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NIA raids in...

Shopian district in south Kashmir and were working for Pakistan-based commanders and handlers of proscribed terror organisations such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its shadow outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), among others.

These cadres and OGWs were actively involved in the collection and distribution of huge consignments of narcotics, cash, small arms or weapons, IEDs and other types of IEDs, including remote-controlled sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, it said. Such hardware and IEDs are either delivered over drones or also assembled locally for terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, the investigations revealed, the NIA added. The terror conspiracy was aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony by carrying out terror acts and waging a war against the Government of India. According to the investigations, the terror outfits were involved in targeting minorities, migrants and security personnel. The conspiracy had been hatched both physically and through cyberspace by using secured encrypted social media apps, the NIA had stated in its statement.

Guilty won't be...

start of Monsoon session and amid his criticism by opposition parties for not speaking on the ethnic violence in the BJP-ruled north east state.

"I want to assure the countrymen that no guilty will be spared. Law will act with its full might and firmness... What has happened to these daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven," he said.

The incident in the state will shame any decent society, and it has insulted the entire country and the 140 crore countrymen are feeling ashamed, he said. Tension mounted in the hills of Manipur after a May 4 video surfaced on Wednesday showing two women from one of the warring communities in Manipur being paraded naked by a mob from the other side.

The prime minister requested all chief ministers to further strengthen law and order mechanism in their respective states and take most stringent action, especially in the cases of crimes against women.

He also mentioned states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh while calling for boosting law and order, and protecting women. People should rise above political debates to prioritise law and order, and respect for women, he added.

The BJP has been highlighting cases of crimes against women in Congress-ruled states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh while targeting the opposition party.

Modi also asked parliamentarians to make full use of the session for extensive discussion on a host of bills which, he added, are in people's interest.

The prime minister referred to the bills on digital personal data protection, national research foundation, mediation, repealing and amending and 'jan vishwas' to assert that are many such proposed laws which are in the interest of the nation and different sections of society.

"I am confident that there will be serious discussions in Parliament," he said.

NH reopens for traffic; tree falls on truck, 2 Army personnel injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway resumed on Thursday after a day-long closure due to landslides and mudslides in Ramban district, officials said.



Army truck damaged after tree falls upon it.

Heavy rains had triggered landslides and mudslides at multiple places blocking the highway in Ramban and Udhampur districts.

The highway is through for two-way traffic and all stranded vehicles have been cleared, they said.

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta took stock of the situation at the highway and underscored the need for taking strict action against

slow moving vehicles and overloaded trucks.

He asked executing agencies to handover the second tube of the Ramban flyover by August 15 and the Banihal bypass by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, two Army personnel were injured when a tree fell on a truck in Ramban district, official said.

The truck was part of an Army convoy, they said, adding the two have been hospitalised.

Man tries to snatch cop's weapon in Shopian, arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A man was arrested after he tried to snatch a weapon from a policeman in Shopian district on Thursday, officials said. The incident took place near the police camp in the Inam Sahib area of the south Kashmir district, a police official said. The accused tried to snatch the service weapon of a policeman but he was overpowered and arrested by police personnel deployed at the spot, he said.

Self-styled journalist arrested over terror funding charges in Pattan: Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A self-styled journalist was on Thursday arrested for allegedly receiving funds for terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir, police here said. "A self-styled journalist Muzamil Zahoor Malik of Indergam Pattan (was) arrested for terror funding. He received terror funds in his bank account made on forged documents/fake identity," Srinagar Police said on Twitter. The police said a case under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal Code has been registered and an investigation is underway. Five accused have already been arrested in the case, the police added.

Arms, ammunition recovered along LoC in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district, the Army said here on Thursday.

"In a Joint Operation launched today by #IndianArmy, @JmuKmrPolice and Int agencies along the LOC at Bankhot in Tangdhar Sector, Kupwara, a huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered," Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said on Twitter. The Army said two AK rifles, six pistols, four hand grenades and other war-like stores were recovered during the search operation.

SC to hear today Rahul Gandhi's appeal against Gujarat HC verdict in defamation case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Friday Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's appeal against the Gujarat High Court verdict dismissing his plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark. A bench of justices B R Gavai and P K Mishra will likely take up the matter tomorrow.

A bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud had on July 18 agreed to hear Gandhi's plea after senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi mentioned the matter and sought urgent hearing.

In his appeal, Gandhi has said if the July 7 HC judgment is not stayed, it will lead to "throttling of free speech, expression,

thought, and statement".

Purnesh Modi, a former minister in the Gujarat government, had filed a criminal defamation case in 2019 against Gandhi over his "how all thieves have Modi as the common surname" remark made during an election rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019. He was apparently referring to businessmen Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi, two fugitive prominent businessmen wanted in India.

Gandhi has said in his plea he will suffer irreparable injury if the HC order is not stayed. He has said an irreversible consequence of not staying the order will result in injustice as, because of the conviction, he currently stands disqualified as a Member of

Parliament from Wayanad in Kerala and cannot participate in parliamentary proceedings.

Gandhi, as an interim relief, has sought an ad-interim ex-parte stay of the July 7 order of the Gujarat High court during the pendency of this appeal in the top court.

The Congress leader was disqualified as an MP on March 24 after a Gujarat court convicted and sentenced him to two-year imprisonment on the charge of criminal defamation for comments he made about the Modi surname.

In a setback to the 53-year-old Gandhi, the high court had dismissed his petition for a stay on conviction on July 7, observing that "purity in politics" is the need of the hour.

6,500 Amarnath Yatris...

views at the Thajwas glacier.

Sara clicked pictures with local children and also had tea at a temporary shelter. She later shared the photos of her visit on Instagram.

"When the soul is content and the hamstrings are sore. Bakri se phir bacchon se ki dosti. And then we had the chai I adore (sic)," she wrote in the caption.

The officials said the "Zara Hatke Zara Bachke" actor also visited the Martand sun temple in south Kashmir's Anantnag district before embarking on the yatra.

Meanwhile, amid tight security, a fresh batch of over 6,500 pilgrims left the base camp this morning for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

While 3,746 pilgrims, who are headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 165 vehicles, another convoy of 97 vehicles carrying 2,777 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp. Another batch of 4,900 pilgrims, which had a night halt at Chanderkot in Ramban district due to closure of Jammu-Srinagar national highway, left this morning for Amarnath, officials said.

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. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

Jammu Bar General...

Advocate, Arvind Bandal Advocate, Anna Durrani Advocate, Zamir Muslim Qureshi Advocate, Shrishti Paul Mengi Advocate, Yasser Farooq Khan Advocate and General Secretary YLA.

Other who expressed their views included Senior Advocate M.A. Goni, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, Advocate Atul Raina, Advocate Mehrugh Sayden and Advocate Ishant Gupta.

Senior Advocate M.A. Goni suggested for constitution of a Committee of both senior and junior lawyers to decide future course of action in terms of decision, the General House would take.

Three resolutions which were passed by voice-vote by the General House. It was resolved that the shifting of High Court to Raika shall be opposed and General House authorized the office bearers to formulate a Committee of Advocates who will submit their report within 7 days recommending further course of action to the General House to be convened again.

The General House with one voice condemned derogatory messages on social media, Whatsapp Groups against the members of the Bar including the Senior Advocates.

B R Sharma...

the State Election Commissioner of the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office to Sharma at the Raj Bhavan here. B R Sharma was last week appointed the State Election Commissioner. His predecessor K K Sharma completed his term on February 1.

B R Sharma will hold the position of SEC till the age of 65.

A 1984-batch IAS officer, hailing from Kathua district of the Jammu region, B R Sharma has served as the Chief Secretary of the erstwhile state of Jammu and

J&K to achieve milestones of 'Zero Poverty' , 'Housing for All' till 2024: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: On the concluding day of the workshop organised by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department for administration, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday remarked that J&K is well on track to achieve the milestones of 'Zero Poverty' and 'Housing for All' by the year 2024.



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

Dr Mehta was speaking about the theme of 'Systems, Processes & Use of Technology for SDG Implementation' also attended by Shri Anurag Goel, Former Secretary, Corporate Affairs, GoI and SDG Advisor, UNDP; various Administrative Secretaries and other UNDP Experts.

In his address, the Chief Secretary made out that the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global framework for making the required all-round progress. He stated that as discussed the process of budgeting in line with the SDGs has proved beneficial for many of the States/UTs here and J&K too is alive to this practice for achieving the desired goals.

He recalled that the UT intends to cover about 1.9 lakh houses under PMAY and these are enough to satu-

rate the housing needs of all the houseless persons. He stated that J&K has moved towards top ranking States /UTs in Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen and each of its villages is ODF+ now but lot more needs to be accomplished to reach the desired outcome and move to model category.

He also said that in many of the parameters the UT is well ahead of the National average and in future is going to be one among the model States/UTs in the country. He emphasized on enhancing the capacity of individuals and institutions so that they are able to reorient their thinking to meet SDG targets.

He stated that J&K aims at implementing SDG 2.0 as its objective

with a defined roadmap and optimal timelines. He advised for having a clear idea about where to see ourselves after 6 months, 1 year or a decade from here. He also directed for making SDG portal live by next month for the UT which would give real time data for targeted interventions.

On the occasion he thanked Mr Goel for sharing his ideas and expertise with the officers to sensitize them about the future challenges to be faced by the Government. He asked him to help J&K in drawing way forward in light of its strengths and opportunities.

In his address Mr Goel called SDG a vehicle for attaining future-ready governance. He remarked that build-

ing institutional capacity should be focus of the administration. He observed that the partnership with UNDP can be valuable in creating future-ready J&K.

In his presentation, he dwelt upon effective systems, processes and technologies that can help in faster implementation of SDGs. He asked for creating awareness about technology which he said is not based on IT tools alone but future technologies in sync with changing times.

He exuded hope that J&K has right direction and leadership to steer its way forward in smoothly implementing all the policies for achieving SDGs. He made out that its brisk movement of going up the ladder on different parameters in the last few years as showcased here is reinforcing it further. He asked for establishment of SDG coordination centre for accelerating and monitoring the implementation at the highest level.

A number of presentations were made by the UNDP experts, Administrative Secretaries of Planning, Education, Health, Industries and other Departments about their achievements and the roadmaps for future. All of them also discussed further strengthening of implementation of SDGs in the UT.

Invitations for upcoming G20 summit sent: MEA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said it sent invitations to leaders of all the G20 member nations, invitee countries and international organisations for the upcoming annual summit of the grouping to be held in September.

At the same time, it was non-committal on whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the summit.

There have been speculation about Putin's in-person participation in the G20 summit in Delhi after South Africa said the Russian president will not travel to that country to attend the BRICS summit in Johannesburg next month.

In March, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant against Putin, accusing him of war crimes in Ukraine. South Africa is a signatory to the ICC.

In a statement, South

Africa said an agreement on Putin not attending the summit was taken as part of mutual understanding and that it came about following a series of consultations.

Russian spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Putin will attend the summit via video conferencing and that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will be present at the venue.

At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi did not give a direct reply when asked whether Putin will attend the G20 summit.

"At this point, all I can reiterate is what we have said earlier that invitations have gone out to all the G20 members, invitee countries and international organisations," he said.

"This is a physical summit and we would hope that all the invitees are able to participate in-person for the summit. There have been confirmations, I

understand. But again I don't have any specific response on any particular leader," he said.

"I don't think that it would be fair to look at it that way but yes, we are looking forward to welcoming the leaders here for our G20 New Delhi leaders' summit in September," Bagchi added.

India is the current chair of the G20.

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. The members represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

J-K BJP objects to opposition alliance's name, to file complaints with police; NC says move 'laughable'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Objecting to the opposition alliance's name, INDIA, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Thursday said it would file complaints with the police in every district of the Union territory.

Twenty-six opposition parties met in Bengaluru earlier this week and formed an alliance -- Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance

(INDIA) -- to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur alleged that the people of the country have been "cheated" in the garb of forming a grand alliance.

They had formed alliances in 2014 and 2019 as well but the BJP still won the elections and Narendra Modi

became the prime minister, he said.

He said that some parties in the opposition alliance such as the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) do not have any representation in Parliament. "In the name of the grand alliance, people have been cheated," Thakur told PTI here.

Thakur said they object to the name of the alliance.

"No party or alliance has the right

to name their organisation after the nation. It clearly seems that it is a well thought out conspiracy of the Congress.... This alliance is not going to work as all these parties have different policies, agendas and voices," he said.

"We are planning to lodge an FIR in every district of Kashmir (against the opposition parties naming their alliance INDIA)," he said.