

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! 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, Avantipora, 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 yatriss 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, Baidal and Sonamarg.

The provision for ambulances including critical care ones has been made besides isolation facilities at Panjtarni, 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 yatriss, as was learnt during the meeting.

Regarding security arrangements it was said that Joint Police Control Rooms (JPCRs)and Emergency Operation Centresas 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 co-accused for compromising 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 Bajtala 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; Airtel 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 prsnting 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 Jhandhyala 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.

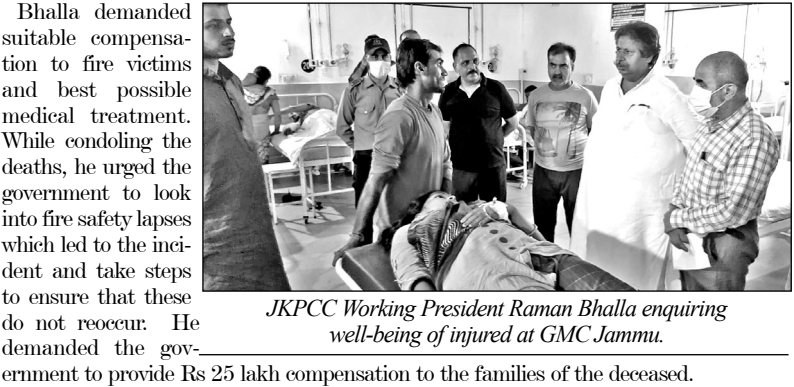
In a tweet, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, "I am extremely pained by the loss of lives in the tragic bus incident in Katra. I offer my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured."

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, JKPC 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.



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

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 B-JP-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 saffron party.

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 protestors blocked roads and burnt tyres at Hazuribagh and Bantalab 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 Bhan took out a rally and blocked a road for hours.

The protesters also blocked a stretch of road.

On Thursday, Rahul Bhat's father Bitu 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: Bitu 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 spokesperson 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 Sheikhpora.

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 Sheikhpora 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.

In a tweet, Mufti said she was put under house arrest as the BJP did not want Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits to empathise with each other's pain.

"Wanted to visit Budgam to express my solidarity with Kashmiri Pandits protesting against GOIs failure to protect them. Have been put under house arrest as the fact that Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits empathise with each other's pain doesn't fit into their vicious communal narrative," the PDP chief said.

Police officials, however, refused to comment over Mufti's claim.

Later, in a video message, Mufti said the situation in Kashmir was getting from bad to worse.

She also urged the majority community in the valley to stand by the minorities.

Mufti also urged the people to uphold Jammu and Kashmir's legacy of brotherhood and unity.

"We have to stand with our minorities, and so, I appeal all the people to strongly advocate Hindu-Muslim brotherhood across all the mosques on the occasion of Friday congregational prayers.

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said it was shameful that legitimate and justified protests are met with a heavy-handed response.

"This is not new for the people of Kashmir because when all the administration has is a hammer every problem resembles a nail. If the LG's Govt can't protect KPs they have a right to protest," he wrote on Twitter:

"Tourism is not normalcy, it's a barometer of economic activity. Normalcy is the absence of fear, the absence of terror; the inability of militants to strike at will, the presence of democratic rule & by any yardstick you choose to use, Kashmir is far from normal today," Abdullah said.

Condemning the killing of a policeman in Pulwama on Friday, the NC leader said targeted killings were continuing unabated in the valley.

"Rahul in his office yesterday, Riyaz Ahmad Thoker; a SPO with J&K police, in his own home today. Targeted killings continue unabated. I can't condemn this killing strongly enough. May Allah grant Riyaz place in Jannat," he said.

President Kashmiri Pandit Sabha Jammu, K K Khosa, while addressing a meeting to protest the dastardly killing of Rahul Bhat, put the blame squarely on the callous attitude of the UT government especially the lower and middle rungs of bureaucracy.

He also condemned the action of local administration on the protesting PM package employees who were resorting to peaceful protest in order to lodge their protest over the dastardly killing of their colleague.

On top of that, he said, the administration added salt to their injuries by putting seven of them behind bars as if they were criminals.

Every Indian has a right to protest peacefully over any issue but they were subjected to double distress by this callous act.

The Sabha demanded that strong action should also be taken against those who have indulged in such inhuman and illegal acts and should be dismissed from service at once.

"We demand a thorough inquiry into the whole gamut by NIA and action taken against those who are responsible for this dastardly killing including insiders without whose support this heinous crime could not have been committed" he said adding that hollow condemnation is totally unacceptable unless it is followed by strong action.

### Army signs MoU...

Speaking on the occasion, Col Parmar said the collaboration will further strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the University of Jammu, and will go a long way in bridging the gap between the local population and the armed forces.

Prof Gupta thanked the Army for such an initiative to promote Bhadarwahi language. "It is really a big day for the entire Chinab Valley, especially Bhadarvah, as this four-month certificate course will promote Bhadarwahi language and in future efforts will continue to further promote other languages also," he added.

### LG announces Govt...

investigative team to probe all the aspects of the despicable terror attack. The SHO of the concerned police station has also been attached," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha tweeted. Bhat's killing has evoked protests from Kashmiri Pandits, who are working in the Valley under the Prime Minister's Employment Package for the migrants.

On Friday, police had to use tear smoke shells and resort to baton charge to disperse a group of protesting migrant employees at Sheikhpora in Budgam who were on their way to Srinagar International Airport to protest against the killing.

Meanwhile, district administration Srinagar has dismissed reports about mass resignation by Kashmiri Pandit employees.

"The social media reports of resignations by Migrant employees are denied as no such letter of resignation(s) have been received by the administration. Service related issues are being addressed in time bound manner; in (a) week," it tweeted from its official handle.

### Candle march in...

candles were lit in Lal Chowk to express condolence and solidarity with bereaved families. Society unequivocally condemned the gruesome killings and demanded an end to violence and bloodshed.

### J&K reports 5...

of 454131 positive cases, 55 are Active Positive (38in Jammu Division and 17in Kashmir Division), 449325 have recovered and 4751 have died; 2328 in Jammu division and 2423in Kashmir division. Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases for today, the Bulletin stated that Jammu reported three fresh cases and Srinagar reported two fresh cases while as no other district across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir reported any fresh case.

### SC refuses to...

would create chaos and uncertainty and would affect the larger section of students, who have registered for the examination.

The top court said, Over two lakh students have registered for the ensuing examination and their schedule will be seriously affected if a further postponement is granted under the direction of this court which will result in chaos and uncertainty.

It said, These are matters which essentially pertain to the policy domain unless the court is satisfied that the decision which has been taken by the authorities was without any application of mind in relevant circumstances or is manifestly arbitrary; there would be no reason for the court to interfere . The bench added that the postponement of any examination is replete with serious consequences as while one body of students may be interested in seeking a postponement, there would be a large body of other students who have studied and registered for the examination, who would be seriously affected.

Above all, the need of patient care and treatment must be paramount in the clash of rival interests between those doctors who have registered for ensuing examination and those who have not registered.

Hence in our considered view, the relief which has been sought in these proceedings cannot be granted. The petition is accordingly dismissed, the bench said. The top court said an important consideration that has weighed with the court not to postpone the NEET-PG-22 examination is that any delay in conducting the examination would lead to a fewer number of resident doctors in hospitals.

It said that this year only two batches are currently available because of the delay in holding the examination resulting in a serious deficiency in the required strength of doctors in hospitals.

### Seminar held on communal harmony & national integration

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A seminar for promotion of communal harmony, national integration was held in the premises of Govt. Boys High School Dharamsal by Lekh Raj Raina, organizer of Peace and Harmony of Tehsil Beri Pattan under the chairmanship of Ashok Kumar, Headmaster of the school. A large number of youth, staff members, social activists and some prominent dignitaries of the area were also present. Six



Organiser Lekh Raj Raina speaking during the programme.

students spoke on the subject with their speeches, national songs and poems.

Lekh Raj Raina in his address said "Our motto is to generate the best environment in our society as well as country by way of Peace & Harmony. Our first and foremost responsibility is to maintain peace for the promotion of communal harmony.