

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**

**LG Sinha terminates...**

motivate youth towards terrorism to disrupt peace and progress of J&K. Ishfaq, being a teacher with unhindered access to young and impressionable minds was critical asset of LeT. We have received inputs that despite being in Jail, Ishfaq continues to indulge in radical activities by indoctrinating jail inmates," sources revealed.

Tariq Ahmad Rah, Lab Technician: He was engaged as a Lab Technician on contractual basis in 2011 and later in 2016 Tariq's appointment was confirmed in Health Department as Lab Technician. He was posted in Sub-District Hospital, Bijbehara, Anantnag. Sources revealed that Tariq came under the influence of terrorist outfit Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) right from a very young age. One of his relatives (Uncle) Amin baba alias Abid was also Divisional Commander of HM from 1998-2005. According to investigators Tariq's terror link emerged during State Investigation Agency (SIA) probe in escape of Amin Baba to Pakistan in 2005. Investigation of the case was transferred to SIA in September 2023. Investigation revealed that Tariq facilitated the stay of Amin Baba in Anantnag and later arranged his transportation to Attari-Wagah border.

"Tariq ensured exfiltration of a wanted terrorist across an international border. Due to his conspiracy, Amin Baba successfully crossed over to Pakistan and is currently operating from there for carrying out terrorist activities in India," sources observed.

It is learnt that Amin Baba is currently based in Islamabad and according to intelligence inputs, he attends regular meeting with ISI, LeT and JeM terrorists.

"He is responsible for not only training of HM cadres in PoJK terror camps but also to recruit new youth in the terror folds and to plan and execute terrorist operations from Pakistan. After his role was unearthed Tariq was arrested by the police under UAPA and later given bail. Credible intelligence inputs indicate that after released on bail Tariq resumed his terror activities and continues to remain in contact with terrorists and their supporters," Sources further revealed.

Bashir Ahmad Mir, Assistant Lineman: Bashir joined Public Health Engineering (PHE) Dept in 1988 and was regularised in 1996. Despite being a government employee, Bashir became active OGW of LeT in the Gurez area of Bandipora.

"Bashir was covertly facilitating terrorist activities in the hinterland of Gurez since long by guiding the movement of terrorists, providing logistical support, sharing information on movement of security forces and providing shelter to terrorists. His role came to light in September 2021 when police received inputs that two LeT terrorists were hiding in Bashir's house.

"Anti-terror ops was launched and both the terrorists were neutralised in Bashir's house. Two AK-47 and large cache of ammunition was also recovered. He was arrested and later given medical bail by the court. Individuals like Bashir: Embedded deep within the government system, drawing salaries from the Indian exchequer while covertly serving the enemy pose a dangerous threat to sovereignty and integrity of India," the sources said.

Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Field Worker, Forest Dept: Farooq, despite serving as a field worker of Forest Department in Anantnag, started actively working with terror outfit Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM). He was also informally working as personal assistant of a former MLA with ties to HM. Farooq, investigators, said helped Tariq to plan and execute the escape of HM Commander Amin Baba to Pakistan. He used his government identity card to avoid security checks on Naka's dropped Amin Baba at international border. In this conspiracy, former MLA provided an official government Gypsy with his personal security officers and driver. Farooq was arrested in 2024 and later got bail in 2025 from the court.

"But his terror activities hasn't stopped. He continues to maintain contact with terrorists and their sympathisers," Sources said.

Mohd Yousef; Driver, Health and Medical Education Department: He was appointed as a Driver in 2009 and posted at Bemina, Srinagar. Investigators said Yousef was in regular contact with terrorists, particularly his Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Pakistan-based HM terrorist. On the director of Bashir, Yousef established links with HM cadres and operatives sitting in Pakistan and entrusted with core tasks including procurement of arms and ammunition and transporting funds in the areas of Ganderbal District. On 20th July 2024, Police intercepted a vehicle in which Yousef and his associate Eashan Hamid was travelling and recovered 1 pistol, ammunition, grenade and 5 lakh in Indian currency.

"During the sustained interrogation, Yousef revealed that he received the consignment on the direction of his Pakistani handler and it was supposed to be delivered to a terrorist. Yousef further revealed that he was actively involved in providing operational logistics to terrorists using his official position as hospital Driver. He was also part of a network which provided phones to jailed terrorists to establish communication with Pakistan-based terrorists," the sources added.

Sources indicated that the action under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution, is intended to purge the system of terrorist influence.

"The strict actions by Sinha would cleanse the government machinery and reinforce its integrity," sources said.

**NGT imposes Rs...**

to remediate the problem of the legacy waste lying at the Achan landfill site in Srinagar," the bench said.

It noted the submissions of the corporation's counsel, according to which, the report had not come on record as it was filed belatedly on January 8.

"We impose the cost of Rs 15,000 upon the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to be deposited with the NGT Bar Association within one week," the tribunal said.

It also directed the civic body to file a fresh updated report disclosing the status of the legacy waste and also the status of the facility created for treating the daily generated waste, and the existing gap in the daily generation and treatment of the waste. The matter has been posted on April 8 for further proceedings.

**LAC stable, misadventures...**

measures the Army has initiated to bolster its combat prowess that included raising new units such as Bhairav light commando battalions, Shaktiiban regiments, Divyaastra artillery regiments and Ashni platoons.

He said the government has approved the long-pending proposal to set up Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs), which will comprise a mix of infantry, artillery, air defence, tanks and logistics units.

The IBGs are expected to revamp the Army's warfighting capabilities, particularly along the borders with China and Pakistan.

Gen Dwivedi, extensively delving into Operation Sindoor, said it remains "ongoing" and "any future misadventures will be resolutely responded to." "Through 22 minutes of initiation on May 7 and an orchestration that lasted 88 hours up to May 10, the operation reset strategic assumptions by striking deep, dismantling terror infrastructure and puncturing long-standing nuclear rhetoric," he said.

The Army successfully destroyed seven out of the nine targets and thereafter played a pivotal role in ensuring a calibrated response to Pakistan's actions, he added.

On the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, Gen Dwivedi said it "remains stable but needs constant vigil." "Apex-level interactions, renewed contact and confidence-building measures are contributing to gradual normalisation of the situation. This has also enabled grazing, hydrotherapy camps and other activities along the northern borders," he said.

"With our continued strategic orientation on this front, our deployment along the LAC remains balanced and robust. Concurrently, capability development and infrastructure enhancement are progressing through a whole-of-government approach," he said.

Gen Dwivedi, without elaborating, also indicated that India and China have carried out "troop readjustment" as part of larger goals to keep the LAC stable.

The Chief of Army Staff also asserted that the Shaksgam Valley belongs to India. Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq km of Indian territory in the Shaksgam Valley to China in 1963 from areas illegally occupied by it.

"As far as the Shaksgam Valley is concerned, India considers the 1963 agreement between Pakistan and China as illegal," he said.

"We don't approve of any activity in the valley. The Ministry of External Affairs has already stated this clearly. Therefore, the joint statement which has been issued in China, what I understand about the CPEC 2.0, we do not accept it, and we consider it an illegal action being carried out by the two nations," he said.

India has been severely critical of the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir.

Gen Dwivedi also said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir remains "sensitive but firmly under control."

"In 2025, 29 terrorists were eliminated, of which 59 per cent were Pakistan-origin, including the three perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack neutralised in Operation Mahadev," he said.

"Active local terrorists are now in single digits. Terrorist recruitment is almost non-existent -- only two in 2025." The theme of "terrorism to tourism" is gradually taking shape, he said.

Expanding on the two turning points during Operation Sindoor, Gen Dwivedi said: "The first was the 22-minute strike on terrorist targets, which derailed the opposite side's decision-making, and they took time to take that all in."

"Following this, there was confusion among them, and that led to mismanaged

responses, which were met with our calibrated response." "The second turning point was on the morning of May 10.

The tri-forces were given certain directions about what to do if this war had escalated.

They had understood it, and hence, they called our DGMO (Director General of Military Operations).

"They (Pakistan military) had complete information about which ship, which strike or pivot, which core unit, or which aircraft was moving where, all from satellites. When they connected these dots, they said that the time had come to stop the war," he said.

Gen Dwivedi, highlighting the Army's work on enhancing its combat prowess, said the focus now is to steadily progress towards a "different Indian Army -- capable of thinking smart, seeing all, striking deep, moving fast, connecting domains, standing resilient and most importantly, winning together".

"We are progressing towards integrated structures in the form of theatre commands -- a deliberate, consultative and well-synchronised process to which the Indian Army is fully committed."

Gen Dwivedi said the Army is continuing to refine organisational mechanisms to adopt best practices, improve efficiency, enhance outcomes and gradually reorient manpower.

"Warfighting doctrines are being updated to fine-tune multi-domain operations -- ability to succeed in all four quadrants," he said.

"Encouraged by Operation Sindoor and in line with the Indian Army's firm belief that change must come at the velocity of relevance, we have prefixed the verb 'acceleration' to all our nouns that are initiatives," he said.

**Army opens fire...**

forward Dheri Dhara village around 7.35 pm and fired several live rounds to target them. However, the suspected drones moved toward Kalali before returning, officials said, adding that a search operation was initiated to ensure no weapons or narcotics were airdropped by the drones.

On Sunday, troops guarding the Nowshera sector fired medium and light machine guns after observing drone activity over Gania-Kalsian village.

On the same day, drone movements were also detected over Khabbar village in Teryath, Kalakote in Rajouri, Tain-Topa in the Mankote area of Poonch district, and Chak Babral village in the Ramgarh sector of Samba. However, those flying objects returned within a few minutes.

Earlier on Friday night, security forces recovered an arms consignment, dropped by a drone from Pakistan, in Paloora village of Ghagval near the International Border in Samba. The recovery included two pistols, three magazines, 16 rounds and a grenade.

**Not easy to...**

consciousness, and take the roots of Sanatan Dharma to the deepest levels, Shah said.

"A thousand years ago, our magnificent Somnath temple was destroyed by Mahmud Ghazni. After that, it was repeatedly attacked by other invaders, such as Alauddin Khilji, Ahmed Shah, Mahmud Begada, and Aurangzeb. But the temple was rebuilt every time," he said in his address.

"The destroyers believed in destruction, and the builders believed in creation. Today, 1,000 years later, those destroyers have disappeared, but the Somnath temple still stands proudly in front of the sea," the senior BJP leader pointed out.

After Independence, this temple was rebuilt with the efforts of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, KM Munshi, Maharaja of Jamnagar, and the first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad. They all had taken a resolve to restore it, Shah said.

"The intention behind that resolve was that the attack on Somnath was not just an attack on a temple, it was an attack on our faith, our religion and self-respect. And the answer to that cannot be another attack. The answer lies in protecting our self-respect," the Union minister noted.

Among other projects, Shah inaugurated a sports complex at Mansa town, his native place.

For future requirements and in line with global standards, Shah said some more facilities are required to be incorporated in the sports complex.

"Therefore, I have decided to collect Rs 15 crore through CSR funds to add all the necessary facilities in this complex. It is the responsibility of the elected representatives of this region to ensure that the children from the surrounding areas utilise these facilities," he said.

Shah said the Gujarat government is making Ahmedabad a 'sports hub city' that will attract the attention of the entire world.

In 2030, athletes from several countries will be coming to Ahmedabad to participate in the Commonwealth Games and efforts are also on to get hosting rights for the 2036 Olympics, he added.

**Trekking, camping, similar...**

exempted from the purview of this order. "Any person found violating the order shall be liable for action under the relevant provisions of law," the order said, directing Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch to ensure strict enforcement.

It said the order would come into force with immediate effect and shall remain valid for a period of two months, unless withdrawn or modified earlier.

**Fresh landmine blasts...**

anti-infiltration obstacle system to prevent terrorists from intruding into Indian territory from across the border.

Amid the threat of possible infiltration attempts, multi-tier security arrangements have been strengthened and patrolling intensified in the area, the officials said.

**China's claim on...**

Gupta also cautioned against provocative statements on sensitive issues, saying there is a clear parliamentary position on PoK. "Such statements should not be made which are provocative in nature. There is a Parliament resolution of 1994 which clearly states that the entire PoK belongs to India," he said.

Reacting to a recent statement by the Army chief that 'Operation Sindoor' is ongoing, Gupta said the armed forces enjoy complete national support. "The entire country stands with the Army. The Army chief has given a responsible statement and I welcome it," he said.

Responding to allegations by some regional leaders in Jammu and Kashmir about the unrest in Ladakh, the LG outrightly dismissed the claims. "Ladakh is moving at a fast pace on the path of development. Ladakhis are united, fully nationalistic, and they fully support the government in all development work," he said.

He also highlighted the sharp increase in budgetary allocations for the region. "I want to convey to those leaders to mind their own business. This is not the Ladakh of the past, which was given a budget of Rs 150 crore. Today, Ladakh has a budget of around Rs 6,000 crore," Gupta added.

**Authorities profiling mosques...**

suspects were radicalised through madrassas or social media. The role of some imams like Moulvi Irfan has also put them under the scanner," the official said.

The proforma also seeks details about the Muslim sect -- Bareilvi, Deobandi, Hanafi or Ahle Hadeeth -- the mosque or the madrasa is following.

The officials said the rise of puritanical Islam, which abhors the Sufi version that is widely followed in Kashmir, is also seen as a factor in radicalisation of the youth in the valley.

The imams, teachers and management committee members have also been asked to provide details of any past involvement in terrorist or subversive activities, including details about any pending cases or convictions by a court of law.

Jammu and Kashmir Police, with the help of UP Police and Haryana Police, busted a 'white collar' terror module in the first week of November last year. Nine people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives seized with the uncovering of the module involving Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, spanning across Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Among those arrested were Dr Adeel Rather in Saharanpur, Dr Muzammil Ganaie in Faridabad and Dr Shaheen from Lucknow.

The 2,900 kg of explosive material included ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate and sulphur. Of this, 360 kg of inflammable material, suspected to be ammonium nitrate, and some arms and ammunition were recovered from Ganaie in a rented accommodation in Faridabad.

Another Kashmiri, Dr Umer Nabi, was driving the explosive-laden car that blew up outside the Red Fort Metro station in Delhi on November 10.

Ganaie, a teacher at the Al Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad, was arrested after Jammu and Kashmir Police named him as a wanted person in a case involving putting up posters supporting Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Srinagar.

On October 19, multiple JeM posters were found pasted at different locations in the Bumpora Nowgam area of the city here, threatening and intimidating the police and security forces.

That was the starting point of the investigation, leading to the unravelling of the inter-state terror network.

The police said the investigation revealed a 'white collar' terror ecosystem, involving radicalised professionals and students in contact with foreign handlers, operat-

ing from Pakistan and other countries.

**LG calls for...**

Devi Shrine Board; Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; Kuldeep Khoda, former DGP; Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation (M) Commissioner and senior officials also attended the launch ceremony.

**Western disturbance likely...**

recorded a low of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius on Monday night, down from minus 2.4 degrees Celsius the previous night, the official said.

Sonamarg in Ganderbal district was the coldest place in the valley at minus 7.0 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam, a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded minus 6.2 degrees Celsius. In north Kashmir, the ski resort of Gulmarg saw the mercury settle at minus 3.5 degrees Celsius.

Other places like Qazigund recorded a low of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag and Kupwara registered minus 1.6 and minus 5.8 degrees Celsius respectively. The region is currently in the 'Chilla-i-Kalan', a 40-day period of extreme cold that began on December 21 and ends on January 30.

During this time, temperatures frequently drop well below the freezing point and the chance of snowfall is highest. However, the plains have remained without snow so far this season. The India Meteorological Department has forecast that the weather is likely to remain dry but cloudy till January 21.

**Will ask states to pay heavy compensation for dog-bite incidents, hold dog feeders accountable: SC**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will ask states to pay a "heavy compensation" for dog-bite incidents and hold dog feeders accountable as it flagged its concern over the lack of implementation of norms on stray animals for the past five years.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria said that even dog lovers and feeders will be held "responsible" and "accountable" for dog-bite incidents.

"For every dog bite, death or injury caused to children or elderly, we are going to ask the state governments to pay heavy compensation, as they did not do anything on implementation of norms in the past five years. Also, responsibility and accountability will be fixed on those who are feeding these stray dogs. If you love these animals so much, then why don't you take them to your house. Why should these dogs loiter around, bite and scare people?" Justice Nath said.

Justice Mehta concurred with the views of Justice Nath and said, "Who should be held accountable when dogs attack a 9-year-old? The organisation that is feeding them? You want us to shut our eyes to the problem."

The top court was hearing several petitions seeking modification of its November 7, 2025 order directing the authorities to remove these stray animals from the institutional areas and roads.

The top court said the worst part is that a lawyer from Gujarat was bitten in a park and when civic authorities went to catch that animal, the lawyers, who claimed to be dog lovers, attacked the civic officials.

The top court also lamented that for four days, it has been hearing arguments on the issue and was not allowed to proceed further in the matters by activists and NGOs and was not able to hear the views of the Centre and the states.

"Our request to all the lawyers is to allow us to take to task the union, the state authorities and other bodies... Allow us to pass an order. We need to spend half a day with the States and Union. To see whether they have a plan of action or not. The problem has multiplied a thousand times. We just want implementation of statutory provision. Allow us to do that. Allow us to work. Allow us to proceed further," the top court observed during the hearing.

At the outset, senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for an NGO, defended the apex court's November 7, 2025 order dealing with institutional areas, arguing that it was fully justified and supported by statutory rules. He contended that there was no need to constitute any new expert committee since reports of the existing committees were already on record.

Justice Mehta remarked that Datar was "the first who has come to the rescue of the order."

Datar argued that stray dogs have no legal right to occupy institutional premises or other public spaces to which people have access. He submitted that dogs do not have a right to be brought back to the institutional area because these animals have no right to be in that place at the first instance.

Datar referred to a separate writ petition filed by conservation groups regarding feral dogs in wildlife areas, especially Ladakh. He told the court that reports placed before it showed the presence of around 55,000 free-ranging feral dogs in Ladakh, posing a grave threat to critically endangered species.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for an animal welfare trust, urged the court to view the matter not merely as a human-versus-animal issue but from the perspective of ecological balance.

During the hearing, Justice Mehta said, "A young counsel just showed us statistics of orphan children on the streets. Perhaps some lawyers could argue for adoption of those children. Since the year 2011 when I was elevated (as a judge), these are the longest arguments I have heard. And till now no one has argued so long for human beings." Senior advocate Pinky Anand emphasised that the law required animals to be treated with compassion, cautioning against approaches that amounted to killing.

Similarly, senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy and other lawyers made arguments on the issue. On January 9, the top court said it would not go into the allegations of harassment of women dog feeders and caregivers by purported anti-feeder vigilantes since it was a law and order issue and the aggrieved persons could lodge FIRs about it. The top court also refused to go into the claims about certain derogatory remarks being made about women on the issue.

"Taking note of the "alarming rise" in dog-bite incidents within institutional areas such as educational institutions, hospitals and railway stations, the apex court on November 7 directed relocation of stray canines forthwith to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination. It also said stray dogs picked up shall not be released back to the place they were picked up from. It directed the authorities to ensure the removal of all cattle and other stray animals from the state highways, national highways and expressways. The top court is hearing a suo motu case, initiated on July 28 last year, over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

**Centre panel exploring possibility of conducting entrance exams at class 11 level**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A Centre-appointed panel for suggesting reforms in entrance exams and reducing dependency on coaching centres is exploring the possibility of holding crucial entrance exams in class 11 or aligning the grade's exams with their difficulty level, according to officials.

The panel is analysing data to study if the difficulty level of entrance exams is in sync with the difficulty level of Class 12 curriculum, which is the basis of these exams. Last year, the Ministry of Education set up a nine-member panel to examine issues related to coaching, the emergence of 'dummy schools' and the effectiveness and fairness of entrance examinations.

The panel, headed by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, will suggest measures to reduce the dependency of students on coaching centres for transition to higher education. "In its recent meeting, the stakeholders suggested that if few of the entrances can be conducted at Class 11 level or at least the exams for this class be in the same MCQ format as that of the entrance exams. The possibility is being studied," a source said. "The committee is examining the gaps in the current schooling system that contribute to students' reliance on coaching centres, particularly the limited focus on critical thinking, logical reasoning, analytical skills and innovation and the prevalence of rote learning practices," the source added.

Limiting coaching hours, redesigning school curricula to mirror post-school competitive entrance examinations and giving greater weightage to board examination results are also among the suggestions received by the panel.

Evaluating the awareness levels among students and parents regarding multiple career pathways and the impact of this lack of awareness on the over-dependence on a few elite institutions, assessing the availability and effectiveness of career counselling services in schools and colleges and suggesting measures for strengthening career guidance frameworks are among other terms of reference of the committee.

Members of the panel include the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) chairman; joint secretaries from school education and higher education departments; representatives of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy, IIT Kanpur and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT); and principals of schools (one each from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya and a private school).

Coaching centres in the country have been at the centre of several controversies and the move comes following complaints received by the government about rising cases of student suicides, fire incidents and lack of facilities in coaching institutes as well as teaching methodologies adopted by them.