.

The Congress chief had reached the ED office in the morning with her Z+ armed security cover, and was accompanied by Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

While Priyanka stayed back at the ED office, Rahul left soon after to join the Congress protests.

Priyanka was in another room at the ED office so she could meet her mother to provide her medicines or medical assistance if necessary, officials said.

Sonia Gandhi was questioned for over two hours on July 21 during which she replied to 28 questions put forth by the agency. She had reiterated the Congress party stand that the Young Indian was a "not for profit" company and no personal benefits were gained by them.

The Lok Sabha MP from Rae Bareli was quizzed on Tuesday on the functioning and running of the newspaper; the role of its various office bearers, and her and Rahul Gandhi's participation in the affairs of the National Herald and Young Indian.

The agency will also corroborate her statement with that of Rahul Gandhi as both put together are majority stakeholders in Young Indian, officials said.

The questioning of the Gandhis pertains to the charge of alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

The ED questioned Rahul Gandhi last month in sessions that clocked over 50 hours over five days.

The Congress has slammed the agency's action against its top leadership and termed it

"political vendetta".

Delhi Police deployed a huge force, including CRPF and RAF personnel, and barricaded the entire over one kilometre stretch between her residence and the ED office. Traffic restrictions were also imposed in the area.

Rahul Gandhi and Congress MPs had gathered at the Vijay Chowk to march towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan to draw the President's attention to the alleged misuse of central agencies by the government, but were stopped by the police.

"I am not going anywhere. We wanted to go towards the President's house. But the police are not allowing us," Gandhi said.

"All Congress MPs stopped at Vijay Chowk and prevented from marching to Rashtrapati Bhavan. Forcibly arrested. Now we are in police buses being taken to