

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

NIA crackdown on...

and Telangana, the agency said in a statement. Officials said criminal and violent acts allegedly carried out by the PFI over a period of time -- such as the chopping off the hand of a college professor in Kerala in 2010, cold-blooded killings of people linked with organisations espousing other faiths, collection of explosives to target prominent people and places, support to Islamic State and destruction of public property -- have had a demonstrative effect of striking terror in the minds of the citizens.

As the raids, which began in the early hours of Thursday continued, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting of top officials, including National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, during which they are believed to have discussed the searches at premises linked to the PFI and action against terror suspects.

Besides Doval, the meeting was attended by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, NIA Director General Dinkar Gupta and other top officials.

The PFI said the raids are taking place at the homes of national, state and local leaders of the outfit and that the state committee office in Kerala is also being raided.

"We strongly protest the fascist regime's moves to use agencies to silence dissenting voices," it said in a statement.

A hartal will be observed in Kerala on September 23 against the "RSS-controlled government's attempt to silence dissenting voices using the central agencies," A Abdul Sathar, PFI's state general secretary, said.

However, the Kerala unit of the BJP termed the proposed hartal as "unnecessary" and urged the state government to take stringent action against those involved in this action.

Alleging that all the previous hartals called by the PFI had ended in riots, BJP state chief K Surendran said the state authorities should be ready to ensure adequate security for people's life and property.

Several Muslim organisations appealed to the youth from the community to remain patient on the action taken by the law enforcement agencies against the PFI.

The organisations said they have faith in the judicial system, law and Constitution of the country, according to a tweet in Hindi by the Muslim Students' Organisation of India (MSO), an apex students and youths body of Muslims working on promotion of Sufism and inclusive India.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is on a 'Bharat-jodo' yatra, said "all forms of communalism regardless where they come from should be combated."

The ED has been investigating the PFI's alleged "financial links" in connection with charges of fuelling the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests in the country; the 2020 Delhi riots, alleged conspiracy in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh over alleged gang-rape and death of a Dalit woman, and a few other incidents.

The probe agency has filed two charge sheets against the PFI and its office-bearers before a special PMLA court in Lucknow.

In Maharashtra, the Anti-Terrorism Squad(AT/S) arrested 20 activists of the PFI during the raids conducted in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Aurangabad, Pune, Kolhapur, Beed, Parbhani, Nanded, Malegaon (in Nashik district) and Jalgaon, an official said.

The AT/S has registered four offences in Mumbai, Nashik, Aurangabad and Nanded under various Indian Penal Code Sections including 153-A (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riots), 121A (conspiring to commit certain offences against the State) and 120B (criminal conspiracy), and provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), he said.

Simultaneous raids were conducted by the NIA in more than a dozen locations in Bengaluru, Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district, Kalaburagi, and Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district, official sources said.

As the offices were being raided, many Muslim youth gathered and raised 'NIA go back' slogans at some places.

They also tried to hinder the raids at some locations, but the police thwarted their attempt by taking them into preventive custody.

Coming to sanctioning...

broad daylight are left unpunished, this Council must reflect on the signals we are sending on impunity. There must be consistency if we are to ensure credibility, he said.

Bids by India, US and other western allies to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists under the Security Council's sanctions regime have been blocked and put on hold on various occasions by Islamabad's all-weather ally and veto wielding permanent member China in the 15-nation Council.

This month, China has put a hold on a proposal moved at the United Nations by the US and co-supported by India to designate Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Sajid Mir, wanted for his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks, as a global terrorist.

It is learnt that Beijing put a hold on the proposal moved by the US and co-designated by India to blacklist Mir under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council as a global terrorist and subject him to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

Last month, China had put a hold on a proposal by the US and India at the United Nations to blacklist Abdul Rauf Azhar, the brother of Jaish-e Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and a senior leader of the Pakistan-based terror organisation. Abdul Rauf, born in 1974 in Pakistan, was sanctioned by the US in December 2010.

In June this year, China had put a hold, at the last moment, on a joint proposal by India and the US to list Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki under the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

Jaishankar emphasised that even in conflict situations, there can be no justification for

violation of human rights or of international law. "Where any such acts occur, it is imperative that they are investigated in an objective and independent manner; he said, adding that this was the position that India took with regard to the killings in Bucha.

"This is the position we take even today. The Council will also recall that we had then supported calls for an independent investigation into the Bucha incident, he said.

India had in April this year unequivocally condemned the "deeply disturbing" reports of civilian killings in the Ukrainian city of Bucha and supported the call for an independent investigation, as it underlined that when innocent human lives are at stake, diplomacy must prevail as the only viable option.

Images and videos of people lying dead on the streets of Bucha, some with their hands tied behind them, had drawn global condemnation and calls for investigation and tougher actions against Russia.

Don't think reference...

the 74th Session of the General Assembly of the UN, Erdogan had said, "Despite the resolutions adopted (by the UNSC), Kashmir is still besieged and eight million people are stuck in Kashmir."

Bagchi noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a meeting with the Turkish President on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit meeting in Samarkand last week. "As regards Jammu and Kashmir, our position is very clear: This issue needs to be resolved in the Shimala Agreement and bilaterally and also in a conducive atmosphere free of terrorism. I don't think reference to Kashmir in UNGA is useful or helpful," Bagchi said.

J&K highway to...

different scientific methods like use of GPS technology and others for better management of traffic and procure road safety gear.

The meeting was informed that the procurement of 213 bikes (one for each police station), 110 Royal Enfield bikes, 23 cranes, 20 mobile vehicle interceptors, 16 highway patrolling vehicles has been completed and their retrofitting is going on for their customised use. It was also stated that an amount of Rs 152 lakh is being spent on acquiring of other traffic equipment, they said.

DB allows month's..

Justice Pankaj Mithal observed and directed in the open court that AAG Raman Sharma appearing for the UT Administration prays that he may be allowed time to seek instructions in the matter. The DB further observed that in view of the above and as prayed for, a month's time is allowed to him and if necessary, he may file comprehensive reply. The DB on the prayer of Advocate Adarsh Sharma appearing for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra also granted him time to file response and time was also granted to Deputy Advocate General K.D.S. Kotwal appearing for the Government of J&K to respond in the matter.

When this PIL came up for hearing, Advocate H.A. Siddiqui submitted that the instant PIL highlights the issue of wide public importance as 12 devotees lost their lives in the Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi because of the negligence on the part of the officers/officials of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board who miserably failed to perform their lawful duties on the fateful night and unfortunately the accountability was not fixed in the matter for the reasons best known to the authorities at the helm of affairs.

The advocates vehemently argued that the Lieutenant Governor, J&K who is Chairman of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra on January 1st, 2022 constituted a three-member Inquiry Panel headed by the then Principal Secretary (Home), J&K Government to look into the unfortunate incident and to examine in detail the causes/reasons behind the incident and to point out the lapses and fix the responsibility thereof and to suggest the appropriate SOPs and measures for preventing recurrence of such incidents in future. The Senior Counsel further submitted that the aforesaid panel was directed to submit its report within weeks' time to the Government of J&K.

While buttressing their arguments, the advocates submitted that almost 09 months have elapsed but the Inquiry Report is yet to see the light of the day and it is quite unfortunate that matter of wide public importance was buried in a manner unknown to law. The attention of the Division Bench was also drawn to the RTI information wherein GAD divulged that no such Inquiry Report has been received by the GAD.

In the PIL, astonishing revelations have been made and it is averred that on the fateful night the Senior Officers of the Shrine Board reportedly stopped the Yatris from having Darshan with the result a huge crowd got assembled outside the Bhawan and the Yatra was stopped to facilitate the Darshan of Holy Deity to a VVIP (reportedly a Senior Bureaucrat of the UT Administration) and because of this the unfortunate stampede took place on the eve of the New Year which resulted into the death of 12 innocent pilgrims.

The advocates further submitted that the petitioner made lot of efforts to persuade the authorities to make public the 03 Members Inquiry Report and even made a representation to the Chairman of the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra but till date nothing has been heard in this regard and the petitioner was constrained to knock at the doors of this Court.

After considering the submissions of senior advocates and a battery of lawyers appearing for the petitioner as well as the submissions made by the AAG Raman Sharma, the Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, allowed a month's time to the UT Administration and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra to file their response by or before the next date of hearing. The DB also granted time to AAG Raman Sharma to seek instructions in the matter. Keeping in view the public interest involved in the matter, the Division Bench directed the Registry to re-notify the instant PIL on October 28, 2022.

Cong issues notification...

central election authority at the AICC office from September 20.

In the notification, Central Election Authority Chairman Madhusudan Mistry, under the power vested in him by provision of Article XVIII of the Constitution of the Indian National Congress, announced the nomination form will be available at the AICC Office, 24 Akbar Road, New Delhi.

"I hereby call upon the delegates of the Congress Party to elect the President of Indian National Congress in accordance with the provision made under Article XVIII," Mistry said in the notification.

The race for the Congress president's post heated up on Wednesday with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot giving a clear indication that he could enter the fray, and Shashi Tharoor meeting the party's poll panel chief to enquire about the nomination formalities.

After over two decades, the Congress is set to see a contest for the post of party chief.

The upcoming polls would certainly be historic as the new president would replace Sonia Gandhi, the longest-serving party president who has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul Gandhi took over.

The party last saw a contest for the post in November 2000. Jitendra Prasad had lost to Sonia Gandhi in 2000 and prior to that Sitaram Kesri had defeated Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot in 1997.

With Rahul Gandhi likely to stick to his stance of not taking on the mantle of party president again, it seems the party will have its first non-Gandhi president in over two decades.

Also, with Sonia Gandhi asserting that she would remain neutral in the polls and there would be no "official candidate" it could be a keener contest than the one in 2000.

India's success in...

governance which starts with 'trust our people, trust our industry, trust our women and trust our families,' that made the difference, Sitharaman said.

A few years ago, a UPA minister had said it was impossible to popularise electronic payments as "how would one pay Rs 7 to a vegetable vendor electronically," she said. This doubt has been dispelled now, she added.

When the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was in power, a new corruption scam would emerge every day, but in the last eight years nobody has even "carelessly" accused the Modi government of corruption, the BJP leader said.

Sitharaman also spoke about how the profile of Padma awards recipients had changed under the Modi government.

"We do not know any of them. They are picked from the hinterlands, from the corners of the country. They are great achievers themselves but we did not have time to recognise them. We did not know how to locate them. But Modi's team locates every one of them," she added. "Delivery is the story", the finance minister said, adding that there had been slogans like `Garibi Hatao' and promises to provide things like potable water in the past. "But all that is getting fulfilled now, because here is a man (Modi) who is dedicated to the country," she added.

J&K Admn issues...

in respect of those PM package employees, who have remained absent during the month of September." A similar order has been issued by the ADC Anantnag.

As many as 3,000 Kashmiri pandit youths had been accommodated under the Prime Minister's Special Package in 2012.

Irate over the orders, striking employees intensified their agitation, which entered 133rd day on Thursday, calling the order a harassment and arm-twisting move to break their agitation.

Amid slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'We Want Justice', and 'We Want Relocation', hundreds of employees held protests under the banner of All Migrant (Displaced) Employees Association Kashmir (AMEAK) one of the organisations spearheading the agitation.

"It is a step towards harassment of the community. It is a conspiracy against us. "We honestly performed our duty for the last ten years in Kashmir under the selective killings of our employees, like Rahul Bhat, threatened the life and dignity of our community employees in the valley," a protester told reporters here.

"What is our crime? We have taught children of the majority community with utmost sincerity for ten years. Why are we being targeted and killed," said another employee. The employees said that on the one hand they are getting letters with death threats from terror outfits, and on the other, they are being forced to come to work and risk becoming sitting ducks for the militants to target.

"Please provide us security which is your prime duty. Why are you threatening us with these orders? We are not afraid of stopping of our salaries or anything else. If our lives are threatened, we will leave jobs, said one of the leaders of the agitation.

We want to tell the government you cannot torture us and our families, he said.

The Kashmiri Pandit employees recruited under the Prime Minister's special rehabilitation package and posted in different parts of the Kashmir valley said they were soft targets for the terrorists and the government has failed to protect them. They have been on an indefinite strike with a demand for their relocation outside the valley since the killing of their colleague Rahul Bhat on May 12.

Hundreds of the employees have already returned to Jammu and are holding regular protests at the office of the relief commissioner, while their colleagues in the valley are on protest at their camps, despite repeated attempts by the government to end the impasse with the assurance of their relocation to safer zones within the valley.

CRIME REPORT

9 drug-peddlers arrested with heroin, cash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A major drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse was launched by Jammu Police in which special Nakas were laid at different locations. The recoveries made at three Nakas included 28 gm Heroin, Rs 2.5 lakh cash and weighing machine. 17 gm heroin, Rs 2.5 lakh cash and a weighing machine was recovered in jurisdictions of Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu while 5 gm heroin was recovered in jurisdiction of Police Post Pouni Chak and 6 gm heroin was recovered in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bishnah.

A team of Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu led by SHO Inspr Sikander Singh, while on Naka duty, rounded up four suspects who were on their way from Sidhra towards Narwal in a vehicle (PB08EP-1010). During search, 17 gm heroin, Rs 2.5 lakh cash and a weighing machine was recovered from possession of accused later identified as Raman Deep Singh, son of Balwinder Singh, resident of model Town Jalandhar; Daleep Kumar, son of Dheeraj Kumar, resident of Behrai (UP) at present Jyoti Nagar, Jalandhar; Pappu, son of Kamal Parsad, resident of Behrai (UP), at present Jyoti Nagar Jalandhar and Som Nath, son of Harbans Lal, resident of Mithapur, Jalandhar. All were arrested and FIR No. 94/22 under sections 8/21/22/29 of NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu. The arrests and recoveries were made under the supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari.

Similarly, at another Naka by a team of Police Post Pouni Chak led by SHO Police Station Domana Inspr Tilak Raj assisted by Incharge Police Post Pouni Chak PSI Nitish Khajuria, a suspect later identified as Shubam Kumar, son of Nanak Chand, resident of Raipur Jagir was intercepted and on checking 5 gm heroin was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and FIR No 329/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Domana. The arrest and recoveries were made under the supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh.

Also, a team of Police Station Bishnah constituted under the supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh and led by SHO Bishnah Inspr Vikram Sharma during Naka checking at Kothey Chorli Bishnah rounded up three suspects on a Motorcycle (JK21E-0756). During search, 6 gm heroin was recovered from their possession. The accused identified as Vishal Sharma, son of Ashok Kumar, resident of Bhatyari, Bishnah; Sahil Choudhary, son of Darshan Lal, resident of Palli and Parveen Kumar, son of Naresh Kumar, resident of Upper Kanhal were arrested and FIR No. 165/2022 under sections 8/21/22/29 of NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Bishnah.

In another instance, a party from Police Station Dharamkund headed by PSI Arun Jasrotia, during Naka checking, signaled a bike (JK19 4991) to stop for checking. The bike was driven by Farhan Ahmed alias Munna, son of Fareed Ahmed, resident of Sangaldan along with pillion rider namely Mukesh Kumar, son of Soba Ram, resident of Sangaldan. On seeing Naka party, the accused stopped motorcycle at 50/60 feet away from Naka point and tried to flee from the spot but alert police cops apprehended tactically one person while other fled from the spot. During checking, 5 to 10 gm heroin (Chitta) like narcotic substance was recovered from below the seat of motorcycle. FIR No 57/2022 under section 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered and investigation of the case was entrusted to PSI Arjun Chaudhary of Police Station Dharamkund.

The overall recovery was affected by a team headed by Insp Hargopal Singh

SHO Dharamkund under supervision of DySp Nihar Ranjan SDPO Gool with the overall supervision of Mohita Sharma, SSP Ramban.

73 bovines rescued, 4 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Acting tough against bovine smugglers, on specific inputs regarding transportation of bovine animals, parties from Police Station Ramban, Chanderkote and Banihal intercepted four vehicles (JK19-8423, JK14B-8681 JK03F 4872 and JK03E33570) which were on their way from Jammu towards Srinagar, and on checking, found them laden with 73 bovines, which were rescued. FIR Nos 327, 330,145 and 217/2022 under sections 188/269/270 of IPC & 11 of PCA Act, 52, 54, 56 and transportation of Animals rules 1978 were registered at Police Station Ramban, Chanderkote and Banihal respectively. The overall rescue operation was made by parties under the command of Insp Sandeep Charak SHO Ramban Insp Padam Dev Singh SHO Chanderkote and Insp Mohd Afzal Wani SHO Banihal under supervision of Pardeep Singh Sen DySP HQ Ramban & Nisar Ahmed Khoja SDPO Banihal with overall supervision of SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma.

Govt teacher among two arrested with 83 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH/RAMBAN: Police on Thursday arrested two persons including a Govt teacher with 83 bottles of liquor.

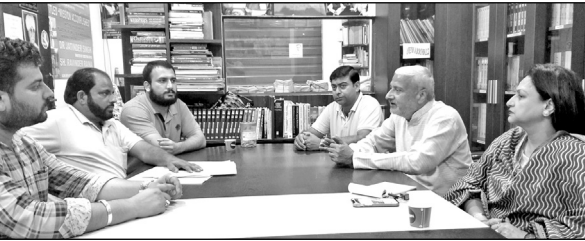
As per details, acting on a specific information regarding transportation of illicit liquor, a party led by PSI Avinash Khajuria of Police Station Bhadarwah laid a special Naka at Seri Bazaar and during checking, a car (JK06 5413) was stopped. During checking, 38 quarters of JK Special Whisky were recovered from the possession of accused, which he was carrying for selling purpose at Nalthi, Bhadarwah. After questioning, accused disclosed his identity as Ajay Manhas, son of Tek Chand, resident of Village Nalthi Bhadarwah, working as a Government Teacher and posted in Govt Primary School Nalthi Bhadarwah. He was arrested and FIR No. 156/2022 under section 48 (a) Excise Act was registered against him at Police Station Bhadarwah.

Meanwhile, a police party headed by SgCt Tanveer Hussain, while on Naka checking duty at Shan Palace, intercepted a car (JK03L- 3139) which was coming from Ramban towards Kashmir. During checking, 45 bottles of illicit liquor were found from vehicle and driver; identified as Fayaz Ahmed, son of Abdul Hamid, resident of Anantnag, Kashmir was arrested and FIR No. 329 under section 48(A) Excise Act was registered against him and investigation was entrusted to PSI Dalbir Singh. The overall operation was made by police parties under the command of Inspr Sandeep Charak SHO Ramban under supervision of Pardeep Singh Sen DySP Hqrs Ramban and overall supervision of SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma.

5 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police teams of Police Station Bishnah, Police Posts Beli Charana and Chhatha acted stringently on specific inputs and raided at different locations in their respective areas and seized 5 different vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicles included a Tractor-Trolley without registration number seized by Bishnah Police; a dumper (JK14F-8258) seized by Beli Charana Police; 3 Tractor-Trolleys, one bearing Registration number JK02CV-8778, 2nd bearing Chassis no.HZ1D765630483 while third bearing Chassis No MBNGAALU-PLRJ02361 seized by Chatha Police. The recoveries were made by SHO Bishnah Inspr Vikram Sharma, Incharge Police Posts Beli Charana PSI Jeevan Kumar and Chhatha-PSI Harjinder Paul Singh in their respective jurisdictions.



J&K BJP Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma, BJP Secretary Rekha Mahajan and others listening to public grievances.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, BJP Secretary Rekha Mahajan and BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra listened to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu & Kashmir at party head-quarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Individuals and Deputations of people from

ing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

Sham Lal Sharma said that insisted that BJP has become synonymous with development of the nation. He said that BJP serves the nation, society and common people with clear principles. To meet the party's aims, these camps are regularly arranged at the party office, he said.

Rekha Mahajan said that the problems raised by people in the public grievances camps are taken up at appropriate platforms.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that the party has been continuously highlighting the genuine problems of the masses raised in these camps and hence the people are reaching the party office in large numbers.

