

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! LeT terrorist involved...

Fayaz. "He (Bhat) was an OGW (overground worker) then and his name figured in the FIR," Tamushree said, adding, Bhat later became a terrorist.

The police said Bhat also had hurled a grenade upon non-local labourers in Hermain, resulting in the death of two labourers.

Bhat was also involved in the assassination of Kashmiri Pandit Sunil Kumar Bhat son of Sri G Bhat, and injuring another Kashmiri Pandit Pretimber Nath, son of Arjun Nath Bhat, both residents of Chotigam Shopian, the spokesman said.

He was also involved in the attack on local Bal Krishan alias Sonu, a resident of Chotigam.

Bhat used to instigate local youth to join terrorist ranks and inducted 12 local youth into the ranks of terrorists. Besides other terror crimes, he was also involved in the killing of an arrested terrorist who was leading the search party during a cordon and search operation at Nowgam in 2022, the spokesman added.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including an AK series rifle, and three magazines were recovered from the site of the encounter.

All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes, the spokesman said.

Hizbul terrorist arrest...

reaching Delhi. "Matoo is learnt to have expertise in operating rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), under barrel grenade launcher (UBGL) and AK-47. His target is very accurate," an official said, adding that he could have learnt this in training.

Delhi Police Special Cell on Thursday arrested him from Nizamuddin with a loaded pistol and an extra magazine in his possession. He was driving a stolen car when he was apprehended, police had said.

The Delhi Police has booked him under the Arms Act and conspiracy case. It is also interrogating him to get further details about the conspiracy and his further plans. The officials are also interrogating him to know the actual reason of his coming to Delhi, sources said.

A native of Sopore, Matoo was outside Jammu and Kashmir for the last 10 years. "It is suspected that he was staying somewhere in Pakistan but entered India via Nepal. He was looking for an opportunity to go to Pakistan," a police source said.

A police official said that Matoo was a prominent member of the group headed by Abdul Qayum Nazar, who was the operational in-charge of the terrorist module in Jammu and Kashmir," the officer said.

Amit Shah favours...

two important decisions taken by the Modi government -- the National Education Policy and the enactment of three criminal justice laws to replace the British-era statutes -- and said the country has entered the "Amrit Kaal".

Shah said the new laws were focused on the delivery of justice instead of punishment and their implementation would transform the country's criminal justice system into the most modern and scientific one.

The home minister stressed the need for linking databases and adopting an AI-driven analytical approach to tackling emerging security challenges.

He also emphasised on uniformity of structures, size and skills of counter-terror mechanisms across the country.

Shah stressed the need for training of police officers from Station House Officer (SHO) or officer-in-charge of police stations to DGP levels and upgrading of technology from police stations to police headquarters for the successful implementation of the three new laws.

He also highlighted the role of internal security in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The home minister observed that the conference has over the years emerged as a 'think tank', facilitating decision-making and formulation of new security strategies.

The conference will deliberate on a range of security-related issues of critical importance, including the security of borders, cyber threats, radicalisation, fraudulent issuance of identity documents and threats emerging from AI.

It is being held in a hybrid mode with DGPs, IGPs and chiefs of Central Police Organisations attending physically in Jaipur. Over 500 police officers of various ranks are participating virtually.

Technology in policing, Left Wing Extremism, prison reforms, activities of pro-Khalistan groups and terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir are other key issues to be discussed, a Union Home Ministry official said.

The conference will also deliberate on futuristic themes in policing and security like the challenges posed by new technologies such as AI and deepfakes, and ways to deal with them.

It provides an opportunity to identify tangible action points and monitor their progress, which is presented before the prime minister every year.

The conference is the culmination of extensive deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from the district, state and national levels on identified themes, another official said.

Since 2014, the prime minister has taken a keen interest in the conference.

Free-flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned this year.

This will provide an opportunity for senior police officials to share their views and recommendations with the prime minister.

Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. After the Narendra Modi government assumed office the next year, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the MHA and the Intelligence Bureau, across the country.

The conference was organised in Guwahati in 2014; Dhordo, Rann of Kutch, in 2015; the National Police Academy, Hyderabad, in 2016; the BSF Academy, Tekanpur, in 2017; Kevadiya in 2018; IISER Pune in 2019; Lucknow in 2021; and in the NASC, Delhi, in 2023.

Before 2014, the deliberations largely focused on national security matters. Since then, the conferences have focused on both national security and core policing issues, including prevention and detection of crime, community policing and improving the police's image, another official said.

Earlier, the conference was Delhi-centric with officers coming together only for the meet.

Residing on the same premises over two to three days has served to build a heightened sense of unity among the officers since 2014, the official added.

Direct interaction of the police's top brass with the head of government has resulted in a convergence of views on crucial challenges faced by the country and the emergence of doable recommendations, the official further said.

In the past few years, the topics have been selected after detailed discussions with the highest echelons of the police service.

Once selected, several interactions on presentations are held before committees of DGPs to encourage participation and incorporate ideas from the field and also from younger officers.

As a result, all presentations are now broad-based, content-intensive and carry a set of cogent and actionable recommendations.

Since 2015, detailed follow-up of recommendations of past conferences has become the norm and is the topic of the first business session, attended by the prime minister and the Union home minister, the official said.

Kejriwal defying ED...

need to run away", Chugh asked. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi government has zero tolerance for corruption. It is time Kejriwal comes up and tells the nation what's the truth, he added.

Govt determined to...

Union Cabinet has approved the transformative PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI) scheme. This initiative marks a significant stride in our journey towards advanced earth system sciences. It covers critical areas such as climate research, ocean services, polar science, seismology and more."

"Our commitment is not just to enhance understanding of the Earth System, but to translate this knowledge into practical applications for societal, environmental, and economic benefits. This scheme will strengthen India's capabilities in predicting and managing natural disasters, thereby safeguarding lives and property," the prime minister said.

ACB arrests BDC...

The complainant accordingly approached Gowhar Ahmad, who demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 for the issuance of document out of which ₹10,000 was to be paid in advance today.

The complainant chose not to pay bribe and instead approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servant as provided under law.

On receipt of the complaint, a Case FIR No. 01/2024 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered at PS ACB Srinagar and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused BDC Member red handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 10,000 from the complainant. The money was recovered from the accused on spot.

The accused has been identified as Gowhar Ahmad Reshi, son of Sonaullah Reshi, resident of Safapora Ganderbal, BDC Member. Role of DMO Majid Aziz in the matter is being investigated.

Further investigation into the case is going on.

ACB J&K has also appealed the people not to pay bribe to any public servant and in the event of demand of bribe by any public servant, approach ACB J&K.

Indian Navy intercepts...

patrol aircraft P8I and Predator MQ9B drones.

"The Indian Navy's marine commandos present onboard the mission deployed warship boarded the merchant vessel and have carried out the sanitisation operation," Madhwal said.

MV Lila Norfolk sent a message on the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) portal indicating that five to six unknown armed personnel boarded the vessel on Thursday evening.

Earlier, the Navy said the overall situation is being "closely monitored" in coordination with other maritime agencies in the region.

The hijacking incident comes amid growing concerns over Houthi militants stepping up attacks on merchant vessels in the Red Sea amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The Navy had earlier said it was responding swiftly to the "developing situation" and deployed a maritime patrol aircraft and diverted INS Chennai for security of MV Lila Norfolk.

"Responding swiftly to the developing situation, Indian Navy launched a maritime patrol aircraft and has diverted INS Chennai deployed for maritime security operations to assist the vessel," it said in a statement.

"The aircraft overflew the vessel early Friday morning and established contact with the vessel, ascertaining the safety of the crew," it said "The Indian Navy remains committed to ensuring safety of merchant shipping in the region along with international partners and friendly foreign countries," the Navy said.

The UKMTO is a British military organisation that tracks movements of various vessels in strategic waterways.

The cargo vessel belonged to Lila Global and the company's CEO Steve Kunzer said the crew of Lila Norfolk have been successfully rescued by the Indian Navy ship INS Chennai.

"The vessel and crew are all safe. We want to thank the Agencies that assisted in their rescue, in particular the Indian Navy, Capt Rohit Bajpai, Director IFC-IOR and the officials of DG Shipping," he said in a statement.

"We also want to thank the professionalism of our crew who reacted safely and responsibly under the circumstances," he said.

The Indian Navy's IFC IOR (Information Fusion Centre 'I Indian Ocean Region) keeps track of the shipping traffic as well as other critical developments in the region.

The fresh incident is among a series of such maritime incidents witnessed in the strategic waters in the last few weeks.

Liberian-flagged vessel MV Chem Pluto, with 21 Indian crew members, was the target of a drone attack off India's west coast on December 23.

Besides MV Chem Pluto, another commercial oil tanker that was on the way to India came under a suspected drone strike in the Southern Red Sea on the same day. The vessel had a team of 25 Indian crew.

In another incident, Malta-flagged vessel MV Ruen was hijacked on December 14 by pirates.

The Indian Navy on Wednesday said it continues to monitor the maritime security situation in the North and Central Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden.

"Indian Naval ships and aircraft remain mission deployed for maintaining enhanced surveillance and undertaking maritime security operations," it said.

"In the last one week, Indian Naval Task Groups deployed in the area have investigated large number of fishing vessels and boarded vessels of interest," it added.

The task groups comprised warships, surveillance planes and remotely-piloted aircraft.

SC to consider...

the CJI said. A bench headed by CJI UU Lalit, since retired, had on November 1, 2022, said that the PILs can be heard by a three-judge bench as directed.

The pleas including the one filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay opposed promises of such handouts by the parties during polls.

The petitions have also sought the Election Commission invokes its powers to freeze the election symbols of these parties and cancel their registration to ensure that the practice of promising pre-election freebies is no longer in existence.

CS listens to...

consideration. They also raised the issues pertaining to their respective districts with him for their early resolution.

The Council Chairpersons raised the demands related to the revalidation of their savings out of their grants for carrying out other welfare measures in their constituencies. They also individually asked for more grants for schemes under execution in their districts. These representatives also sought resolution of other developmental requirements in their areas with focus on generating employment opportunities for youth.

In his remarks the Chief Secretary advised them to fast-pace their planning and start tendering process well ahead of the start of working season in the month of April. He assured them that the savings made through competitive tendering process, if communicated early, would be approved by the Finance department for carrying out other developmental works in their areas.

Dulloo further made out that he is personally going to visit their respective areas in weeks ahead to have interaction with public representatives and local people there. He also shared that they should play a greater role in the crucial activities of planning and monitoring necessary for development of any area.

Moreover he told them to work in coordination with the administration for the overall development of their areas. He called them a vital link between people and administration and acknowledged their role in resolving peoples day to day affairs for which they would be given greater say in all the relevant aspects of governance in their respective DDC constituencies across J&K.

Parkash Purab of...

JMC, CMO Jammu, Fire Services Department, doctors who arranged free medical camp , Sewadars who prepared Langar, sewadars who cleaned utensils of the devotees and all others who put up stalls of free religious books for their cooperation in the Parkash Purab celebration. He also thanked the media, Including IKhani, Hond Digital Media, Apsi Sanjhand Akaal Chanel for providing coverage to the event.

S Surjit Singh, Secretary who coordinated the stage stated that the event not only honored the spiritual legacy of Guru Gobind Singh ji but also addressed contemporary Sikh concerns, fostering unity and devotion among the participants. He expressed gratitude to the Sangat, Sewadars for their contributions, emphasizing the collaborative efforts that made the celebration a success.

Besides DGPC members S Ranvir Singh Jt Secretary, S Harjit Singh, S Jagpal Singh Cashier, S Tejinder Singh, S Avtar Singh , S Balvinder Singh Other prominent personalities, S Charanjit Singh Khalsa Ex MLC, S Varinder Singh Sonu Spokesperson PDP, S Surinder Singh Shingari, S Sunil Dimple. Kalbhushan Khajuria Jt Commissioner JMC Health and Sanitation were present.

Light snowfall likely...

several degrees below the freezing point, was still below normal for this time of the season at most places.

The continued sub-zero temperature has led to the freezing of several waterbodies, including the Dal Lake, here as a thin layer of ice formed over their surface.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, compared to minus 3.8 degrees Celsius on the previous night, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 5.1 degrees Celsius, they said.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius up from the previous night's minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius while Kokernag town saw the minimum settle at minus 2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell, and December month was 79 per cent deficit on rainfall.

There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir while upper reaches of the valley have also received lesser than usual amount of snow by the end of December.

The meteorological department has said there is a possibility of very light snow over isolated extreme higher reaches on Friday.

While the weather would remain mainly dry weather till January 7 evening, there is a possibility of light snow over isolated areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir on January 8-9, it said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest win-

ter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Body of VDG...

circumstances early this morning near his house, the officials said.

The VDG's body had a bullet injury and his rifle was found lying near him, they said.

The body has been shifted to a hospital and the police have launched a probe to ascertain what led to his death, they added.

Air Vice Marshal, JKSSB selected candidates call on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Air Vice Marshal Vikram Gaur AVSM VSM, Air Officer Commanding Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Friday.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Candidates selected for various posts in Government departments through J&K Service Selection Board called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan. The members of the delegation expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for fast-track selection process.



Air Vice Marshal Vikram Gaur calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Massarat Kar, former President Municipal Council Sopore called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of various developmental issues of Sopore. Later, a delegation of Industrial Association Lassipora (IAL) also called on the Lt Governor.

State Taxes Deptt conducts inspection drives across Srinagar, Ganderbal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: State Taxes Department on Friday continued the inspection drives across district Srinagar and Ganderbal districts to ensure compliance by business establishment to the provisions of J&K Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, prevent tax evasion and to create awareness among the consumers about their rights under the tax.

Led by Tabassum Shafat Kamili, Deputy Commissioner, Appeals I, Kashmir, the teams conducted inspections in various areas of District Srinagar and Ganderbal. These areas included Zaina Kadal, S.R Gunj, K.K. Mohallah, Bohri Kadal, and other nearby areas falling within the jurisdiction of Circle-C Kashmir. They also inspected areas in Nowgam and adjacent areas falling under Circle I, Kashmir, as well as Nagbal, Malshahi Bagh, Beehama, Duderhama, and Tawheed Abad areas of District Ganderbal.

During the inspections, several major violations were observed. Some businesses were found to be unregistered taxable entities, while others were found to possess multiple GST numbers in order to evade taxes.

There were also instances of violation of section 122 of the GST Act, 2017, where businesses failed to reflect the GST component on customer invoices. Other violations included the suppression of outward supplies, failure to issue GST invoices to customers, breach of conditions of Section 130 of the GST Act, 2017, and failure to generate e-Way bills. These violations will result in penalties.

The concerned jurisdictional officers were given directions on the spot to take necessary steps as laid down under the provisions of the GST Act, 2017, and initiate proceedings against the tax evaders. This is to ensure that the state exchequer is protected. The teams involved in inspection comprised jurisdictional STOs including Tahir Mohi-ud-din, Ajaz Chowdhary, Mohammad Sarfaraaz Khan, Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat as well as other officials.

JMC conducts animal impounding drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A public drive for impounding of animals was conducted on Friday by the Veterinary Section of Jammu Municipal Corporation on the directions of Commissioner, JMC, Rahul Yadav.

A MVO section team, under the supervision of Dr. Divya Sharma, conducted the impounding drive along with counselling of the general public regarding management of stray/pet/ large animals during the ongoing winter season. Different areas of Jammu city including Vikram Chowk, Panama Chowk, Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Narwal, Bhatindi, Channi Himmat, Sainik Colony, Greater Kailash, Kunjwani etc. were covered under the drive.

During the extensive drive, counselling was imparted to the general public regarding management of stray animals during the ongoing winter season. The public was advised not to let loose their animals on roads which cause serious accidents affecting both humans & animals especially in the prevailing foggy & winter season. Moreover, the free roaming animals also cause traffic congestion in different areas of Jammu city.

Municipal Veterinary Officer, Dr. Divya Sharma also appealed to the general public specially the cattle owners not to let loose their animals to roam free on the roads that sometimes causes damage to the public properties, citizens as well as the animals themselves. She further issued strict instructions to those who let loose their animals on roads and in parks. An approximate number of 25 no. animals were impounded from different locations of Jammu city and warnings & notices were issued to the defaulters.

Div Com reviews implementation of Financial Assistance Scheme for PoJK DPs, WP Refugees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting on Friday to review the implementation of the Financial Assistance Scheme for Displaced Persons and West Pakistani Refugees.

Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Provincial Rehabilitation Officer Jammu were present.

The Div Com took stock of the district wise data of the beneficiaries from the respective Deputy Commissioners in terms of cases sanctioned and pendency.

Exhorting the Deputy Commissioners to saturate the Scheme covering all eligible beneficiaries, the Div Com directed them to personally monitor the implementation process. "Spread mass awareness among the targeted beneficiaries to ensure that the benefits reach to the last person in the queue" he added.

The Div Com asked the DCs to conduct a meeting with all the stakeholders including the representatives of the DPs and West Pakistani Refugees to remove bottlenecks, if any. The Div Com further directed the DCs to designate senior officers in their office and conduct camps in the areas where the targeted population resides.

DDC Jammu solicits cooperation of NGOs for improving education sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Development Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Friday held a meeting with various Non-Governmental Organisations with expertise in the education sector. The meeting was also attended by Chief Education Officer Jagdeep Kumar Padha and Zonal Education Officers from across the district.

The DDC urged the NGOs to come up with a clear and concrete plan to facilitate the augmentation of the education sector in the district. He said that the district administration is keen to collaborate with the NGOs to provide quality education, enhance learning outcomes, improve infrastructure and build the capacity of the school heads and teachers. The DDC asked the NGOs to submit their action plan within a week and assured them of all possible support from the district administration. He expressed hope that the NGOs would make a positive and significant impact in the district through their participation and contribution.

The meeting also witnessed a detailed discussion on various activities and initiatives under SAMAGRA, a centrally sponsored scheme for school education.

The NGOs shared their experiences and feedback on the implementation of the scheme and suggested ways to improve it further. The DDC expressed hope that the NGOs play a significant role in the education sector and urged them to continue their good work.