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### Four LeT terrorists...

Bakra Rajouri succumbed to injuries while one critically injured person was shifted to SKIMS Soura, where his condition is reported to be stable.

During investigation of the attack, police assessed various evidences at the scene of crime and some critical leads came to the fore including the grenade lever, the spokesman said.

"CCTV footage from nearby cameras was also obtained which helped to reconstruct the sequence of events pre and post the incident. On the basis of human and technical intelligence, few suspects were picked up and interrogated," he said.

The spokesman said during sustained interrogation, the breakthrough was achieved by arresting four terrorists and one terrorist associate of the so-called "Falcon Squad" module of the LeT.

"On the basis of further investigation and disclosures made by these terrorists, various locations were raided and multiple recoveries were effected including one motorbike, used in the commission of the terrorist act," he added.

The spokesman said the consignment of weapons and explosives was received by these terrorists a few days before they carried out the attack on the wine shop.

With the arrest of these terrorists and the recoveries made from them, Baramulla Police along with 46RR, have succeeded in averting major terror attacks which these terrorists had been tasked to carry out by their handlers across the border. Further investigation is in progress and more revelations are expected.

### Prof Nilofer Khan...

vice chancellor of the university which began in August 2018.

Professor Khan, who had the distinction of being the first woman to be appointed as Dean Student Welfare at the university few years ago, has been appointed as vice chancellor for a three year term. Besides having been Registrar, Professor Khan has also held the post of Dean College Development Council.

### Delhi Court convicts...

has summoned India's Charge d'Affaires here to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and handed over a demarche to him conveying Islamabad's strong 'condemnation' of the framing of charges against Yasin Malik.

The Indian diplomat was conveyed Pakistan's grave concern.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir was, is and shall forever remain an integral part of the country. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda.

### Monitoring reports of...

monitors such developments. "We have seen media reports and other reports on the so-called bridge... somebody said second bridge or if it is an expansion of the current bridge," he said.

Bagchi said India always felt that the area that is referred to in the reports is under the occupation of the Chinese side for decades.

He was responding to questions on the bridge being built by China in the Pangong Tso region.

Bagchi also said that India had various rounds of conversations with the Chinese side at the diplomatic and military levels and will continue to remain engaged.

"You are also aware that Foreign Minister Wang Yi was here in March this year and the external affairs minister conveyed our expectations to him," he said.

"And the external affairs minister had said talking to the media subsequently then that the friction and tensions that arise from China's deployments since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between two neighbours," Bagchi said.

"So we will continue to remain engaged with the Chinese side, both at diplomatic and the military levels to ensure that the directions given by the two ministers are implemented fully," he added.

People familiar with Chinese construction on Wednesday said China is building a second bridge in an area held by it around the strategically key Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh. The bridge is being built amid the lingering standoff between the Indian and Chinese armies at several friction points in eastern Ladakh for over two years.

### Road rage case...

sympathy to impose an inadequate sentence would do more harm to the justice system and undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of law.

The court, which gave its verdict while allowing the review plea filed by the family of the victim on the issue of sentence, said the principle of just punishment is the bedrock of sentencing in respect of a criminal offence.

Though the apex court had in May 2018 held Sidhu guilty of offence of "voluntarily causing hurt" to Gurnam Singh, who was declared dead in a hospital, it spared him a jail term and imposed a fine of Rs 1,000.

Gurnam's family thanked the Almighty and said they are satisfied with the jail sente We thank Baba Ji (Almighty). We had left it to Baba ji. Whatever Baba Ji has done is right, said Parveen Kaur, daughter-in-law of Gurnam

"We thank God," said Sabby Singh, the grandson of Gurnam, whose family resides at Ghalori village, five km from Patiala city.

Sidhu, a former chief of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee who was at loggerheads with former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh ahead of the Assembly polls in Punjab early this year, has the option of filing a curative petition-- the last judicial corrective measure which can be pleaded for in any judgment or decision.

No comments, Sidhu told reporters when asked about his reaction to the court verdict.

In its 24-page judgement, the bench deliberated on the necessity of maintaining a reasonable proportion between the seriousness of crime and the punishment.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and S K Kaul said the road rage incident is a case where some germane facts for sentencing appear to have been lost sight of while imposing only a fine on Sidhu.

Observing that hand can also be a weapon by itself where a boxer, wrestler, cricketer or an extremely physically fit person inflicts a blow, the court said it does believe that indulgence was not required to be shown at the stage of sentence by only imposing fine and

letting Sidhu go without any imposition of sentence.

The result of the aforesaid is that the review applications/petitions are allowed to the aforesaid extent and in addition to the fine imposed we consider it appropriate to impose a sentence of imprisonment for a period of one year rigorous imprisonment to be undergone by respondent no.1 (Sidhu).

It said some material aspects which were required to be taken note of appear to have been somehow missed out at the stage of sentencing, such as physical fitness of Sidhu as he was an international cricketer, tall and well-built and aware of force of a blow that even his hand would carry.

The blow was not inflicted on a person identically physically placed but a 65-year-old person, more than double his age. Respondent no.1 (Sidhu) cannot say that he did not know the effect of the blow or plead ignorance on this aspect."

It is not as if someone has to remind him of the extent of the injury which could be caused by a blow inflicted by him. In the given circumstances, tempers may have been lost but then the consequences of the loss of temper must be borne, the court said.

According to the prosecution, Sidhu and his aide Rupinder Singh Sandhu were in a Gypsy parked in the middle of a road near the Sheranwala Gate crossing in Patiala on December 27, 1988, when the victim and two others were on their way to a bank to withdraw money.

When they reached the crossing, it was alleged that Gurnam Singh, driving a Maruti car, found the Gypsy in the middle of the road and asked the occupants, Sidhu and Sandhu, to remove it. This led to heated exchanges and Gurnam was beaten up in the scuffle and later taken to hospital where he was declared dead, the prosecution said.

Sidhu was acquitted of murder charges by a trial court in September 1999.

However, the Punjab and Haryana High Court in December 2006 reversed the verdict and held Sidhu and Sandhu guilty under section 304 (II) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC. It had sentenced them to three years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each on them.

The apex court on May 15, 2018, set aside the high court order but had held Sidhu guilty of causing hurt to a senior citizen. This verdict had come on the appeal filed by Sidhu and Sandhu challenging the high court's conviction.

The top court had also acquitted Sandhu of all charges saying there was no trustworthy evidence regarding his presence along with Sidhu at the time of the offence.

In September 2018, the apex court had agreed to examine the review petition filed by the family members of the deceased and had issued notice, restricted to the quantum of sentence.

The bench on Thursday noted that the top court, to some extent, had been indulgent in ultimately holding him guilty of offence of simple hurt under section 323 of the IPC and the question is whether even on sentence, mere passage of time can result in a fine of Rs 1,000 being an adequate sentence where a person has lost his life by reason of the severity of blow inflicted by Sidhu, who was 25-year-old at that time, with his hands.

Section 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) of IPC entails a maximum jail term of up to one year or with a fine which may extend to Rs 1,000 or both.

The hand can also be a weapon by itself where say a boxer, a wrestler or a cricketer or an extremely physically fit person inflicts the same. This may be understood where a blow may be given either by a physically fit person or to a more aged person, the bench said.

It said insofar as the injury caused is concerned, the top court has accepted the plea of a single blow by hand being given on the head of the deceased.

In our view, it is this significance which is an error apparent on the face of the record needing some remedial action."

While a disproportionately severe sentence ought not to be passed, simultaneously it also does not clothe the law courts to award a sentence which would be manifestly inadequate, having due regard to the nature of the offence, since an inadequate sentence would fail to produce a deterrent effect on the society at large," the court said.

### Notorious land-grabber...

It has been learnt that Jammu police has already submitted a report to court related to his past conduct as a notorious land grabber; having trial of 20 FIRs against him.

A police investigator told STATE TIMES, that Gola Shah is a history sheeter in Police Station Gangval. "In 2006, when land grabbing nexus started growing out of control, the then District Magistrate Jammu slapped arrest warrants under PSA against Gola Shah," a police investigator said, adding the court has always directed Gola Shah to cooperate in the investigation of the cases registered against him but every time he managed to skip.

Gola Shah has grabbed more than 5,000 Kanals of government land and sold it to the innocent buyers thus duping them of their hard earned money.

"This time we are also investigating the names of the police and revenue officers who are hand in glove with Gola Shah", a police officer said, adding that the administration has prepared the dossier for his custody under Public Safety Act. "The PSA orders will be issued shortly," sources informed.

### GOC reviews security...

operational preparedness in the region, they said. "A security review meeting chaired by Lt Gen Singh was held at Nagrota. The meeting was attended by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh and senior officials of various intelligence agencies operating in the region," a defence spokesman said.

The meeting primarily focused on the prevailing security situation in the Jammu division, he said. The security measures for the forthcoming Machail as well as Amarnath yatra were also discussed in detail to ensure streamlined coordination between intelligence and security agencies, the spokesman said. The Amarnath yatra, scheduled to begin from June 30 to August 11, is taking place after a gap of two years.

### Those joining outside...

tackle the situation. We have to stay united and also stay away from the parties, who are hell-bent to create communal rift for their vested interests," he said.

"Joining these timely parties won't help in getting any benefit. Those who have joined them should be brought back. Showing them the right path is even our religious obligation," he said, adding that if someone has lost his way, you should not allow them to be on the wrong path.

"The party which emerges victorious in the polls will be able to address your concerns,"

### Man attacked, cash snatched

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A man was attacked in Gangval area on Thursday and cash was snatched from him.

As per details, Sher Singh, son of Yash Pal, resident of Marl, who was passing through Digiana area on his bike, was stopped by a group of youth. They attacked him, snatched Rs 35,000 cash from him and fled from the spot. Victim approached police and lodged a complaint in this regard. Police is investigating the matter.

### Girl consumes poison, dies

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A girl died after she consumed poison in her house at Digiana area on Thursday.

As per details, a girl resident of Digiana Ashram consumed poison in her house and was shifted to hospital by family members where she succumbed. Police is investigating the matter.

### Woman found hanging

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A woman was found hanging with a tree in Gharota area on Thursday.

As per details, one Shamina Bibi, wife of Yusuf Ali, resident of Kot Bhalwal was found hanging with a tree. On receiving the information, police rushed to the spot and shifted body to morgue. A case has been registered for investigation.

### Theft case solved, 2 arrested

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JHAJJAR KOTLI: Police on Thursday solved a theft case by arresting two accused.

As per details, while investigating a theft case, Jhajjar Kotli police, acting on some information detained two accused who during questioning confessed their crime. They were identified as Purab Chand and Mohd Sagir and stolen goods were also recovered from their possession.

### Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals: 1 arrested, 5 vehicles seized

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BUDGAM/KATHUA: Acting tough against elements involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Police in Budgam arrested a person and seized 3 vehicles involved in crime.

As per details, Police parties from Police Station Budgam at various checkpoints established in their jurisdiction intercepted 3 tippers loaded with illegally excavated soil at Mohanpora crossing, Reshipora Railway bridge & Bathar crossing respectively. The trippers bearing registration numbers JK01N-7995, JK03B-0713 & TMP-JH04C-1580 were seized and a driver identified as Hilal Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat, resident of Paimus Budgam was arrested. However other accused drivers managed to escape from spot leaving behind vehicles. FIR No 157/2022, 158/22 & 159/22 under relevant sections of law were registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation started.

he said, adding that "you have witnessed the militancy that has emerged in Punjab after the new government took over there."

### CJM rejects bail...

during investigation and their inherent far graver implications. For all what is said hereinabove and having regard to the nature of accusation against petitioner, character of evidence collected thus far, the quantum of punishment which one of the offences involved in section 467 of IPC carries punishment which is upto life imprisonment, gravity of the offences involved and considering larger public interest, no case for grant of bail is made out by petitioner at this stage. Accordingly, this bail application has no merit and is rejected as such," the Court directed.

### Universities should not...

for exchange of views and not become spaces for ideological conflict. An ideology progresses through ideas and discussions.

"No one remembers those who destroyed the universities of Nalanda and Taxila. It is said that the library of Nalanda University burnt for months. But the thoughts from those universities continue to live on even till now," he said addressing the students. He also advised the youths to understand their duties towards the country and spoke about India's defence policy.

India did not have a defence policy before Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power and even if it existed, it was a "shadow" of the foreign policy, Shah said.

Referring to the anti-terror surgical strikes and airstrike, the minister said that these actions showed the meaning of India's defence policy.

"Before Prime Minister Modi, India did not have a defence policy. Even if it existed, it was a shadow of foreign policy.

"Earlier, terrorists would be sent to attack us and there were similar attempts to do so with the Uri and Pulwama attacks. But with the surgical strikes and airstrikes, we showed what the defence policy meant," he said.

The home minister also stressed that India "worships peace", "wants peace" and has cordial relations with every country in the world.

"India is a geo-cultural country and the people will not understand the idea of India until they understand this," he said.

"Some people call India a country of problems, but we believe that our country has the potential to solve millions of problems.

"From 2014 to 2022 under PM Modi, India achieved several things and crores of poor people started considering themselves as part of the country," he said.

Shah said that some people talk about the human rights of those involved in terror attacks, but those who die due to such acts also have human rights.

Talking about the scrapping of of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, he said that Prime Minister Modi abrogated Article 370 and Article 35A with the snap of a finger on August 5, 2019.

"Those who had said that there would be a bloodbath (khoon ki nadiyaan bahengi) could not even indulge in stone-pelting.

### LPG price hiked...

capital, up from Rs 999.50 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the second increase in LPG rate this month and the third in less than two months. The price was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder on March 22 and again by the same quantum on May 7.

Since April 2021, prices have risen by Rs 193.5 per cylinder.

### GST council recommendations...

DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and Vikram Nath also held that the Centre and State governments have simultaneous powers to legislate on GST but the council must work in a harmonious manner to achieve a workable solution.

The bench said that as per Article 246A, both Parliament and the State legislature have equal power to legislate on matters of taxation.

Article 246A treats Centre and State as equal and Article 279 of the constitution says that Centre and State cannot act independent of each other , it said.

The top court said that recommendations of the GST council are a product of collaborative discussions between the Centre and States and it is not imperative that one of the federal units must possess a higher share.

It said that Indian federalism is a dialogue between cooperative and non-cooperative federalism and the Centre and States always engage in dialogue.

The bench pointed out that there are no provisions in the GST Act of 2017 that deal with repugnancy between the laws drawn up by the Centre and State and it is for the council to advise them suitably whenever such occasions come to fore.

The top court ruling came on a batch of pleas as it upheld a Gujarat High Court verdict to quash the levy of Integrated GST (IGST) on the importers on ocean freight under reverse charge.

The High Court had held that no tax can be levied under the IGST on the ocean freight for the services provided by a person located in non-taxable territory by way of transportation of goods by a vessel from a place outside India up to the customs station in India. It had quashed the 2017 notification of the Centre by which IGST of five per cent would be levied on the services of transport of goods in a vessel.

## J&K logs 11 fresh COVID cases

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 11 fresh Covid cases-nine from the Jammu division and two from the Valley-thus taking the total number of positive cases to 454170 in the Union Territory.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 454170 positive cases, 54 are Active Positive (41in Jammu Division and 13in Kashmir Division), 449364 have recovered and 4752 have died; 2328 in Jammu division and 2424in Kashmir division.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases during the past 24 hours, the Bulletin stated that Jammu district reported nine cases, Srinagar and Baramulla recorded one case each while as no other district across the Union Territory reported any fresh case.

Taking stern action against illegal mining within Kathua, Police under the overall supervision of SSP R C Kotwal also seized an excavator machine along with a Tractor-trolley indulged in illegal mining near Ravi river and Tolla Khad area.

As per details, a team of Police Station Kathua led by Insp Sohlt Trikha SHO Kathua under supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua Shammi Kumar during patrolling duty near Ravi river found an excavator machine bearing Engine No. J05ETAY7975 indulged in illegal mining. The machine indulged in illegal mining was seized and was immediately handed-over to officials of Mining Department Kathua for further legal proceedings.

While in another action, a team of Police Station Basohli headed by Insp Rajinder Khajuria under the supervision of SDPO Basohli Shazia Akhtar while on patrolling duty found a tractor-trolley (PB35AF-7568 ) indulged in illegal mining which was driven by one Vishal Nath, son of Krishan Paul, resident of Ward-12 Basohli. The tractor along with trolley was seized and was immediately handed over to the officials of mining department Kathua for further legal proceedings.

### Police destroys poppy cultivation

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

PULWAMA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs, Police along with civil authorities destroyed poppy cultivation at Qalampora & Shadimarg areas of Pulwama.

As per the details, a party from Police Station Rajpora led by SHO Rajpora along with Officers/officials of Revenue & Excise Department destroyed illegal poppy cultivated at 12 Kanals of land at village Qalampora & Shadimarg. Accordingly, FIR No. 35/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Rajpora and further investigation initiated.

### 2 drug peddlers arrested in Srinagar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs, Police in Srinagar on Thursday arrested 2 drug peddlers besides seizing vehicle used in crime.

As per the details, a party from Police Station Nigeen at a checkpoint established at Ashaibagh bridge Nageen intercepted a Scorpio (HR29Z-3434) with two persons onboard, who were identified as Parvaiz Qayoom Malla, son of Abdul Qayoom Malla, Owais Majeed Khan, son of Ab Majeed Khan both residents of Jawbrara Aantipora. On checking, 100 gm heroin like substance and a digital measuring scale was recovered from vehicle. Both accused were arrested and shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Besides, the vehicle used in the commission of crime was also seized. Accordingly, FIR No. 58/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Nageen and investigation initiated.

### Reasi police seeks help to identify body

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: A semi-decomposed male body was found on Thursday at Salal Dam Reasi. The deceased appears to be of age between 20 to 30 years, with a height of about 5 ft 7 inches. The body was shifted to mortuary of District Hospital Reasi for identification. Reasi Police has sought help of general public to identify the body, for further legal proceedings.



## Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra on new route, battery car service resume as forest fire doused

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATRA: Finally, after 36 hours of hard work, the fire that broke out on Trikuta hills was brought under control after which Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board resumed the Yatra and battery car service after 12.30 PM.

Pertinent to mention here that on Tuesday late night, suddenly a fire broke out in Guddi Dhar forests along battery car route under suspicious circumstances and it started spreading rapidly, forcing the authorities to halt Yatra on new routes. The personnel of Forest Department, Forest Protection Force, Police Department, Disaster Management Team and Shrine Board put in continuous hectic efforts to stop fire from spreading further towards building premises.

The firefighters brought the fire under control to a large extent during night and it was completely brought under control in morning. Board officials took stock of 5:50 KM long battery car route after fire was extinguished and opened it for devotees after finding it completely safe. After cleaning route, battery car service was also resumed at around 12:30 PM.

**Mother-son killed, 3 injured in car accident**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: A mother-son duo was killed while three others got injured a tragic road accident at Kathua on Thursday.

As per details, a car in which five persons were travelling met with an accident near Seswa area of Kathua district, due to which all persons got injured. They were shifted to hospital where doctors declared two of them as brought dead. The deceased were identified as Nisha Sharma, wife of Varudh Sharma, resident of Gangval and her son Hridaya Sharma. The injured namely Varudh Sharma, Trisha and Sunaina were referred to GMC Jammu for further treatment.

### Two Insps posted in Cyber Police Station Jammu

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli on Thursday transferred two inspectors and posted them at Cyber Police Station Jammu. As per order, Insps Sudhir Sadhotra from Ramban district and Ravi Kant were posted in Cyber Police Station Jammu.

### Pedestrian killed in mishap

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A pedestrian was killed in a road mishap at Narwal area on Thursday.

As per details, Rakesh Kumar, son of Sham Lal, resident of Chhattisgarh, presently staying at Narwal area got hit by a tanker and got injured. He was shifted to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead. Police has registered a case and launched investigation.

