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### Country's economic prowess...

continue to play a major role in wars. In the modern battlefields, the ammunition are coming forward in their new avatar, he mentioned.

"They are able to take inputs by themselves, do course correction and target a particular place at a specific time once they have been programmed to do so," the minister noted. "Like any capable hunter, these ammunition are able to keep their sight at the target for a very long time," Singh said.

### 692 fresh COVID...

There are 4,074 active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said. So far, 4,53,108 people have recovered from the disease, they said.

Meanwhile Ladakh has reported 21 fresh cases of COVID-19, raising the infection tally to 28,821, officials said.

All the cases were reported from Leh district, they said.

So far, 228 people have succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported from Leh and 60 from Kargil, they said.

There are 150 active Covid cases in Ladakh, including 141 in Leh and nine in Kargil. A total of 23 people were discharged from hospitals -- 21 from Leh and two from Kargil -- and the total number of recoveries stands at 28,443, they said.

### Two ancient sculptures..

took possession of the sculpture. A team of officers from the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums was called for examination of the recovered sculpture at the district police headquarters, he said.

During the examination, it was revealed that the sculpture is of Lord Vishnu and dates back roughly to the 9th Century AD (about 1,200 years old), he said.

The spokesman said the sculpture is three-headed and has four arms with a lotus on the upper right hand. It is a mixture of Gandhara and Mathura School of Art, he added.

Similarly, another sculpture was recovered from the Khag area of Budgam by the police. It was also examined by the team of Department Archives, Archaeology and Museums who established that the sculpture is the fragment of Panch Mukh, the spokesman said.

Both these sculptures were handed over to Deputy Director, Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Kashmir, Muftaq Ahmad Beigh and his team by Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, Tahir Saleem Khan, he said.

### Rajesh Sekhri elevated...

Graduation from Government Gandhi Memorial Science College and LLB from Faculty of Law, University of Jammu in the year 1989; passed K.C.S. (Judicial) and joined as Munsiff in 1995. He was promoted as Sub-Judge, in 1998 and as District and Sessions Judge in 2008 and got selection Grade in 2014 with effect from June 2013 and was placed in Super Time scale in 2017.

He served as CJM, Rajouri and Kargil as District Judge, as Special Judge TADA/POTA Court Srinagar, Additional District Judge Anantnag, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Principal District Judge, Reasi, Ramtan and Baramulla. He also served as Special Judge Anti-corruption CBI cases, Jammu and presently posted as Judicial Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu.

### Soldier injured in...

operation at Brayhard Kathpora in Kulgam following information about presence of terrorists there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the ultras fired upon the security forces, who retaliated.

A search operation is underway to trace the terrorists who apparently managed to escape from the spot.

### Amarnath Yatra: 1,147...

annual pilgrimage from here on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively.

In the 26th batch of pilgrims, 1,147 people left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here on Wednesday morning in a convoy of 47 vehicles amid heavy security provided by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the officials said.

They said 476 pilgrims headed for Batala were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 18 vehicles, followed by a second convoy of 29 vehicles carrying 671 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

The number of pilgrims has drastically fallen in the last three days mostly due to bad weather conditions, the officials said.

The annual 43-day pilgrimage commenced on the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag and the 14-km shorter Batala route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on June 30.

Over 2.3 lakh pilgrims have so far offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing a naturally formed ice-shivlingam, the officials said.

A total of 1,38,921 pilgrims have left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The yatra is scheduled to be concluded on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. A total of 36 people, mostly pilgrims, have died during the ongoing yatra, excluding 15 pilgrims who were killed in flash floods near the cave shrine on July 1.

### 6,514 KPs still...

in 2021, he said. Since the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019, nine government employees (excluding security forces) have lost their lives in terror-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, Rai said.

### Money laundering promotes...

including to their integrity and sovereignty.

"The international community deliberated over the dispensation to be provided to address the serious threat posed by the process and activities connected with the proceeds of crime and integrating it with formal financial systems of the countries," it said.

The bench observed that Parliament enacted the PMLA as a result of international commitment to sternly deal with the menace of laundering of proceeds of crime having transnational consequences.

"It is crystal clear from the Preamble that the Act has been enacted to prevent money laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from or involved in money laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto," it said.

The Act, it said, is neither a pure regulatory legislation nor a pure penal legisla-



mentation partner for NIDHI EIR programme. The main objective of the NIDHI EIR programme is to encourage graduating students to take entrepreneurship instead of seeking jobs. The selected NIDHI-EIR support recipient (aspiring entrepreneurs/startups) is eligible for grant up to Rs. 30,000 per month for a period of 12 months. This fellowship is extendable up to 18 months in case of deserving candidates. Since the launch of NIDHI EIR program grant of Rs.19,03 crore has been disbursed to 604 number of aspiring entrepreneurs or

startups. The exact number of Start-Ups supported under the NIDHI-EIR programme State-wise are as follows - Andhra Pradesh-6, Assam-12, Bihar-10, Chhattisgarh-8, Goa-6, Gujarat-33, Haryana-13, Himachal Pradesh-2, Jammu and Kashmir-3, Jharkhand-4, Karnataka-90, Kerala-31, Madhya Pradesh-18, Maharashtra-94, Manipur-1, Odisha-47, Punjab-2, Rajasthan-18, Tamil Nadu-77, Telangana-18, Uttaranchal-6, Uttar Pradesh-54, West Bengal-25, Delhi-25 and Pondicherry-1, totalling 604.

tion but an amalgam of several facets essential to addressing the scourge of money laundering.

It said while considering the challenge to the relevant provisions of the Act, the court cannot be oblivious to the objects and reasons for enacting such a special legislation and the seriousness of the issues to be dealt with.

"Every provision in the 2002 Act will have to be given its due significance while keeping in mind the legislative intent for providing a special mechanism to deal with the scourge of money laundering recognised world over and with the need to deal with it sternly," it said.

The bench noted that as the world progressed to a digital age, criminals found new ways to launder and the law found new ways to tackle them.

"Today, as we will see, many of the amendments in the 2002 Act are in response to the recommendations of the FATF (Financial Action Task Force)," it said.

FATF is an intergovernmental organisation aimed at combating money laundering internationally.

The top court delivered its verdict on a clutch of petitions concerning the interpretation of certain provisions of the PMLA.

It upheld the ED's powers to arrest, attach property involved in money laundering, and conduct search and seizure under the PMLA.

### Yasin Malik hospitalised..

monitored, the sources said.

Malik (56), head of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), began his indefinite hunger strike on Friday morning after the Centre did not respond to his plea that he be allowed to physically appear in a Jammu court hearing the Rubaiya Sayeed abduction case, in which he is an accused.

The separatist leader, who was kept in solitary confinement in a high-risk cell in Tihar's prison number 7, was shifted to the prison's medical investigation room where he was being given IV fluids.

Hurriyat Conference headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Wednesday expressed serious concern over the health and safety of Malik.

The JKLF chief is serving a life sentence in a terror-funding case.

Appearing before a special CBI judge through a video-conference on July 13, Malik had said he wanted to physically appear in the case related to the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, in 1989.

The separatist leader had said he would like to personally cross-examine the prosecution witnesses and would wait for a government nod till July 22. He had also said he would sit on an indefinite hunger strike inside the jail if his plea was not allowed.

Malik began his protest when he received no information from the government on his plea to shift him to a prison in Jammu.

### 2 persons associated...

Currently, there is no restriction on internet services in Jammu and Kashmir.

As a law enforcing agency, police is duty bound to take action under law against any person (without any discrimination of profession or otherwise) who is found involved in such activities prejudicial to the security and sovereignty of the country.

Rai said the orders of temporary suspension of internet services, issued by the competent authority, under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, during emergent situations, are uploaded on the official website of the government of Jammu and Kashmir.

### EC conducts workshop...

Srinagar, the spokesman said.

The proceedings of the workshop were presided over by Director EVM, ECI, S Sunder Rajan in the presence of Secretary, ECI, Madhusudan Gupta and Under Secretary ECI, O P Sahani, he said.

Members from ECIL comprising deputy general manager P C Mandal, senior manager A Sunil, technical officer-C V Dinesh Datta and technical officer-V Venkanna were also part of the programme, the spokesman said.

All 10 DEOs of the Kashmir division besides all DDEOs participated in the workshop, he said.

During the workshop, various aspects and issues related to EVMs and VVPATs besides FLC basics including most important starting steps, technical and administrative security, quality of machines, political parties participation and introduction of P-FLCU were deliberated upon threadbare, the spokesman said.

The other issues were also highlighted and demonstrated to deal with all stakeholders to conduct the election process smoothly, he said.

The officers were also made aware about installation and other process of first level checking of EVM process, he added.

### Sonia questioned by...

been quizzed for more than 11 hours over three days during which she had to answer around 100 questions, the officials said. While her first round of questioning took place on July 21, the second round was on Tuesday.

As Congress leaders continued their protests in several states against Sonia's questioning, BJP President JP Nadda hit out at the opposition party, saying it thinks that one family is above the law.

Describing Congress protests as an "attempt to hide the truth", Nadda said the Congress thinks that one family (Gandhis) is above the law. "But this wouldn't work in this country as laws and rules are equal for all."

He further said everybody is answerable in front of law, and the "Gandhis should answer the investigation agencies, but they think they are above the law."

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur accused the Congress of trying to "mislead and pressure" central probe agencies through street protests.

"Why is the Congress running away from the probe? What do they have to hide? Is the Gandhi family above law? Should there be a separate law for the Gandhi family? Why are they running away from the (probe) agencies? They should also face the probe," Thakur told reporters.

But the Congress alleged that the money-laundering law has been weaponised to target and humiliate people, and urged the Supreme Court to decide soon on the matter concerning the National Herald-Associated Journals Limited case.

The Congress also fielded its senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad in solidarity with Sonia Gandhi and said political opponents should not be treated as "enemies".

Azad, a prominent member of the "Group of 23 (G-23)" that has been critical of the Congress leadership, said the ED should keep in mind the age and health of Sonia Gandhi before subjecting her to repeated questioning in the case.

He said the Congress chief is aged, has not been well and was admitted to a hospital, adding she cannot withhold the pressure of probe agencies.

"Even in wars, kings used to give directions that women should not be attacked and those not keeping well should be spared," Azad said, urging the agencies not to be harsh on Sonia Gandhi.

The Act, it said, is neither a pure regulatory legislation nor a pure penal legisla-

### Devak- Hathal road example of BJP's model of development: Congress

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: Expressing grave concern over the deplorable condition of Letar Devak- Hathal road in block Sunderbani, Former MLC and Chief Spokesperson JKPCC Ravinder Sharma said that this road is class example of BJP model of development.



During his tour of the area, the people complained about lack of response to their hardships by the government and ruling leaders and they suffer despite utilising crores of rupees on this road just a couple of years ago.

They have lodged several protests and submitted numerous representations to various authorities seeking enquiry and improvement of road but have fallen on deaf ears.

The people were resentful that they were assured darbar of the DDC in the area today but its venue was rescheduled to Sunderbani

The people also demanded the sitting of Tehsildar Sunderbani once in a week to resolve the issues in spot.

The people also expressed resentment over the cancellation of the BDO block and Niabat at Devak, sanctioned by the previous Congress - NC Govt. in the area.

Sharma assured the people to highlight their problems to the higher authorities for redressal.

### DC Kathua reviews progress of banks

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A DLRC meeting was convened at the DDC Office, Kathua to review the flow of credit, performance of banks in key areas relating to Deposits, Advances under priority sector, Govt.

Sponsored Schemes, lending for the quarter ended 30th June, 2022 and performance of RSETI, Kathua.

The meeting was chaired by Rahul Pandey, DDC Kathua and convened by G M Wani, LDM Kathua.

The prominent persons who attended the meeting were, Uttam Singh, Chief Planning officer, Director RSETI Kathua, Paras Ram, Rohit Kashyap (LDO), Amit Kumar (DDM, NABARD), and senior offi-

cers from Banks and officials from line departments.

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to set up new units of economic activities and thereby increase the C.D Ratio of the district. He impressed upon the banks and line departments to ensure effective coordination in their working.

He desired that potential under Agri and allied activities be exploited fully to achieve the benchmark of 18%.

The chairman exhorted upon the banks to exploit all resources at their disposal and come out with concrete action plan to increase present CD-ratio of 46.11 % to minimum 60% by the end of financial year 2022-23.

He advised that banks-specific action plans should be devised for better focus on increase in CD ratio.

He