

Two armymen martyred, terrorist killed in Shopian encounter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Two Army soldiers were martyred and an LeT terrorist was killed in an encounter in south Kashmir's volatile Shopian district, a senior police official said here on Saturday.

The encounter took place after a joint search operation was launched Friday night in Chermarg in Zainpora of Shopian based on a specific intelligence input of the police about the presence of a terrorist there, Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Range) Vijay Kumar said.

The security personnel involved in the search operation, following the standard operating procedure, closed in on a cluster of houses and started moving out civilians.

When the search team reached the house of Gowhar Ahmed Bhat, he



intentionally misled them and denied providing shelter to any terrorist.

As Bhat was being questioned, a terrorist opened fire on the search team from inside the house, causing grievous injuries to two Army personnel.

In the ensuing encounter, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Abdul Qayoom Dar, a resident of Laroo Kakpora

in Pulwama, was neutralised and arms and ammunition, including one AK rifle and a pistol, were recovered.

The injured Army personnel attained martyrdom later. The Army identified the martyred soldiers as Sepoys Santosh Yadav and Chavan Ronit Tanaji of 1 Rashtriya Rifles.

"A case has been registered and the house owner arrested

under terror laws," Kumar said in a statement.

LeT terrorist Dar was arrested and booked under the Public Safety Act after an encounter took place in his house in April 2020. He was released in August 2021. However, he continued to work as a sleeper cell for the banned terrorist group and fled from his house recently.

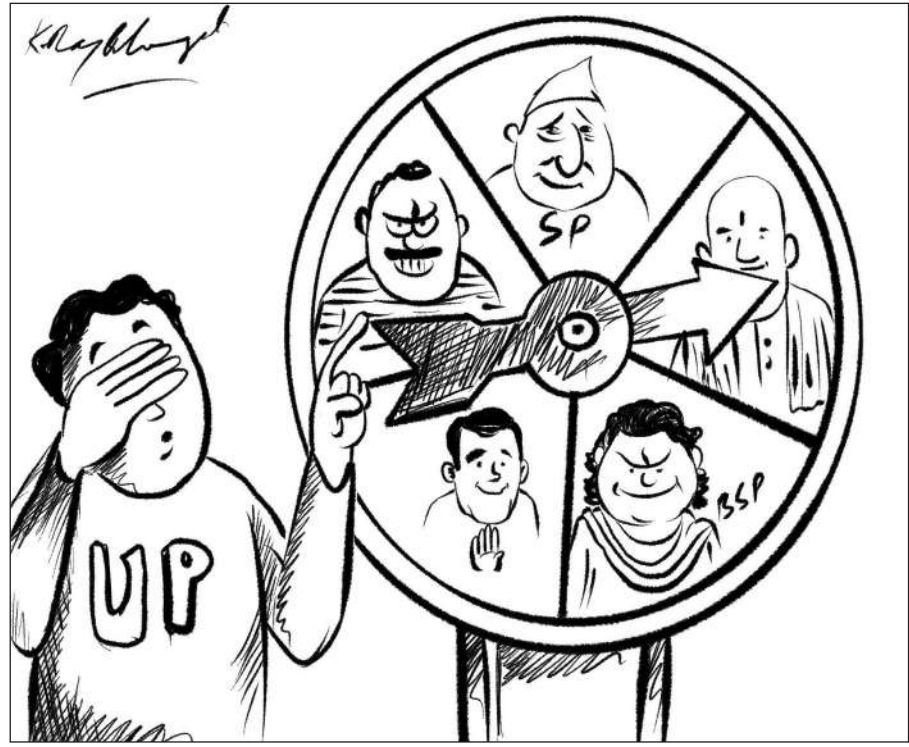
As per police records, the killed terrorist had a history of terror crime cases as he was working as terrorist associate before joining terror ranks. It is pertinent to mention that his house was also being used as hideout for terrorists and in April-2020 an encounter took place in his house and subsequently he was booked under PSA.

Post his release in August-2021, he continuously kept on working as an associate for active terrorists. Earlier

this week, SSP Pulwama officially intimated that he had left house and joined terror folds of LeT outfit. Consequently he was listed as "C" category terrorist.

"IGP Kashmir and all ranks of Kashmir Zone Police pay rich tributes to martyr Army jawans, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. We stand by their families at this critical juncture", a police spokesperson said.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 01 AK-series rifle, 01 Pistol were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated.



COVID-19: 166 fresh cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 166 fresh Covid cases, which took the tally to 4,52,155, while no death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 103 were reported from the Jammu division and 63 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said.

The officials said Jammu district recorded the highest of 51 cases followed by 23 cases in Doda district.

Babila posted as DC Reasi; Charandeep Director, Rural Sanitation

Alok gets addl charge of CEO JKEDA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Government on Saturday transferred two JKAS officer and gave additional charge to IRS officer.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary General Administration Department, Babila Rakwal, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Reasi vice Charandeep Singh, JKAS, who has been posted as Director, Rural Sanitation, J&K.

"Further, Alok Kumar, IRS, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department, shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JKEDA), in addition to his own duties, till further orders," the order added.

State cannot be permitted to take benefit of its own wrong: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has upheld a Gujarat High Court order directing the state government to pay pensionary benefits to a man who retired after rendering more than 30 years of service.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said the State cannot be permitted to take the benefit of its own wrong.

"To take the services continuously for 30 years and thereafter to contend that an employee who has rendered 30 years continuous service shall not be eligible for pension is nothing but unreasonable, the bench said.

The top court said as a welfare State, the State ought not to have taken such a stand.

"In the present case, the High Court has not committed any error in directing the State to pay pensionary benefits to the respondent who has retired after rendering more than 30 years service," the bench said.

Northern Army commander on maiden visit to Ladakh



Northern Army commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on his arrival at Leh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: Northern Army commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday reached Leh on his four-day maiden visit to the Union Territory of Ladakh after taking over as the general officer commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C) of the Udhampur-based command this month, a spokesperson

said.

He arrived at the Air Force Station, Leh, and was received by senior Army officers, including General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps, Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, the official said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi took over as the GoC-in-C of the Northern Command on February 1. He reviewed the security situation in Kashmir during a three-day tour from February 14-16.

The spokesman said the Army commander is expected to visit forward areas in the entire Ladakh sector and receive a briefing from officers on the ground.

Former SPO gets life-term for killing wife, brother-in-law in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BANIHAL: A local court on Saturday sentenced a former Special Police Officer (SPO) to life imprisonment for killing his wife and brother-in-law in Ramban district over a decade ago.

Principal Sessions Judge, Ramban, Haq Nawaz Zargar also slapped a fine of Rs 1 lakh on the convict Abdul Gafoor, who caused his appearance through video conference from district jail, Udhampur; where he is currently lodged.

Gafoor had shot dead his wife Rehmata Begum and brother-in-law Farooq Ahmad Malik using his AK-47 rifle in Mitra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway while he was trying to flee.

In his nine-page order, the principal sessions judge said Gafoor, a resident of Jhora-Thatri village of Doda, is punished for offence under Section 302 (murder) of the Ranbir Penal Code and sentenced to life imprisonment.

He shall also undergo concurrent sentence of life imprisonment for offence under section 7/27 I A Act. Both sentences shall run concurrently, the order read.

Of the Rs 1 lakh fine imposed on Gafoor, Rs 50,000 shall be paid as compensation to his children with Rehmata Begum and the rest shall be forfeited in favour of the State, it said.

JKBOSE declares Class 10 result of Winter Zone: Girls outshine Boys

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Saturday declared the result of Secondary School Examination (Class 10th), Session Annual, Regular, 2021 Winter Zone of Jammu Division today after the successful conduct of examination and evaluation despite various challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. All the papers were successfully conducted as scheduled in the date sheet notified by JKBOSE.

As many as 26201 candidates had appeared in the said examination at 347 Examination Centres, out of which 18279 have been declared qualified constituting 69.76% of the total examinees. Out of total examinees, 14159 were boys and 12042 were girls. Girls have outnumbered boys again by scoring a pass percentage of 72.70%.

In respect of Government Schools, Doda district has claimed the highest district wise pass percentage i.e 76.42 % whereas Poonch district recorded highest pass percentage of 97.40% in respect of Private Schools category. Around 30 Government Schools and 38 Private schools recorded 100 % pass percentage. With regard to the grades acquired, 830 students have secured A1 Grade, 2292 students have got A2 Grade, 3878 students secured B1 Grade, 5048 got B2 Grade, whereas 4969 candidates secured C1 Grade, 1252 C2 Grade and 10 candidates have got D Grade respectively.

Prof. Veena Pandita, Chairperson, JKBOSE has expressed her satisfaction over the examination process, and gratitude to the UT Govt of J&K; Rajeev Rai

Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG; School Education Department and B.K Singh, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Manisha Sarin, Secretary JKBOSE, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, entire divisional and district level administrative machinery, whole team of the officers and officials of JKBOSE Jammu Division and teachers who have tirelessly contributed for the flawless conduct of examination followed by immense cooperation in evaluation. "It is heartening to see that JKBOSE has succeeded in declaring its results despite hard times of COVID 19 pandemic. Today's result is another milestone to prove consistency of its honest endeavours for the students' cause. My appreciation for one and all associated with this job. The result has been quite satisfactory with an

overall pass percentage of 69.76 % in which girls have again claimed a bigger share, my special greetings to the them. I congratulate the successful candidates for fruition of their hard work and good wishes to those who could not make it this time. They should surge ahead with renewed enthusiasm and revised strategies for the next chance provided as another opportunity to prove their worth", she added.

In order to facilitate the access of students to the result gazette, the JKBOSE has made adequate arrangements through various media. The result is available online on the official website of JKBOSE www.jkbose.nic.in and on www.indiaresults.com as well. The candidates can also avail SMS facility by sending the text message to 5676750 by typing jkbose10 followed by a space and Roll No. e.g., "

jkbose10 Roll No.". Those who don't have access to Mobile Phones or internet can get their results from their nearest JKBOSE office where the soft copies of result gazettes have been provided. The result is also available in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners of the concerned districts for the convenience of the students and general public.

In case of any query regarding this result, the students have been advised to avoid visiting the JKBOSE office Jammu physically due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, they can email their query at jssecrecy_jd@jkbose.co.in citing all the relevant details which shall be addressed after due processing at the earliest possible. The aggrieved students if any, can contact their respective schools or the nearest JKBOSE Sub/Branch office.

Demolish illegal structures, recover charges from violators: Div Com directs officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Pace up anti-encroachment drive and demolish illegally constructed structures directed Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole to the officers while chairing a meeting regarding demolition of illegal structures and removal of encroachments.

The Div Com also directed officers to recover demolition charges from violators to stop construction of buildings illegally.

The meeting was attended by VC, J&K LCMA, Srinagar; ADC, Srinagar; Chief Town Planner; SP Srinagar, CEO, Badami

Bagh Cantonment; SMO Officers, Executive Officers of Municipalities of Budgam, Pampore, Ganderbal and other officers.

The Div Com directed SMC officers to submit a detailed report of the total number of structures demolished during the period of previous year.

He also directed officers to identify illegally constructed multi-storied buildings which are to be demolished. He further directed civil and police officers to visit the sites and prepare a strategy and plan of demolition.

Div Com directed to publish the names of recurring violators and take strict action against them.

He also directed regulation of commercial structures in residential areas with a rider that commercial structures must have parking space available within the premises. Pole also directed SMC, SDA, LCMA and Municipalities to demarcate their area of jurisdiction with pegs or wall paintings for the convenience of the general public.

2 terrorist associates arrested in Pulwama, Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces have arrested two terrorist associates in separate operations in Pulwama and Srinagar districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

Govt teacher arrested for poaching bird of rare species

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: A government school teacher was arrested on charges of poaching and carcass of a female Himalayan Monal, a rainbow-coloured bird locally named as Haam, was seized in Rajouri on Saturday, officials of the wildlife department said.

As per the department, on specific information, a team of Wildlife headed by Mohammad Yaqoob Shah Incharge Control Room Surankote intercepted a Maruti car (JK-12B / 4604) near Panar Bridge on Mughal Road falling under the jurisdiction of Tatakutti Wildlife Sanctuary of Wildlife Range Poonch of Wildlife Division Rajouri-Poonch Hq Rajouri.

On seeing the wildlife team, the driver of the vehicle tried to flee from the spot but on being chased he was stopped at some distance. As soon as the car came to a halt, three persons boarding the car fled away from the spot but the wildlife team managed to overpower the driver of the said vehicle. During the search of the vehicle about 2.5 kg meat of wild animal, species one corpse of female Himalayan Monal (locally named as Haam), one 12 bore

Gun Barrel, 3 live cartridges, 1 empty cartridge of 12 bore gun were also recovered from the possession of the driver / owner of the vehicle identified as Mukhtar Ahmed resident of village Sangla, Tehsil Surankote, District Poonch. The accused, a Government teacher, was arrested and lodged in Police lockup at Police Station Surankote after medical examination.

The said vehicle along with the seizure made of illegal stuff has been seized and kept into custody of the Wildlife team control room Surankote. The rest of the three persons who managed to escape from the spot have also been identified and a massive search has been launched to nab them.

The arrest has been made under the provision of J&K Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The arrested person was produced before Sub- Judge / JMJC Surankote for remand, which was granted till 24-Feb-2022 for further investigation.

This operation was closely monitored by Khalid Abbas Munshi, Range Wildlife Range Poonch and supervised by Mushtaq H. Choudhary, Wildlife Warden Rajouri-Poonch.

In south Kashmir's Pulwama, security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Rahmoo area based on specific information, a police spokesperson said.

During the search, a terrorist associate of the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) was arrested, he said.

He was identified as Irfan Yousuf Dar of Rohmoo, Pulwama.

Incriminating materials, and arms and ammunition, including an AK rifle, a magazine and 30 rounds, were found in his possession, the spokesman said.

A terrorist associate of the LeT/TRF was arrested in the Eidgah area of the city in a similar operation and a pistol was found in his possession, he said.

He was identified as Junaid Mushtaq Bhat of Nilloo, Kulgam. During preliminary investigation, it came to the fore that Bhat had come to the city to carry out terror incidents and targeted killings, the spokesman said.

Cases have been registered and further investigations are on, he said.

NIA conducts searches in J&K, Rajasthan in terror conspiracy case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan in connection with a terrorism conspiracy case, its spokesperson said.

Twenty-eight accused have been arrested in the case so far, the spokesperson said.

The NIA said the searches were conducted at eight locations in Sopore, Kupwara, Shopian, Rajouri, Budgam and Ganderbal of Jammu and Kashmir and Jodhpur district of Rajasthan.

"During the searches conducted today, various incriminating documents, digital devices, SIM cards and digital storage devices have been seized," the spokesperson said.



The case relates to planning and conspiracy for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major cities, including New Delhi, by cadres of the proscribed terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and Al Badr and their affiliates such as The Resistance Front (TRF) and People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF), the spokesperson said.

The NIA said further investigation in the case is underway.

Journalist Gowhar Geelani absconding: J&K Police to court

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday informed a court in Pulwama district that journalist Gowhar Geelani, facing charges related to apprehension of threat to peace, has not been arrested and is "absconding".

The court of the Executive Magistrate (First Class) Shopian on Thursday had directed police to arrest Geelani after he failed to appear before it on a previous date of hearing.

Summon was issued to Geelani under sections 107 and 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (apprehension of threat to peace, law and order) on February 3. "We could not arrest Geelani as he is absconding," Heerpora Station House Officer (SHO) Lateef Ahmad said.

He said police have informed the court that Geelani is absconding.

The Executive Magistrate (First Class), usually an officer of the rank of Tehsildar, had on Thursday directed the SHO to arrest Geelani after he did not appear in the court on last date of hearing on February 7.

The magistrate had also directed the police to present Geelani before the court on

February 19.

Meanwhile, posters issued by an unknown group surfaced in Pulwama offering reward for Geelani's whereabouts.

The absconding "alleged journalist and essentially a stenographer of terrorism and vehicle of insurgency Gowhar Geelani. Anyone giving information on his whereabouts would be rewarded with Rs 50,000. Identity of the informant would be kept discreet, the poster read.

The poster only mentioned an email address of the group called as Civil Society Volunteers Group of Kashmir.

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India logs 22,270 fresh COVID-19 cases, 325 more deaths

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally climbed to 4,28,02,505 on Saturday as 22,270 more people tested positive for the viral disease, while the active cases came down to 2,53,739, according to Union health ministry data.

The death toll reached 5,11,230 with 325 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. Daily COVID-19 cases have remained below one lakh for 13 consecutive days now.

The active cases comprise 0.59 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has further improved to 98.21

per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 38,353 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.80 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.50 per cent, the ministry said. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,20,37,536. The case fatality rate stood at 1.19 per cent, it said. The cumulative number of doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 175.03 crore.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 23.0°C Min: 8.4°C

Humidity

Max: 82 Min: 49

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 14.4°C Min: -0.9°C

Humidity

Max: 90 Min: 65

Sunset : 18:20 Hours

Sunrise : 07:09 Hours

