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Two Pakistani terrorists...

their involvement in killing of Rahul Bhat," the spokesman said. Bhat (35), who was posted in the Tehsil office in Chadoora under a special employment package for Kashmiri Pandit migrants, was shot dead in his office.

ACB nabs Municipal...

Rs 1,000 for processing bills of the complainant, ACB spokesman said. The complainant alleged that Bhat used to demand commission at a rate of five per cent for processing bills, he said.

The complainant further stated that he is owner of an IT firm and was allotted a tender a year ago but accused was demanding five per cent of total bill amounting to Rs 20,650 for renewal of existing contract for year 2022, the spokesman added. Since the contents of the complaint disclosed demand of bribe by accused Bilal Ahmed Bhat, President Municipal committee, Awantipora, FIR No. 09/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Anantnag and investigation started, he said.

During investigation, a trap was laid and Bhat was caught red-demanding and accepting Rs 1,000 as bribe, the spokesman said. He was arrested on the spot by ACB team and bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses, he added.

Drone cameras, 12,000...

pilgrims, officials said. About three lakh pilgrims are likely to take part in the yatra, which is expected to end on August 11.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags will also be given to the pilgrims. CRPF Director General Kuldeep Singh and BSF DG Pankaj Singh, along with other officers, attended the meeting physically, while Jammu and Kashmir officials joined it through video conference.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta briefed the Union Home Secretary about the arrangements made by the UT administration for its successful commencement.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary Health; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Principal Secretary, PWD; Secretary IT and Director Health Services, Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary apprised the meeting that this year state of the art arrangements have been made by the administration for smooth conduct of the yatra. He observed that the yatra is going to be performed after a gap of 2 years post covid-19 pandemic so it is expected that the number would be much higher than previous years.

Dr Mehta further informed that, unlike previous years, the tentment capacity enroute holy cave has been exceptionally enhanced to 70000 yatris from existing 29000 till last yatra. He also gave out that this year a pilgrim could undertake yatra in a single day from Srinagar-Holy Cave-Srinagar by using the helicopter services.

The Home Secretary was also briefed that formulation of comprehensive sanitation plan has been made to make the yatra ODF++ this year. Elucidating it was said that the arrangements have been made on the analogy of Kumbh Mela and there will be one sanitation worker for every 10 toilets and a supervisor for 10 sanitation workers.

As far as the health arrangements are concerned, it was given out that 6 base hospitals would be established enroute with dozens of oxygen booths this year. A provision of 100 bedded dedicated covid care hospital is going to be established at Srinagar and ICU facilities at Pahalgam, Batal and Sonamarg.

The provision for ambulances including critical care ones has been made besides isolation facilities at Pajtarni, Sheshnag and Holy cave. The training and deployment of medical staff has been worked out as per the current requirements, the meeting was informed.

Regarding the traffic plan it was said that RFID based monitoring and surveillance system has been introduced from Lakhampur till base camps. Alert messages to Camp Directors would also be sent on real time basis for the safety of yatris, as was learnt during the meeting.

Regarding security arrangements it was said that Joint Police Control Rooms (JPCRs) and Emergency Operation Centres per NDMA suggestions has been established. Deployment of Mountain Rescue Teams by Police, NDRF, SDRF, CRPF has also been done to meet any eventuality.

Overall there would be a capacity of more than one lakh pilgrims at 147 locations with a provision for proper toilets/baths, langars and dozens of medical centres, as given in the meeting. The yatra would be conducted in a very pleasant atmosphere as enhanced number of cloak rooms, water dispensers, dust bins, bottle catchers, steel benches and signages have been erected by the Shrine Board this year.

Others who participated includes representatives from Ministries of Health, Road Transport, Telecom, IMD, NDRF from Government of India and other relevant stakeholders.

KU Prof, Constable...

by the security forces, sometime in 1993.

He continued to be an active cadre of JeI and worked as a terror recruiter. Pandit was instrumental in organising stone pelting and violent protests over the killing of terrorists in 2011 and 2014, the officials said.

In 2015, Hussain Pandit became an executive member of the Kashmir University Teachers Association and used his position to propagate secessionism among students. He was instrumental in motivating three students of the Kashmir University to join terror ranks, they added.

Hajam, a teacher of the school education department, was also a terror over ground worker (OGW) and he used to radicalise people, they said.

He was part of a mob which attacked a police station in Sogam and other government buildings, officials said, adding that despite being a government teacher, he was always found to be involved in terror activities.

Rasool, a constable with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, was working as an underground supporter of terrorists.

He also acted as an informer to terrorists and used to tip-off terrorists and OGWs about anti-terror operations. He used to leak the names of police personnel involved in anti-terror operations, the officials said.

Rasool was also in touch with Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Mushtaq Ahmad alias Aurangzeb, who has crossed over to Pakistan, they added.

"The recent crackdown is part of the government efforts to detect and mitigate terror elements within the system who somehow managed to sneak in during the previous regimes", a senior official said.

Former NIA officer...

revealed that LeT operatives based in Pakistan had hatched a conspiracy with Parvez, Kataria, Tonch and Abbas to run a network of OGWs of LeT for furthering the activities of LeT and to commit terrorist acts in India, the NIA said.

The agency said these accused persons collected information regarding vital installations, deployment and movement of security forces, procured official secret documents and passed on the same to their LeT handlers through encrypted communication channels for monetary consideration.

"Investigation also revealed that Negi, being a public servant, abused his official position and unauthorisedly passed on official secret documents to the co-accused for monetary consideration and also demanded illegal gratification through the co-accused for promising investigation, the spokesperson said.

The NIA said Prasad and Mahato had forged identity documents and used them for procuring SIM cards and opening bank accounts and passed them on to the co-accused for monetary benefits.

The spokesperson said Negi was charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Official Secrets Act and the Prevention of Corruption Act, while Parvez was charged under relevant sections of the IPC, Prevention of Corruption Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Further investigation in the case was underway, the spokesperson said.

SIA raids at...

away from spot to evade his arrest."

The agency also raided three residences of Shareef-din Shah, son of Abdul Gani Bhat, at Srinagar, Anantnag and Bajalta in Jammu.

The sleuths of the investigating agency with the assistance of the local police also carried out raid in a house at Masjid Mohalla locality in Additional District Bhadarwah.

According to reports the raids are being conducted at a residence and shop of a person dealing with the sale of electronic items.

The items seized includes Mobile phones with SIMs, Wifi Router, Airtell genexu colour white, Router airtel x-strem, Digital video recorder and Laptop (Dell).

Moreover another raid was conducted in the electronic shop at Sadar Bazar Bhadarwah from where one Wifi router airtel x-strem was seized.

Director State Investigation Agency JK UT appreciated the investigating officers of SIA Jammu by presenting them cash rewards and appreciation certificate.

SC seeks Centre...

The counsel said that as per the delimitation order, it is the election commission that is empowered to do any changes.

The bench said that it is asking a specific question under Article 32 of the constitution why you have not challenged the formation of the commission itself and do you challenge the abrogation of Article 370 also.

The bench told the counsel, who was making objectionable submissions, to choose his words properly and said that Kashmir was always part of India and just a special provi-

sion was removed.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that effectively the plea is two-fold and that delimitation can be conducted only by the Election Commission of India and not the delimitation commission.

Mehta said that secondly, they have raised questions about the census.

The answer to the questions is in the reorganisation Act. There are two types of delimitations. One is geography which is conducted by the delimitation commission and the second is by election commission with regard to reservation of seats, he said.

Mehta said that the petitioners' case is that once Article 370 is gone, the census will only take place in 2026.

The bench then noted that the petitioners have not challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and therefore pleadings concerning Article 370 are to be ignored.

It said that the challenge is about the delimitation pursuant to the notifications of March 6, 2020, and March 3, 2021, and directed the Centre and ECI to file their replies.

Counsel for the petitioners said that the government will place the delimitation order before Parliament and it further complicates the matter.

The bench told the counsel that he wants the court to stop the government from tabling the paper before Parliament. If you were too anxious, then why didn't you take it up two years ago?

It posted the matter for further hearing on August 30.

The plea sought declaration that the increase in the number of seats from 107 to 114 (including 24 seats in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) in Jammu & Kashmir is Ultra vires the Constitutional Provisions such as Articles 81, 82, 170, 330, and 332 and Statutory Provisions, particularly under Section 63 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

It said that while Article 170 of the Constitution of India provides that the next delimitation in the country will be taken up after 2026 then why has the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir been singled out?

The plea said that the last Delimitation Commission was set up on July 12, 2002, in the exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, after the 2001 Census to carry out the exercise throughout the country and the commission had issued guidelines and methodology for the Delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies vide letter dated July 5, 2004, along with the Constitutional and Legal Provisions.

It clearly stated that the total number of existing seats in the Legislative Assemblies of all states, including UTs of the National Capital Region and Pondicherry, as fixed based on the 1971 census shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026, the plea settled by senior advocate Ravi Shankar Jhunjhula said.

It sought to declare the notification dated March 6, 2020, constituting the delimitation commission to take up delimitation in the UT of J&K and states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland by the Centre and consequential omission of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland from the process of delimitation vide, notification dated March 3, 2021, and conducting delimitation only for Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is unconstitutional as it amounts to classification and violates Article 14.

4 killed, 24...

and nothing is confirmed, as of now, he said

A forensic team is looking into the cause of fire.

Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar visited the injured at the GMC Hospital and inquired about their treatment.

In a tweet, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, "I am extremely pained by the loss of lives in the tragic bus incident in Katra. I offer my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured."

He directed the district administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured.

The LG said an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each would be given to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives in the bus fire.

Rs 1 lakh would be given to the seriously injured, he said.

Meanwhile, JKPPC Working President Raman Bhalla visited Govt Medical College to enquire about health of fire victims. Bhalla asked the medical officers to ensure that those injured be given the best possible medical care in order to save their lives.



JKPPC Working President Raman Bhalla enquiring well-being of injured at GMC Jammu.

Government to provide Rs 25 lakh compensation to the families of the deceased.

Rahul Bhat cremated...

of "long live Rahul Bhat" rented the air:

Meanwhile, hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits gathered at Bhat's house in Jammu for the last rites.

The community members, including Rahul Bhat's family, accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of making young Kashmiri Hindus "cannon fodder" in the name of rehabilitation of the community.

They also said the incident has shattered their dream of resettling permanently in the valley.

You (BJP) have formulated a plan to get young Kashmiri Pandits killed in the name of giving them jobs and rehabilitating them," Soon Nath Bhat, a relative of Rahul Bhat said.

Such people are sitting ducks for terrorists who are using them for target practice, he added.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and other party leaders, who attended the funeral, had to face the ire of the community members as they raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the BJP and demanded that Kashmiri Pandits be relocated from the valley.

Raina said security forces have broken the back of terrorism and the few remaining terrorists will also be eliminated.

"Those who lost their loved ones to terrorism will be angry. they will speak.. but only we have come here because we feel the pain, they are our brothers... No one else will come, neither the Congress, nor NC nor PDP," he told reporters when asked about the anger against the BJP.

Hundreds of protesters blocked roads and burnt tyres at Hazuribagh and Bantala in Jammu. They raised slogans against Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the BJP and demanded that Kashmiri Pandits be relocated from the valley.

Residents of Muthi camp led by its president Anil Bhat took out a rally and blocked a road for hours.

The protesters also blocked a stretch of road.

On Thursday, Rahul Bhat's father Bita Bhat had demanded a probe into the incident.

An inquiry should be ordered into the incident to identify all those who are involved in his cold-blooded murder, Bita Bhat said at his Durga Nagar residence.

"I was at a hospital accompanying my ailing brother when a family friend called from Kashmir and informed me about the incident. I tried to contact the deputy commissioner of Budgam and the concerned police officers but my calls went unanswered, the father told the mediapersons, trying to put up a brave face and hold up his emotions.

He said it was the responsibility of the deputy commissioner to at least inform the family as his employee was killed inside his office chamber in broad-daylight.

If a person is shot inside his office, nobody is safe in the valley when such a thing has happened it is a glaring example of the government's failure. Those serving (among the Kashmiri Pandits) there are doing it at their own risk as the government has failed to provide security to them, he said.

Tears rolling down her cheeks, Rahul Bhat's mother Babli asks the government to "return" her son.

A relative of Rahul Bhat broke down before the media.

They have taken our children for dying there and not for jobs.

Rahul Bhat's neighbours said he was a thorough gentleman and the news of his killing came as a shock for them.

Police use batons...

by a posse of police personnel, they said.

They were requested to disperse but they refused to budge and insisted on marching ahead, following which the police used batons and fired some tear smoke shells, the officials said.

There are no reports of any casualty, they added.

The community has been protesting since Thursday against the "failure" of the government to protect their lives. Bhat (35), a Kashmiri Pandit employee, was shot dead by terrorists at a crowded government office in the Chadoora area of Budgam on Thursday.

A police spokesman said that this morning at about 11:00 AM, a group of protesters who were protesting against KP employee's killing at Chadoora, suddenly started moving towards Airport road.

Although the Magistrate repeatedly requested and tried to pacify the protesters not to proceed towards the over crowded Airport road, however, protesters while ignoring repeated requests from the administration, kept on moving while forcibly breaking all the

physical barriers en-route and pushing the security forces who were peacefully trying to persuade and stop them from moving ahead.

The protesters who were adamant to block the Airport road however did not pay any heed and instead managed to travel a distance of about one kilometre from Sheikhpura.

Given the topography of the area and huge rush at the Airport road, there were inputs that terrorists may take advantage of the same and may attack the protesters in order to create communal clash/tension.

Therefore in view of this, while sensing the security of the protesters who had resorted to violence and neglected the pacification requests by administration and to thwart evil designs of anti-national elements, police were constrained to finally hurl few teargas smokes to disperse them. However, the protesters again re-assembled at Sheikhpura road and sat on protest and blocked the main road. Later on all of them went back to their home, the spokesperson added.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, meanwhile, claimed that she has been placed under house arrest to stop her from visiting Budgam to express solidarity with the protesting Kashmiri Pandits.