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Terror funding case: NIA raids multiple locations in Kashmir

SIA Jammu raids 3 locations in Valley



SIA teams carrying out raids at Srinagar on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR/JAMMU: The NIA carried out raids at multiple locations across Kashmir valley early Tuesday in connection with a terror funding case and detained one person for questioning, officials said here.

Raids were carried out at nearly a dozen locations in Srinagar, Avantipora, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag areas.

One person has been detained for questioning by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from Sozeith area of Srinagar, the officials said.

The detained person was identified as Ishaq Ahmad Bhat.

"The NIA came early in the morning between 5.30 and 6.00 am. They asked for Ishaq and took him away along with his mobile phone.

He works as a labourer," Mohammad Ramzan Bhat, father of the suspect, told PTL.

"We have no links with militancy or stone pelting," he added.

Bilal Bhat, brother of the detained person, said Ishaq was illiterate and worked as a window glass fitter.

The raids are being conducted in connection with a terror funding case registered last year.

Meanwhile, State Investigation Agency (SIA) from Jammu raided at three locations viz Rajpora Pulwama, Pampore, Avantipora and BaghatBarzulla in Srinagar in terror fund case.

Among the raided, SIA searched house of female separatist Hurriyat leader Yasmeen Raja in Pampore town of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Yasmeen Raja resides in Tulbagh area of saffron town Pampore.

Searches were conducted after obtaining search warrant from the Court in connection with a case registered at police station Gandhi Nagar last years and subsequently transferred to SIA Jammu in which a former Jammu and Kashmir Minister Jitendra Singh

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Two Sessions Judge transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In the interest of administration, Hon'ble the Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh ordered the following transfers and postings in the High Court Registry.

According to the order issued by Shahzad Azeem Registrar General Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court that Y.P. Bourney, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, is transferred and posted

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Terrorist associate held in Shopian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Security forces on Tuesday arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist associate and seized arms and ammunition from his possession in Shopian district, police said.

Based on specific input regarding the presence of terrorists at Daramdora Keegam in Shopian, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there,

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Australian HC discusses investment opportunities in J&K with LG



Australian High Commissioner Barry O'Farrell and Second Secretary Jack Taylor with LG Manoj Sinha at Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Australian High Commissioner Barry O'Farrell and Second Secretary Jack Taylor on Tuesday met with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to discuss a range of issues.

The meeting discussed

investment opportunities in the Union Territory particularly in horticulture and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Pressure of 'oil vapours' causes explosion at Narwal petrol pump, no casualties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An explosion occurred at a fuel station in the busy Narwal area here on Tuesday due to the pressure of oil vapours under a man-hole, a senior police officer said.

No one was injured in the incident, and police and experts from the oil company are still inspecting the site.

Panic gripped Narwal, where Jammu and Kashmir's biggest fruit and vegetable wholesale market is located, following the

explosion around 10:50 am. The blast damaged a portion of the fuel station's floor and a nearby structure housing the front office of a bank.

"Initial investigations reveal that during the process of oil pumping under the (station's) manhole there remained pressure of oil vapours which became the cause of the explosion," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jammu, Chandan Kohli, said in the evening. Earlier, police

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Marine, NSG commandos to be deployed to secure G20 meet in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Marine and NSG commandos will be deployed to secure the venue of the G20 working group meeting scheduled to be held in Kashmir later this month, a senior official said on Tuesday.

At a security review meeting here, Additional Director General of Police Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar emphasised the importance of river and lake domination in ensuring the security of the G20 summit, a police hand-out said.

Kumar also emphasised the need for the Marine Commandos (MARCOS) to

be deployed to provide a strong security cover for the water bodies around the summit venues, it added.

"The ADGP Kashmir shared with all stakeholders that NSG teams will be used for counter fidayeen attack along with SOG and specialise NSG teams to counter drones will be deployed at all venues," the police said.

The security officials who attended the meeting reviewed the current security arrangements in place and discussed possible ways to enhance the security measures to ensure the safety of all participants and

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Why Farooq Abdullah is unfavourable to G20 meet in Srinagar: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh ON Tuesday asked why National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah was against the G20 summit being held in Srinagar.

"I want to ask Dr. Farooq Abdullah why you are against the holding of the G20 summit in Srinagar. Don't you know it will change the lives of people of Jammu and Kashmir; economy and structure of tourism as well," said Chugh.



He said that peace, prosperity and developmental activities in Jammu and Kashmir panic Dr. Farooq. "Today J&K

is treading on the path of development and it will further take momentum in times to come," he said.

On elections, the BJP leader said elections will be held at an appropriate time and BJP has

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Four SEs, 18 XEns transferred in Jal Shakti Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government on Tuesday transferred four I/c Superintending Engineers (SEs) (Mechanical) and 18 I/c Executive Engineers (XEn) (Mechanical) in the Jal Shakti Department.

According to the order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department,

Defamation case: No HC relief for Rahul Gandhi; final order post-summer vacation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday refused to grant interim relief to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his plea for stay of conviction in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark, saying no protection can be granted to him at this stage and it will pass a final order post-summer vacation which ends in early June.

Counsel for Gandhi (52), Abhishek Manu Singhvi, cited "extreme urgency" to request the HC for interim relief or a final order and during final submissions



maintained there was hardly any instance in criminal defamation where an accused was sentenced to more than 3 to 6 months in jail, and that his client was a first-time offender.

The complainant's lawyer

opposed Singhvi's prayer for interim relief to Gandhi, sentenced to two years in jail by the trial court in Surat, and said if the disqualified MP cannot apologise for his defamatory utterances, then he should also not approach the HC for stay of conviction.

After final arguments from both sides concluded during the day, the court of Justice Hemant Prachethak said no interim protection can be granted to the applicant at this stage in the defamation case stemming from his "Modi surname" remark made four years ago.

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Man attempting to rob bank hides in false ceiling overnight, caught by police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: A dismissed bank employee who was caught while allegedly trying to transfer money into his account had hid himself in the false ceiling on the premises overnight, officials said on Tuesday.

Mohd Abrar's attempt to transfer money from the Mendhar branch of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank early on Tuesday alerted the officials, who immediately informed the police and the accused was caught red-handed, they said.

A resident of Ari village in Mendhar, Abrar was said

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Senior police, civil officers review arrangements for annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior police and civil officers on Tuesday reviewed the security, transport and other arrangements for the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra which is scheduled to take place in Kashmir later this month, an official spokesperson said.

Jammu Divisional Commissioner (DC) Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Jammu zone, Mukesh

Congress locked up Lord Rama, now it wants to lock up those who worship Hanuman: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
HOSPET (K'TAKA): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at the Congress for promising to ban Bajrang Dal in its election manifesto saying it wants to lock up those who worship Lord Hanuman.

He said the Congress had earlier locked up Lord Rama and now it wants to lock up those who chant Jai Bajrang Bali' (Hail Hanuman).

Modi's attack on the Congress came within hours of the Mallikarjun Kharge-led outfit releasing its election manifesto for the May 10 Assembly elections.

The Congress manifesto said: "We believe that law and constitution is sacrosanct and cannot be violated by individuals and organisations



like Bajrang Dal, PFI or others promoting enmity or hatred, whether among majority or minority communities. We will take decisive action as per law including imposing a ban on such organisations".

Addressing an election rally here in Vijayanagara district, Modi said: "I have come to

the land of Hanuman. I am fortunate that I got the opportunity to pay my obeisance to the land of Hanuman but see the misfortune that when I have come to pay my respect to Hanuman's land, at the same time, Congress in its manifesto has decided to lock up Lord Hanuman."

"Initially, they locked up Prabhu Shri Ram (Lord Ram). And now they want to lock up people who say Jai Bajrang Bali'," the Prime Minister remarked.

"It is the misfortune of the country that the Congress had a problem with Prabhu Shri Ram and now it has a problem with the people who say 'Jai Bajrang Bali'," he added.

The Vijayanagara empire of mighty ruler Sri Krishnadeva Raya is considered by some historians as the 'Kishkindha Kshetra', the monkey kingdom of Vaali and Sugreeva of Treta Yuga or Ramayana era. Right next to Hampi is Anjanadri, the Anjana Hill at Gangavathi in Koppal district,

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 22.8°C Min: 16.8°C

Humidity
Max: 95 Min: 77

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 19.8°C Min: 10.6°C

Humidity
Max: 87 Min: 54

Sunset: 19:13 Hours
Sunrise: 05:45 Hours