

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

LeT commander among...

He was sent to revive terrorism in the region, they said. Quari was an expert in IEDs, a trained sniper and operated from caves.

The identity of the other terrorist is being verified.

On Wednesday, four army personnel, including two captains, were martyred and two others injured in the operation against the terrorists in the Dharmsal belt's Bajimaal area.

The two injured army personnel -- a major and a jawan -- are admitted at the Army's Command Hospital in Udhampur.

Those martyred in the operation are Captain M V Pranjal of Karnataka's Mangalore area, Captain Shubham Gupta of Uttar Pradesh's Agra, Havaldar Abdul Majid of Ajote in Poonch, Lance Naik Sanjay Bist of Uttarakhand's Halli Padli area and Paratrooper Sachin Laur of Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh, the officials said.

In a post on X, the White Knight Corps of the Army said based on specific intelligence, joint operations were launched in the Kalakote area of Gulabgarh forest in Rajouri on Sunday.

"Contact established on 22 November and intense firefight ensued. The terrorists have been injured and surrounded and operations are in progress, amidst acts of valour and sacrifice by their own brave hearts in trying to prevent collateral damage to women and children in the highest traditions of the Indian Army," it said.

The encounter in Rajouri comes close on the heels of another gunfight in Behrote in Budhal area on November 17, in which one terrorist was killed.

Two earlier ambushes in the Mendhar area of Poonch and Kandi forest of Rajouri on April 20 and May 5, respectively, had claimed the lives of 10 soldiers.

According to officials, 46 deaths have been recorded in terrorism-related incidents in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and nearby Reasi district since January this year.

While 23 people, including seven terrorists and nine security personnel, were martyred in Rajouri, 15 terrorists and five security personnel in Poonch district. Three terrorists were killed in Reasi district.

Several political parties, including the Congress and the BJP, have called for befitting reply to terrorism.

J-K BJP chief Ravinder Raina said Pakistan is repeatedly engineering terror incidents to destabilise the peace in the region.

"They have again hatched a conspiracy by pushing in a group of terrorists into Rajouri to ambush troops in which four of our bravehearts have been martyred," Raina said.

SC asks Centre...

domain". "For the court to direct that in addition to the reservation made ... Parliament must legislate to enact proportional representation for all other communities forming part of Scheduled Tribes, that would be venturing into the legislative domain," it said.

The directions were issued by a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on a plea seeking a proportionate representation of the Limbu and Tamang tribal communities in the assemblies of Sikkim and West Bengal.

"We have made it clear that they (Centre) have to set up the delimitation commission," the bench said. It said the apex court has the power of judicial review to determine whether a provision enacted by Parliament is unconstitutional, but "this court will go beyond the line".

Dealing with proportionate representation of communities in the West Bengal Assembly, the bench said it would require using the power under the Delimitation Act, 2002.

The law provides for a readjustment of the allocation of seats in state assemblies, the total number of Assembly seats and the division of each state and Union

Territory having a legislative Assembly.

"In regard to the state of West Bengal, it has been submitted that ... additional seats have to be made available in the state Assembly for the Scheduled Tribes in order to accommodate the principle of proportional representation," the bench said.

"The above circumstance makes it abundantly necessary for the Centre to take recourse to power under the Delimitation Act, 2002 to ensure that the provisions under articles 332 and 333 of the Constitution are duly implemented," it added.

The bench made it clear that its verdict "shall not be read to interfere with the elections to Parliament or state assemblies since elections are an overarching mandate and they have to be carried out on time".

The top court on Wednesday said the Centre must take a "considered view" on the reconstitution of the delimitation commission to ensure a proportional representation of the Limbu and Tamang tribal communities.

It had said the demand of the communities for the grant of proportional representation has a constitutional foundation, which can be found in articles 330 and 332.

"Though we are conscious that we cannot direct Parliament to enact a law, we are of the view that the Union of India must take a considered view if the delimitation commission should be reconstituted to ensure justice to those communities who have been designated as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes," it had said.

The court had asked the Centre to discuss the issue with the chief election commissioner and respond to it by Thursday. The Centre on Thursday said the issue has to be left to Parliament.

"Once we start, the benefit (of reservation) has to be given across the country and there are already demands from various states. It has to be done across the country," the Centre's counsel said, adding that 52 communities, which were in the general pool earlier, have been added to the list of SCs and STs.

The top court was hearing a plea moved by the Public Interest Committee for Scheduling Specific Areas (PICSSA), an NGO, which argued that the Limbu and Tamang communities, both belonging to the ST category, have been denied a proportionate representation in West Bengal and Sikkim.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing in the court on behalf of the NGO, had earlier claimed that there was a rise in the ST population in Sikkim and West Bengal and not reserving seats for them proportionate to the growth amounted to a denial of their constitutional rights.

In its plea, the NGO has claimed that the population of the Limbu and Tamang communities in Sikkim was 20.6 per cent in 2001 and had risen to 33.8 per cent in 2011. It has also said that in the Darjeeling area of West Bengal, the ST population rose to 21.5 per cent in 2011 from 12.69 per cent in 2001.

The PIL has sought directions to the Centre, Election Commission (EC) and the two states to take steps for a proportional representation of the STs, as guaranteed under articles 330 (reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the House of People) and 332 (reservation of seats for SCs and STs in legislative assemblies of states) of the Constitution, to prevent a violation of Article 14 (equality before law).

The petition said in the Tribes Advisory Council established in West Bengal on March 6, 2012, there were no elected ST members from the three hill area sub-divisions of Darjeeling district.

"Moreover, the state Assembly election in 2016 had no reserved ST seat and hence, had no implementation of articles 170 and 332 of the Constitution notified as per census 2011. The delimited Assembly seats in the Darjeeling hills presently consist of elected non-ST members," it has pointed out.

LG calls for...

aspects to meet the high electricity demand in both Kashmir and Jammu Division.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor asked the Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad for strict compliance of curtailment plans, uninterrupted and quality power in 100 percent smart metered feeders and timely replacement of damaged transformers to avoid any inconvenience to the people. He said the team on the ground must closely monitor the situation and take proactive actions to meet the peak electricity demand.

The Lt Governor also took appraisal of the status of the installation of smart meters, manpower and power infrastructure.

Arms, explosives recovered...

The box raised suspicion and the bomb disposal squad was called. An improvised explosive device (IED), a pistol, two magazines, 38 rounds of ammunition and nine grenades were found, the officials said.

It is believed that a drone dropped the consignment for use by terrorists, they said. The box in which the arms and explosive material was kept is similar to what had been dropped by terrorists based across the LoC in the past, they said.

The Khour police station registered an FIR and investigation has begun.

According to a police handout, based on the inputs from troops deployed in the forward areas of having heard quadcopter noise, a joint search operation was conducted by the Police and Army in the vicinity of Laukikhad bridge. At about 7 AM, a package along with dropping string was recovered. This has been one of the biggest haul of quadcopter dropped War Like Stores in the Akhnour sector which is aimed to revive terrorism in Rajouri and Akhnour sectors of Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army and security forces are committed in thwarting inimical designs of the adversary and continue to play an important role in the regional security for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, it added.



J&K SSB to...

who have opted for Kashmir as test centre for the post of Sub Inspector, Home Department (as per the application form) and are desirous of appearing in PST and PET at Jammu centre, have been called upon to represent before the Board through offline mode only at J&K Services Selection Board office Zam-Zam Complex, Rambagh Srinagar, within 03 days from issuance of this notice i.e. up to November 25, 2023, in the prescribed format.

The document reads that no further request in this regard shall be entertained beyond November 25, 2023.

'Love for nation...

fencing along the LoC. Yousef who retired as a soldier of the army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JKLI) said that we are a family of the soldiers living on the LoC to defend the nation.

"We have 30 to 40 family members who are serving or have retired from the Indian Army. Serving in the Army is in our blood. My son is also serving in the forces. It feels proud to be a soldier," he said.

Angered over the repeated mischievous acts of Pakistan, the former soldier calls for a befitting reply to the neighbouring nation so that they do not dare to repeat it again. Hundreds of people and relatives thronged the Majid's house to stand by his family and were proud of his martyrdom.

Majid's wife said he had told her about his visit to home in the next few days but news of his martyrdom has rattled her.

"Just a day ago he called me and told me that he will soon visit home. I called him a number of times yesterday but his mobile was off. In the evening, I was told by the Army that he was injured in an encounter and is in hospital," she said.

Sunil Kumar Sharma Naib Sarpanch Ajote said that the entire belt is proud of him. "Our son and brave jawan has achieved martyrdom in an encounter in Kalakote. Entire area is proud of him". "Pakistan is everyday engineering mischief and killing innocent people here. Pakistan should be given a befitting reply so that they don't dare to repeat such acts," Sharma said.

J&K integrates all 17 functional mandis on eNAM, raises eNAM trade to over 300 Cr this year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing in collaboration with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), on Thursday organized an outreach programme for Warehousing Registration and integration of CA stores with eNAM portal at SKICC, Srinagar. Chairman WDRA, T K Manoj Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion.

Kumar informed that WDRA was constituted in 2010 under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 with a mission to regulate and ensure implementation of provisions of the Act for development and regulation of warehouses, regulations of negotiability of warehouse receipts and promote orderly growth of warehousing business in the country.



He announced waiver of registration fee till 25th Oct 2025, besides emphasizing that PACS in J&K can take due benefit for registration from WDRA.

Sharing the perspective, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Vikas Sharma, in his address, informed that the meet was organized with the twin objective of raising awareness on registration of warehouses under Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act and bringing CA Stores in the fold of eNAM for giving

way for their integration on e-NAM Portal. The Department has recently provided for declaration of CA stores as sub-yards of Mandis for carrying out e-NAM Trade to facilitate the farmers to reap maximum returns for their produce.

National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. He shared that a similar event was organized in August in Jammu.

It was informed on the occasion that J&K has now integrated all 17 functional mandis on eNAM. The Department is keen to facilitate registration of CA stores in J&K with WDRA, paving

WDRA in this regard.

The event was participated, among others by, G.R. Mir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, R.A.Wani, Special Secretary, Inam Din MD, JKHPMC, Khalid Majeed, Director I&C Kashmir, Mohammad Iqbal Choudhary, Director Agriculture Kashmir, CGM NABARD, Shahid Kamili, President, FCIK, Vicky Shah, Chairman, PHD-COI, representatives of KCCI, various stakeholders including officers of Horticulture (P&M) Department, DMI, NABARD, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, FCI, Industries and Commerce, SIDCO, SICOP, Cooperatives, SKUAST, banks. Besides, CA stores owners, owners of warehouses, farmers, and Presidents of major fruit Mandis also attended the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: A special court here on Thursday granted interim bail to former minister Lal Singh who was arrested in a money laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate earlier this month.

Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan Party (DSSP), walked out of Jammu district jail to a warm welcome by his relatives and supporters this evening.

The former minister was arrested from a house here on November 7, within hours after special judge, Anti-corruption (CBI cases) Jammu

Bala Jyoti dismissed his anticipatory bail application.

Singh is under investigation by the ED in connection with the case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra.

"petitioner has been able to carve out a strong prima facie case for enlargement on interim bail as such the petitioner is admitted to interim bail, subject to furnishing surety for an amount of Rs 2 lakh with a personal bond of the like amount, on the conditions that he shall remain present before the ED as and when called and shall render all possible assistance in the

due investigation of the case," said Principal Sessions Judge (Special court, designated under PMILA), Jammu Sanjay Parihar in a 15-page order.

The court directed Singh not to indulge in repetition of the offence and to refrain from intimidating or harassing the prosecution witnesses.

"In the event of any such claim of the respondent, the concession of bail is amenable to withdrawal. Besides (he) shall surrender his passport before the ED," the court said, listing the case for hearing on December 14.

SFs recover pistol, ammunition from OGW's house in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Poonch: Security forces on Thursday searched the house of an over ground worker (OGW) of a terrorist outfit in Poonch district and seized a pistol and ammunition, officials said.

The search was conducted by a team of the police and the army in Ser Khwaja area of the district and a pistol, a magazine and five rounds of 9mm were seized from the house, they said. Sources said a search is underway to apprehend the OGW.

Army jawan dies in accidental firing in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Mendhar: An Army jawan was killed after his service rifle accidentally went off along the Line of Control in Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

The incident took place at Phagwari gate along border fencing.

Inquest proceedings have been initiated, they said.

Cold wave sweeps Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: The minimum temperature settled below freezing point at most places in Kashmir valley where Shopian was the coldest place with a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, officials said on Thursday.

There was a slight rise in the minimum temperature on Wednesday night due to arrival of a western disturbance that is expected to affect the system later in the day.

The rise in temperature has resulted in reduction in early morning fog that had affected the valley for the past three days.

Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, which was one degree higher than the previous night, while Pulwama recorded a low of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius.

While Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg ski resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of 0.4 degrees Celsius.

In 'Amritkaal' of India's independence, country has come out of mentality of slavery: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Mathura (UP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said for the first time in the 'Amritkaal' of India's independence, the country has come out of the mentality of slavery and is moving ahead with the feeling of pride for its heritage.

He was addressing the 'Mirabai Jannotsav', organised here to celebrate the 525th birth anniversary of the poet and Lord Krishna devotee.

"Today for the first time in the 'Amritkaal' of India's independence, the country has come out of the mentality of slavery," Modi said.

"We have taken the pledge of 'Panch Pran' from the Red Fort. We are moving ahead with the feeling of pride for our heritage," he said.

Before attending the event, the prime minister paid obeisance at the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura.

During his address, he said unfortunately, this place of pilgrimage, the Braj region, did not get the importance, it should have got after independence.

"The Braj region is not only the land of devotion

and love, it has also been the centre of our literature, music, culture and civilization. It kept the country together even in difficult times. But unfortunately, this place of pilgrimage did not get the importance, it should have got after independence," the prime minister said.

"Those who wanted to disconnect India from its past, those who were alienated from India's culture and its spiritual identity, even after independence, they could not give up the mentality of slavery. They also deprived the Braj region of development," he said without naming anyone.

Mentioning Mirabai, he said, "Our country has always been the one that worships women power".

Women have always taken up responsibilities and have also continuously guided society, the prime minister said and added that "Mirabai ji is a shining example of this". The life of Mirabai, an ardent devotee of Lord Shri Krishna, is an inspiration for all, he said.

"It is a privilege for me to participate in the celebration of the 525th birth anniversary of Saint

Mirabai at the holy land of Mathura," Modi said.

Mentioning Gujarat's connection with Lord Krishna, the prime minister said, "From Lord Krishna to Meerabai, Braj has a special relationship with Gujarat. Kanha of Mathura became the Dwarkadhish only after going to Gujarat."

"Mirabai ji, who came from Rajasthan and spread love in Mathura-Vrindavan, also spent the last part of her life in Dwarka," he said.

This is not just the celebration of a birth anniversary of a "saint", but the celebration of the entire culture of India, Modi said. This occasion is also a celebration of the "idea of non-distinction between Nar and Narayan, Jiva and Shiva, devotee and God," he said. Modi said that "a saint like Mirabai showed that a woman's self-confidence has the power to give direction to the entire world."

Mirabai was one of the greatest social reformers and pioneers, he added.

Mirabai is known for her devotion to Lord Krishna and she has composed many hymns and verses which are popular even today.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Goa: On day three Jammu and Kashmir was the focus at the Film Bazaar Knowledge series sessions being held at the prestigious International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The session was presided over by officers from J&K DIPR and J&K Tourism Department and was moderated by Sanjay Suri, actor and Film Producer, who happens to be originally from J&K himself. The panel of officers who spoke on the occasion included Amarjeet Singh, Special Secretary J&K Tourism Department; Vivek Puri, Joint Director

Department of I&PR and Afaq Gadda Nodal Officer Film Policy DIPR.

During the session, the officers explained different facets of the film policy and unique features of it besides the financial and Non-Financial incentives being offered by the J&K Government. They also spoke extensively about the film tourism destinations that J&K has to offer. Few videos about 'the Film Policy' and 'Bollywood in Jammu & Kashmir' were also played, which were liked and appreciated by the audience. The session concluded with an open discussion where a lot of questions were asked by the

audience.

Pertinent to mention that a team of officers from J&K including Special Secretary Tourism, Amarjeet Singh, Joint Director DIPR, Vivek Puri, Nodal Officer J&K Film Policy, Afaq Gadda, Accounts Officer I&PR, Hitesh Choudary, Tourist Officer Hyderabad, M Sajid Kirmani and Film Librarian, Abid Hussain are stationed in Goa and are meeting with National as well as International film makers for pitching the Film Policy and Film Tourism destinations, with a view to give a fillip to Filmography and Tourism in J&K.

First woman judge of SC, former TN Guv Justice Fathima Beevi dies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLLAM (KER): Justice Fathima Beevi, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court and former Governor of Tamil Nadu, died at a private hospital here on Thursday, official sources said. She was 96. Beevi was admitted to the private hospital a few days ago due to age-related ailments and breathed her last on Thursday afternoon around 12.15 pm, an official source said.

Her body is being brought back to her residence in Pathanamthitta. Her burial will be held tomorrow (November 24) at the Pathanamthitta Juma Masjid," the source said.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed condolences over the death of Justice Beevi, and recalled her journey from overcoming the educational challenges that girls face to becoming the first woman judge

of the Supreme Court -- having started her legal career as a munsiff.

He further said that Justice Beevi was the first woman from the Muslim community to be a part of the higher judiciary, as she was able to overcome the negative aspects of social situations by seeing them as challenges.

Her life is an inspiration to everyone, especially women, the chief minister said, adding that as a tribute to her, she has been chosen for the Kerala Prabha Award.

State Health Minister Veena George expressed condolences, saying that the news of the demise of Justice Beevi was extremely painful. The minister said that Justice Beevi made a mark as the first woman judge of the Supreme Court and as the Tamil Nadu Governor.

