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MHA unveils comprehensive anti-terror policy to annihilate threat scheming or track their funds.

"Technological advancements like encryption, dark web, crypto wallets, etc. have allowed these groups to operate anonymously. Disrupting/intercepting terrorist efforts to access and use CBRNED (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive, Digital) material remains a challenge for Counter Terrorism (CT) agencies. The threat of state and non-state actors misusing drones and robotics for lethal purposes remains another area of concern, even as criminal hackers and nation states continue to target India through cyber-attacks," the document read.

It described India's approach in preventing and countering threats as "proactive" and "intelligence-guided", noting that the country faces risks across air, land and water.

Under its prevention strategy, primacy is given to intelligence gathering and dissemination to executive agencies to neutralise threats, with a special emphasis on disrupting terror-funding networks through the legal framework under Indian laws.

Close partnerships have been established between central agencies and state police forces through the Multi-Agency Centre and the Joint Task Force on Intelligence in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the document said.

"Operationalisation of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) along with the Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI) in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) remains the nodal platform for efficient and real-time sharing of CT (counter terrorism) related inputs across the country and subsequent prevention against disruptions," it said.

The document highlighted the misuse of the internet for communication, recruitment, glorification of jihad and other terror-related activities, which are countered through proactive disruption of such cyber activities, on-line networks of terrorist groups and their propaganda and recruitment by intelligence and counter-terror agencies.

"Law enforcement agencies also regularly disrupt the overground workers (OGW) modules, through which terrorists are extended logistic, material and financial support. In recent times, a nexus between illegal arms syndicates and terrorist groups has emerged, and for combatting it, coordinated interventions are being made by the intelligence agencies along with the respective law enforcement agencies in various Indian states. Special emphasis is given to disrupting terror funding networks through the legal framework under Indian laws," it said.

Responding to a terror attack is a multi-stakeholder exercise involving various agencies at the central, state and district levels, with a standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for coordination at the apex level, including intelligence dissemination, analysis and follow-up action through the MAC platform.

The overall capacities of various law enforcement and CT agencies have been enhanced by identifying the resource gaps and suggesting necessary counter-measures.

"Indian laws, including anti-terrorism laws, give due importance to human rights. India adheres to the 'Rule of Law', where laws are just, applied evenly and protect fundamental rights," it said, highlighting that "multiple levels of legal redressal are available to any accused through an elaborate infrastructure of justice system from the districts, through states, right up to the higher judiciary at the central level".

The policy said issues of poverty and unemployment among vulnerable communities are addressed through various government schemes and initiatives to prevent inimical elements from misusing these conditions to their advantage.

International cooperation, which ranges from bilateral and multilateral treaties, has resulted in the disruption and indictment of many terrorist and radical entities in India and abroad, the deportation of wanted fugitives and support in the pursuit to designate wanted terrorists at the United Nations.

"The government engages a team of doctors, psychologists, lawyers and other members of civil society, including NGOs, religious and community leaders, to sensitise and reintegrate the affected community," the policy said.

Besides capacity building of the CT agencies, the document also highlights that the domestic counter-terrorism legal regime needs to be amended from time to time to

respond to the emerging challenges and associate legal experts at every stage of investigation, right from the registration of an FIR to its culmination in prosecution, to make cases against perpetrators.

"Terrorist groups based outside, nowadays, use the infrastructure, logistics and terrain knowledge of local outfits for launching attacks. National actions, coupled with international and regional cooperation, are key elements in addressing trans-national terrorism challenge," the policy said.

Expressing its commitment to continue its efforts with the international community and counter the global challenge of misuse of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for terrorist purposes, the document said investments in technology and partnerships with private enterprises have been included to mitigate futuristic terror threats.

Broader aim is to strengthen national unity: LG Sinha

over the coming days, we will witness that prowess, alongside technical mastery, the poise from years of practice, unyielding resolve, and superhuman endurance," he added.

He urged the participating athletes to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship and encouraged them to give their best throughout the tournament.

"On these ski slopes of Gulmarg, athletes' identity hinges solely on performance; every result reflects your skills, discipline, and grit, crafting new champions. In disciplines like alpine skiing, nordic skiing, snowboarding, and ski mountaineering, athletes' rigorous training and unwavering dedication will shine through," Sinha said.

He also spoke on transformation in the sporting sector across Jammu & Kashmir over the past few years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the establishment of state-of-the-art sports infrastructure under the Prime Minister's Development Package and 100 Khelo India Centres had redefined the sporting landscape.

He emphasised that modern infrastructure, coupled with the talent and dedication of J&K's youth and the proactive support of dedicated officials, had provided a massive impetus to the sector.

"The true character reveals itself not just in victory, but in adversity and a real athlete remains humble in triumph and dignified in defeat. On February 26, at the closing ceremony of 6th Khelo India Winter Games' success won't be measured by medals alone, but by the spirit of unity, mutual respect, and relentless pursuit of excellence," the LG said.

The four-day Khelo India Winter Games at India's premier winter sports destination will witness the participation of around 1,000 athletes and officials from various states and UTs in different disciplines.

Among those present on the occasion included chief minister Omar Abdullah, youth services & sports minister Satish Sharma, CM's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah, chief secretary Atal Dulloo, youth services & sports secretary Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IGP V K Birdi, divisional commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, high-altitude welfare school commandant Maj Gen Puneet Doval, Baramullah DC Minga Sherpa, J&K sports council secretary Nuzhat Gul, senior officials, representatives of Sports Authority of India & various sports organisations, prominent sports personalities & sports enthusiasts.

Pak balloons with foreign currency notes recovered

at Gunara in Khour border belt of Akhnoor, officials said.

The balloons, also carrying a Pakistani mobile number and a QR code, appeared to have drifted to this side of the International Border from the Pakistan side, the officials added.

"While balloons landing from Pakistan is a routine occurrence in the border belts, this is the first time that foreign currency notes were found attached to them," officials said.

Yesterday, BSF had seized 16 red balloons that had crossed over from the Pakistan side and landed in the fields in the border Ramgarh area of Samba district, the officials added.

Ambulance gutted in fire

was controlled by the hospital staff and the fire ser-

vices personnel.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, and authorities had initiated an inquiry to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident, the officials added.

Birla takes major step, forms lawmaker groups with 60 nations

mentary diplomacy through a structured and enduring mechanism.

"These Friendship Groups provide an institutional framework for dialogue, cooperation and exchange of best practices between India and partner democracies," the communique said.

"They will complement the government's diplomatic engagements and add greater depth to people-to-people and lawmaker-to-lawmaker ties," it added.

In the first phase, the Friendship Groups cover more than 60 countries, including Sri Lanka, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the United States, Russia, the European Parliament, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Italy, Australia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Further expansion is expected in the coming months.

Observers say the initiative reflects a renewed thrust on parliamentary diplomacy amid shifting global dynamics. "By showcasing cross-party leadership in these groups, India is projecting democratic consensus and institutional continuity in its foreign engagement," a parliamentary affairs expert observed.

With over 60 Friendship Groups now operational and more on the anvil, the initiative marks a significant milestone in strengthening global democratic partnerships and amplifying India's voice in international parliamentary forums.

Jitendra hails northeast's transformation

reaches people, it strengthens peace," he said while addressing a Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) workshop here.

The workshop was organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare in collaboration with the Assam government, with participation from senior public representatives, officials of the state administration, banking institutions including SBI, and employees approaching superannuation.

The event marked the second such programme in the state this year, reflecting the strong administrative support and effective coordination extended by the Assam government.

Referring to the transformation witnessed in the North Eastern region over the past decade, Dr Singh said that those who had seen the region before 2014 could best appreciate the scale of change.

Improved road connectivity between Guwahati and Shillong, expansion of railway services to states that had never seen rail connectivity earlier, new airports across the region, major bridges including the Bhupen Hazarika Bridge, and enhanced security conditions together reflect a new era of growth and integration, he said.

He added that the mainstreaming of the North East had been one of the most significant contributions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had visited the region frequently to personally review development initiatives.

Omar bats for artificial snow at Gulmarg

"Gulmarg remains the pre-eminent venue for winter spots in India, shifting weather patterns require a transition in infrastructure," he said while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of sixth Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) in Kashmir's Baramulla district.

"It is a huge thing that Gulmarg is hosting the winter games for the sixth time. It tells you that there is no better place for the winter games in the country. However, the reality is that weather patterns are changing. We could never think it would be so warm in Gulmarg in February. This is a reality and we have to accept it. We will take whatever steps need to be taken accordingly," the chief minister said.

Abdullah said weather patterns were changing and have become unpredictable and the government needs to rethink long-term planning for winter sports infrastructure.

"Wherever winter games take place across the world, they are not possible without the artificial snow. The Winter

Olympics in Cortina, Italy, which concluded yesterday, could not have been held without it. Since the 1970s, it has been proven that artificial snow is a requirement for every Winter Olympics," he said.

The chief minister committed to creating similar mechanisms at Gulmarg to support both athletes and the tourism sector. He added that winter tourism is really important for the region and the government "will take steps to give it a fillip".

Responding to a query about the women's participation in the KIWG, Abdullah described winter sports as an effective way to bridge gender differences, noting that men and women compete at nearly equal levels in almost every discipline.

"To see greater women participation in these games is very heartening. However, we need to ensure that we make proper facilities available, we need proper coaching facilities so that we are eventually in a position to compete for medals," he said.

Abdullah expressed regret that the participation of athletes from Jammu and Kashmir has not yet reached medal-winning standards on the global stage.

"I hope that within my life time, we can raise our performance. We have seen India win individual Olympic medals in athletics and shooting during the Summer Games. Hopefully, we will see it in winter sports as well," he said.

Road accidents decline 13 pc over 3 yrs to 5,287

undertaken during 2024 and 2025, including over 10,000 awareness programmes each year, health and eye check-ups of drivers, and first-aid training. The government also implemented the Good Samaritan and Road Accident Victim Fund (RAVF) schemes to provide cashless treatment for victims.

According to the officials, traffic enforcement agencies have shifted fully to the e-challan system. In 2024, authorities issued 40,197 e-challans, seized 429 vehicles and suspended 2,259 driving licences.

Enforcement intensified in 2025 with 52,543 e-challans issued, 1,528 vehicles seized and 1,641 driving licences suspended. Additionally, 10,439 vehicles were black-listed and 1,192 registration certificates were cancelled in 2025.

World praised India's potential at AI Summit: PM

technology will be of great benefit to humanity.

The AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi last week, concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI).

"The entire world wholeheartedly praised India's potential at the historic AI Summit held in Delhi. This demonstrates that the mindset of our young talents in technology is going to be of great benefit to all of humanity," Modi wrote on X in Hindi.

The New Delhi Declaration has been endorsed by 89 countries and international organisations, reflecting a broad-based global consensus on leveraging AI for economic growth and social good.

Global leaders, including UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Swiss President Guy Parmelin, and CEOs from leading technology companies from around the world, were among those present at the summit.

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Anura Kumara Dissanayaka, Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Croatia Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, Serbia President Aleksandar Vucic, Seychelles Vice President Sebastien Pillay, Estonia President Alar Karis, and Finland Prime Minister Petteri Orpo also attended the event.

The summit, with the theme 'Sarvajana Hitay, Sarvajana Sukhaya' (Welfare for all, happiness of all), aimed to position India as a leader in AI, envisioning a future in which AI advances humanity, fosters inclusive growth, and safeguards the planet.

It brought together more than 500 global AI leaders, including CEOs/CXOs, around 100 CEOs and founders, 150 academicians and researchers, and 400 CTOs, VPs, and philanthropists.

It also engaged more than 100 government representatives and around 60 ministers and vice ministers.

Seminar on the Potential of Himalayan Medicinal & Aromatic Plants for Entrepreneurial Avenues held at BGSBU Rajouri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 23

A one-day seminar on "Potential of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Conservation, Cultivation and Entrepreneurship Development with Special Reference to the Himalayan Region" was organized today in the Auditorium of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU). The seminar was hosted by the Centre for Biodiversity Studies (CBS) in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Medicinal Plants Board, Directorate of AYUSH, J&K and District Administration Rajouri.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs, students and officials, highlighting the immense yet untapped potential of medicinal and aromatic plant resources in the Pir Panjal region.

The inaugural session commenced with a welcome address by Director CBS, Dr. Shreekar Pant, who underlined the ecological and economic significance of medicinal plant resources in the Himalayan belt.

The Chief Guest, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, holding additional charge of Registrar BGSBU, Abhishek Sharma emphasized the need for strong academia-



industry linkage to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. He stressed the importance of integrating conservation with economic development and reiterated the university's commitment towards community outreach, skill development and promotion of start-ups in the medicinal and aromatic plant sector. "Empowering local youth and farmers through scientific cultivation and value addition will significantly contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of the Pir Panjal region," he maintained.

District Ayush Officer, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Shan highlighted the importance of awareness programmes in promoting conservation and commercial cultivation of rare herbs and medicinal plants.

Dean, School of Biosciences and Biotechnology, Dr. A.A. Shah listed recent biotechnological advancements in the medicinal and

aromatic plant sector. Technical Officer, J&K Medicinal Plants Board, Dr. Wahid Ul Hassan, elaborated on various centrally sponsored schemes supporting cultivation and conservation initiatives.

Delivering the keynote address, Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) and Nodal Officer CSIR Aroma Mission, Dr. Suphla B. Gupta described aromatic crop cultivation as a "game changer" for Himalayan farmers. She highlighted how diversification into high-value aromatic crops can drive rural entrepreneurship, enhance farmers' incomes and ensure ecological sustainability.

Among others present included DFO Territorial, Naved Iqbal, Nodal Officer, Ayush Department Dr. B.K. Bajaj, along with doctors and paramedical staff from the Department of AYUSH. The seminar featured in-

vised talks by experts including Dr. Arvind Kumar Ishar, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Rajouri; Dr. Tejinder Singh, Head, Department of Botany, GDC Rajouri; Dr. Danish Iqbal Raina, Coordinator, Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies and Research, BGSBU; and Dr. Mamta, Coordinator, Environmental Sciences. The speakers emphasized conservation strategies, scientific cultivation practices and entrepreneurship models in the medicinal and aromatic plant sector.

During the technical sessions, experts discussed practical aspects of shifting from traditional farming to high-value crops such as lemongrass and asparagus. Detailed deliberations on ginger and turmeric cultivation showcased their economic viability for the region. The seminar also focused on strengthening market linkages, promoting farmer cooperatives and exploring eco-tourism as sustainable avenues for boosting the local economy.

The event concluded with memento presentations and a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Mamta, Coordinator Environmental Sciences, reaffirming the collective commitment towards promoting green entrepreneurship and sustainable development in the Himalayan region.

DC Rajouri, SSP review arrangements for smooth conduct of Bhairav Jhanki, Holi celebrations

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 23

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Rajouri, Gaurav Sikarwar, today discussed and finalized the arrangements for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Bhairav Jhanki procession and the celebration of Holi festival.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of the stakeholder departments. He directed the concerned officers to ensure comprehensive arrangements well in advance. He stressed on maintaining proper cleanliness along the procession routes and at key congregation points. The Municipal authorities were asked to ensure sanitation measures and timely lifting of waste, besides proper functioning of street lights, repair of drain gratings and removal of encroachments along the procession routes to avoid any inconvenience to the public. He instructed the Health Department to deploy medical teams and ambulances at strategic locations, while the Fire &



Emergency Services department was asked to keep fire tenders stationed at vulnerable points. To ensure smooth vehicular movement, the Traffic Police was directed to prepare a detailed traffic diversion plan.

Emphasizing the need for effective supervision, the Deputy Commissioner instructed for the deployment of Magistrates at sensitive locations and directed the engagement of responsible volunteers at every key point to facilitate orderly conduct of the

events. The Additional Deputy Commissioners of Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kalakote and Kotranka and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Thanamandi were asked to personally oversee and ensure necessary arrangements within their respective jurisdictions.

The Senior Superintendent of Police assured that adequate security arrangements would be put in place to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of the Bhairav Jhanki procession and Holi cele-

brations. He emphasized close coordination among departments to maintain law and order.

Among others present included ADC Chander Prakash; Tehsildar Varinder Gupta; Dy SP Headquarters Satish Kumar; Dy SP Operations Shammil Kumar; Medical Superintendent GMC, Dr. Shamim Ahmed; Executive Engineer PDD Muneer Ahmed; Executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Kumar; and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.