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Two Pakistani terrorists behind killing of KP employee gunned down

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces killed on Friday two Pakistani terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba who were behind the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit government employee in his office in Jammu and Kashmir a day ago.

Security forces trapped the two terrorists, who had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir recently and managed to escape from an anti-terror operation two days ago, in Brar in the Aragam area of Bandipora district in north Kashmir on Friday. They were killed in an encounter, a police spokesman said.

The duo came under the scanner of the security forces during tracking of a local LeT terrorist, named Lateef Rather alias Osama, who was involved in terror incidents in Srinagar and Budgam in the last two months, the police spokesman said.

A week ago, the movement of Rather was confirmed in



the Salindar area of Bandipora where he had gone to receive a fresh group of LeT terrorists who had infiltrated into the union territory, the spokesman said.

The presence/movement of these terrorists was confirmed and shared with the Bandipora police. Accordingly, an operation was launched on May 11 resulting in the elimination of a local terrorist, identified as Gulzar Ahmed Ganaie of district Baramulla.

However, the two Pakistani terrorists managed to escape from the spot. A police team

kept following their footprints and their presence was confirmed technically in the Chadoora area of Budgam where the Kashmiri Pandit government employee was killed on Thursday.

Thereafter, the spokesman said, their footprints were again confirmed in Brar and accordingly the operation was launched on Friday, resulting in their killing.

He identified the slain terrorists as Pakistani nationals Faisal alias Sikander alias Mohsin and Ukasha.

A hunt was underway for Rather alias Osama, the

spokesman said.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from the encounter site in Brar and all the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

Earlier in the day, Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the two terrorists trapped in Brar were Pakistani and belonged to the LeT. They had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir recently. They had managed to escape during an encounter in the Salinder forest area on Wednesday, he said.

"IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar has congratulated joint team of Police/SF for tracking down the said foreign terrorists who had recently escaped during an encounter and whose presence was technically confirmed yesterday at terror incident site at Chadoora which confirmed

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SPO martyred in Pulwama

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A policeman was martyred by terrorists at his residence in Pulwama district on Friday.

Constable Reyaz Ahmad Thokar was shot at in Gudoora in the district this morning, a police spokesman said. The injured cop was rushed to the Army's 92 base hospital in the city but succumbed to injuries.

This is the second attack by terrorists within 24 hours.

ACB nabs Municipal Committee Awantipora President for accepting bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested President of Municipal Committee Awantipora in Pulwama for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 1000 for passing some bills, officials said.

The ACB received a complaint alleging therein that Bilal Ahmed Bhat, President Municipal Committee Awantipora is demanding

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Drone cameras, 12,000 PMF, JK Police to guard Amarnath Yatra

Union Home Secy reviews Amarnath Yatra arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: At least 12,000 paramilitary troops and hundreds of Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, with the help of drone cameras, will guard the Amarnath yatra which is scheduled to begin on June 30 after a gap of two years, officials said.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Friday reviewed the security preparedness for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine located in south Kashmir at

an altitude of 3,888 meters.

The Amarnath yatra could not be carried out in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, while it was cut short in 2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370.

The pilgrimage will be a big security challenge for the government as Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing a number of targeted killings by terrorists in recent weeks.

The home secretary reviewed the security preparedness for the Amarnath

Yatra with top officials of paramilitary forces and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the officials said.

About 12,000 paramilitary personnel (120 companies) in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes via Pahalgam and Baltal, they said.

Drone cameras will hover over the pilgrim routes to help the security forces ensure the protection of

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KU Prof, Constable among 3 Govt employees sacked for terror links

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday sacked three government employees, including a professor and a policeman, for their alleged links with terror groups, officials said.

The trio was terminated from services based on the recommendation of a designated committee constituted under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution that allows dismissal from service without an inquiry in the interest of the State's security.

Those sacked are Altaf Hussain Pandit, chemistry professor at Kashmir University, Mohammed Maqbool Hajam, teacher in the school education department, and Ghulam Rasool, a constable with the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Hussain Pandit is actively associated with the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islam (JeI). He had crossed over to Pakistan for terror training and remained an active terrorist of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front for three years before his arrest

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SC seeks Centre, J&K Admn, ECI replies on plea against delimitation commission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Centre, Jammu, and Kashmir administration, and Election Commission of India (ECI) on a plea of two Kashmir residents challenging the government's decision to constitute the delimitation commission for redrawing the assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union Territory.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh issued notice to the Centre and Election Commission of India and sought their responses within six weeks and said that the

rejoinder affidavits shall be filed in two weeks thereafter.

At the outset, counsel appearing for two Srinagar residents Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Dr. Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, said that contrary to the scheme of the constitution, this delimitation exercise was carried out and alteration of boundaries and inclusion of extended areas could not be done.

The bench said that the delimitation commission was formed sometime back and asked the petitioners, where were they during that time and why did not they challenge the constitution of the commission.

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SC refuses to postpone NEET-PG-22 examination

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to postpone the NEET-PG-22 examination on a plea of doctors, saying the delay would seriously affect patient care and would create chaos and uncertainty.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said the postponement of the examination

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J&K reports 5 fresh COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday reported five fresh Covid cases-three from the Jammu division and two from the Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases to 454131 in the Union Territory.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 41.1°C Min: 24.7°C

Humidity

Max : 33 Min : 18

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 30.0°C Min: 14.1°C

Humidity

Max : 53 Min: 26

Sunset : 19:21 Hours

Sunrise : 05:36 Hours

Rahul Bhat cremated in Jammu amid protests by KPs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government employee Rahul Bhat, who was shot dead by terrorists inside his office in central Kashmir's Budgam district, was cremated on Friday amid a protest by members of the Kashmiri Pandit community here.

As the mortal remains of Rahul Bhat reached his home in Durga Nagar area of Jammu on Friday morning, his relatives wept inconsolably.

Rahul Bhat's wife and daughter, who were putting up with him at Sheikhpora migrant colony in Budgam, accompanied the body as it arrived here from Kashmir.

Candle march in Anantnag against civilian killings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Employees from various public offices in Anantnag, traders association and civil society members on Friday held a candle light march here at Lal Chowk Anantnag.

The march was organised against the civilian killings in the valley and in solidarity with the victims' families.

The march, which witnessed heavy participation of people, was held from Lal Chowk to DC Office with participants holding candles to express sympathy with the victims families over the killings.

The participants held placards demanding an end to civilian killings. The

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BABU SINGH HAWALA TRANSACTIONS SIA raids multiple locations across J&K in terror funding case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: State Investigation Agency (SIA) carried raids at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

The sleuths of the investigating agency with the assistance of the police carried out raids on at least 12 different locations in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir including Jammu, Kathua, Doda and Kashmir in connection with terror financing case registered vide FIR 73 of 2022 at police Station Gandhi Nagar:

"The raids are in connection with Babu Singh Hawala case. Babu Singh, son of Shamsheer Singh, a resident of Kathua, is said to be the



SIA teams carrying out raids in Jammu on Friday.

main kingpin of Hawala money transactions for whom Mohammed Shareef Shah collected cash from Srinagar," SIA officials said.

They said "The agency has also identified Sidhant Sharma, son of Lt Satish

Sharma, resident of Kathua, who accompanied Babu Singh to Jammu to collect cash and later deputed Ashok Bali to contact Shareef Shah."

"The raid was also conducted in the house of Amrish



Family members and relatives of Kashmiri Pandit Rahul Bhat, a government employee during his funeral in Jammu on Friday.

His brother Sunny lit the pyre at the Buntalab crema-

tion ground as chants

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LG announces Govt job to Rahul Bhat's wife in Jammu, financial assistance to family

Govt to bear educational expenses of daughter; SIT constituted, SHO attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday announced a government job to the wife of Rahul Bhat who was killed by the Terrorists at Budgam on Thursday.

The Government will also extend financial assistance to the family and bear educational expenses of the daughter of the deceased, the Lt Governor said.

A special investigative team will be constituted to probe all the aspects of the despicable terror attack.

"J&K administration to provide a government job to Rahul Bhat's wife in Jammu

LG meets Rahul's family

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday assured justice to the family of Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri pandit government employee who was shot dead by terrorists a day earlier, and said terrorists and their supporters will have to pay a very heavy price for their heinous act.

Sinha met Bhat's family amid protests by members of the community against the killing.

Met the relatives of Rahul Bhat and assured justice to the family. In this hour of grief, the government stands firmly with Rahul's family, the LG said on Twitter.

He said terrorists and their supporters will have to pay a very heavy price for this brutal act.

and financial assistance to the family. The government will bear educational expenses of the daughter", said the Lt Governor in a tweet.

A decision has been taken

to constitute a special investigative team to probe all the aspects of the despicable terror attack. The SHO of the concerned police station has also been attached, he added.

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4 killed, 24 injured as bus catches fire in Katra LG announces Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia for NoK of deceased

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Four people were killed and 24 others injured when a passenger bus caught fire in Katra area on Friday, officials said.

According to the officials, the bus, which was carrying passengers, some of them the pilgrims on its way to Jammu from Katra, caught fire near Nomai, about 3 kilometers from Katra.

Katra is the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine.

The injured have been shifted to GMC hospital in Jammu, the officials said.

The Additional Director General (ADG) of Police,



A Jammu-bound bus under fire at Katra on Friday.

Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh, who himself inspected the bus, said initial probe does not point to use of any explosive.

"The bus caught fire on its way from Katra to Jammu.

The cause of fire is not confirmed yet", Singh told reporters at the site.

The preliminary investigation doesn't suggest that (a blast), but probe is on

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Army signs MoU with JU to start Bhadarwahi language course for troops

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH : The Army has signed an agreement with the University of Jammu for organising a four-month certificate course in Bhadarwahi language for its troops in order to develop a better understanding between the force and the local population, officials said on Friday.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Col Rajat Parmar, the Commanding Officer of the Army's 4 Rashtriya Rifles, and Rector of Jammu University's Bhadarwah Campus Rahul Gupta.

According to the MoU, the university's Bhadarwah cam-

pus will be running a four-month certificate course in Bhadarwahi language for the troops deployed in Jammu region.

"The course will be conducted jointly by instructors of the Indian Army and external academicians well versed in Bhadarwahi language," said Aarif Khateeb of Jammu University.

Bhadarwahi is an ancient language with four dialects -- Siraji, Padri, Pogali and Gaddi. It is spoken in the three districts of Chenab Valley -- Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban.

At least 15,000 troops of the Army are posted in the Chenab Valley.

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