

Imran Khan To Meet Trump At WEF In Davos



Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and US President Donald Trump will meet this week on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, the Foreign Office announced on Monday.

Khan would attend the WEF in Davos, Switzerland, from January 21 to 23 at the invitation of Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the WEF.

"On the sidelines, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with several world leaders.

These include Prime Minister's meeting with US President Trump," the FO said.

This would be the third leadership-level interaction between Pakistan and the US since Prime Minister Khan's maiden visit to Washington in July 2019. The two leaders had also met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September.

Their meeting comes amid tensions in the Gulf region between Iran and the US, and Pakistan's efforts to drum up support on the Kashmir issue.

Ahead of the announcement of his meeting with Trump, Khan on

Saturday warned that he feared "an Indian false flag operation."

He said there was an urgent need for UN Security Council to insist India allow the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) return to Kashmir.

"I want to make clear to India and the international community that if India continues its military attacks killing civilians across LoC, Pakistan will find it increasingly difficult to remain an inactive observer along the LoC," Khan tweeted on Saturday.

India maintains that the UNMOGIP, established in January

Pak Urges US To Get It Out Of FATF Grey List

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has urged the US to support its bid to exit from the grey list of the FATF ahead of a key meeting of the international terror financing watchdog in Beijing in which it will scrutinise Islamabad's efforts to adopt stricter laws against terror financing and money laundering.

A Pakistani delegation arrived in Beijing on Sunday for the three-day face-to-face talks with the Financial Action Task Force Working Group that would start on January 21. The briefing will go over whether Pakistan has complied with an earlier agenda presented to it by the Paris-based financial task force, The News reported.

The Pakistani delegation is being led by Minister for Economic Affairs Division Hammad Azhar and comprises representatives of National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta), the foreign ministry, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), among others.

1949, has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after the Simla Agreement and the consequent establishment of the Line of Control.

Several other meetings are also scheduled with a wide range of corporate, business, technology and finance executives, and representatives of international financial institutions, the Foreign

The FATF in October decided to keep Pakistan on its 'Grey' list for failure to curb funnelling of funds to militant groups LeT, JeM and others.

If not removed off the list by April, Pakistan may move to a blacklist of countries that face severe economic sanctions, such as Iran.

Pakistan has submitted a 650-page review report to the FATF on January 8. The report was submitted in response to 150 questions raised by the FATF regarding new Pakistani policies on money laundering. The report outlined the steps taken by Pakistan between October 2019 to January 2020 to implement the group's recommendations.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at a media briefing in Washington on Friday said that Pakistan hoped the US would back its efforts to get it off the list at the FATF's Beijing meeting, the Dawn newspaper reported.

"This meeting is very impor-

tant for us as it leads to a plenary meeting in Paris in April where the world body will decide whether Pakistan remains on the list or is taken off," he said.

Qureshi concluded his three-day visit to the US on Friday after a series of meetings with key US lawmakers and officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien.

The foreign minister spent the week touring Iran, Saudi Arabia and the US on a diplomatic mission meant to defuse tensions between Washington and Tehran.

At his news briefing, Qureshi also urged the US to review its travel advisories for Pakistan and encourage investments in the country. US travel advisories still present Pakistan as a country Americans should avoid travelling because of terrorism threats.

Asked why the FATF's Beijing meeting was important, Qureshi said that decisions

taken in China's capital would also impact the Force's Paris plenary, which would decide whether Pakistan stayed in or was taken off the grey list.

"We want our American friends to tell us what's their policy," he said. "You share with us what measures you have taken or intend to."

The minister acknowledged that removal from the FATF list could not happen overnight, but said that the US could enhance its engagements with Pakistan while waiting for the removal.

Qureshi noted that in his meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan last year, US President Donald Trump had said that he wanted to see Pakistan off the FATF grey list. "So, we expect US officials to work for it now."

The foreign minister said Islamabad had taken several concrete steps to meet FATF demands and the time had come for the US to fulfil President Trump's pledge.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Forum.

In keeping with the significance of this milestone, political leaders, business executives, heads of international organisations and civil society representatives will deliberate on contemporary economic, geopolitical, social and environmental issues at Davos summit.

Bushfires in Australia sign of 'approaching climate disaster' - Nobel Laureate

MOSCOW, Jan 20 (Sputnik) Wildfires ravaging Australia since last year indicate that the world is nearing a "climate disaster," yet this country, along with the United States, is still pioneering climate change denialism, Rae Kwon Chung, a UN climate expert and laureate of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, told Sputnik.

Bushfires, unprecedented in their scale and intensity, have

been burning across Australia since September. They have killed 28 people as well as an estimated 1 billion animals, many of which are unique to Australia.

Conservative Prime Minister Scott Morrison is, meanwhile, known for his skepticism about climate change.

Under him, the country has stopped payments to the United Nations' global climate fund and

skipped major climate conferences, expressing reluctance to spend money on this "nonsense."

"I think this [Australian fire crisis] is real climate crisis and approaching climate disaster. In Australia the climate disaster is happening already. But it's not only in Australia. Last summer it was in Sweden, they had wildfires as well. Almost all countries in Europe had wildfires. The USA

as well, this country is suffering from hurricanes," Chung said.

Despite that, he went on, Australia and the US are "still one of the strongest deniers of climate change."

"The position of president [Donald] Trump, and countries like Australia and the US, is very detrimental, because it is sending a very strong signal to other countries, countries 'in the middle'.

Malaysia To Send 110 More Containers Of Plastic Waste Back To Source Countries

KUALA LUMPUR: (Xinhua) Malaysia is sending back an additional 110 containers of plastic waste to source countries after having successfully returned 150, the government said on Monday.

The Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change said in a statement that 150 containers with estimated 3,737 metric tonnes of plastic waste had been returned to the source countries, mostly developed countries such

as the United States, Britain, Japan, Canada, Spain and France.

Speaking at a press conference at Butterworth Port in Penang state, where some of the containers arrived at, Minister of Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Yeo Bee Yin said the additional 110 containers to be sent back include 60 from the United States, 15 from Canada and 14 from Japan, while others came from Britain, Belgium, Mexico, Hungary, France and Jamaica.

"As a party to the Basel Convention, Malaysia also imposes strict requirements in line with the Article 4 (11) of the Convention for all importation of mixed plastic waste to ensure that any transboundary movement of waste is conducted in a manner to protect human health and the environment," she said.

The Basel Convention is the most comprehensive international environmental agreement on hazardous and other wastes.

From Front page...

Dgp Supports Idea Of

Singh said if an attempt is made to set up a facility where experts in the subject and religious experts are part of it, it will help these youth.

"It will be a good development and it should be welcome," the DGP said.

The idea of setting up deradicalisation centres for the youth in Kashmir was first mooted by Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, leading to criticism from some quarters.

No Bar On Probing Davinder's

A senior police officer posted with the strategic anti-hijacking team at the Srinagar airport, Davinder Singh was arrested along with two militants whom he was allegedly ferrying in a car in Kashmir Valley.

"You are talking about incidents of long ago. The officers concerned at that time must have looked into it. But there is no bar on investigating if something comes to the fore formally," he said.

Asked if the arrested DSP had named other policemen who were in league with him, the DGP said the investigation into the case was going on and it was not proper for him to comment.

"There might be more disclosures in the coming times we will share with you but for the time being, we cannot comment on it," he added.

Tight Security In Kashmir

arrested five militants. "They were planning to carry out a militant attack," V.K. Virdhi, Deputy Inspector General, Central Kashmir, said.

The police said they were earlier involved in a couple of grenade attacks in Srinagar.

On January 8, a grenade blast took place at Habbak Crossing in Srinagar while a second grenade blast happened near Sir Syed Gate of Kashmir University on November 2019.

The involvement of the arrested militants was found in both the cases.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including gelatin sticks, explosives, detonators, arms, explosive body vests, batteries and nitric acid was recovered from the arrested Jaish militants.

Police Deserter Among 3 Hizb Militants

Termining the killing of the three militants a major success, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said Hizbul Mujahideen is on the "verge of elimination" in south Kashmir.

The police force has made a successful start to 2020, he told reporters.

The operations have been successful due to increased movement of security forces following

leads provided by militants arrested along with Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh, now suspended, on January 11, he added.

The DGP said Wani was one of the top-ranking commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen. He was involved in 19 cases, including killings of four civilians and as many policemen.

"Adil was also involved in some of these killings after he deserted the police force in September 2018," he said.

Singh said the elimination of this group of militants will remove fear from the minds of people in Shopian and bring closure to the kin of their victims.

Hunt For J&K Bank

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to separate the positions of Chairman and Managing Director for better governance. (KNO)

Intense Cold Conditions In Kashmir

was the coldest recorded palce in the Kashmir valley.

The ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir registered a minimum of minus 12.8 degrees Celsius.

The night temperature in Kokernag, in south, settled at a low of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara, in north, recorded a low of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, the official added.

The MET Office has forecast scattered to widespread light to moderate rain or snow in the valley over the next two days.

Availability Of Petroleum

two days to avoid any shortage.

He also asked the oil companies to depute their representatives at Patnitop, Ramban, Banihal and Qazigundand to communicate with the Div Com office, IGP Traffic and Director FCS & CA about the arrival of petroleum tankers on the daily basis.

The Div Com asked the concerned officials to conduct extensive market checks to ensure that domestic LPG is not used for commercial purposes.

He further directed the concerned authorities to regularly feed SKIMS and other tertiary care health institutions as per need.

Khan asked the representatives of oil companies to immediately bring the issues and problems, if any, to the notice of divisional administration so that timely action is taken.

With regards to the snow clearance measures, the Div Com directed the concerned snow clearance agencies to keep the snow clearance mechanism intact while asking them to ensure snow clearance on road sides as well.

He directed the CE BRO, BEACON to visit both sides of Banihal tunnel along with SSP Traffic Ru-

ral Kashmir and SSP National Highway, Jammu so that the immediate measures are taken by the agencies to keep the road fully functional. He also asked them to apply relevant chemicals on the frozen surface of the road so that slippery conditions are avoided.

To overcome the problem of slippery roads, the Div Com instructed the concerned to use chains on the trucks and tankers tyers from Patnitop to Qazigund. He further said that any dereliction on this count by any trucker will be dealt with under law.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) PK Pole; Inspector General, Traffic J&K, T.Namgyal; Director FCS&CA, Kashmir; Medical Superintendent, SKIMS; Additional Secretary FCS&CA; SSP Traffic NHW; SP Traffic Rural Kashmir; SP Traffic City Srinagar; Chief Engineer, BRO, BEACON; Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering; Deputy Controller LMD; Project Director Ramban NHA-1; Incharge Joint Director, Information Department, General Manager, Food Corporation of India, Jammu; State Level Coordinator IOCL, J&K Jammu; Area Sales Managers of LPG and POL from HPCL, BPCL, IOCL and other concerned officials.

J&K Deploys Addl Staff To Verify

verification of all projects implemented in the districts with the assistance of the additional staff.

"The DSEO of every district shall also submit reports to the finance department by the 5th of every month that point out achievements made against the target and shortcomings, if any, found in the projects," the spokesman added.

He said the current deployment has been made in the backdrop of an earlier government order which reorganised and allocated the functions between the finance and statistics departments.

The earlier order was made to strictly monitor and streamline the capital expenditure in each department from administrative to block level to improve outcomes with respect to each unit of money spent, the spokesman said.

He said the current exercise has been carried out to strengthen the institution of monitoring and evaluation from the ground level of the official machinery for bringing transparency, accountability and efficiency in government expenditure.

JKNPP Protests Govt's Silence

Seeking an official statement from the Bharatiya Janata Party over the issues, Singh said the delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir has been repeatedly assured by the state as well central BJP leadership and had even been incorporated by the saffron party in its election manifesto released during the 2014

elections in the erstwhile state.

"While it took no initiative during its three-and-a-half year rule in J&K over the subject, it tried to pacify the people by its persistent rhetoric that the post reorganisation era would witness delimitation of Assembly seats as a priority with a higher number of seats for Jammu region," he told reporters.

The former minister said the party was given to understand that immediate steps would be taken upon conversion of the former state into a Union Territory for delimiting the Assembly constituencies, increase in the number of seats, rotation of reserved seats and reservation of Scheduled Tribes which will be followed by early elections in the newly created Union Territory.

"Despite a lapse of five and a half months, the government has failed to even come out with any proposal for delimitation exercise and further maintained a studied, intriguing silence over the issue of holding elections," he said.

He claimed that the BJP leadership was issuing veiled threats to JKNPP leaders to desist from seeking delimitation of Assembly constituencies instead of making any announcement over the issue.

Seeking early Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Singh said that repeated postponement of polls only amounted to subversion of the Constitution and defiance of judgments rulings pronounced by the Supreme Court.

"By continuing its proxy rule in Jammu and Kashmir through its trusted lieutenant governor, the Centre was not only denying the people their fundamental rights and guarantees but also defying the Constitution which it was claiming to have extended to the Union Territory," Singh added.

Difficult To Predict War Scenario

It was for this reason the post of CDS was created, he said.

"...we will keep moving towards better integration and jointness," Rawat, who was appointed the country's first Chief of Defence Staff on December 30 last year, added.

On strengthening the Air base here, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria said it will undertake the role of the southern peninsula's air defence.

The Indian Air Force commissioned a squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI at the Air Force Station here, the first such base in south India for the high profile fighter jets, seen as a gamechanger in guarding the strategically important Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The 'Tigersharks' squadron of Sukhoi 30 MKI jets integrated with the BrahMos cruise missiles was inducted in the presence of the Air Chief and top officials.

The Su-30 MKI is a state-of-the-art all weather multi-role fighter aircraft capable of undertaking varied air defence, ground attack and maritime missions.

J-K Woos Businesses With First

take a leap forward in making Jammu and Kashmir an economic paradise for investors and I would like to invite you all to take the lead in setting up your enterprises in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Today's Pre-Summit Investors' Interaction has been organised to deliberate with you all on desired initiatives for creating an investor-friendly ecosystem and make you interested in Jammu and Kashmir," Murmu said.

Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh congratulated the lieutenant governor for taking such an initiative "at the right time and right place".

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam said, "Jammu & Kashmir is little known about the places except what we have seen in the films, it is quite different what we know. J&K is not a backward place but it has the brightest and skilled people. I have read in a book that people in J&K don't die from the disease but from the old age."

More than 350 delegates from various sectors and leading organisations participated in the event which held over 45 B2G meetings took place.

The aim of the upcoming Global Investors' Summit 2020 is to exhibit the different investment opportunities available in the newly formed UT in different sectors including Tourism, Film Tourism, Horticulture and Post Harvest Management, Agro and Food Processing, Mulberry production for silk, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Manufacturing, IT/ ITeS, Renewable Energy, Infrastructure and Real Estate, Handloom and Handicraft and Education, said Kewal Kumar Sharma, Advisor to the lieutenant governor.

The event was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), a nodal agency for J-K Government along with Media Partner PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the National Partner and Ernst & Young as the knowledge partner.

Girl Among 2 Killed

Meanwhile, police have arrested driver of the load carrier and registered a case against the accused. (KNS)

110 JK Students Leave

across the country. He stressed that such tours provide a platform to students to know more about their country, to familiarize with the culture and history of the nation and encourage them to make friends and interact with their counterparts across other states for a better exposure.