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Four LeT terrorists...

search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, two local terrorists, identified as Shahid Mushtaq Bhat, resident of Hafroo Chadoora, Budgam and Farhan Habib, resident of Hakripora, Pulwama linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

While interacting with media, IGP Kashmir said that both the killed terrorists had joined terror ranks recently and were involved in killing of artist Amreen Bhat in Chadoora area of Budgam on the directions of LeT Commander Lateef.

Besides, Srinagar Police developed an input about movement of terrorists from South Kashmir to Srinagar city and tracked their presence in Soura area of Srinagar, a special and small team of Srinagar Police launched a cordon and search operation in the said area. During the search, as the presence of terrorists was ascertained and search party proceeded towards suspected spot the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. They have been identified as Shakir Ahmad Waza and Afreen Aftab Malik, both residents of Trenz Shopian.

As per police records both the killed terrorist were categorized terrorists and were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on Police and security forces.

Incriminating materials, huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from both the sites of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

IGP Kashmir congratulated the joint teams of police and security forces for their valour and determination to neutralize and avenge the killing of artiste Amreen Bhat within 24 hours. He also termed these operations as a big success and said that during past three days 10 terrorists including 3 from JeM and 7 from LeT proscribed terror outfits have been neutralized in the Kashmir valley.

Moreover, in another action, Srinagar Police along with security forces have arrested one hybrid terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT from Bemina area along with arms and ammunition.

Acting on a specific tip-off about the movement of terrorists in the general area of Bemina, a joint checkpoint was established by Srinagar Police, 2nd RR and valley QAT CRPF at Bemina Crossing. An individual suspiciously approaching towards the checkpoint was challenged who tried to flee from spot but was apprehended tactfully by the alert party. He has been identified himself as Nasir Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Ahad Dar resident of Gund Brath Sopore. On his personal search, 01 Pistol, 01 magazine and 05 live rounds were recovered from his possession.

Preliminary investigation revealed that, the arrested accused was working as a hybrid terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT outfit and was involved in delivering pistols in Srinagar City to carry out targeted killings. A case under the relevant provisions of law has been registered at Police Station Bemina and further investigation is in progress.

CS led panel...

and Kashmir Public Service Commission," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, the Committee will be headed by Chief Secretary as its Chairman while Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department; Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department; Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department; and Principal Secretary, General Administration Department will be its Members.

Eight Girdawars transferred...

Sub-Registrar Jammu South-II; Rashpal Singh, OQ, Tehsil Office Billawar as Reader to Sub-Registrar Jammu North; Rakesh Kumar OQ, Tehsil Jammu North as Reader to Sub-Registrar Jammu Khas; Ganesh Pal Salmotra, GQ, Pangdour as Reader to Sub-Registrar Vijaypur; Asif Khaliq GQ, Tehsil Office Chanapora/Natipora as Reader to Sub-Registrar Srinagar East; Ab. Qayoom Ahanger BCG, Tehsil Office Avantipora as Reader to Sub-Registrar Avantipora; Mohd Yaseen Matto, GQ, Chadoora as Reader to Sub-Registrar Budgam; and Gh. Mohi-Ud-Din Malik, GQ, Harijal as Reader to Sub-Registrar Chadoora.

ED summons former..

as well. Between 2011 and 2012, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had given Rs 112 crore to the state cricket association for the promotion of the game in Jammu and Kashmir. It was alleged that Rs 46.30 crore from the grant was misappropriated.

In 2015, a public interest litigation (PIL) was filed by two cricketers -- Majid Yaqoob Dar and Nissar Ahmad Khan -- in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in connection with the alleged scam that had surfaced in 2012.

The case was subsequently handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the alleged embezzlement of funds in the cricket association headed by Abdullah.

The CBI had filed a chargesheet last year in the court of the chief judicial magistrate of Srinagar against Abdullah and other accused in the case.

The agency had in 2020 attached assets worth Rs 11.86 crore of Abdullah in this case. The ED had alleged that Abdullah "misused" his position as the president of the JKCA in the past and made appointments in the sports body so that the BCCI sponsored funds could be laundered.

HC upholds PSA...

that object of preventive detention is not to punish a man for having done something but to intercept and to prevent him from doing so; preventive detention is devised to afford protection to society. The rulings on the subject have consistently taken view that preventive detention is devised to afford protection to society. The object is not to punish a man for having done something but to intercept before he does it and to prevent him from doing so," the Court observed and dismissed the petition.

CBI summons Rubaiya...

Ahmed Bakshi, Javed Ahmed alias Nalka, Nanaji alias Saleem, Riaz Ahmed Bhat, Khurshid Ahmed Dar, Basharat Rehman, Tariq Ashraf, Shafaqat Ahmed Shangloo and Manzoor Ahmed alias Muna alias Manzoor Islam assembled in house Mushtaq Ahmed Lone and deliberated upon plan to kidnap Dr Rubiya Sayeed, when she would be returning for her house from Lal Ded Hospital Srinagar to Nowgoan Bye pass, Srinagar. Then, accused Javed Ahmed Mir alias Nalka entered a Mini Bus and forced Dr Rubiya Sayeed to get down from the same and sit in blue-colored Maruti Car, being driven by accused Ali Mohd Mir. Dr Rubiya Sayeed was then taken to Sopore and kept in an old house situated in Irrigation Colony in possession of accused Javed Ahmed Mir. After two hours, she was shifted to Flat-B-1 of Irrigation Colony Sopore, belonging to accused Javed Ahmed Mir, where she remained from evening of December 8 to December 9, 1989. During entire period of confinement, accused namely Mohd Rafiq Dar and Iqbal Ahmed Gandroo, armed with AK-47 rifles along with accused Halima kept watch on Dr Rubiya Sayeed till her release on December 13, 1989 in exchange of JKLF terrorists.

Poor suffered due...

The enthusiasm being seen in India about drone technology is amazing and indicates possibilities of an emerging sector of employment generation, the prime minister said.

He said eight years ago "we started implementing new mantras of good governance", "Walking on the path of minimum government and maximum governance, priority was given to ease of living and ease of doing business," Modi said.

During the earlier governments, technology was considered a part of the problem and efforts were made to label it "anti-poor", the prime minister said.

"Due to this, there was an environment of indifference towards the use of technology in governance before 2014. The poor, the deprived, the middle class suffered the most," he said.

"Promotion of drone technology is another medium of advancing our commitment to good governance and ease of living. In the form of drones, we have a smart tool that is going to be part and parcel of people's lives," Modi said.

There was a time when people used to spend hours standing in line for rations. In the last seven to eight years, we have removed this hurdle with the help of technology, he said.

Claiming that earlier technological inventions were considered to be for the elite only, the prime minister said, "Today, we are ensuring that the masses are the first beneficiaries of any new technology. Drone technology is one such example."

Technology has helped a lot in ensuring the last-mile delivery of services, he said.

PM Swamitva Yojana is an example of how drone technology is becoming the basis of a big revolution, he said, adding under it, for the first time every property in villages is being digitally mapped and 65 lakh digital property cards have been given to people.

Modi also said the use of drones will rise in sectors such as agriculture, sports, defence and disaster management.

Till a few months ago, there were various restrictions on drone technology. The Centre has removed such restrictions in a short span, Modi said.

He was referring to the Ministry of Civil Aviation's easing of Drone Rules in August last year, wherein it had reduced the number of forms that need to be filled to operate them from 25 to five and decreased the types of fees charged from the operator from 72 to four.

The prime minister said his government was strengthening the network of health and wellness centres across the country.

Noting that delivery of medicines and other items in villages has always been a challenge, Modi said, "Delivery of such items with the help of drones will be very fast."

He said the country has been witness to the quick delivery of COVID-19 vaccine through drones. "This (a drone) can help us send top-quality medical equipment and services to remote areas."

People will see that not only in urban areas, drones have found their use in rural areas too, the prime minister said.

"I invite investors again as this is the right time to manufacture advanced drone technology for India and the world," the prime minister said.

"We are also moving towards creating a strong drone manufacturing ecosystem in India through schemes like productivity-linked scheme (PLI). When technology goes to the masses, possibilities of its use also increase accordingly," he said.

Modi asked the youth to develop many more startups in the drone sector and expressed confidence that the police forces of the country will find drones useful.

"Whenever there are big events like the Kumbh Mela, the drones can be of immense help. In traffic jams, solutions can be found with the help of drones," the prime minister said.

Modi also tried his hand at flying a drone before delivering his inaugural speech at the event.

'Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022' is a two-day event being held on May 27 and 28. Along with Modi, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh were present at the inaugural event.

Addressing the event, Scindia said nothing is greater than an idea whose time has come and drone is one such idea.

India used to be a follower in the technology sector but now it has become a leader, Scindia said, adding technology will become successful only when it comes to the benefit of the less privileged and the poor.

He talked about how drones are used for land mapping in villages under the Centre's Swamitva Scheme which was launched by the prime minister in April 2021.

"A drone of just two to three kg will help in the government's plan to push 'gram swaraj' (self-reliant village) in India," Scindia said, adding the government has banned the import of drones in February to give domestic manufacturers a push.

Scindia talked about steps the government has taken in the last two years to boost the manufacturing and use of drones in the country. Currently, 12 Central government departments and 14 states are using drones, he said.

Social activist Waqar...

had sought to clarify his tweet with another tweet saying, "I did not target any religion and why should I target when the matter is in court."

A few days ago, Delhi University Associate Professor Ratan Lal was arrested for his alleged objectionable social media post on claims of a 'Shivling' at the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi. He was granted bail a day later.

On May 16, a local court in Varanasi directed the district administration to seal a spot in the Gyanvapi Masjid complex after counsels representing the Hindu petitioners claimed that a Shivling was found during a court-mandated videography survey.

A mosque management committee spokesperson disputed the claim, telling a television channel that the object was part of a "fountain".

A day later, the top court directed the district magistrate of Varanasi to ensure the protection of an area inside the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex where a 'Shivling' was said to have been found and allowed Muslims to offer 'namaz' and perform "religious observances".

Prez, PM condole...

the families of the deceased.

"Saddened to know that an unfortunate road accident in Ladakh has claimed the lives of some of our brave soldiers. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Kovind tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "anguished" over the bus accident.

"Anguished by the bus accident in Ladakh in which we have lost our brave army personnel. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those injured recover at the earliest. All possible assistance is being given to the affected," Modi said in a tweet. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Army chief General Manoj Pande following the tragic incident. General Pande apprised Singh of the situation and the steps taken by the Army to save the lives of the injured soldiers.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives of our brave Indian Army personnel due to a bus tragedy in Ladakh. We will never forget their exemplary service to our nation. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured," the defence minister wrote on Twitter.

The officials said the vehicle the soldiers were travelling in skidded off the road and fell in the Shyok river.

A total of 26 soldiers were on their way from a transit camp in Partapur to a forward location in sub-sector Hanif.

"Seven individuals have been declared fatal so far. There are grievous injuries to others as well. Dedicated efforts are underway to ensure that the best medical care is provided to the injured," an official said.

The officials said the vehicle fell into the Shyok River to a depth of approximately 50 to 60 feet from the road.

"A party of 26 soldiers was moving from the transit camp in Partapur to a forward location in sub-sector Hanif. At around 9 am, 25 km from Thoise, the vehicle skidded off the road and fell in the Shyok river," the official cited above said.

All the injured were initially taken to the 403 Field Hospital at Partapur.

Hours later, all 19 injured personnel were shifted to Chandimandir.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also condoned the death of the soldiers.

"Deeply saddened by the news of loss of precious lives of our brave Army personnel in Ladakh. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Wish a speedy recovery to the injured," he tweeted.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee mourned the deaths of seven soldiers and extended her condolences to their families, Banerjee said she was deeply distressed by the deaths. "Deeply distressed by the traumatic road accident death of our 7 brave soldiers in Ladakh today (Friday) afternoon. Some more seriously injured in the case. Sincere condolences for the bereaved, solidarity for all," she tweeted.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has expressed sadness over the death of Army soldiers in Ladakh and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

"Extremely saddened to hear of the tragic accident with Indian Army personnel in Ladakh. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, and wishes for the speedy recovery of our injured soldiers," Gandhi said on Twitter.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "Deeply shocked at the news of the terrible tragedy leading to loss of lives of our brave hearts serving mother India in difficult terrain. Our heartfelt condolences to their family and loved ones."

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also said the death of seven soldiers in Turtuk sector is very painful and paid her tributes to them. She also wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal described the Ladakh road accident "unfortunate" and prayed for the speedy recovery of the soldiers injured in the crash.

"The bus accident with the Army personnel in Ladakh is very unfortunate. I salute the martyrdom of the martyred soldiers. I pray to God for the speedy recovery of the soldiers injured in the accident," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

Govt announces schedule...

Kashmir, 142242 in Jammu) and a total of 454 polling stations will be set up across J&K with 115 in Kashmir Division and 339 in Jammu Division.

Pertinent to mention here that first time photo elector rolls have been prepared by the administration for this purpose. The Divisional Commissioners in respective divisions have been nominated as nodal officers for this exercise, as per the said communiqué issued by the Financial Commissioner (Revenue).

LG flags-off ...

Regional Manager, SBI; Adv Narsingh Lagad, Trustee, Borderless World Foundation (BWF); Waleed Khalid, Advisory Board Member BWF and other team members of BWF were present on the occasion at Raj Bhavan. Director Health Services Kashmir and Additional Commissioner Kashmir were also present.

Govt reinstates suspended ...

suspension of the officer shall be decided separately." Read an order issued by R.K. Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

"It is further ordered that Maqsood-ul-Zaman, JKPS (SSP) shall await posting in Police Headquarters," it added.

Two policemen suspended...

Ravi, they said. A Sub-Inspector and a Munshi of police post Chatha were suspended for their failure to take action after the businessman filed a complaint with the police, the officials said. "Legal or departmental action will taken against the two policemen and the case will be thoroughly investigated," a senior police officer said.

Mini-bus falls from Tawi bridge in Jammu, 2 die



A mini-bus (JK02-AM 7260) fell from Tawi bridge in Jammu on late Friday night due to which driver and conductor of the vehicle got injured. They were shifted to GMC Jammu where they succumbed to injuries. (Pics by Deepak Yadav)

1 year imprisonment awarded for outraging modesty of girl

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Munsiff Judicial magistrate first class Chenani Shafeeq Ahmed awarded one year simple imprisonment and fine of Rs 3,000 to a tea stall owner Puran Sharma son of Om Parkash Resident of Karrian Chenani , who was facing trial for outraging modesty of a girl .

According to prosecution case, on April 18, 2016 complainant moved a written complaint to SHO police station Chenani alleging therein that on the same day at about 05 pm she sent her

cousin sister namely to Karyana shop to buy some groceries and when she was coming back a tea stall owner Puran Sharma caught hold her from shirt and arms and outrage her modesty at his shop .After which accused was booked under section 354R RPC and investigation was started .

After hearing additional Public Prosecutor Shalini Gupta and counsel for the accused Judge observed, Crime against Women in whatever form is a social evil and if perpetrators of such crime are dealt leniently

then it would not only encourage further escalation of crime but will become difficult to check or arrest the perpetrator of those crime and outrage the modesty of girl of our society" . So, it is not a case where the benefit of probation of offenders act can be granted to the convict". With these observations, court awarded one year simple imprisonment to accused under Section 354 RPC and pay fine of rupees 3000 and in default of payment accused shall undergo simple imprisonment for a period of one month.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Kullian, Badyal, Kadyal Simbal, Simbal Morh, Makhampur, Tali Morh, Darsopur, Sunderpur, Satraiyan, Chakroi, MES (Malpur), Sheelti, part of Sidhra, Bamyal, MES Nagrota, PHE Sheelti and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 28 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Arnas, Dharmari, Mahore, Sarh Bagga, Ransoo and Dadua shall remain affected on May 28 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Kathua, Mahanpur, Sewa, HEP, Samba, Billawar, Ghatti, Hiranagar including Industrial Area, Railway Traction Supply Manwal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 29 from 6 am to 12 noon. Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to BB Industry, Meen, Dashaal and Darnri shall remain affected on May 29 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Swankha Morh, Rakh Jung, Jhangh and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 28, 30 and June 02 from 7 am to 1 pm.

SUF welcomes Govt's decision to hold elections of DGPCs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Sikh United Front (SUF) under the leadership of its Chairman, Sudarshan Singh Wazir hailed the decision of the administration to hold elections of District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees in J&K UT, as per the directives of the Court. While speaking during a meeting of the front, attended by a number of representatives of other Sikh organizations of J&K, Wazir said that as per schedule issued, the much-awaited elections of District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees will

be held on June 27, 2022. The SUF hailed the decision as due date for holding elections was in also June 2020 and due to non-holding of elections, the managements of various Gurdwaras were suffering a lot.

The SUF urged Sikh community to elect only Amrit, Dhari, educated, honest, principled candidates who are aware of Gurus' mission towards humanity and are staunch followers of Rehat Maryada.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting included Mohinder Singh, Darbinder

Singh, Rajinder Singh, Raja Singh, Ravinder Singh, Charanjeet Singh, Sewak Singh, Gajan Singh, Charan Singh Bali, Kuldeep Kour, Gurmeet Kour, Paramjit Singh, Kulwant Singh Khajuria, Prof Yodhvir Singh, Surinder Singh Kala, Harpreet Singh Chhotu, Surjeet Singh Kukoo, Mannohan Singh, Jagmohan Singh, Dr Surjeet Singh, Surinder Singh Dutt, Malkit Singh (Raman) Rasbir Singh, Kuldeep Singh Malik, Kulwant Singh, Satinder Singh Sethi, Kultar Singh, Tejpal Singh and Charanveer Singh.