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Five hybrid LeT...

to distribute these pistols to other terrorists in Srinagar, the spokesman said. Separately, Baramulla Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rayees Mohammad Bhat told reporters in Patti that three hybrid terrorists of LeT have been arrested in connection with the killing of a Sarpanch last month.

"On April 15, terrorists had fired upon Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo, Sarpanch of Goshugh B at Chanderlana orchards in Wussan area of Palhallan in Patti and his body was recovered," Bhat said.

After the attack, searches were launched in the area by security forces and a case was also registered, he said.

"On the basis of various techint and humint leads, investigation was vigorously pursued... After a lot of hardwork, we have been able to crack this conspiracy which went into the killing of the PRIs and soft targets," the SSP said.

He said the three hybrid terrorists have been arrested who had been planning the conspiracy for about six to seven months.

"The current case has links to a grenade attack in Palhallan highway last year. The main conspirator in that case was Mohammad Afzal of Barthipora, Naidkh in Hanjin area of Bandipora. In this case as well, the links to Afzal have come forward.

"Various other attacks and modules have been tracked to this individual. This individual is the sort of fountain-head character who was directing multiple sleeper cells and hybrid terrorist modules, providing them arms and ammunition as well as executing these attacks," he said.

The arrested terrorists had also obtained arms and ammunition from Afzal before he was arrested, Bhat said.

He identified them as Noor Mohammad Yatoo, son of Gh Hassan Yatoo; Mohd Rafiq Paray, son of Mohd Akbar Paray and Ashiq Hussain Paray son of Ab Rahman Paray, all residents of Goshugh, Patti.

"The three terrorists divulged the plot which was directed by LeT terrorists Yusuf Kantru and Hilal Sheikh (both killed at Malwah last month) and executed by recently-infiltrated terrorists Gulzar Ganaie (killed in an encounter at Bandipora) and Umar Lone of Wussan (still active and at large)," the SSP said.

The investigation further led to recoveries of arms and ammunition and to a larger web of links between various outfits and organisations on which investigation is going on, he said.

The arms and ammunition recovered included three Chinese pistols, three pistol magazines, two grenades and 32 pistol rounds.

"The successful apprehension of the three terrorists and the recovery of the arms and ammunition has solved another sensational case in Baramulla and foiled major terror plots planned in future in the general area. Interrogation of the apprehended individuals is likely to give further inputs for future counter terrorism operations," he said.

No plans to...

purported government order to re-advertise the posts through the Service Selection Board. "This is to clarify that the Govt of J&K has no plans to disengage employees who are working under Rehbar-e-Khel, Rehbar-e-Janglat and NYC scheme," the union territory government's Information and Public Relations department said on its official Twitter handle.

Civil Judge terminated...

No reason was specified for Jamwal's termination.

In his order, Secretary to Government Achal Sethi said the judge was removed on the recommendations of the full court of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. "Lieutenant Governor is pleased to order the removal of Jamwal from service with immediate effect," the order read.

Won't rest till...

even shadows are suspects..." he said. "Who knows someone among you may be informing others about what I am telling you..."

He said the administration was fully aware of the sufferings of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) and is committed to resolve all issues on fast-track basis. "Enough blood has spilled in Kashmir. Roots of militancy have remained stronger here in Jammu and Kashmir and there was a time when even the case was not being registered," he said, adding that "his government is committed to end militancy from Kashmir for everlasting peace."

The LG said that it was a fact that no one can compensate for the death of any person. However, the government is taking measures to provide job compensation to the NoKs of Rahul Bhat," said LG, who was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K Pole and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar (KNO).

Minor earthquake in...

at 10.31 am, the officials said.

They said the quake hit Bandipora district in north Kashmir at a latitude of 34.43 degrees north and the longitude of 75.03 degrees east at the depth of 50 Km.

There were no reports of any loss of life or any damage to property, they officials said.

Five counters being...

Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- after a hiatus of two years owing to Coronavirus pandemic.

Five counters would be established -- at Vaishnavi Dham, Mahajan Sabha, Panchayat Ghar and two at Geeta Bhawan and Ram Mandir -- for the Tatkal registration of the pilgrims and Sadhus, the spokesman said.

He said the decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Jammu Deputy Commissioner Avny Lavasa to review the arrangements for a smooth conduct of the yatra.

A token counter has also been established at Saraswati Dham for the convenience of pilgrims and crowd management, the spokesman said.

He said the deputy commissioner discussed the requirements like accommodation, barricading, security arrangements, technical equipment and wi-fi, power and water supply at the registration counters.

The provision of cleanliness, sanitation, hygiene and medical facilities at these counters was also discussed in the meeting, he said.

The spokesman said the Deputy Commissioner assigned the duties to Sub-Divisional Magistrates as nodal officers at different registration counters to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of Yatra.

Jammu: Bicycle-sharing...

720 mechanical bicycles and 80 electric bicycles (pedal-assisted). Within a span of 23 days from May 1, there were 2,656 app downloads as well as registrations and 10,376 rides, the official said.

He said the public bicycle-sharing system will help citizens maintain good health and bring down pollution levels in the city.

Residents can rent a bicycle through the mobile app Yaana Bikes'. The app is available on both Android and iOS platforms, the official said.

He said the minimum membership fee is Rs 50 for five rides of 30 minutes each in a day and the maximum is Rs 1,500 for 1,500 rides of 30 minutes each over a year.

The docking stations are spread across prominent locations of the city, including Jammu University, Jammu Bus Stand, Indira Chowk, Government Medical College exit gate, Super Speciality Hospital, Parade Chowk, Jammu Airport entrance gate and Raghunath Temple, the official said.

Declared dead, newborn...

labour room, and order a probe, the officials said.

Local Sarpanch Manzoor Alyas Wani said the baby belonged to Basharat Ahmad

Ban on loudspeakers: SUF expresses anguish over JMC's decision, seeks immediate revocation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing resentment over ban imposed on loudspeakers by Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), even in religious places of worship, Sikh United Front (SUF) J&K has demanded immediate revocation of the decision. While speaking during a meeting of various Sikh organisations of J&K, organized by Chairman SUF Sudarshan Singh Wazir and attended by a number of representatives of various other organisations, the participants showed anguish over JMC's ban on loudspeakers despite the opposition by

Corporators. Terming the decision as unfortunate, Wazir said that during election campaigns, loudspeakers are used openly while now same have been banned. Condemning the order, the SUF demanded that the order should be revoked at its earliest. The Sikh organisations further urged Prime Minister, Home Minister and LG Manoj Sinha to intervene into the matter and issue necessary directions for revoking the order as the earliest as it is intolerable for all religions.

Prominent among others present on the occasion included Mohinder Singh, and Tejpal Singh.

Gujjar and Shameema Begum, who had a normal delivery on Monday morning at the sub-district hospital.

They hail from Bankoot village, 3 kms from Banihal town of Ramban district.

Wani alleged the baby was declared dead and was not given medical attention at the hospital for over two hours before the family decided to perform her burial at Hollan village.

When they were returning to the hospital, some locals objected to the burial in their graveyard, forcing the family to dig out the grave nearly an hour later.

Wani said when the baby was taken out of the grave she was found to be alive. The family rushed her to the hospital.

"After initial treatment, she was referred to Srinagar for specialised treatment by the doctors," he said.

Gujjar leader Choudhary Mansoor, also a Panch, accused the hospital staff of negligence.

The incident sparked protests by the family and others inside the hospital complex against the "non-professional attitude of the doctors and the hospital staff".

Banihal Block Medical Officer (BMO) Dr Rabia Khan said an inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

"We have already placed a junior staff nurse and sweeper working in the gynaecology section under suspension with immediate effect, pending an inquiry," she said, adding further details will be shared after the inquiry is completed.

Pre-arrest bail...

at Rs.15,000 as advance payment for which he had been called by Jatin. A pre-trap verification was conducted by Inspector Sangeeta Slattha who submitted report with the recommendation for registration of a case under sections 7 of PC Act 1988 and 120-B of RPC. Accordingly, FIR No.05/2020 was registered at Police Station ACB Central, J&K Jammu on May 10, 2022, against Arish Parvez, Patwari Halqa Gangyal Jammu and his tout Jatin. Accordingly, a trap team led by DySP Sagar Singh as TLO/IO, was constituted and on May 10, 2022, the team laid a successful trap after completing pre-trap formalities and caught accused Jatin, tout of Patwari Arish Parvez, red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 15,000 whereas Patwari Arish Parvez managed to flee.

The Court, after hearing both the sides, observed that in present case, the circumstances are serious and grave. The applicant is the person who was responsible for preparation of Fard, which was seized on the spot, thereby making it clear that he is the person, who was directly responsible to do work for which bribe was allegedly paid. With these observations, the Court observed that there is no merit in this application and dismissed the plea.

BJP trying to...

they are shredding that Constitution.

"They are trying to turn the whole country into a Gujarat model, UP model, Assam model, MP model and the chief ministers of these are in competition on who will harass the Muslims more, who will, God forbid, initiate the wipe-out of Muslims," she said.

The PDP chief claimed that the BJP leaders and members were raking up sensitive issues such as that of 'Mandir-Masjid' so that "Muslims are provoked and instigated".

"This is being done so that they (Muslims) react and they (BJP leaders) get an opportunity to do another Gujarat carnage or what happened in UP or elsewhere, or a genocide (of Muslims)," she added.

Comparing the current situation in the country to that prior to 1947 when the British made the Hindus and Muslims fight each other, she said, "Today, the BJP people, their chief ministers, their ministers, are doing the work of the British.

Unfortunately, our prime minister, who is the prime minister of the whole country -- of Hindus, of Muslims, of Sikhs -- is watching it as a mute spectator. His silence is taken by his party as an acceptance of what they are doing."

On the Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to re-advertise posts under three schemes -- Rehbar-e-Janglat, Rehbar-e-Khel and Rehbar-e-Zirat the former chief minister said it was a sinister plan of the BJP to employ non-locals in the union territory.

"A sinister design of the BJP, the aim behind the abrogation of Article 370, is coming to the fore day by day. The people who were working for the last five years or more have been terminated and the posts referred to the SSRR (recruitment agency), it is an indication to what we have kept on saying that they want to give jobs to non-locals from across the country and keep our own youth away from employment," she said.

The youths of Jammu and Kashmir are being "disempowered economically", she alleged and said she would join the locals in their "peaceful protest" against the move.

"This is unfortunate. They are protesting. And there is no other option than to protest peacefully in a democratic setup," she said.

"We should take a lesson from the farmers (on their agitation in Delhi). But the problem here is that we are not allowed to come out of our houses. I have tried many times to go somewhere, but I am kept under house arrest within two minutes. You can see how much of security is deployed outside (PPD's office here). They fear I might go somewhere. I will still try to join their peaceful protest," she said.

Police asked to...

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma Garg, Islam invited the attention of the officer towards the growing number of unregistered web-based news organisations operating through various social media platforms, especially Facebook, which are seen spreading propaganda, fake news, and also indulging in blackmail of government functionaries in the district.

On most of the occasions, they are seen interfering in smooth running of the administrative affairs and planting anti-government stories which are largely aimed at maligning the image of the administration and always portraying them in bad light.

A large number of district & sectoral officers have complained of harassment at their hands and stated that many self-proclaimed media persons, without carrying any authentic identification, barge into their offices and start recording videos and posting them in various social media groups, the district magistrate said.

He said if channels and journalists operating these illegal portals remain un-checked, there is every apprehension of emerging of law and order situations with potential to disturb the peaceful fabric of the district.

In the larger interest of the general public, you are requested to identify all such fake media groups which are operating without any proper registration in the district. You are also advised to verify the antecedents and source of funding of all so-called journalists who operate these illegal portals without any valid qualification and authorisation from the competent authority, Islam said.

The list of all such 'media organisations' and so-called journalists may be shared with this office for taking further necessary action in the matter, the DC said.

President of the Working Journalist Association, Ramban, M Taskeen Wani welcomed the decision of the district administration and said it was a long pending demand of the association to curb the activities of such elements who are bringing a bad name to the profession.

Family pension rules...

government employees working in violence-prone areas have come to the fore and therefore to instill confidence and to protect them and their family interests, the changes in the pension rules were brought about.

The minister informed that if a government servant covered by the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 goes missing, the benefits of arrears of salary, family pension, retirement gratuity, leave encashment, etc. are paid to the families of the missing employees in accordance with the instructions issued dated 25.06.2013.

He said the matter has been examined in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training, Department of Financial Services and Department of Expenditure and considering the hardship faced by the family of such government servants, it has been decided to extend the same benefits (as applicable to those under the CCS (Pension) Rules) to the families of government servants covered by NPS.

The other provisions of the order states that in all cases where a government servant

covered by NPS goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension may be paid to the family if the missing government servant had exercised option for benefits under CCS (Pension) Rules on death or discharge from service on disability/invalidation or the benefits under CCS (Pension) Rules is the default option under the Central Civil Services (Implementation of National Pension System) Rules, 2021.

The benefit of arrears of salary, retirement gratuity and leave encashment shall be paid to the family in all cases where a government employee covered under NPS goes missing during service, irrespective whether the employee had exercised option for benefits under CCS (Pension) Rules or under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Exits and Withdrawals under National Pension System) Regulations, 2015, the statement said.

In the case of a government servant covered under NPS goes missing during service and his family is given family pension under CCS (Pension) Rules or CCS (EOP) Rules, the Permanent Retirement Account under National Pension System would remain suspended till the government servant reappears or till he is declared dead in accordance with the rules, it said.

In the event of re-appearance of government servant, the NPS account would be re-activated and the same account under NPS will become operative, the statement said.

In case of government servant being declared dead at any time or after seven years, government contribution and returns thereon from the accumulated pension corpus under NPS would be transferred to the government account and remaining corpus comprising of employees' contribution and returns thereon would be paid to the nominee or legal heir, it said.

Singh said that ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government assumed office in 2014, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare had introduced a number of revolutionary reforms, including relaxation in the provision of family pension for divorced daughters and Divyangs, introduction of face recognition technology through mobile app for ease in submitting life certificate by elderly pensioners and Electronic Pension Pay Order, among others to facilitate pension process, etc.

He said that moreover steps like extension of family pension to differently abled child of a deceased government employee/pensioner or giving a major hike in the family pension emoluments for Divyang children are not only pension reforms but these are social reforms having wide implications.

India will work...

strengthen these three pillars, and pave the way for development, peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

"Took part in the programme to launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which will play a key role in furthering growth in the Indo-Pacific region," the prime minister tweeted later.

The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic partnership amongst participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region besides cooperating on anti-corruption efforts.

The rollout of the IPEF came as part of Washington's efforts to push forward a strong economic policy for the Indo-Pacific to counter China's aggressive strategy on trade in the region.

The countries that have joined the US-led initiative are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

"The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework is a declaration of our collective will to make the region an engine of global economic growth. I thank President Biden very much for this important initiative," Modi said.

"The Indo-Pacific region is the centre of manufacturing, economic activity, global trade and investment. History is witness to the fact that India has been a major centre for centuries in the trade flows of the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

The prime minister said India has historically been at the centre of trade flows in the Indo-Pacific region, having the world's oldest commercial port in Lohto, Gujarat.