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Amit Shah directs...

The agencies concerned should work on improving capacities for ensuring quality investigation, he said.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and senior officials of the central government, the Army, and Jammu Kashmir government attended the meeting.

The security review comes following attacks on security personnel, infiltration bids and killings in the Union Territory.

Three infiltrators were killed by security personnel along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kamalkote sector of Uri on Thursday.

There have been at least three infiltration bids by terrorists from across the border in the last four days in Jammu and Kashmir.

A group of terrorists tried to infiltrate into the Indian territory in the Pallanwala sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday night. Alert troops fired at them, forcing them to retreat.

On August 21, soldiers deployed in the Jhangar sector of Rajouri's Naushera spotted the movement of two to three terrorists on the Indian side of the LoC and challenged them, officials had said.

One of the terrorists tried to flee, but was injured in firing by the soldiers and captured alive. The two other terrorists managed to flee, they said.

On the intervening night of August 22 and 23, a group of two to three terrorists tried to infiltrate in the Lam sector of Naushera. As they moved ahead into mine-fields, a series of mines got activated and two ultras were killed on the spot.

Terrorists attacked an Army camp in Rajouri district on August 11, killing four soldiers. The two attackers were gunned down after the pre-dawn suicide strike that marked the return of "fidayeen" attackers to Jammu and Kashmir after more than three years.

The government had informed Parliament that till last month, as many as 118 civilians, including five Kashmiri Pandits and 16 other Hindus and Sikhs, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019.

The killings of Kashmiri Pandits triggered protests by the members of the community, who demanded enhanced security and transfer of government employees to safer locations.

In May, four Hindu pilgrims were killed and at least 20 injured when their bus caught fire near Katra in Jammu. Police suspect a sticky bomb might have been used to trigger the fire.

Article 370, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated on August 5, 2019 and the state was bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Five JKAS officers...

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, as Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Jammu; Manu Hansa, JKAS, Deputy Secretary School Education Department as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Samba; Piyush Dhotra, JKAS, General Manager, JKRTC, Jammu, as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Jammu, vice Vijay Kumar, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department; and Maxiumn Gorkie, JKAS, Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu.

31 JKAS among...

joining adjustments/transfers/ postings are ordered with immediate effect," reads an order issued by Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

As per order, Malik Kamila Mushtaq, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Block Development Officer (BDO), Block Nagam, Budgam; Mir Dawar Habib, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO , Block Sumbal, Bandipora. He shall also hold the additional charge of Block Naidkhai, Bandipora till further orders.

Sobia Fatima, BDO, Block Ramgarh, Samba has been transferred and posted as BDO, Block Narbal, Budgam; Diksha Raina, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Ramgarh, Samba; Manish Sudan, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Mendhar, Poonch; Kapil Deol, BDO, Block Bari Brahmana, Samba as BDO, Block Chassana, Reasi; Suraj Chander Singh Jasrotia, BDO, Block Barnoti, Kathua as BDO, Block Bari Brahmana, Samba; Sahil Abrol, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Barnoti, Kathua; Diksha Gupta, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Dudu Basantgarh, Udhampur; Tufail Iqbal, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Ramnal (Vilgam), Kupwara; Akshay Sharma, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Lamberi, Rajouri; Urvi Singh, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as District Panchayat Officer (DPO), Jammu; Chahat Bharti, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as DPO, Kathua; Vivek Rattan, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Ramsoo, Ramban; Fayaz Ahmad Mir, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Baramulla; Shafia Maqbool, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Zaingeer, Baramulla; Raja Majid Iqbal, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Harwan, Srinagar. He shall also hold the additional charge of Block Development Officer (HQ), ACD Office Srinagar, till further orders.

Akanksha Gupta, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as BDO, Block Mandi, Poonch; Tilak Raj, who was looking after the charge of BDO, Block Phallian Mandal, Jammu shall report to Administrative Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for further posting.

Sachin Abrol, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as BDO, Block Phallian Mandal, Jammu; Dheeraj Vishavnathbhim Bahadur, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Duggan, Kathua; Navamani Hans, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as Field Officer, Rural Sanitation, Srinagar; Mohit Sharma, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Thanamandi, Rajouri; Azhar Khan, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO (Hq), Rajouri; Gohar Aarzo Chaud, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Trehgam, Kupwara; Sandesh Kumar, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Mandli, Kathua; Waseem Ramzan Dar, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Rajwar Zaachaldara, Kupwara; Chandan Manhas, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Ghat-Doda, Doda; Gazi Abdullah, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment,

as BDO, Block Dachnipora, Anantnag; Shoaib Aslam, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Chadoora, Budgam; Tahir Hafiz, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, as BDO, Block Pattan, Baramulla; Sayela Mir, Jr. JKAS, under orders of transfer to Block Sathra, Poonch as BDO, Block Panjgrian, Rajouri; Asif Amin Chandel, BDO, Block Changa, Doda as BDO, Block Sewna, Udhampur; Amir Ashraf Rather, BDO (Hq) Doda as BDO, Block Changa, Doda; Majid Manzoor, I/e BDO, Block Mawar Qalamabad, Kupwara as I/e DPO, Srinagar. However, he shall take over the charge of DPO, Srinagar on superannuation of Kundan Bir on August 31, 2022.

Mohd Ashraf Mir, I/e BDO, Block Uri, Baramulla has been transferred and posted as I/e BDO, Block Pampore, Pulwama; Khadim Hussain, who was looking after the post of BDO, Block Sangaldhan, Ramban shall look after the charge of BDO, Block Dhangri, Rajouri; and Rehmatullah Bhat, BDO, Block Handwara, Kupwara has been transferred and posted as BDO, Block Gundana, Doda.

J&K economy living...

ensure a higher growth trajectory for MSMEs, the Lt Governor observed.

Productivity, connectivity and standardization, is in fact, three important factors for MSME's sustained growth. Vocal for local, District Export hubs, GeM portal, market linkage of domestic and global value chains, all these interventions are results of Prime Minister's efforts to ensure that MSMEs contribute to realize the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and Aatma Nirbhar Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor further added.

The industry centric policies, provisions of financial assistance, handholding to new and existing enterprises have encouraged MSMEs and other industries in J&K. The business ecosystem is exuding the confidence," he added.

J&K has one of the fastest growing horticulture markets in the country. Our strengths in natural resources & skilled workforce, best in class incentives through new Industrial development Scheme are well known and makes J&K an ideal MSME destination, the Lt Governor further added.

Highlighting the government's endeavours to empower MSMEs, the Lt Governor said that JKTPO is continuously organizing Buyers-Sellers Meetings, Exhibitions and Capacity Building programmes to provide entrepreneurs with requisite support for their businesses.

In the last financial year, J&K Bank was given a target to provide credit facility to the accounts of 60,000 entrepreneurs and we have ensured credit of Rs 3579 crore to 81,238 accounts, very well exceeding the target, the Lt Governor noted.

The Lt Governor informed that MSMEs from the manufacturing and service sectors contribute 8% to the GSDP of Jammu and Kashmir. Our GDP in this financial year is estimated to reach Rs 2,03,716 crore which will be 7.5 per cent higher than last financial year, he further observed.

J&K is making rapid strides in both manufacturing as well as the service sector. Setting up a biotech park at Kathua will help us to exploit the opportunities in sunrise areas and further open up opportunities in the knowledge economy, the Lt Governor noted.

Highlighting the need to adopt holistic approach to tackle fast-moving global business scenario, the Lt Governor advised all stakeholders to pay special attention to three priorities- Sustainability in business, Brand-building with focus on market and customer research and Quality, time bound service and value addition.

The Lt Governor also visited the stalls of MSMEs and other stakeholders from J&K displaying the local products.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department J&K; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department J&K; Rajnish Goenka , Chairman, MSME Development Forum, besides foreign and domestic business delegates, investors, entrepreneurs and members of MSMEs were present on the occasion.

Pak intruder shot...

Sandhu said the alert troops noticed a suspicious movement of a person around 1.50 am near ChilliYari border outpost along the International Border (IB).

The person carrying a bag came close to border fencing, following which a special ambush party fired at him, he said, adding the BSF had inputs of a narcotics smuggling bid.

"The intruder was hit by a bullet and he escaped back to Pakistan as the distance towards that side is very less from the fencing," Sandhu told reporters.

A BSF PRO said the intruder left behind eight packets of heroin which were seized. "Blood stains of the injured Pakistani smuggler could be found," he said.

Sources said the BSF personnel have been put on alert in the wake of increased movement of suspected infiltrators from across the border.

Special ambushes have been setup along the IB to foil any infiltration attempt, they said.

Three terrorists killed...

surveillance of the suspected area led to the detection of the (infiltration) attempt at 7 am on August 25, he said.

Col Musavi said terrorists were hoping to use the cover of thick undergrowth, foliage and rainfall and low clouds to infiltrate.

"The contact with the terrorists was established at about 8.45 am on August 25 in the forward areas of the Indian side of the LoC, leading to heavy exchange of fire in which the terrorists were killed, he said.

The spokesman said the detailed search of the area was concluded at 2 pm and bodies of three terrorists, two AK rifles, one Chinese M-16 rifle along with other war-like stores were recovered.

"Indian Army's successful operation has not only led to the elimination of three Pakistani terrorists, but also has resulted in thwarting Pakistan's nefarious design and intent to disrupt peace, prosperity and normalcy in J-K, he said.

The use of electronic surveillance and intelligence-based operations continue to be mainstay of the Army's operations against Pakistan-sponsored terror in J-K, Col Musavi said.

Earlier in the day, the Kashmir Zone Police tweeted, "Army and Baramulla Police #neutralised 03 #infiltrators (FTs) near Madiyan Nanak post in #Kamalkote sector of #Uri. More details to be followed."

2 OGWs arrested...

started," Kashmir Zone police tweeted.

Acting on specific information regarding movement of terrorist associates of proscribed terror outfit LeT in jurisdiction of Police Station Pethkote, a police team along with 26 Assam Rifles established a joint checkpoint near Lal Qilla Mode

Pethkote, a spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that during checking, the joint party intercepted a Scorpio vehicle bearing registration number JK05H-0622 and arrested two terrorists' associates of proscribed terror outfit LeT. During search, huge cache of arms and ammunition including three Pistols along with Magazines, 24 9mm Rounds, five Hand Grenades, Fake Police Identity Card, one blanket and a fake Identity Card of Health Department and other daily use items were recovered from the said vehicle.

During preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the arrested duo was in close touch with some active terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT and the duo was tasked to revive the terror folds by motivating youth to join terrorist ranks and spread terrorism in the district. Besides, they were also tasked to provide logistic support to terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT. Timely action and arrest of these terrorist associates averted a major terror activity in the district.

In this connection, Police has registered a case under relevant sections of law and further investigation is in progress, the spokesperson added.

Nine SHOs among...

Insp Rakesh Sharma from P/S City to P/S Paeca Danga as SHO; Insp Rahul Mahajan from DPL Jammu to P/S Kana Chack as SHO; Insp Kunal Singh Mawal from P/S Kana Chack to P/S City as SHO; Insp Mohd Rashid from DPL Jammu to P/S Peer Mitha as SHO; and Insp Sumit Sharma from DPL Jammu to P/S Arnia.

Accused in Hawala...

Mohammad Shareef Shah, a resident of south Kashmir's Kokernag, was arrested with the Hawala money of Rs 6.90 lakh on March 31 from the Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu and his questioning revealed that he was tasked by Singh, a resident of Kathua district, to collect the money from Srinagar.

Shah had also disclosed the names of his foreign associates, including Javed and Khatib of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and Farooq Khan of Toronto (Canada), officials said.

Singh was a minister in the PDP-Congress government in 2002-2005 and now is the chairman of the organisation Nature-Mankind Friendly Global Party'.

Theft cases on...

and other goods when the family was out for some work, on the other hand one, Sweta Singh lodged a complaint with police regarding theft of her scooty (JK02BE-5604), from Lakkar Mandi area which she had parked outside her house. On Sunday also, two theft cases were reported, as Yoginder Kumar, resident of Karlup lodged a complaint with Kanachak Police that thieves targeted his house and decamped with goods, when he along with family was out. Another theft case was reported in Bathindi area where thieves also targeted a house.

Although, cases have been registered in both instances and after carrying out inspection of the team by FSL team, the police have started investigations but till date nothing concrete has been obtained in the matter. Moreover, looking at the scenario and on directive of the high-ups, the patrolling etc has also been increased but the need of the hour is to activate all sources and carryout a massive operation against thieves or the gang active in area, so that such incidents may not reoccur.

Soudan Singh, Devender...

Arun Singh in a statement.

BJP is aiming to break the trend of changing government in Himachal Pradesh by retaining power in the state. At present, BJP has 43 MLAs in the 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly.

Singh, stationed at Chandigarh, has been looking after party work in several northern states, including Himachal Pradesh.

For Rana, a mass leader from Jammu, this is first big responsibility in the party, after he joined BJP last year from National Conference.

BJP insiders see this as a reflection of Rana's rising graph within the party, as he has been given responsibility of the home state of party president J P Nadda.

Rana, an engineering graduate and three-time legislator in the erstwhile assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, is seen as a person with great skills of political management. His joining infused a fresh energy in Jammu and Kashmir's BJP unit, as he enjoys influence in the region.

A popular Hindu face, Rana was the only non-BJP candidate who managed to win Nagrota seat during 2014 assembly elections in Jammu district as a National Conference nominee, while remaining seats went to the BJP.

LSD: Govt constitutes...

scientists from SKUAST K/J along with other members from Animal Husbandry departments to monitor the spread of the disease in real time and suggest strategies for its control.

In addition, a notification was issued under Section 6 of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act,2009 declaring 9 districts of J&K as controlled areas for the purpose of the Act. Subsequently, in pursuance of the notification an order was issued imposing complete ban on import of bovine animals from outside the UT as well as inter district movement of these animals within the UT of J&K.

Vaccination Drive against the LSD has started in a campaign mode in both the Divisions and susceptible population is being vaccinated in the form of ring vaccination around the respective epicentres on war footing to control the spread of disease, besides all bio security measures which include use of fly repellents, fogging, isolation and treatment of affected animals are being adopted. District level RRT's visit all the epicentres of infection for controlling its spread.

The Agriculture Production Department (APD) is abreast of the situation in the UT and Additional Chief Secretary APD, Atal Dulloo is personally monitoring the evolving situation on daily basis.

Farmers are being advised to establish close liaison with Animal Husbandry Authorities and cooperate fully in control and immunization programs. APD Department has started dedicated helpline 1962 to assist farmers in case of any eventuality related to the disease.

The sample for confirmation of LSD are being sent to NIHSAD, Bhopal on daily basis, however two BSL-II Labs have been set up at Jammu & Srinagar to conduct the testing for LSD in J&K only which will start functioning within weeks time and surveillance of the disease shall disease shall be taken up in a large scale for controlling the disease.

Final decision over contesting all 90 seats in J&K at time of polls: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said a final decision on contesting all 90 assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir will be taken at the time of polls, and that the shutters have not been pulled down on the five-party PAGD alliance.

His remarks come a day after the provincial committee of the National Conference resolved to contest all 90 seats and not in alliance with other members of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the amalgam formed for restoration of special status of Jammu and Kashmir within the Indian Constitution.

The PAGD will never shut its doors, Abdullah told reporters here.

Asked about the party's provincial committee resolution that the NC should prepare and fight all 90 assembly seats when the elections take place, he said the NC was a democratic party, but the final decision will be taken at the time of the polls.

It (the resolution) is okay. The NC is a democratic

party, a democratic party and can pass resolutions, but the final decision will be taken when the time for election comes, he said.

At the provincial committee meeting, chaired by NC vice president Omar Abdullah, at the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha here on Wednesday, the participants present in the meeting expressed dismay over the recent statements, audio jingles and speeches made by some of the constituents of the PAGD targeting the NC, the party statement had said.

They felt that it does not contribute to the overall unity of the amalgam. They denounced the unfair treatment meted out to JKNC in PAGD. The participants demanded immediate course correction from PAGD constituents. The provincial committee members unanimously resolved that JKNC should prepare and fight all 90 assembly seats.

The vice president in his response acknowledged the concerns raised by the participants and reiterated that the interest of the people of J&K and JKNC will be safeguarded, the statement said.

Irked over water crisis, Sandhi Ghagwal residents block national highway



Officials pacifying protesters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Irked over water crisis for the last three months, people of the Village Sandhi Ghagwal especially women blocked national highway in protest against Jal Shakti Department. They raised slogans against the officers of Jal Shakti Department and bleked NH for an hour: Women protestors said that many times we residents met XEN PIHE and SDM for the same and they gave assured to rectify the water problem in Sandi village, but till date nothing has been done in this regard which forced them to come on road. On receiving the information, SDM Ghagwal Ramkesh Sharma, BDC Chairman Vijay Tagotra and PIHE department officials reached the spot and assured them of needful.

229 new COVID cases reported in J&K, 4 in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir registered 259 COVID-19 cases on Thursday, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 4,76,932 while two fresh deaths due to the Coronavirus were also reported, officials said here. Forty one cases were reported from Jammu division and 188 cases were reported from Kashmir valley, the officials said. The death toll due to the virus was 4,781 as two fresh deaths were reported from the union territory, the officials said.

