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Terrorists will be completely wiped out from J&K: LG

& police administration, Army veterans, families of martyrs and prominent citizens from all walks of life were among those present on the occasion.

It may be mentioned that despite occasional reverses, security forces have achieved a great success in curbing the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in J&K. Several top terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen and other outfits, that operate from Pakistan and Pakistan occupied J&K, have either been eliminated in encounters with them or captured and put in jails.

Vigil along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) too stands stepped up to bring infiltration by terrorists to level zero. Once the infiltration stops, the terrorism will automatically breathe its last. The state-of-the-art electronic gadgets too have been installed along the borders to detect infiltration bids by terrorists in advance.

J&K budget to focus on development, employment, women-centric schemes

During the pre-budget meetings, the J&K Government will be holding consultations with 36 administrative departments before concluding the exercise on December 20.

Ahead of the meetings, the Finance Department has directed departments to submit the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on budget announcements, if any, besides the complete details of the establishment budget and Fiscal Resource and Budget Management (FRBM).

After the imposition of central rule in J&K in 2018, due to the absence of the Assembly, J&K's budget was presented in Lok Sabha.

Rains, snow likely

added, saying that from December 2, there were chances of light rains or snow at scattered places in the higher reaches.

The weather is likely to stay generally dry from December 4 to 7, after which light rains or snow was possible at isolated places in the higher reaches, the weather department said.

Meanwhile, the night temperature improved across the valley, but the minimum settled below the freezing point at most places, officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, the officials added.

Govt reconstitutes panels for state awards on R-Day

ernment Awards on Republic Day." The screening committee members are: financial commissioner, revenue, commissioner/secretary of GAD, additional director general of police, CID, and one senior administrative secretary to be nominated by the chief secretary.

The apex level selection committee members are: deputy chief minister, Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, chief secretary and one eminent person to be nominated by the chief minister.

Focus on enhancing internal security, public safety: Modi

country to freely discuss and debate diverse national security-related issues, as well as various operational, infrastructural and welfare-related problems. Its deliberations will include formulation and sharing of professional practices and processes in tackling challenges relating to crime control and law and order management, besides Internal Security threats.

"This afternoon, I will also be addressing a programme organised by the BJP in Bhubaneswar. Since assuming office in June this year, the BJP Government in Odisha has been at the forefront of boosting the state's growth trajectory. The state government is taking many measures to improve the lives of the poor and marginalised communities," he said.

Prime Minister has always demonstrated a deep interest in the DGP Conference. The Prime Minister not only listens attentively to all contributions but also fosters an environment of open and informal discussions, allowing for the emergence of new ideas. This year, some unique features have also been added to the conference. The entire day is being effectively utilized starting from Yoga sessions, business sessions, break-out sessions and thematic dining tables. This will also provide senior police officials with a valuable opportunity to present their perspectives and suggestions to the Prime Minister on critical policing and internal security matters that impact the country.

The Prime Minister has encouraged the annual DGs/IGs Conference to be organised all across the country, since 2014. The conference has been held in Guwahati (Assam), Rann of Kachchh (Gujarat), Hyderabad (Telangana), Tekanpur (Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh), Statue of Unity (Kevadiya, Gujarat), Pune (Maharashtra), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), New Delhi and Jaipur (Rajasthan). Continuing with this tradition, the conference is being organised in Bhubaneswar this time.

The conference will be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Principal Secretary to PM Modi, National

Security Adviser (NSA), Ministers of State (Home Affairs), DGP of States/UTs and Chiefs of Central Police Organisations among others.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for PM Modi's visit. Police commissioner of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate S. Dev Datta Singh said that strict vigil has been kept on any potential threat from all anti-national elements during the DG and IGP Conference-2024. More than 70 platoons of police force have been deployed for the three-day event.

Singh added that Bhubaneswar has been placed under a robust security blanket of officials and personnel belonging to Odisha Police, Central Armed Police Forces, etc, for the event.

2 employees terminated over terror links

pharmacist in health & medical education department, and Zahir Abbas, a teacher in school education department.

Over the past few months, the LG-led administration has terminated several government employees from their services over terror links in the Union Territory.

Some more employees were said to be under the radar of intelligence agencies.

Coast guard insider held for spying for Pak

found that he had shared highly classified details about the Coast Guard.

The Gujarat ATS stated, "A sub-inspector received intel suggesting Dipesh Gohel, a resident of Dwarka district, had been in contact with Pakistani Army or ISI agents via WhatsApp for some time. Upon receiving the tip-off, the ATS formed a team, summoned Gohel to their Ahmedabad office, and began questioning."

The investigations revealed that Gohel, a Coast Guard boat repairman at Okha Jetty for three years, connected seven months ago with a Facebook profile named 'Sahima,' allegedly belonging to a woman claiming to work for the Pakistan Navy. The release added, "'Sahima' also engaged Gohel on WhatsApp."

According to the Gujarat ATS, the Facebook profile "Sahima" allegedly promised Dipesh Gohel a monthly deposit of ₹200 in exchange for information about Coast Guard ships stationed at Okha port. Lured by money, Gohel provided 'Sahima' with the names and numbers of boats at Okha jetty daily via WhatsApp.

An ATS official stated, "He also shared UPI-linked numbers of his friends to receive payments. Over the past seven to eight months, 'Sahima' reportedly transferred ₹42,000 to these accounts." The investigation further revealed that the WhatsApp account of 'Sahima' was being operated from Pakistan.

"As a result, a case has been registered against Dipesh Gohel under Sections 61 and 148 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for sharing Indian Coast Guard information with Pakistani spies, and legal action has been initiated," officials said.

The arrest follows another recent case. A month ago, Gujarat ATS received a tip-off about a Porbandar resident allegedly in contact with Pakistan's ISI or army and leaking sensitive information. The suspect, Pankaj Kotia, was placed under surveillance and later detained. During interrogation, Kotia confessed to sharing classified details about the Porbandar Coast Guard jetty and Indian Coast Guard boats via social media.

This comes after yet another similar spy incident in the Devbhoomi Dwarka district, highlighting a concerning pattern of espionage activities targeting critical maritime infrastructure.

Interim govt in Bangladesh must protect all minorities: MEA

parent manner, ensuring full respect for the legal rights of all concerned," he added.

The MEA also clarified that India had not received any prior communication from the United States regarding the legal proceedings involving the Adani Group and the US Department of Justice.

"This is a legal matter involving private firms, individuals, and the US Department of Justice. Established procedures and legal avenues are expected to be followed. The government of India was not informed in advance," Jaiswal said during a weekly briefing in Delhi.

The case involves an indictment and a civil complaint filed by the US Department of Justice and the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), respectively, in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Meanwhile, the Adani Group has denied any wrongdoing. According to the group, chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and senior executive Vneet Jaain are clear of bribery allegations by the US Department of Justice.

In a stock exchange filing, Adani Green Energy, a company under the group, dismissed media reports on the matter as "incorrect."

HC notice to EC on plea seeking to declare Chenani assembly poll void

"The court today directed the issuance of notices to the Election Commission of India, Chief Electoral Officer J&K, and the J&K government, among others, after hearing us,"

Harsh's lawyer said.

Justice Rajneesh Oswal issued notices to all parties, returnable within period of four to five weeks, he said.

The court also issued notices to home department, the returning officer of the Chenani assembly constituency, and several others, including the elected candidate from the constituency.

A team of lawyers argued that Chenani assembly election was vitiated by large-scale corrupt practices, undue influence, use of religion for votes, and dissemination of false & misleading information about Harsh.

Fiscal deficit at 46.5 pc of full-yr target at Oct-end

period of 2023-24.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9% of gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6% of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the Government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at ₹16,13,312 crore during the current fiscal.

The revenue-expenditure data of the Union Government for the first seven months of 2024-25 showed that the net tax revenue was about ₹13 lakh crore or 50.5 per cent of budget estimate for the current fiscal.

The net tax revenue collection was 55.9% at September-end of 2023.

The central Government's total expenditure in the seven months through October stood at ₹24.7 lakh crore or 51.3% of budget estimate. Expenditure was 53.2% of budget estimate in the year-ago period.

Of the total expenditure, ₹20 lakh crore was in the revenue account and ₹4.66 lakh crore in the capital account.

Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the Government. It is an indication of the total borrowing that is needed by the Government.

IEDs, RDX recovered from terrorist hideout

While forces also carried out searches in the vicinity of the hideout but no trace of terrorists was found, officials said.

Responsibility to protect minorities rests with Dhaka: EAM

seen several reports of incidents of violence against Hindus and other minorities, their homes and business establishments, and of attacks on temples/ religious places, including in the month of August 2024, across Bangladesh," he said adding that the "government has taken a serious note of these incidents and shared its concerns with the Government of Bangladesh."

He added that the Indian high commission in Dhaka continues to monitor the situation closely.

Jaishankar noted, "The primary responsibility for the protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh"

During this year's Durga Puja festivities, a series of incidents raised alarm. Puja Mandap in Dhaka's Tantibazar area was attacked by a crude bomb. A crown from the Jeshoreshwari Kali temple in Satkhira's Shyamnagar district-a symbolic artifact gifted by PM Narendra Modi during his 2021 visit was stolen.

The rise in attacks coincides with Bangladesh's growing political instability following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation earlier this year. Reports of mob violence targeting temples and other religious sites have increased, intensifying fears among the Hindu minority community.

The arrest of prominent Iskon priest Chinmoy Krishna Das has added to the concerns. Das, a vocal advocate for minority rights, was detained at Dhaka airport in October on charges of allegedly disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag during a rally. The specifics of the accusations remain unclear, and Das has been denied bail.

India re-elected to UN Peacebuilding Commission

ery; to focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development.

It is also mandated to provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery, the Commission said.

The Commission also focuses on promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding, noting that security, development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing; serving a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations by sharing advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities, in line with the respective competencies and responsibilities of these bodies.

India is among the largest contributors of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping.

It currently deploys about 6,000 military and police personnel to UN operations in Abyei, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan, and

Western Sahara.

Nearly 180 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, the highest number by far from any troop-contributing country.

Tough decisions needed: Kharge at CWC meet

spread by political rivals and maintain discipline within the party.

"We must remain united at all costs," he said, reminding party workers that the party's strength lies in its collective power. "Victory for Congress is our collective victory, and defeat is our collective defeat." Kharge added, urging members not to lose hope after the recent election results.

On the party's performance in Maharashtra, Kharge acknowledged that the results were disappointing despite the strong showing in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He indicated that "tough decisions" would be necessary in light of the poor performance in state elections.

"After the Lok Sabha results, we went into the assembly elections with great enthusiasm, but the outcome was unexpected," Kharge noted, adding that no electoral arithmetic could explain the surprising results. "While the INDIA alliance formed governments in two out of four states, our performance fell short of expectations," he remarked, calling it a challenge for the party's future.

Kharge emphasised that the party must learn from these results and address weaknesses in the organisational structure. He pointed out that while the political atmosphere seemed favourable, Congress failed to translate that into electoral success, and asked asking, "What is the reason we could not convert the favourable atmosphere into results?"

He stressed the need for improving the party's grassroots organization, from the booth level to the AICC, and improving vigilance and preparedness at every stage of the electoral process, including voter lists and vote counting.

Kharge acknowledged that although Congress may have lost elections, issues like unemployment, inflation and economic inequality continue to be pressing concerns in the country. He also mentioned the significance of the caste census and urged the party to start preparing early for future elections by thoroughly scrutinising the electoral rolls.

With the changing dynamics of electoral campaigning, Kharge called for a more effective communication strategy to counter the propaganda of political opponents and to combat misinformation. He stated, "We need to learn from past results, remove weaknesses, and make bold decisions to move forward confidently."

The Congress president also remarked that the party cannot continue to rely on outdated methods. "We must be mindful of what our political opponents are doing and make timely decisions," he said, stressing the importance of accountability.

Kharge warned that the repeated defeats of Congress were allowing "fascist forces" to gain strength and take control of state institutions. He recalled the party's significant role in the creation and implementation of India's Constitution, saying, "It is due to the Constitution that India stands proudly in the world today."

Kharge also highlighted the rising challenges faced by India's underprivileged population, exacerbated by unemployment, inflation, and deepening inequality. "The Congress must be the strong voice of the common people," he said, adding that the party's return to power would help implement policies benefiting the nation's 1.4 billion citizens and foster progress.

The meeting was chaired by Kharge and attended by prominent leaders such as former party president Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh among others.

While the Congress alliance in Maharashtra, part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, faced a crushing defeat, the party had a better showing in Jharkhand, where the JMM-led alliance won. In Haryana, the Congress was defeated by the BJP, a shock result for the party.

Parl adjourned as Oppn protests over Adani, disrupt proceedings

ceedings for the day, he said similar issues had been raised repeatedly, leading to a loss of three working days.

Meanwhile, Lok Sabha proceedings were initially adjourned till noon and later for the day, following vociferous protests by Opposition members over the Adani controversy and the recent violence in UP's Sambhal.

As soon as the House met for the day, members from Opposition parties, including the Congress, sought to raise various issues. Some members, mostly from the Congress and Samajwadi Party, were also in the Well of the House and shouted slogans.

Speaker Om Birla said the House should be allowed to run and that the Question Hour was members' time. People want the House to function and there should be discussions, he added.

Two questions were taken up during the Question Hour that went on for around 10 minutes.

As the din continued, the proceedings were adjourned till noon.

It was the fourth day in a row of the ongoing Winter Session that the House did not carry out substantial business.

4 dead, several missing as SL faces massive rains, floods

COLOMBO, NOV 29: Four persons, including two children, have died and several others remained missing while over 2.30 lakh individuals were affected across Sri Lanka due to inclement weather following a massive rain system in southwest Bay of Bengal, authorities said on Wednesday.

At least six Colombo-bound flights were diverted to other airports on Wednesday morning due to heavy rain - 75 mm in 24 hours ending at 8:00 am - and high winds experienced in most parts of the island due to the Deep Depression (heavy rain bearing system) over the southwest Bay of Bengal.

The Deep Depression is likely to move north-northwest wards closer to the east coast of Sri Lanka and intensify further into a cyclonic storm later in the day, the meteorological department said.

Army and navy troops were deployed to rescue victims and provide food and other essentials to those af-

ected. News portal NewsFirst.lk said six flights scheduled to arrive at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) here were diverted to other airports, including to Indian airports.

Sri Lankan Airlines flight from Tokyo, Emirates flights arriving from Male, and IndiGo flight from Chennai, all destined for Colombo, were diverted to the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport while Air Arabia flight from Sharjah was diverted to Kozhikode International Airport.

Sri Lankan Airlines flight from Male and Etihad Airways flight from Abu Dhabi to Colombo, both were diverted to Mattala International Airport, NewsFirst.lk said.

Meanwhile, police said bodies of two of the six students who were swept away in raging floods on Tuesday in the eastern Ampara district, were found while efforts were on to trace others continued on Wednesday.

The six students, between 12-16 years, and the tractor operator were on

their way back from school at Sammanthurai in the Ampara district when the farm tractor trolley they were travelling on was swept by the massive floods following the heavy rains in the area. Five other children and the tractor driver were rescued, police added.

Ahead of the forecast of the Deep Depression intensifying into a cyclonic storm, the island nation has been experiencing heavy downpours since Monday leaving large area inundated - flooded homes, fields and roads, everything.

Train services were suspended in the mountain areas.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said reported the floods have resulted in two more fatalities elsewhere while seven persons are reported missing in different parts of the country. Among the two deceased was a woman, who was killed when a brick wall collapsed on her in Badulla in central Sri Lanka but gave no details about the other person.

Canada is already examining tariffs on certain US items following Trump's threat

TORONTO, NOV 29: Canada is already examining possible retaliatory tariffs on certain items from the United States should President-elect Donald Trump follow through on his threat to impose sweeping tariffs on Canadian products, a senior official has said.

Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico if the countries don't stop what he called the flow of drugs and migrants across southern and northern borders. He said he would impose a 25 per cent tax on all products entering the US from Canada and Mexico as one of his first executive orders. A Canadian government official said on Wednesday that Canada is preparing for every eventuality and has started thinking about what items to target with tariffs in retaliation. The official stressed no decision has been made. The person spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized

to speak publicly.

When Trump imposed higher tariffs during his first term in office, other countries responded with retaliatory tariffs of their own. Canada, for instance, announced billions of new duties in 2018 against the US in a tit-for-tat response to new taxes on Canadian steel and aluminium.

Many of the US products were chosen for their political rather than economic impact. For example, Canada imports USD 3 million worth of yogurt from the US annually and most comes from one plant in Wisconsin, home state of then-House Speaker Paul Ryan. That product was hit with a 10 per cent duty.

Another product on the list was whiskey, which comes from Tennessee and Kentucky, the latter of which is the home state of then-Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell.

Trump made the threat Monday while railing against an influx of ille-

gal migrants, even though the numbers at Canadian border pale in comparison to the southern border.

The US Border Patrol made 56,530 arrests at the Mexican border in October alone - and 23,721 arrests at the Canadian one between October 2023 and September 2024.

Canadian officials say lumping Canada in with Mexico is unfair but say they are happy to work with the Trump administration to lower the numbers from Canada. The Canadians are also worried about influx north of migrants if Trump follows through with his plan for mass deportations.

Trump also railed about fentanyl from Mexico and Canada, even though seizures from the Canadian border pale in comparison to the Mexican border.

US customs agents seized 43 pounds of fentanyl at the Canadian border last fiscal year, compared with 21,100 pounds at the Mexican border.