

We vow to end remnants of terror: J&K DGP

ZEWAN (J&K), Oct 21 (PTI)

INFILTRATION has been controlled to a large extent and recruitment of local youths into militant ranks reduced, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Saturday.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a Police Commemoration Day function here, he also vowed to end the remnants of terrorism. The DGP said that "1,605 police personnel have laid down their lives since the eruption of terrorism (in Jammu & Kashmir)."

"I pay my tributes to them. I also pay tributes to personnel of other security forces who have laid down their lives. Eight policemen sacrificed their lives this year," Singh said and added that "I want to say that their sacrifices have paid off and we

have won this war on terror, and we vow to end the remnants of terror". The DGP said the youth of J&K have under

stood the ploys of the enemy and want to live in peace.

Referring to the decline in the recruitment of local youths into

militant ranks, Singh said while 110 youths joined militancy last year, this year, so far, only 10 joined.

Punjab Police known for successfully rooting out militancy, says DGP

CHANDIGARH, Oct 21 (PTI)

PUNJAB DGP Gaurav Yadav on Saturday said the state's police is known for its bravery, courage, and successfully rooting out militancy. He said the Punjab Police had always remained at the forefront to save the motherland from enemies.

Yadav said the Punjab Police would continue to work harder towards maintaining peace and commu-

nal harmony in the border State. On the occasion of police commemoration day, he paid tributes to the police personnel who had sacrificed their lives, fighting militants and criminals.

The DGP said the State police had sacrificed its 1,797 officials, including 3 this year, since Sept 1981. Police had taken a ruthless approach against drug dealers and would not rest until the menace is completely wiped out.

Police, State Govt serious in tackling drug menace: Manipur DGP

IMPHAL, Oct 21 (PTI)

MANIPUR Police DGP Rajiv Singh has said the State Government and police are extremely serious about tackling the drug menace and several initiatives have been taken to tighten security along the Indo-Myanmar border from where drugs are entering the State.

Jaishankar discusses bilateral ties with Singapore counterpart

SINGAPORE, Oct 21 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday met Singapore Minister of Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam and discussed with him regional and global developments and ways to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Jaishankar is here on the second leg of his two-nation visit to South-East Asia. He arrived here after a four-day official visit to Vietnam.

"Happy to catch up with Minister of Home Affairs & Law K Shanmugam today.

Exchanged views on further strengthening of our bilateral relations. Also on regional and global developments," Jaishankar posted on X.

His meeting with Shanmugam came a day after he met his Singaporean counterpart, Vivian Balakrishnan, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong, and Senior Minister Teo Chee Hean.

Jaishankar held talks with Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen and chaired conference of India's ASEAN.

Project Udbhav: New military concepts of ancient strategic acumen

■ Delhi Bureau & Agencies
NEW DELHI, Oct 21

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday launched a project that aims to promote indigenous discourse in the Army by integrating India's ancient strategic acumen into contemporary military domain with a focus on making the force "future-ready".

Singh also inaugurated the first edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival in Delhi that has been organised to celebrate India's rich military culture and heritage, especially to showcase the "unmatched bravery" of the Armed Forces in the security of the nation. About the project 'Udbhav', the Defence



Ministry said it is designed to weave a strategic vocabulary and conceptual framework that is deeply embedded in India's philosophical and cultural heritage. "It sets the stage for a robust, progressive and future-ready Indian Army that not only resonates with the nation's historical military sagacity but is also attuned to the demands and dynamics of contemporary warfare and diplomacy," the Defence Ministry said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits an exhibition during the inauguration of Indian Military Heritage festival, at Manekshaw Centre, in New Delhi on Saturday. Army Chief General Manoj Pande is also seen. (ANI)

Indian Navy to host mega military wargame in Feb, 50 navies set to participate

NEW DELHI, Oct 21 (PTI)

INDIA will showcase its increasing maritime prowess at a nine-day mega naval exercise it will host in February that is set to see participation of over 50 countries against the backdrop of increasingly fractious global geopolitical environment and China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific.

Navies from the US, Japan, Australia, France, Bangladesh,

South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia are set to be among the participating nations in the 'Milan' exercise to be conducted off Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27 next year, officials said on Friday.

The upcoming exercise will be the biggest multilateral military wargame to be hosted by India ever and it will feature large-force manoeuvres, advanced air defence operations, anti-submarine warfare

and anti-surface drills, they said. It is learnt that all participating nations will send their platforms and personnel for the wargame that will take place in the Arabian Sea. The drills would also feature in sub-surface and air domains.

The Milan is a biennial multilateral naval exercise which was initiated by the Indian Navy in 1995.

Originally conceived in consonance with India's 'Look East Policy', the exercise expanded

in ensuing years with New Delhi's 'Act East Policy' and Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative.

In 2022, 39 countries participated in Milan exercise.

"The Milan 2024 is likely to witness the largest-ever participation to date with invites being extended to over 50 countries," Indian Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

He said it will be an action packed exercise featuring a

wide-range of activities.

The harbour phase of Milan will consist of maritime seminars, exhibition and city parade.

"Maritime patrol aircraft and submarines of friendly foreign countries would participate in the sea phase along with Indian Navy units," Commander Madhwal said.

"They will involve large-force manoeuvres, advanced air defence operations, anti-submarine warfare and anti-sur-

face warfare operations," he said.

"The run-up to Milan is concomitant to India's G20 Presidency and the conduct of the exercise would yet again realise the 'G20 theme Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is one family)," the Navy spokesperson said.

A mid-planning conference on Milan was hosted by the Eastern Naval Command on October 17 with participating friendly foreign navies.

26 crore Ayushman cards created across country: Health Ministry

NEW DELHI, Oct 21 (PTI)

THE Centre's health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has crossed the milestone of generating 26 crore Ayushman cards across the country, the health ministry said in a statement. With four crore cards, Uttar Pradesh tops the list of states with the highest number. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh stand at number two and three positions with 3.69 crore and 2.04 crore Ayushman cards, respectively. The health ministry further said in the statement 49 per cent Ayushman cards are held by female beneficiaries.

The AB PM-JAY has suc-

cessfully catered to 5.7 crore hospital admissions costing more than Rs 70,000 crore, the statement added.

The flagship scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) provides a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 12 crore beneficiary families.

Ayushman card generation is the "most fundamental activity" under the AB PM-JAY and concerted efforts are being continuously made to ensure every beneficiary under the scheme has an Ayushman card, the ministry said.

It is one of the key activities under the Ayushman Bhav campaign launched to ensure

100 per cent coverage of the Central Government's health schemes.

Since the launch of the campaign on September 13, more than 1.5 crore Ayushman card requests have been successfully received on NHA's IT platform. In October, 86 lakh Ayushman cards were created till Thursday, the statement stated.

The NHA has launched the 'Ayushman App' to generate Ayushman card. The app has a unique feature of self-verification, which enables users to generate Ayushman card in four steps without visiting any centre, the statement said.

The app has been downloaded more than 26 lakh times since its launch.

Nawaz Sharif returns to Pak

“Lost my mother, wife to politics”

LAHORE, Oct 21 (PTI)

“I LOST my mother and wife to politics,” former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Saturday, getting visibly emotional as he described how he faced the news of their deaths during his imprisonment.

Sharif was addressing a mammoth rally at Minar-e-Pakistan here this evening soon after he returned earlier to Pakistan ending the four years of self-imposed exile in the UK.

Claiming that after seeing the love of the party followers gathered at the rally he has forgotten his “grief and pain”, the 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo said, “Even if I don’t want to remember, there are some wounds that can’t heal ever.”

In an almost emotionally



Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, backed by his daughter Maryam, waves to his supporters upon his arrival to address a welcoming rally in Lahore on Saturday. (AP/PTI)

choked voice, he said he had lost his mother and wife “to politics” and recalled how he couldn’t pay the final respects to either his mother, father or wife.

“My wife Kulsoom was counting her last moments. I requested them (the jail authorities) to allow a call to speak with her. I am telling you of the
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India's flight tests for human space mission successful

A step closer to human space flight programme: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Oct 21 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that ISRO's successful launch of a test vehicle as part of its Gaganyaan mission takes India a step closer to realising its first human space flight programme.

In a post on X, he said, "This launch takes us one step closer to realising India's first human space flight programme, Gaganyaan. My best wishes to our scientists at ISRO."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the successful launch of the Gaganyaan's TV-D1 test flight, saying it has scripted India's another remarkable space odyssey.

"After the successful launch of the Chandrayaan-3, our nation is ready to take its next giant stride in the realm of space. Today the @isro launched #Gaganyaan's TV-

D1 Test Flight into space scripting another remarkable space odyssey.

"My heartfelt congratulations to our scientists and our citizens on this momentous occasion of success and fulfilment," Shah said in X post.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in a post on X said, "Our best wishes to all the scientists, space engineers, crew and researchers at ISRO for the success of Gaganyaan test flight mission (TV-D1)."

"India's human space flight programme has been in the works since 2007 and after decades of rigorous hard work and dedication we are advancing towards that goal," he added.

Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said the successful test flight has set the stage for the remaining qualification tests and unmanned missions.