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Goal of terror...

The Home Minister commended the security agencies for their success in significantly reducing terrorist incidents, infiltration and youth recruitment into terrorist organisations.

He said that sustained efforts by the Modi government have nearly dismantled the terrorism ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah directed all security agencies to maintain coordinated efforts to eradicate terrorism and stressed the importance of implementing the Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan in a mission-oriented manner.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary, Director (IB), RAW Chief, Chief of Army Staff, GOC-in-C (Northern Command), DGMO, Chief Secretary and DGP of Jammu and Kashmir Nalin Prabhath, heads of CAPFs and other senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This was Shah's first meeting to review the security situation in the Union Territory after the recent assembly elections that brought to power the National Conference government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two UTs in 2019, law and order in Jammu and Kashmir comes under the central government. The meeting comes on a day when five terrorists of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen were gunned down by security forces in South Kashmir.

SIA files charge...

Qadri had just returned back home after attending Court on the fateful day that three terrorists visited his house at about 6.30 PM and asked the domestic help for a meeting with him on the pretext of discussing some case. While one of the terrorists waited outside the main gate to keep an eye on the happenings around, the remaining two who were also carrying a dummy case file were made to sit on the chairs placed in the verandah. Soon Babar Qadri came out of the house to meet them and was fired upon minutes later. The terrorists after committing the act fled away from the spot. The badly injured Babar Qadri was shifted to SKIMS Soura, Srinagar but succumbed to his injuries enroute.

Consequent thereupon, Case FIR No. 62/2020 under Section 302 IPC 7/27 I A Act 13/16/18/20/39 UAPA was registered at PS Lalbazar Srinagar and investigation was taken up by an SIT framed by IGP Kashmir to be headed by SP Hazratbal. The SIT conducted the investigation and presented the charge-sheet against six accused persons on May 6, 2021 before the Special NIA Court, Srinagar.

Thereafter, further investigation in the case U/S 173 (8) CrPC was started on August 6, 2021 by SDPO Zadibal. However on July 20, 2023, PHQ J&K transferred the further investigation of the case from District Police Srinagar to SIA J&K following which the Directorate of SIA J&K framed an SIT which was specifically tasked to unravel the larger conspiracy behind the killing.

The SIT took over the investigation and on the basis of sufficient oral, documentary and technical evidence arrested Mian Qayoom on June 25, 2024 as the principal conspirator behind the deceased's killing. It was revealed during the in-depth investigation conducted by SIA SIT that Mian Qayoom, who had an inimical relation with the deceased, got Babar Qadri eliminated through terrorists of TRF and their handlers in Pakistan by hatching a criminal conspiracy. TRF is a proxy outfit for the dreaded LeT formed in the aftermath of 5th of August 2019.

Babar Qadri was a very vocal young lawyer who not only questioned Mian Qayoom's one upmanship at HCBA Kashmir but severely criticized him on multiple occasions for using HCBA Kashmir as a platform for furthering his secessionist agenda. The deceased had also founded a dissident body within the HCBA called Kashmir Lawyers Club which was attracting a sizable number of Young lawyers. Moreover, the deceased was also contemplating to fight the Bar elections against Mian Qayoom which were due to be held around the same time. All this antagonized Mian Qayoom who on several occasions also threatened the deceased.

Although Babar Qadri was very active on social and electronic media which he also used to criticize Mian Qayoom, he had a premonition on the fateful day itself. Interestingly he went live on Facebook on 24.09.2020 afternoon, and while denouncing Mian Qayoom for his policies, also expressed his fears of being eliminated at the hands of Mian Qayoom and his coterie. Ironically, few hours later he was killed in cold blood at his own residence.

Mian Qayoom has a history of being a terrorist sympathizer and diehard secessionist. Several cases already stand registered against him for his anti-national activities. He had earned notoriety for treating HCBA Kashmir as his fiefdom and virtually converting it into a constituent of all party Hurriyat Conference (APHC). During the major unrests post 2008 in Kashmir valley, he was at the forefront of anti-India demonstrations and his calls for shutdowns coincided with the hartal calendars issued by APHC. He was very close to late Syed Ali Shah Geelani whom he regarded as his political guru. He had also declared in open court during High Court proceedings that he neither considered himself as the citizen of India nor believed in the Indian constitution.

The SIA SIT today presented a 340 page long supplementary chargesheet against Mian Qayoom for offences under Sections 302/120-B/109 IPC 13/18/18-B/38/39 UAPA. Further investigation in the case under Section 173 (8) shall continue.

The initial chargesheet in the case had been filed before the Special NIA Court Srinagar; however, in December 2023 the High Court had transferred the trial to Jammu taking a serious view of the interference in judicial process by Mian Qayoom as well as threat/intimidation to the deceased's family. Mian Qayoom is since then lodged in District Jail Amphalla, Jammu.

Omar meets with...

and Kashmir gets its statehood restored soon".

On whether the talks included the militancy situation in the Union territory, he said security and law and order are the responsibility of the lieutenant governor.

"I have always said and I told the home minister that 'you cannot fight militancy and terrorism in a vacuum, you will have to take the public of Jammu and Kashmir in confidence....they will also have to be brought into this battle, and for that, you will have to take into confidence their elected representatives and their elected government'," Abdullah said.

The chief minister said the talks did not include the framing of business rules for the division of powers between the elected government and the lieutenant governor's office and made it clear that the Centre had no role in it.

"Business rules have nothing to do with the government of India. We have to decide it and the Cabinet has to approve it. The Cabinet sub-committee will finalise it and then, we will send it to the LG for approval," he said.

Abdullah will be attending the Goods and Services Tax meeting in Rajasthan's Jaipur on December 20. To a question about the proposed hike of 28 per cent on handloom products, he said, "I have not seen such a proposal. If it comes, we will contest it. Not only us, other states will be affected too."

Immediately after Abdullah's meeting ended and he left, Shah began his second meeting with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other senior officers to review the law-and-order situation in the Union territory.

Parliament scuffle: 2...

Another officer said all sections imposed against Gandhi are bailable, except section 117, punishment for which depends on the severity of the injury caused, ranging from seven years to life imprisonment.

A face-off at the Parliament entry steps between the opposition and NDA MPs in Parliament premises over the alleged insult to B R Ambedkar left former minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput injured.

After the incident, the BJP filed the police complaint against Gandhi, accusing him of "physical assault and incitement" and sought his indictment under sections of attempt to murder and other charges.

Earlier in the day, BJP MP Hemang Joshi, accompanied by party colleagues Anurag Thakur and Bansuri Swaraj, visited the Parliament Street Police Station and filed the complaint.

The Congress strongly rejected the claim, alleging that BJP MPs pushed its chief Mallikarjun Kharge and "physically manhandled" Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Congress also lodged a complaint in connection the matter.

In his two-page complaint, BJP MP from Vadodara Hemang Joshi said, "At around 10, I along with Mukesh Rajput ji, Pratap Rao Sarangi ji and other large numbers of my fellow Members of Parliament belonging to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), were peacefully demonstrating at the

Makar Dwar entrance of Parliament."

He said they were protesting against the "blatant misinformation being propagated by opposition parties, particularly led by the Indian National Congress."

"During this peaceful demonstration, Rahul Gandhi, arrived at the scene around 10.40 am to 10.45 am. Despite request from Parliament security to take the designated entry path, Rahul Gandhi with a malicious intent to disrupt the protest and physically harm NDA Members of Parliament ignored the instructions and forcefully barged toward the peaceful demonstrators," Joshi said in the complaint.

Not only did Rahul Gandhi and others violated the instructions of the security, he also instigated other "INDI Alliance Members" to proceed with force and aggression toward the NDA MPs, putting them in jeopardy, he alleged. "They intentionally used physical force to push Mukesh Rajput and Pratap Rao Sarangi and others who were standing on the narrow stairs at the entrance," Joshi said.

He said that as consequence Mukesh Rajput sustained a "severe injury" to the back of his head and Sarangi to his forehead.

"My colleague, Dr. Byreddy Sabari, MP, who is also a qualified doctor, immediately provided first aid to the injured individuals. I personally witnessed the incident as I was standing next to my injured colleagues and attempted to reason with Shri Rahul Gandhi and his accomplices," Joshi added in the complaint.

Thakur also accused Gandhi of behaving with a female BJP MP from Nagaland.

The Congress accused the BJP MPs of pushing its chief Mallikarjun Kharge and "physically manhandled" Gandhi.

A delegation of Congress MPs, including Digvijaya Singh, Mukul Wasnik, Rajiv Shukla and Pramod Tiwari, filed the complaint visiting the station in person, an officer said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday came to the defence of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, dismissing the BJP's claims that Gandhi physically pushed two ruling party members in the Parliament premises.

"I know Rahul Gandhi. He will not push anybody; he is not the kind of person to be nasty or rude to anyone...no one, leave alone Parliamentarian, he cannot even push someone walking on the road," he said.

Talking to reporters after his meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah here, Abdullah emphasised that any incidents that occurred should be addressed by the Speaker of the House.

"Parliament ka mahaul theek rehna chahiye aur Parliament ke andar kaam hona chahiye banisbat ke Parliament ke bahar jhagde (the atmosphere in Parliament should remain respectful, and legislative work should take precedence over conflicts outside the House)," he said.

Earlier, Abdullah took to X to defend Gandhi and said, "I know Rahul, he would not push anyone much less a Member of Parliament. It's simply not in his nature to be rude or nasty to anyone".

Five terrorists killed...

area of the district on Wednesday night following information about the presence of suspected terrorists there, the officials said.

They said the search operation turned into an encounter as the terrorists opened fire on security forces, who retaliated.

The slain ultras include a self-styled commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen Farooq Ahmad Bhat alias Nali, who was allegedly involved in a series of terror related crimes in south Kashmir area.

The other ultras killed in the operation have been identified as Irfan Lone, Adil Hussain, Mushtaq Itoo and Yasir Javaid, all local residents.

Search operations were continuing in the area as police requested local residents not to go close to the encounter site due to safety reasons.

Meanwhile, security forces have launched a search operation in the border areas of Poonch district following inputs regarding suspicious movement, officials said.

The search operation was conducted by security forces and police in forward areas of Mendhar on Thursday, they said.

The operation is part of the alertness of troops against suspicious movements and the threat of infiltration, they said.

In a related development, a forest fire triggered mine blasts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said.

There were no casualties or injuries, they said.

The forest fire in the forward areas of Gursai, Uchhad, and Prambanar, as well as the border belts, has been raging for the past few days, they added.

Several mines exploded due to the fire, however, there were no casualties or injuries, the officials confirmed.

Efforts by the forest department, fire services, police, Army, and locals are underway to control the blaze, they said.

Congress's anti-constitutional...

hooliganism-actions that are a complete betrayal of parliamentary ethics.

Chugh said, "Today, the entire nation witnessed how Congress MPs abandoned debate and embraced violence in the sacred Parliament of India. This is not just a one-day incident; it is a reflection of Congress's old habit of running away from accountability. When faced with the truth, Congress resorts to chaos, not conversation."

He accused the Congress of hiding its anti-constitutional past, saying: "This is the same Congress that once snatched away the fundamental rights of the people during the Emergency, misused Article 356 over 90 times to topple elected state governments, and opposed OBC reservations. Their conduct in Parliament today is a continuation of their long history of undermining constitutional values."

Chugh highlighted Congress's anti-Ambedkar legacy, stating that Congress consistently sidelined and disrespected Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution.

He pointed out that Congress deliberately worked to defeat Dr. Ambedkar in the 1952 and 1954 elections, denied him the respect he deserved, and took 40 long years to award him the Bharat Ratna, despite conferring it on their own leaders, such as Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, while they were still in power.

Chugh said, "Congress claims to be a protector of the Constitution, but their record tells a different story. They tried to erase Dr. Ambedkar's legacy, manipulated the Constitution for their own political gain, and disregarded the values of equality and social justice that Ambedkar stood for."

Chugh also slammed Congress's attempts to mislead the public through distorted videos and false narratives.

Referring to the recent selective clipping of Amit Shah's speech in Parliament, Chugh accused Congress of deliberately spreading misinformation to create confusion. "When they can't win the argument, they twist the facts. This is Congress's classic strategy," he said.

He remarked that violence in Parliament and the distortion of facts are just two sides of the same coin. "Today's violence and past conspiracies prove that Congress has no respect for parliamentary norms, truth, or the Constitution. Their only aim is to disrupt the system and mislead the public," Chugh added.

Chugh said, "BJP is committed to protecting Dr. Ambedkar's vision of democracy, social justice, and equality. While Congress seeks to divide the nation and erode constitutional values, BJP remains steadfast in its goal of creating an inclusive, fair, and just India."

Unknown illness claims...

has been dispatched to Rajouri to expedite testing and identify the illness, officials said

Twelve-year-old Ashfaq Ahmed, son of Mohammad Rafiq, passed away after being hospitalised at the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for six days, officials said.

He was earlier referred to Chandigarh for treatment but could not survive, officials said.

Ashfaq's younger siblings-seven-year-old Ishtiyak and five-year-old Nazia-died last Thursday.

With the death of Ashfaq, the number of fatalities in Badhaal village of Kotranka tehsil has reached eight. All the deceased belonged to two families from the same village. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, visited Kotranka on Monday to assess the ground situation in Badhaal village, where seven people, including six children under the age of 14, have died due to the unidentified illness.

"In response to the incident, a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) mobile laboratory has been sent to Rajouri. Additionally, a central team of experts has been constituted to assist the Union Territory administration in investigating the cases and fatalities," an official spokesperson said.

CB produces Challan in embezzlement case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Crime Branch (CB) on Thursday produced final charge-sheet into Rs 16,45,800 embezzlement and misappropriation case in the Court of Special Municipal Mobile Magistrate Jammu for judicial determination.

As per a CB official, the charge sheet was presented against one Vinod Kumar, son of Sham Lal, resident of Q. No. 108, Janipur Colony, Jammu, at present Thather Bantalab, for his involvement in a large-scale financial fraud.

According to CB officials, the case FIR No.12/2016 U/Ss 409/201 RPC was registered at Police Station Janipur against the accused Vinod Kumar, who by committing criminal breach of trust had embezzled money worth Rs. 16,45,800, which was meant to be deposited in the chest of the ATM and thereby cheated his employer.

The case was later transferred to Crime Branch Special Wing, Jammu for in depth investigation and was entrusted to Insp. Ashok Bazaz (I/O of the case) for thorough investigation, official said adding that the IO investigated the case under the supervision of SSP Crime Branch (SCW) Jammu, Sanjay Parihar.

Pertinently, official said, three more FIRs of similar nature registered in different Police Stations of Jammu i.e. Akhnour, Bakshi Nagar and Domana had also been transferred to Crime Branch, and are under investigation with Special Crime Wing, Jammu.

The total amount involved in all these cases is approximately Rs.70 lakh, he said.

Crime Branch (SCW) Jammu is committed to eradicate the menace of cheating and fraud from the society under direct supervision of SSP SCW Sanjay Parihar and able guidance of Dr. Sunil Gupta IGP Crime, J&K.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 3 bovine rescued , smuggler arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: District Police Doda in a statement has said that a bovine smuggling attempt has foiled in Premnagar area of Doda District and seized a vehicle loaded with 03 Bovines during early hours on Thursday.

Official sources said that, Police team led by IC Police Post Premnagar established a surprise naka on Doda-Kishtwar road at Shibnot. At about 05-00 hrs, police party intercepted a Vehicle bearing Registration No. JK06B/5047 which was coming from Thathri side towards Pull Doda. Two persons were travelling in the said vehicle. On seeing the Police party at naka, driver of the vehicle fled from the spot. After checking, found that the vehicle was loaded with three bovine animals, which were tied with rope without feeding arrangements and without proper permission. Another person namely Rayaz Ahmed, son of Abdul Hakim, resident of Kahi Kahara Gandoh who was travelling with him in same vehicle, failed to produce any kind of permission or explanation with regard to transportation of bovine, has been arrested on the spot.

The police promptly seized the vehicle on the spot and in this connection case FIR No. 75/2024 under section 223 BNS with 11 PC act stands registered at Police Station Thathri. Investigation of the case is going on.

Doda police re-unites missing woman with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda police re-united missing woman with her family.

A missing report of a lady resident of Ghanshana Tehsil Gandoh was entered in PP Changa of PS Gandoh on 15-11-2024 and she has been traced and re-united with her family.

Giving details SSP Doda Sh Sandeep Mehta-JKPS has said that one woman resident of Ghanshana Tehsil Gandoh District District Doda had gone missing and her missing report was entered at PP Changa on 15-11-2024.

Soon after getting the information regarding her missing, a team of Police personnel from PS Gandoh and PP Changa was constituted led by IC PP Changa to trace out the missing lady. The Police team by using all possible means as well as technical help and after getting some clues about her presence in Kahara area, succeeded in tracing her out from Kahara. Accordingly, after completing all codal formalities, the lady has been handed over to her family and missing report has been closed.

Mahajan unveils Short Dogri Movie 'Gharalu Hins'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Incharge All Cells, BJP, J&K, Rakesh Mahajan unveiled the short Dogri movie Gharalu Hins, a thought-provoking cinematic endeavour by Nisha Production Jammu.

Directed and written by the Nisha Gupta, the movie delves into the critical issue of domestic violence, aiming to ignite conversations and bring about social awareness.

The movie features powerful performances by Suraj Bhagat and Nisha Gupta in the lead roles, with Akhil Arora handling the shoot and editing. The stunning visuals captured by photographer Sandy Shotra further

enhance the film's impact.

Rakesh lauded the team's efforts, stating, "Domestic violence is a grave issue that continues to plague our society. By addressing it through the medium of regional cinema, Nisha Gupta and her team have made an impactful contribution towards raising awareness. I commend their dedication and hope this film inspires many to speak out against this injustice."

The senior BJP leader also laid stress upon promoting the Dogri language, which is a crucial part of Jammu's rich cultural heritage.

He urged the youth to actively work towards preserving and promoting Dogri language through various

mediums, including literature, cinema, and social initiatives.

"Our language is our identity, and it is our duty to ensure that Dogri thrives for generations to come," he added.

Nisha Gupta, Director and Writer of the film, said, "This film is not just a story; it's a reflection of the harsh realities faced by many. I hope it resonates with people and encourages them to stand against domestic violence."

Prominent among those who were present included Ved Sharma, Co-incharge All Cells, BJP J&K, Parduman Singh, State Coordinator Retuning Office and Anju Dogra, Co-Coordinator Returning Office.

Shiv Sena demands to implement free recruitment exams policy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded to make government job recruitment exams free or to implement a 'one time' fee collection system.

In a press conference held on Thursday at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that it is meaningless to talk about youth empowerment without removing financial barriers for unemployed youth. Recruitment exam fee is proving to be a big obstacle for the future of poor and unemployed youth.

He said that in neighboring countries Nepal and Bangladesh, competitive exams are free.

On the other hand, there is a 'one time' fee system in states like Rajasthan, Assam. Whereas in Jammu and Kashmir, under 'JKSSB', candidates are charged an application fee of Rs 700/600 for each exam and under 'JKPSC', an application fee of Rs 1200/700 is charged. Sahni said that during the recent police constable recruitment in

Jammu and Kashmir, more than 5.4 lakh people applied for only 4002 posts and a fee of about 39 crores was collected.

At the same time, this registration fee is not refunded if the exam is canceled due to paper leak, rigging or other reasons.

Sahni said that the competitive exam being free will prove to be a big relief for the youth living a struggling life and they will be able to focus on the preparation of competitive exams without any financial hindrance.

Sahni said that the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has been in favor of youth empowerment. To implement it at the ground level, the application fee of recruitment examinations should be made free or 'one time' system should be implemented to provide relief to unemployed youth.

On this occasion Vikas Bakshi (Gen Secretary), Meenakshi Chhibber (President Mehila Wing), Sanjeev Kohli (Sr. Vice President), Raj Singh (President Kanghar wing) were present.

13th Police Martyr's NZ T-20 LB Shastri thrashes Jalandhar CC by 7 wickets

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The 13th Police Martyr's Memorial North Zone T-20 Cricket Championship 2024-25 saw a thrilling encounter on its second day, held at the Sports Stadium Kathua. The only match of the day featured LB Shastri Delhi facing off against Jalandhar Cricket Club. Winning the toss, LB Shastri opted to bowl first. Jalandhar CC posted a modest total of 113 runs in 20 overs, losing nine wickets. Ayush was the standout performer for Jalandhar, top-scoring with 32 runs off 33



balls, including three boundaries.

In response, LB Shastri chased down the target of 114 runs with ease, reaching the target in just 12.3 overs for the loss of three wickets.

Aryan was named Man of the Match for his brilliant knock of 75 runs off 39 balls, which included 14 boundaries. This dominant performance saw LB Shastri securing a comprehensive 7-wicket victory.