

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 Romit 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.

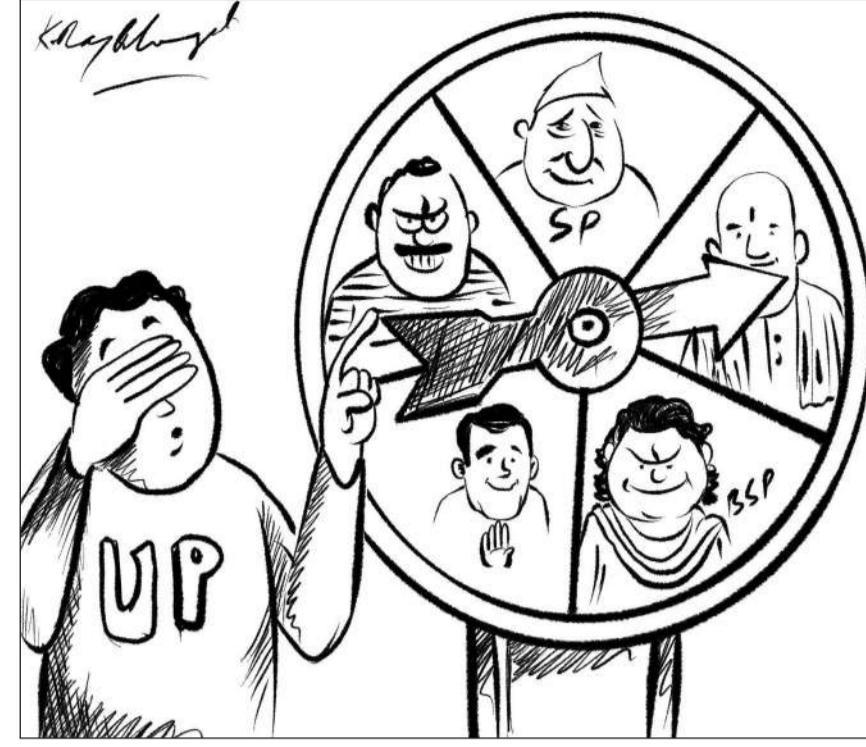
As per police records, the killed terrorist had a history of terror crime cases as he was working as terrorist associate before joining terrorist ranks. It is pertinent to mention that his house was also being used as hideout for terrorists and in April 2020 an encounter took place in his house and subsequently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

Post his release in August 2021, he continuously kept on working as an associate of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated.

this week, SSP Pulwama officially intimated that he had left house and joined terrorist 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

JAMMU: 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.

There are 2,294 active cases in the Union Territory while the number of recovered patients is 4,45,115, they said.

The death toll in Jammu and Kashmir due to the pandemic is 4,746 as no fresh fatality was reported in the past 24 hours, the officials said.

The officials said, there were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory as no fresh case was reported since last evening.

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.

In the present case, 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.

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

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

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.

The abounding "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.

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 / JMIC Surankote for remand, which was granted till 24-Feb-2022 for further investigation.

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

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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 Mithra village of Ramban on May 10, 2011.

He was subsequently arrested

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.

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

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.