

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Major terror strike...

have carried out major terrorist-initiated incidents in coming days," Commander, 6 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, Brigadier M P Singh told reporters in Poonch.

'Operation Trinetra' was launched by the Army in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist ambush on security forces' vehicles in the Mendhar area of Poonch that left five soldiers dead on April 20.

Brig Singh, who was also flanked by Poonch Senior Superintendent of Police Vinay Sharma, said a joint operation was launched by the Army and the police in the forest area on July 16 as part of relentless operations over the past three months after getting information about movement of unidentified persons in the general area of Sindarah.

"Accordingly, the area was cordoned off after a specific intelligence with regard to the presence of armed terrorists. Based on this, Army and Special Operations Group of Jammu Kashmir Police launched a specific cordon and search operation of this area (on July 17)," he said.

After establishing an effective cordon, the Army officer said, the troops commenced their search and approached Sindarah village. "Four terrorists who had taken shelter in the forest near the village opened indiscriminate fire on the approaching troops. Their fire was promptly retaliated and the terrorists were pinned down."

Brig Singh said the cordon was then readjusted to deny any space to the terrorists to escape.

"Special Forces (of the Army) were also inducted to augment the troops. The terrorists making use of the terrain, forest foliage and inclement weather kept opening fire on the troops in a desperate attempt to break the cordon," he said.

He said the intermittent fire between terrorists and the search parties continued throughout the day and the night before the guns fell silent around 5.30 am.

In the morning, the officer said, a detailed search of the area was carried out which led to the recovery of the bodies of slain terrorists and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, which included four Chinese-make AK assault rifles and two pistols with a Pakistani marking.

"This joint action by Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police has resulted in saving the lives and contributed towards maintaining peace in the region. The relentless efforts by security forces in past few months have started giving results," he said, asserting that the operations against terrorists would continue with renewed vigour to make the region terrorism-free.

The officer lauded the cooperation of the forces as well as the locals and said the people played a key role in the successful operation which speaks volumes about the love for their nation and maintaining peace.

Referring to the recent killing of terrorists on the LoC while attempting to sneak into this side from across the border, Brigadier Singh said, "It shows the neighbouring country (Pakistan) will not stop and make continue attempts to disturb our region. We will not stop and eliminate all terrorists who are hiding in the area."

SSP Poonch Vinay Sharma said the successful operation is the glaring example of the synergy between the Army and the police in the fight against terrorism.

"The joint operation against terrorists will continue," he said.

Security forces killed two terrorists and foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Poonch district, a defence spokesperson had said on Monday.

First batch of ...

journey. During interaction with pilgrims, the Div Com enquired about arrangements made for their smooth and peaceful pilgrimage.

He also took stock of arrangements for the smooth arrival of pilgrims and instructed concerned to ensure comfortable and hassle-free movement of pilgrims towards their respective places. On the occasion, pilgrims expressed their gratitude to the Lt. Governor's Administration for making elaborative arrangements for the smooth pilgrimage.

New IT towers...

The deliberation with officers of Industries & Commerce, Department of Information Technology and domain experts focussed on latest technological advancements, establishment of a Centre of excellence for cyber security and introducing academic courses on Artificial Intelligence, Coding, Big Data etc.

Discussing the reforms in school education, the Lt Governor said that there is a need to systematically identify and to bridge the gaps in School Education sector in terms of Infrastructure, Skill development at par with Global standards.

The Lt Governor also emphasised on improving the learning outcome, use of technology, focus on Emotional quotient (EQ) and Intelligence Quotient (IQ) to make learning a joyful activity.

"School education department, school management and education planners, domain experts should work together for quality education. Our prime objective is to be at par with best schools in the country in terms of well-equipped laboratories and faculties," the Lt Governor said.

6,225 pilgrims leave for Amarnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A fresh batch of 6,225 pilgrims left the base camp here on Tuesday for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

The pilgrims left in a convoy of 217 vehicles amid tight security. While 3,714 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 131 vehicles for the valley, another convoy of 86 vehicles carrying 2,511 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp.

With this, a total of 99,738 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30 when the first batch of devotees began the yatra. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. Over 2.30 lakh devotees have paid obeisance so far. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

Cop on Amarnath duty dies in accident, total deaths during yatra climbs to 31

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An on-duty policeman died in a road accident in the outskirts of the city, taking the death toll during this year's Amarnath Yatra in the south Kashmir Himalayas to 31, officials said on Tuesday.

Special Police Officer Zahoor Ahmad Khan was hit by a vehicle in the city's Maloora area late on Monday while he was on yatra duty, they said. Khan died due to his injuries, the officials added. More than 2.60 lakh pilgrims have visited the cave shrine to glimpse the natural ice lingam formation. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

ATM guard's killing: SIA raids houses of 3 LeT terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) conducted raids at multiple locations, including houses of three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, in three districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday in connection with the killing of bank ATM guard Sanjay Sharma earlier this year, officials said.

Sharma was killed by terrorists in Achan area of Pulwama in south Kashmir in February.

The SIA, during its third round of searches in the minority killing case, conducted raids at 10 places -- five in

Anantnag, four in Shopian, and one in Kulgam -- in south Kashmir in the wee hours, the officials said. The 10 target premises also included residential houses of three active terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba namely Danish Hamid Thoker alias Khalid, and Ubaid Padder -- both from Chakoora Shopian, and Abrar Farooq Wani of Heff Shirmal. These active terrorists have "relevance" in the under investigation case, the officials said. The searches were conducted by 10 special teams of the SIA in pursuance of search warrants issued by the Special UAPA

Court, Pulwama to collect evidence relevant to the ongoing investigation necessary to unearth conspiracy of minority killings in south Kashmir; they said. While launching specific hunt for substantial evidences, the SIA searched various structures and house keeping records at target places and questioned many individuals for ascertaining circumstances and evidences in the case, they added. The SIA has been narrowing down efforts to attain specifications and evidentiary data for the logical conclusion of the case for judicial determination, the officials said.

The Lt Governor directed the school education department to introduce the reform in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions on a pilot basis in selected schools.

He also suggested for creation of a database of alumni from IIT and IIM, who would subsequently adopt students from different schools for handholding and guidance.

Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary School Education Department; Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vikranjit Singh, Commissioner /Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Prerna Puri, Commissioner Secretary, IT Department; Sanjay Gaden, J&K IT Consultant and Vish Narayanan, IIT BHU Alumni & Startup Investor attended the meeting and shared their valuable inputs for the formulation of strategies in their respective sectors.

PDP leader 'rapes'...

Shafi barged into the house in the absence of her family members. Firstly she was molested by him and later she was raped. Acting on the complaint, the police got conducted her medical examination and registered an FIR in this context. Acting swiftly, raids were conducted and the accused PDP leader was arrested.

Embracing AI to...

Dr Mehta even advised the local NIC to generate reports highlighting the performance of different government departments onboard on e-office. He called for pin-pointing different users whose disposal of files is poor or whose take-off on the software is negligible. He made out that such an attitude on part of any government officer/official is unacceptable and should be viewed seriously.

He advised creating mass awareness about the services offered online particularly in rural areas. He asked for holding such informative sessions during morning assemblies in schools and workshops in higher educational institutions to train around 10 lakh youth in making good use of these online platforms.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also launched a 'painting' and 'photo caption' competition as part of the 'Digital J&K' campaign. Both these competitions are aimed at creating awareness about the Digital initiatives rolled out by government. The link for registration by interested persons would be available online on JKMyGov application to be reached out at the URL <http://jk.mygov.in>.

Talking about these initiatives the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri stated that it would offer an opportunity to people to showcase their talent and creativity while capturing the captivating essence of Digital J&K.

She revealed that the participants stand a chance to win prizes also. The top five winners of the selected best entries shall be awarded cash prizes and a certificate of appreciation by the Department. The prize amount for 1st Prize is ₹ 10,000, ₹ 5,000 for 2nd position holder; and ₹ 3,000 as an award for winner at 3rd position. In addition two Consolation Prizes of ₹ 2,000 each would also be given in each category, she informed. The timeline of the Contest has been fixed for 24 days till 11th of August, 2023, as was learnt during this meeting. Those who were present on this occasion includes Principal Secretary, Education; IT Consultant for UT; SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers of the Department.

Crime Branch's 5...

the Trust/Association headed by the Moulana Shakeel-Ur-Rehman Bhat, son of Ab. Hamid Bhat, resident of Sangaldan Gool District Ramban at present Aisha Nagar Bathindi Jammu in connivance with Gowhar Ayoub, son of Mohd. Ayoub, resident of Maitra Tehsil and District Ramban at present resident of 158 ESWYN Road SW 198 TN London UK and others have committed criminal breach of trust by misusing Foreign Contributions/Financial Aid received from various NGOs based in foreign countries contrary to the aims and objectives described in the trust deed of Moulana Ali Miyan Nadvi Educational and Charitable Trust Bathindi Jammu (MANNECT) intentionally and fraudulently for their personal gain and in contravention to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. 2010.

The omissions and commissions, thereof, on the part of Moulana Shakeel-Ur-Rehman Bhat and Gowhar Ayoub and others prima facie constitute offences punishable under sections 35 FCRA r/w 107, 409, IPC. Accordingly, FIR is registered with (EOW) Crime Branch, Jammu for detailed probe.

IAS, 12 JKAS...

Secretary, Revenue Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Poonch vice Malikzada Sheraz-ul Haq, JKAS, who has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Culture Department.

According to separate order, Gurmukh Singh, JKAS, Joint Transport Commissioner, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, Jammu; Vinay Samotra, JKAS, Additional Secretary in the J&K Public Service Commission has been transferred and posted as Joint Transport Commissioner; Girdhari Lal, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Additional Secretary in the J&K Public Service Commission.

Ranjit Singh, JKAS, Deputy Excise Commissioner (Distilleries), Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner; Kathua; Suresh Chander, JKAS, Registrar, District Kathua has been transferred and posted as

Additional Deputy Commissioner; Samba; Deepika Rana, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kathua has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment; Rakesh Dubey, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner; Samba has been transferred and posted as Joint Registrar; Cooperatives (Banking and Finance), J&K; Ramkesh Sharma, JKAS, Additional Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Excise Commissioner (Distilleries), Jammu; Sudhir Bali, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Additional Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department.

Ex-serviceman detained...

Jammu recommended his detention, the spokesperson said.

He said the Jammu district magistrate issued a detention order against the conman who was named in nine FIRs and two preliminary verifications in the crime branch here.

The first FIR against Lal was lodged in the crime branch Jammu in 2006 for fabricating fake and forged appointment orders and targeting the unemployed youth.

According to the complaints and FIRs, he has cheated 19 such youths and swindled lakhs of rupees from them, the spokesperson said.

He said a few of his associates have been booked while some are under the scanner of investigation.

Crime branch headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir has asked its various wings to initiate similar action against repeat and habitual offenders and also investigate their cases speedily to bring them to justice at the earliest, the spokesperson said.

Despite challenges roots...

to young artists from across the country to showcase their talents.

He said, the young artists from different states and UTs are getting an opportunity to fill crores of souls with their performances.

"Music, dance, theatre are not merely art forms but these are the keys that open all the locks of vast existence and tremendous possibilities of life," the Lt Governor said.

"Artists are real treasure and pride of the country, and the wealth they possess cannot be equated with any material wealth. In different art forms, one can have a glimpse of existence and realise the mystic path of life," he observed.

He acknowledged the immense contribution of the artists in weaving many sects, customs, religion, culture, language, social system in the garland of unity and spreading its fragrance in every corner of the world.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amrit Yuva Kalotsav reflects society's aspirations and motivates young generation to move forward in the journey of Amrit Kaal with a new vigour; new dreams, determination and commitment to nation building," the Lt Governor said.

The biggest strength of our culture is unity in diversity. In order to strengthen this diversity, to bring states, cultures, languages, artists, youth closer to each other, Prime Minister had started the mission of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', he added.

"I am really proud that different states of the country have come closer; geographical distances have disappeared and people are taking interest in each other's food habits, culture, language and lifestyle. The culture of different parts of the nation together makes stronger, vibrant and incredible India," the Lt Governor said.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor said, "there has to be a fine balance between science and music, only then the consciousness of the society will bloom, only then the nation will be able to progress".

The mind and consciousness of the society both are born out of the art. Consciousness is deeply embedded in poetry, music and different forms of art. No matter how developed a society is, no matter to what extent artificial intelligence is influencing our lives, it will be incomplete without art, the Lt Governor observed.

He said, the sensibility of the artists is absolutely pure, as pure as the mind of a small child.

When such artists rise up and start connecting hearts through programme like Amrit Yuva Kalotsav, then their generosity, their tolerance, their spirit of philanthropy, austerity, sacrifice and spiritual practice contributes in the rapid progress of the nation and no force of the world can stop the prosperity of such society, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the endeavours of the UT Administration for the revival of old Crafts of Jammu Kashmir like Namda and the initiatives taken for the training of the artisans.

Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi shared the efforts of the Akademi to promote the art and culture of Jammu Kashmir. She informed that the Sangeet Natak Akademi will organise workshop on Bhand-Pather across the country. Sujit Singh, DIG; Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Raju Das, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi; renowned artists, prominent citizens and youth were present on the occasion.

Two labourers killed as landslide hits construction site

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Two labourers were killed and six others injured after a landslide hit an under-construction building in Udhampur district on Tuesday, officials said.

A group of labourers were busy in construction work at Kallar near vegetable market in Udhampur town when they came under the landslide around 11.45 am, a police official said.

He said a rescue operation was launched immediately and six labourers were rescued in an injured condition and shifted to hospital.

Bodies of two labourers were recovered by a joint rescue team of police, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) after several hours of search, the official said while identifying one of the deceased as Anirudh Kumar, a resident of Madhya Pradesh.

The identity of the other deceased is being ascer-

tained, the official said.

Earlier, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Joginder Singh Jasrotia who inspected the scene said nine labourers were at the scene when the landslide struck.

Meanwhile, a three-member inquiry committee has been set up by ADC Jasrotia to ascertain the facts related to the incident.

Leopard injures 12 people in Anantnag

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: At least 12 people were injured on Monday when a leopard ran amok in Anantnag district, officials said. The incident took place in Sallar village of the Pahalgam area of the south Kashmir district, they said. The officials said the leopard emerged out of the forest area and attacked people, injuring 12 of them.

Those injured were taken to a nearby hospital from where they were referred to the GMC in Anantnag, they added.

Cong, NC announce pre-poll alliance for LAHDC-Kargil election

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: The Congress and the National Conference on Tuesday announced a pre-poll alliance for the election to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil.

The election to the 30-seat council, currently headed by NC leader Feroz Ahmad Khan, is likely to be held in September. The five-year term of the council will end in October.

Leaders of the Congress and the NC announced the alliance at a joint press conference in Kargil and said the

decision was taken to keep the BJP-RSS at bay.

"Time has come for secular parties to stand united against the BJP and like-minded parties to safeguard the Constitution and democracy," working president of the Ladakh unit of the Congress, Asghar Ali Karbalai, said.

He said both the parties will work together in the upcoming election and "we will not provide any opportunity to the BJP to have a platform in Kargil".

The parties have agreed on 50:50 seat sharing in the council, he said, adding no

independent candidate will be given support.

NC Provincial President, Ladakh, Qamar Ali Akhoun said the two parties have held wide ranging discussions before deciding to fight the elections together.

"We have reached an agreement after a series of meetings that we will be together before and after the election, nobody will fight the election without a mandate and desist from making any remarks against each other," he said.

Karbalai said barring a few pockets, the BJP has non-existent in Kargil.