

Army fully geared..

than the frontiers with China. Traditionally there were two routes for moving into Ladakh, that is through Zojila (Srinagar-Leh Highway) and Rohtang Passes (Manali-Leh). Recently India commissioned a third road from Darcha to Leh which is much shorter distance-wise and less prone to closure, he said. The spokesperson said completion of Atal tunnel on the Rohtang route has force multiplied the logistic capacities. In addition, we have a large number of airbases with the help of which we can maintain the Army well. Modern snow clearing equipment has also been placed on these routes to keep them open beyond November, thus giving us more time for daily maintenance of the troops, he said. The spokesperson said special fuel and lubricants for tanks and armoured personnel carriers have also been stocked adequately, including spares for their maintenance. Water points and tube wells have been established for the troops and animals like mules and yaks. The living barracks have also been prepared which are comfortable and warm, he said. He said facilities such as the central heating system are some of the high points of these facilities. Ammunition of various types including small arms, missiles and tank and artillery ammunition have also been adequately stocked. The medical system is also in place for any eventuality. The spokesperson said China's concept has always been to win the wars without fighting, hence if they create conditions for war, they will come across better trained, better prepared, fully rested and psychologically hardened Indian troops. These worries have been percolating in the minds of Chinese troops and are visible in Chinese media, he said.

Two terrorist associates...

recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Ajjaz Ahmad Khan, son of Ghulam Hassan Khan of Nijbat and Huzaif Firdous son of Firdous Ahmad Bhat of Chhnu: Two hand grenades, AK 47 100 rounds and letter pads of Lashkar-e-Tiba 2 were recovered from their possession. A case FIR Number 159/20 U/S IA Act 7/25 Act 18 20 39 ULA and further investigation has been initiated.

2 taxi drivers...

The matter was reported to police by a man who had approached the TRC for a trip outside the valley with his family. The man asked the drivers about the travel norms and told them that he had not undergone a COVID-19 test. "The drivers asked the complainant to provide Aadhar cards of the passengers so that they will arrange COVID tests for them," a police spokesperson said. He said the drivers returned after 15 minutes along with COVID negative reports. After a preliminary enquiry, it was found that the drivers were cheating people and putting their lives in danger: The police spokesperson said the motive behind the crime is being ascertained and the investigation in the case is on. Both the drivers have been arrested and shifted to the Kothibagh police station where they remain in custody, he added.

LG makes surprise...

said responding to the public demands. The officials said the Lt Governor obtained firsthand assessment of the services being provided by Revenue, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Horticulture, Education, Animal and Sheep Husbandry and other social and infrastructure sectors. He also interacted with staff of various departments and enquired about the progress on beneficiary-oriented schemes in the block and the steps being taken for reaching out to the deserving and needy people by ensuring universal coverage. Addressing the public, he said his administration is committed to ensure participatory planning and empowerment of the people by providing opportunities for articulation of their demands and issues. He said he had directed the government officials to attend weekly programmes to help the Panchayat institutions and public for formulation of plans, working out solutions for local issues, judicious use of financial resources for best possible outcomes on developmental and socio-economic landscape. Deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police have also been directed to conduct public hearings in their offices every day, except Wednesday and Sunday, he said and asked the public to raise their issues and demands. The Lt Governor obtained feedback from the general public and Panchayati Raj representatives who expressed great satisfaction about the conduct of programmes and service delivery at doorsteps in Khonmoh block. The officials said the Srinagar deputy commissioner was asked to submit proposals on demands of the locals, including upgradation of hospital and schools, establishment of a degree college, a sport grounds, water supply schemes and road development. The deputy commissioner was also asked for construction of a community centre for public functions in Khonmoh, besides prioritising procurement of transformers under 'back to village' funds for creation of a buffer stock to ensure timely replacement of transformers in case of damage. The Lt Governor stressed on cleanliness and hygiene in villages and asked for dovetailing of funds under 14th FC, MGNREGA and B2V for local interventions in both creation of infrastructure and working out labour component for manpower to ensure this. He also handed over various certificates and sanction letters to beneficiaries under different departmental schemes as a token of service delivery to be ensured by the government in such camps regularly, the officials said. Sinha appreciated the deputy commissioner and his team for outstanding efforts which were acknowledged by the public for developmental works and grievance redressal. The LG emphasized the need of popularizing public hearing timings and dates for ensuring that maximum people get benefitted, the official said.

AC gives nod...

Pertinently, the World Bank assisted project for strengthening of healthcare institutions is a part of Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), having seven components aimed at reconstruction and rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure. One of its components is Contingent emergency Response is meant for providing immediate response during any crisis or emergency in Jammu & Kashmir. This component came into effect only during the prevailing situation due to global Covid-19 pandemic when the National Disaster Management Act was invoked to deal with the humanitarian crisis emerging out of the spread of virus. It was following the request of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, GoI and World Bank agreed to finance 50 million US\$ for the project. The J&K Medical Supplies Corporation has been incorporated as Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for implementation of this component. With help of this new project approved under the World Bank, the Health institutions of the Union Territory will be able to ensure availability of quality healthcare facilities through advanced equipment, besides better handling of Covid-19 pandemic.

HC seeks status...

of the ministerial bungalows/ special houses (A-type, B-type and C-type quarters), are recovered, by even applying the provisions of Land Revenue Act," the court observed adding that Compliance Report in relation to the aforesaid directions passed by this Court stands filed on behalf of the Principal Secretary, Estates Department, wherein at paragraph Nos. 3 to 7, it has been stated, "It is submitted that the answering respondent has been very prompt to comply with the orders of this Court and in filing compliance to directions thereof. So far as the details of unauthorised occupants evicted from ministerial bungalows/ special houses (A-type, B-type and C-type quarters) at Srinagar/ Jammu, till date, it is submitted that over 200 evictions have been effected so far. A copy of updated statement indicating the details is enclosed as Annexure-L. So far as the details of former ministers/ legislators/ retired officers/ politicians who are occupying the ministerial bungalows/ special houses (A-type, B-type and C-type quarters) in Srinagar and Jammu are concerned, a copy of updated statement indicating the details is enclosed. So far as the eviction of unauthorised occupants of ministerial bungalows/ special houses (A-type, B-type and C-type quarters), both at Jammu and Srinagar are concerned, the answering respondent submits that the Estates Department is taking all the possible steps to ensure eviction of all the unauthorised occupants and in this regard process of eviction has already been initiated and notices have been served to them as last and final opportunity. So far as recovery of outstanding rent from both authorized and unauthorised occupants are concerned Deputy Director Estates Srinagar/ Jammu stands directed to recover all outstanding rent from occupants of the ministerial bungalows/ special houses (A-type, B-type and C-type quarters) vide communication dated February 14, 2020 and further both the Deputy Directors have started recovering pending rent from all the occupants." High Court observed that perusal of the Compliance Report so filed by the Principal Secretary Estates Department, along with annexures appended thereto, revealed that a large number of former ministers/ former MLAs/ retired IAS officers/ MLAs/ political parties are still unauthorisedly residing in ministerial bungalows as well as A, B and C-type accommodation of the Estates Department, both at Jammu as well as at Srinagar. "Besides, it is also forthcoming that huge amount, in lakhs of rupees, is outstanding on account of rent against these categories of authorised/ unauthorised occupants and that no effective steps have been taken by the Department either to vacate these persons or recover the outstanding amount from them, despite there being directions passed by this Court from time to time", the court observed and granted time to file updated status report.

Ladakh reports 80...

till date. Three patients two in Kargil and one in Leh – succumbed to the disease during a 24-hour period, taking the overall toll to 44, the officials said this morning. The death toll in Kargil now stands at 26, while the rest of 18 patients have died in Leh district. Out of the 80 new cases, the officials said, 57 were in Leh and 23 in Kargil. The officials said 40 patients in Leh and two in Kargil were discharged on Tuesday after they recovered from the infection, bringing down the number of active cases to 938.

J&K records 1,590...

of fresh cases has crossed 1,000 in a 24-hour period, they said. Srinagar district reported the highest number of 225 new cases, followed by 221 in Jammu district, the officials said. There are 19,503 active cases of coronavirus, while 37,809 patients have recovered so far, they said. Meanwhile, 18 deaths took place in the past 24 hours in the UT – 11 in Jammu and seven in the valley – taking the death toll to 932, the officials said. According to the daily Media Bulletin, , out of 58244 positive cases, 19503 are Active Positive, 37809 have recovered and 932 have died; 185 in Jammu division and 747 in Kashmir division. The Bulletin further said that out of 1297329 test results available, 1239085 samples have been tested as negative till September 16, 2020.

Till date 530708 travelers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been enlisted for observation which included 31140 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 19503 in isolation and 63886 under home surveillance. Besides, 415247 persons have completed their surveillance period. Providing district-wise breakup, the Bulletin said that Srinagar has 12167 positive cases (including 225 cases reported today) with 1950 Active Positive, 9961 recovered (including 177 cases recovered today), 256 deaths; Baramulla has 3609 positive cases (including 92 cases reported today) with 1036 Active Positive, 2459 recovered (including 14 cases reported today), 114 deaths; Pulwama reported 3344 positive cases (including 70 cases reported today) with 508 active positive cases, 2774 recovered (including 52 cases recovered today), 62 deaths; Kulgam has 2121 positive cases (including 13 cases reported today) with 130 Active Positive, 1950 recoveries (including 16 cases recovered today), 41 deaths; Shopian has 1892 positive cases with 159 Active Positive, 1703 recovered, 30 deaths; Anantnag district has 3013 positive cases (including 37 cases reported today) with 740 Active Positive, 2219 recovered (including 23 cases recovered today), 54 deaths; Budgam has 4066 positive cases (including 119 cases reported today) with 1562 Active Positive and 2430 recovered (including 33 cases recovered today), 74 deaths; Kupwara has 2980 positive cases (including 74 cases reported today) with 947 Active Positive, 1973 recovered (including 58 cases recovered today), 60 deaths; Bandipora has 2963 positive cases (including 42 cases reported today) with 978 Active Positive, 1955 recovered (including 15 cases recovered today), 30 deaths and Ganderbal has 2291 positive cases (including 86 cases reported today) with 539 active positive cases, 1726 recoveries (including 84 cases recovered today) and 26 deaths. Similarly, Jammu has 9219 positive cases (including 221 cases reported today) with 6070 active positive cases, 3043 recoveries (including 161 cases recovered today), 106 deaths; Rajouri has 1773 positive cases (including 147 cases reported today) with 877 active positive cases, 877 recovered (including 21 cases recovered today), 19 deaths; Ramban has 904 positive cases (including 39 cases reported today) with 239 active positive, 661 recoveries (including 08 cases recovered today), 04 deaths; Kathua has 1502 positive cases (including 80 cases reported today) with 544 Active positive, 945 recovered (including 21 cases recovered today), 13 deaths; Udhampur has 1603 positive cases (including 44 cases reported today) with 734 active positive cases, 862 recovered (including 09 cases recovered today), 07 deaths; Samba has 1174 positive cases (including 39 cases reported today) with 532 Active Positive, 633 recoveries (including 06 cases recovered today), 09 deaths; Doda has 1167 positive cases (including 114 cases reported today) with 658 active positive cases, 494 recoveries (including 32 cases reported today), 15 deaths; Poonch has 1087 positive cases (including 92 cases reported today) with 649 active positive, 432 recoveries, 06 deaths; Reasi has 656 positive cases (including 24 cases reported today) with 279 active positive, 374 recoveries and 03 deaths while Kishtwar has 713 positive cases (including 32 cases reported today) with 372 active positive cases and 338 recoveries (including 17 cases recovered today) and 03 deaths. According to the bulletin, of the total 58244 positive cases in J&K 7951 have been reported as travelers while 50293 are others. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said that he has tested positive for Covid-19 and has self-isolated himself.

Central team to...

spoken to Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in this regard. "Have taken up with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the issue of alarming #COVID situation in #Jammu. A special team of union Health Ministry is being immediately deputed to visit #Jammu and assist the UT Government. Also spoken to LG Sh Manoj Sinha regarding this," he tweeted. Singh is a Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur constituency. Meanwhile, There is no proposal to change the age of retirement of central government employees, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday. There is no proposal to change the age of superannuation of central government employees. The state government employees are governed by the rules/regulations framed by their respective state governments, he said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The Centre was asked whether there was a proposal to retire employees of central and state governments after completing a maximum service period of 30 years.

Terror incidents reduce...

since August 5, 2019 when the Article 370 was scrapped. A total of 45 civilians and 49 security personnel were killed due to terrorist incidents from August 5, 2019 to September 10, 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir and 26 civilians and 25 security personnel were killed due to ceasefire violation by Pakistani forces along the border in the same period. Prior to the abrogation of Article 370 -- from June 29, 2018 to August 4, 2019, (total 402 days), there were 455 terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir while from August 5, 2019 to September 9, 2020 (402 days), there were 211 terror incidents in the Union Territory.

Declare lockdown for...

the Administration. Taking note of total confirmed cases of COVID-19 infected persons surging to 55,325 in UT of J&K, with more than 900 deaths, the deadly disease has taken a turn for the worst and it is feared that cases have spiked due to community transmission and particularly in Jammu Division of J&K UT, which has during the last few days/weeks noticed exponential rise in the positive cases and more deaths per day than in the valley of Kashmir. The Association is seriously concerned about the insufficient infrastructure, medical officers, paramedical staff and sanitization in the so called premier medical institutes, i.e. Govt. Medical College, Jammu, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar and hospitals associates with these two Medical Colleges, Chest Disease Hospital Jammu, District Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Psychiatric Hospital Jammu and few other COVID-19 designated institutions which are not able to cope up with the rush of rising positive cases, and most of time, the suspected positive cases enter the Govt. Medical Institutions, they are not being attended to properly due to aforesaid insufficiencies. The Association has taken it very seriously that even the lives of medics, para medics and health workers are not safe in the medical institutions which are available in UT of J&K, therefore, U.T Administration is required to immediately and forthwith upgrade the existing COVID-19 designated institutions and to create more such institutions in order to save the lives of doctors, para medics and health workers and in particular the poor strata of the society, who have no say in the corridors of the power and are left at the mercy of almighty. The Association, a representative body of responsible and educated citizens and legal fraternity, is concerned about the worsening Covid-19 condition and demanded that in order to contain the disease, all the private hospitals existing in the U.T of J&K, specially in Jammu Division and in particular the Narayana Hospital Katra be declared as Administrative Quarantine Centre/ designate COVID- 19 hospital and be opened and available to the general public as well, instead of accommodating only the VVIPs, inasmuch as, even poor citizen has a fundamental right to life which is enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which does not create a distinction between a poor and a rich / VVIP. The impression gathered by the general public that the Narayana Hospital is meant to accommodate only rich and VVIPs is required to be dispelled with by the Administration, by opening up this Institution to the public at large at this critical hour of history. The Association considered the predictions by some health experts and organizations that things will worsen in the coming days and weeks, therefore, J&KHCBA, Jammu demands that the Administration of J&K UT should seriously think of imposing yet another lockdown for the purpose of regulating the existing quarantine centres which are at present totally unregulated; enabling the administration / management of existing medical institutions to regulate those institutions within the available strength of medical officers, paramedical staff and health workers and in the meanwhile, during that lockdown, more quarantine centres in the form of Administrative Quarantine Centres are required to be created by way of an official order declaring maximum private hospitals, nursing homes and clinics as Administrative Quarantine Centres to accommodate Covid-19 positive cases and in particular those who belong to poor strata of the

society and are forced to get admitted only in Govt. Hospital, where they are not attended to properly as is widely claimed by the media.

Army pays tributes...

were injured when the Pakistani army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation in Sunderbani sector on Tuesday. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Y K Joshi saluted the sacrifice of the soldier and offered his condolences to the family. "A military send off was organised at Akhnoor and Jammu, wherein senior officers and other ranks laid wreath at the mortal remains of the brave heart who was killed while guarding the country," an Army spokesman said. Thomas, who hailed from Vayala-Kottarakkara in Kollam district of Kerala, was a brave, highly motivated and a sincere soldier, he said. "The nation will always remain indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," the spokesman added. Later, the mortal remains of the soldier were dispatched in a service aircraft from Jammu to Delhi and were scheduled to move from Delhi to Trivandrum in a civil airline at 7 am on Thursday for last rites, he said.



Accused in captivity after District Police Jammu busted terror module of banned terror outfits operating through social media.

'Bleeding Heart' was to replace Hurriyat Conference in Kashmir: accused tell NIA

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: After tightening of terror funds by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Pakistan had approved a proposal by Irfan Shafi Mir, who was arrested along with Deputy SP Davender Singh, to set up a new outfit called 'Bleeding Heart' as it had realised in 2018 that Hurriyat Conference, the separatist conglomerate created by ISI, won't be able to deliver any more.

Mir, who has emerged as a 'double agent', made frequent visits to Pakistan during which he came in contact with ISI officials as well as top terror leadership that had complained that separatist groups in the Kashmir valley had become defunct after the NIA cracked its whip on their anti-national activities in 2017 following registering of a terror funding case.

During a visit to Pakistan in 2018, Mir held an extensive discussion with ISI officials as well as terrorist top brass to set up a non-governmental organisation (NGO) by the name 'Bleeding Heart' which would replace the role of Hurriyat Conference, says the NIA chargesheet filed in a designated court of Jammu.

Mir was arrested along with Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Singh and Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Syed Naveed Mushtaq alias Naveed Babu and accomplice Raff Ahmad Rather.

The details of the 3,064-page chargesheet, accessed by PTI, show that Mir alias 'Advocate' made this proposal of the NGO and had started working for it after receiving a go ahead from his mentors across the border.

The NIA filed the chargesheet under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various sections of the Indian Penal Code against Mir, Singh, Naveed, his brother Syed Irfan Ahmad, Rather and businessman Tanveer Ahmad Wani, former president of the Line of Control Traders Association.

According to the National Investigation Agency, the accused were part of a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched by the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen and Pakistani State agencies "to commit violent acts and to wage war against the Union of India".

During his extensive questioning, the NIA said Mir had met banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salauddin, his deputy Amir Khan, the so-called operational chief Khurshed Alam and the terror group's financial head Nazir Mehmood where the broad concept of 'Bleeding Heart' was discussed.

Later during his stay in Pakistan, Mir had a meeting with ISI officers like Umar Cheema, Ahshan Chaudhary and Sohail Abbas who also tasked him to work on a new 'Hawala (non-banking) channel' for transfer of money for sustaining terrorist activities in the Kashmir valley.

The investigation into the case led by Inspector General Anil Shukla and his team has listed 3,017 oral and documentary evidences along with the chargesheet.

The chargesheet also gives instances of his connection with officials of Pakistan High Commission in India with whom he was in constant touch and also received monetary assistance.

Visa applications from Kashmir recommended by Mir were also given top most priority at the Pakistan High Commission, the chargesheet said.

Mir was sitting in the car driven by Singh on January 11 this year along with Naveed and Rather when their car was intercepted by Jammu and Kashmir police near Qazigund on the national highway connecting the Valley with the rest of the country. A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of an AK-47 rifle, three pistols and a cache of ammunition and explosives. The NIA took over the case on January 17 this year. Pakistan's ISI and terror groups were rattled by the case of May 2017 registered by the NIA against members of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Dukhtar-e-Millat, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hizbul Mujahideen and other separatist groups and leaders in the state for allegedly raising, receiving and collecting funds to fuel separatist and terrorist activities, conspiracy to cause disruption in the Valley, and waging war against India.

After thorough investigation into the case, the NIA arrested many people including influential businessman Zahoor Ahmed Watali and prominent politician Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias 'Rashid Engineer'. Two chargesheets were filed in the case which also included Altaf Ahmad Shah alias Altaf Fantoosh, the son-in-law of firebrand separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani; spokesman of moderate Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, Shahid-ul-Islam; spokesman of the Geelani-led faction of Hurriyat Ayaz Akbar; and separatists Nayeem Khan, Bashir Bhat alias Peer Saifullah and Raja Mehrajuddin Kalwal. The NIA has also recorded confessional statements on the flow of money, especially from Pakistan, from four people accused in a case related to the funding of "terror activities" in Kashmir. The case led to a decrease in stone pelting incidents in the Valley.

Pakistan persecutes Hindus, Sikhs, Christians: India at Geneva

AGENCY GENEVA: Describing Pakistan as an 'epicenter of terrorism', India has said that no one deserves an unsolicited lecture on human rights from Islamabad that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities including Hindus, Sikhs and Christians

Exercising the Right of Reply to the statements made by Pakistan at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) here, the Indian representative on Tuesday said that it has become habitual for Pakistan to malign India with false and fabricated narratives for its self-serving malicious purposes

"Neither India nor others deserve this unsolicited lecture on human rights from a country that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities, is an epicenter of terrorism, has the distinction of providing pensions to individuals on UN Sanctions list and has a Prime Minister who proudly admits training tens of thousands of terrorists to fight in Jammu and Kashmir," the Indian diplomat said

It was not surprising that other relevant multilateral institutions have been raising serious concerns on Pakistan's failure to stop terror financing and lack of effective actions against all terror entities in Pakistan, India said

Highlighting the nefarious designs of Pakistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), it said, "the mass influx of outsiders has whittled down the number of Kashmiris to an insignificant number in Pakistan occupied parts of Indian Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh"

"In its zeal to reassert its theocratic ideology, it (Pakistan) has ensured that ethnic and religious minorities have no future through systematic persecution, blasphemy laws, forced conversions, targeted killings, sectarian violence and faith-based discrimination," India said

Thousands of Sikh, Hindu and Christian minority women and girls have been subjected to abductions, forced marriages and conversions in Pakistan, it said

On the plight of people in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, India said, "Not a single day has gone by when a family in Balochistan doesn't find its members picked up or kidnapped by the security forces of Pakistan.?"

"Pakistan does well when it comes to intimidation and attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and political dissidents in particular by its state machinery.