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Terrorism, insurgency to be wiped out in J&K by 2029: Shah

surveillance network. Also, 15,000 already existing CCTV cameras were integrated with it, he added.

Shah lauded Delhi police, saying it had been able to successfully deal with challenges faced by the national capital which is the heartbeat of the country's democracy and symbol of its honour and identity.

In J&K, security forces have already launched massive combing operations in the wooded mountains to hunt down the terrorists. The operations were likely to continue till all the terrorists hiding in the forests were found out and killed.

Security along the International Border and the Line of Control too had been further stepped up to foil infiltration bids by the terrorists based in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

The border residents too have been asked to act as 'eyes' and 'ears' of security agencies and pass on information to the nearest picket in case of movement of suspects in their localities.

LG orders reopening of 14 tourist spots shut after Pahalgam attack

gedet.

Of the 21 camps identified in Pakistan and PoJK belonging to Hizbul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammed, nine were targeted, located at distances ranging from 6 km to 100 km from the border.

The targets in PoJK were the Sawai Nala camp and Syedna Bilal camp in Muzaffarabad, Gulpur camp and Abbas camp in Kotli, and the Barnala camp in Bhimber. The targets in Pakistan were the Mehmoona Joya camp and Sarjal camp in Sialkot, Markaz Taiba in Muridke, and Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur.

Rs 209 cr online investment scam busted; 9 held

through phishing and fake trading platforms.

The case was registered at Ganderbal police station, following a complaint by a resident of Safapora, Ganderbal. Accordingly, an FIR was registered under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the IT Act to investigate allegations of theft and online cheating by a network of cyber fraudsters.

Ganderbal SSP Khalil Ahmad Poswal constituted a SIT, comprising subject matter experts, to probe the case.

During investigation, police uncovered several fake on-line investment websites, including paisavault.com, which lured victims through social media and search engines with promises of high returns on coin trading. Once victims invested money on these fraudulent platforms, the funds were diverted into local bank accounts belonging to individuals from Budgam, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, and other areas.

These accounts were controlled by fraudsters who swiftly transferred the funds outside Jammu and Kashmir through multiple layers of transactions, including transfers beyond national borders, to obscure the money trail and evade detection.

Police investigations identified the alleged kingpin as Ekant Yogdutt alias Dr Morphine, a resident of Hisar, Haryana. He reportedly acquired expertise in such cyber fraud techniques during his MBBS studies in the Philippines and maintained links with Chinese nationals.

The accused collaborated with local operatives from Kashmir, who acted as regional heads and account mobilisers. They targeted below poverty line (BPL) account holders, persuading them to hand over their bank accounts and ATM cards in exchange for Rs 8,000-10,000 per month.

Investigations also revealed the involvement of certain bank employees who allegedly facilitated the operations by

providing QR codes linked to these accounts, which were then uploaded on fake investment websites.

The fraudsters operated Telegram channels and groups to circulate fresh QR codes. Whenever cyber units across the country froze accounts following complaints, the accused would immediately activate new accounts and upload new QR codes to continue the scam.

So far, police have collected details of 835 bank accounts and verified transactions in 290 of them, revealing deposits amounting to Rs 209 cr from investors across India. Authorities estimate that the total figure may exceed Rs 400 cr upon complete verification.

The main accused, Dr Morphine, was arrested by Ganderbal police at Delhi International Airport upon his return from China. Eight other accused from various parts of Kashmir were also arrested.

Further investigation was underway to trace the full money trail and initiate attachment of properties belonging to the accused.

Court Management Systems Committee reconstituted

veyed by Registrar (J) and Member Secretary, NCMSC, Supreme Court of India, the chief justice has been pleased to reconstitute the committee. This is in supersession of high court order No 1762 of November 29, 2025, so far as it pertains to the Court Management Systems Committee."

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Sanjay Parihar are members of the committee.

The other members are: advocate general, revenue department's principal secretary, principal secretary (home department), principal secretary (finance department), principal secretary (public works department) and commissioner-secretary of department of law, justice & parliamentary affairs.

Mandatory to appear in 1st board exam for class 10 students

to appear in second board exam.

"It is mandatory for all the students to appear in the first board examination. All passed and eligible students will be allowed to improve their performance in any of the three subjects out of Science, Mathematics, Social, Science and languages," said CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

"If a student has not appeared in three or more subjects in the first examination, then he or she will not be allowed to appear in the second examination. Such students will be placed in the "Essential Repeat" category and can take the examination only next year in the main examinations in the month of February next year," he added.

White Knight Corps GOC reviews security in Ktwr distt

"The GOC, White Knight Corps, accompanied by GOC CIF (Delta), visited the general area of Kishtwar to review the counter-terrorism grid and assess the operational preparedness of deployed units," the White Knight Corps said on X.

Lt Gen Mishra was accompanied by GOC, Counter-Insurgency Force (Delta), Maj Gen A P S Bal. He was briefed on the prevailing security situation and measures to further strengthen the security framework and inter-agency synergy.

AI-generated misinformation has power to derail democracies: Prasada

"But everybody has to contribute," he said.

Highlighting the importance of AI in education, the

minister said this technology should be embedded not just in school curricula but across the wider education framework.

"We have to ensure that this is not merely a subject in a school curriculum. This is much more. We have to equip our young so that they contribute. It is about capacity building," Prasada said, adding the young should know about computational thinking and its best use cases.

He added that students should not view AI as a shortcut, cautioning that it must not undermine curiosity, rational thinking and the learning process.

"It's only a tool to better their lives and do something faster...As far as education goes, we can't have people using AI and somebody doing their homework, especially young. It's not a shortcut," he said.

In the long run, using AI as a shortcut will be counterproductive, he said adding teachers should also use this as an enabler.

"Some people say an AI tutor is much better. But that doesn't mean you want to replace a teacher. You can't," Prasada said.

Further, he said that the government is taking steps to ensure that data is available to researchers, innovators and domestic industry so that they can come out with models and solutions to transform people's lives.

"We are ensuring that these data sets are available, which are non-personal, which are safe. And that is the real edge that India has. We have the data which no one else in the world has to that level that India has, and for AI, as everybody knows, the fuel is data," he added.

Tarique all set to take oath as B'desh PM

Complex instead of Bangabhaban.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin will administer the oath to the new cabinet members at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad.

"The Parliament Secretariat is set to hold the oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet members at 4:00 pm tomorrow. Earlier, the Parliament Members (MPs) will be sworn in at 10:00 am at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Complex," Secretary of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat Kaniz Maula told BSS earlier.

Notably, BNP has also called for a parliamentary party meeting at the Parliament Building at 11.30 am to elect the parliamentary party leader.

"As the leader of the majority party, our party chairman, Tarique Rahman, will be the Prime Minister," said Salah Uddin Ahmed, a member of the standing committee of the BNP.

"Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Secretary-General of Lok Sabha Utpal Kumar Singh are expected to join Birla," sources said.

Maldives President Mohammed Muizzoo, Turkish Undersecretary Beris Ekinci and Sri Lanka's Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr Nalinda Jayatissa would also attend Rahman's oath ceremony.

In the parliamentary election that took place on February 12, the BNP won 209 out of 297 seats, while right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami won 68 seats.

The elections took place against the backdrop of a political vacuum, instability and a weakened security situation and widespread attacks on minorities after the student-led protests that brought down Sheikh Hasina's government in August 2024.

Significantly, Tarique Rahman, son of the seventh president of Bangladesh, Ziaur Rahman, and the first female prime minister of Bangladesh, Khaleda Zia, would become the prime minister for the first time.

Four candidates from minority communities, including two Hindus, all from the BNP, won in the elections.

Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, a member of the BNP's highest policy-making standing committee, and Nitai Roy Chowdhury, one of the vice presidents of the party, also secured seats.

The third minority MP-elect is Saching Pru, a senior BNP leader and follower of the Buddhist faith, while the fourth minority candidate, Dipen Dewan, belongs to the Buddhist majority Chakma ethnic minority group.

Notably, Rahman on Saturday had expressed that he would work to build a democratic country and overcome hurdles related to weak institutions in the country.

US trade deal will devastate livelihood of farmers: Congress

sarkaar" (compelled government), an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" or "America-nirbhar Bharat", he claimed.

Surjewala also said that importing American agricultural and food products into India's agricultural market is a "direct attack" on farmers' livelihoods.

"In the very first point of the February 6 Framework Agreement of the US-India trade deal, India agreed that it would open its market to US agricultural and food products without any import duty," he said.

The question is if processed maize, sorghum, soybean, fruits and other products also come to India, won't they have a direct impact on the country's biodiversity and seed purity, Surjewala asked.

"Has the Modi government opened the doors for GM Crops in India through the back door?" he asked.

The Congress leader also said that point 5 of the trade agreement clearly states that, considering America's concerns, India will remove its non-tariff trade barriers.

"America gives its farmers an annual subsidy of about Rs 1.45 lakh cr. In contrast, in India, a subsidy of Rs 6,000 is given per farmer family, but Rs 25,000 is taken back through expensive diesel, fertilisers, electricity, and pesticides."

"Despite this, Narendra Modi made an agreement with America that we will reduce farmers' subsidies and approve GM crops," Surjewala said.

"The Modi government has put India's interests at stake in the trade deal with America, he alleged. Three issues are most critical in this (deal) agriculture, energy security and trade terms," he said.

Surjewala also alleged that the deal essentially amounts to "playing with India's energy security".

"On February 6, US President Trump wrote in the penalty tariff order: India has promised the United States that it will not buy crude oil from Russia. Trump also wrote: The United States will monitor whether India buys crude oil from Russia, directly or indirectly."

"If this happens, the penalty will be reimposed. In the fact sheet issued by the US president on February 9, the statement that India has promised not to buy crude oil from Russia was repeated," he said.

Between February 2022 and January 2026, India imported crude oil worth Rs 15.24 lakh crore from Russia and saved approximately Rs 1.81 lakh crore due to lower prices, he claimed.

"Now, on Trump's insistence, the Modi government will buy crude oil from the US and Venezuela, but the rates will not be cheap. In such a situation, my direct question is isn't this playing with India's self-reliance?" Surjewala asked.

He said the main question is whether the trade agreement is based on equality or coercion.

"So, why is the Modi government agreeing to it? The country demands answers," Surjewala said.

Orientation-cum-Training Programme for YUVA Doots held at Ramban

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 16

The District Employment & Counselling Centre Ramban (DECC) today organised an Orientation-cum-Training Programme for YUVA Doots at the Conference Hall Ramban.

The session was presided over by Joint Director Employment, Jammu, Paramjeet Singh, who stressed the need to increase applications under self-employment schemes, particularly in Panchayats with low registrations. He emphasised consistent follow-up, effective coordination with banks for timely disbursement of sanctioned cases and urged YUVA Doots to work with dedication at the grassroots level to maximise outreach and benefits.

The Joint Director Employment, Jammu further directed YUVA Doots to maintain close coordination with departmental staff, banks and applicants, ensure follow-up of pending cases, motivate candidates for skill training and systematically track outcomes. He underscored accountability and adherence to targets for effective implementation.

Earlier, Assistant Director Employment Ramban Amit



Kumar delivered the welcome address, outlining the objectives of the YUVA Doot initiative and its role in strengthening employment opportunities at the Panchayat level.

The training programme was conducted in four structured phases. In Phase I, Aamir Hassan, CCO Ramban, provided orientation on the programme framework, roles and responsibilities of YUVA Doots, with emphasis on mobilising applications from areas with minimal registrations and achieving saturation at the Panchayat level. Phase II featured

Suneha Thakur, SBDU Lead, who elaborated on scheme implementation strategies, mobilisation of beneficiaries including Self-Help Groups and coordination mechanisms.

During Phase III, Assistant Director Employment Ramban highlighted post-sanction initiatives, capacity-building measures and mechanisms for tracking outputs of sanctioned and disbursed cases. YUVA Doots were guided on conducting outreach campaigns and providing continuous support to beneficiaries. Phase IV included orientation on digital

initiatives such as the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and Employment Mission initiatives by Aamir Hassan and Lovepreet Singh, focusing on digital platforms, online market linkages and awareness strategies to expand employment opportunities.

All officials and staff of DECC Ramban attended the programme. The session concluded with a vote of thanks and a reaffirmed commitment from all stakeholders to enhance self-employment prospects and strengthen livelihood opportunities across the district.

Awareness outreach programme held in Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 16

As part of the ongoing initiatives under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance Programme for the year 2025-26, the District Industries Centre, Udhampur today organized an awareness cum facilitation camp at SICOP Industrial Estate, Battal Ballian, Udhampur, focusing on promotion and on-spot facilitation of Udyam Registration for MSME units,

traders and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of the General Manager, DIC Udhampur, Kishore Singh Katoch and was formally led and coordinated by Jagdeep Singh, Functional Manager, DIC Udhampur along with the departmental staff. The camp was organized with active support and coordination from Ravinder Kotwal, Manager, SICOP, Udhampur.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic

participation from industrial unit holders, traders and other MSME stakeholders operating in the Battal Ballian industrial area.

During the programme, participants were sensitized about the importance, process and benefits of Udyam Registration under RAMP including access to government incentives, credit facilitation, policy support and formal recognition under the MSME framework.

FICCI FLO JKL Hosts Empowering Personality Development Workshop at GCW at Parade

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 16

FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh organized an inspiring and interactive workshop Titled "From Within to the World: Discovering Your Power & Path" at the Government College For Women (GCW), Parade, Jammu with support of Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo, Principal GCW, Parade and DR. Seema Malpotra, Convener, Women Study Centre.

The session was designed to empower young students through personality development, self discovery and confidence-building, encouraging them to unlock their true potential and take meaningful steps toward their future. The initiative reflects FLO JKL's continued commitment to nurturing young minds and supporting women's growth learning and mentorship.



Addressing the gathering, Aarti Chowdhay, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, emphasized the importance of personal development at a young age. She shared that true empowerment begins from within from within and that building confidence, clarity, and a strong sense of identity can help young

women shape their journeys and contribute meaningfully to society.

The workshop saw enthusiastic participation from students, who engaged in discussions and activities designed to help them better understand themselves, enhance their personalities, and prepare for future opportunities.

The workshop was attended by Mrs. Varuna Anand - National Initiative Head Partnership & collaborations, Mrs. Rupika Sahai – Vice Chairperson, Dr. Iesha Sharma, Prof. Sukhvinder Kaur, Prof. Mohd. Qayoom, Prof. Aarti and Prof. Komal Bangotra.

FICCI FLO JKL Hosts Empowering Personality Development Workshop at GCW at Parade

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 16

Under the leadership of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Reasi and Principal District and Sessions Judge, Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary DLSA Reasi, Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on 'Mediation for Nation 2.0' was organised by Para Legal Volunteers of Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Mahore at Mahore Court Complex today.

Participants were sensitised about the importance of mediation as an effective Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. The gathering was informed that mediation is a voluntary, confidential and speedy process that ensures justice in an accessible and less adversarial manner. The programme aimed to educate the general public about the concept and benefits of mediation.

Separately, an awareness programme on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' was

conducted by Para Legal Volunteers of TLSC Katra at Village Buttan, Katra. The programme highlighted the scheme and elaborated on various government initiatives for the welfare, education and empowerment of girls, including scholarships, health benefits and legal protections.

Additionally, an awareness programme on Lok Adalat was organised by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Reasi at various locations in the district under the guid-

ance of Secretary DLSA Reasi, Pooja Gupta. The drive aimed to spread awareness regarding the significance of Lok Adalat as an effective dispute resolution mechanism. PLVs sensitised participants about the upcoming Lok Adalat, its objectives and the types of cases that can be amicably settled including bank recovery matters, matrimonial disputes, MACT cases, electricity and water bill disputes, compoundable criminal cases and other civil matters.