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Terrorists kill Hindu...

condemnation & condolence ring hollow as do the assurances of the government that they will not rest till situation normalises. May the deceased rest in peace," National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah tweeted.

"Rajni was from Samba District of Jammu province. A government teacher working in Kulgam area of South Kashmir; she lost her life in a despicable targeted attack. My heart goes out to her husband Raj Kumar & the rest of her family. Another home irreparably damaged by violence," he added.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said despite the Centre's claims of normalcy in Kashmir; targeted killings were on the rise.

"Despite GOIs fake claims about Kashmir being normal its obvious that targeted civilian killings are on the rise & a deep cause of concern (sic). Condemn this act of cowardice which sadly plays into the vicious anti Muslim narrative spun by BJP," she tweeted.

Sajad Lone also condemned the killing, saying cowardice has yet again plummeted to shameless depths.

"A teacher, an innocent woman hailing from Samba, has been shot dead in Kulgam. May her soul rest in peace," he said.

BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur said he strongly condemned the attack. "Yet another dastardly act of terrorism in Kulgam. Attacking unarmed civilians, that too women, is no bravery but an act of frustration," he added.

This is second killing of a non-Muslim government employee in the month of May. On May 12, Rahul Bhat, a clerk, was shot dead inside the tehsildar's office in Chadoora tehsil of Budgam district.

Of the seven targeted killings that took place in Kashmir this month, three victims were off-duty policemen and four were civilians.

Meanwhile, Kashmiri Pandits, employed under the prime minister's package, have threatened to undertake mass migration from the valley if the government did not relocate them to safe places within the next 24 hours as employees from the community hit the streets at various places to protest against the teacher's killing.

We have decided that if the government did not take any concrete steps for us (safety) within 24 hours, there will be mass migration again, one of the protesters said here.

He said the target killing of Kashmiri Pandits is continuing and the community is now tired of making appeals to the government.

We are asking for temporary relocation for two to three years till the situation in the valley returns to normal, he added.

Some Kashmiri Pandit employees assembled at the Ghanta Ghar (Clock tower) at Lal Chowk here to protest against the killing while another group gathered at Batwara in Sonawar area of the city and raised slogans against the Union Territory administration, officials said.

In south Kashmir's Qazigund town, Kashmiri Pandit employees blocked one of the tubes of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, they said.

Meanwhile, Congress has strongly condemned targeted killing of a women school teacher from Samba in Kulgam area of Kashmir on Tuesday and termed the situation as worrisome, as government has failed to stop process of selective killings. In a statement issued here, JKPCC said that minorities and others are being targeted by evil-designs of enemies, which is very dangerous and worrisome. The government has failed to stop such attacks and to ensure safety of soft targets like minorities, migrant and Jammu employees and outside workers. Party conveyed deep sympathies with bereaved family and prayed for peace to departed soul.

Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad Jammu Kashmir has also condemned target killing of female teacher. State Secretary Mukesh Manhas three policemen and three civilians were also martyred by terrorists, who are now trying to create a feeling of fear among minorities.

Terming killing as a heinous crime by terrorists, Jammu Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "Targeted killing spree has created havoc and absolute insecurity among the masses. Nobody is able to understand why innocent people are being gunned down. Everyone, irrespective of his or her religious belief and political ideology is frightened," and urged security agencies to nab the culprits at the earliest.

J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, during a meeting held under the leadership of its President Sr Adv M K Bhardwaj, has condemned killing of an innocent teacher. Terming incident as a matter of serious concern, all the members of the Bar Association Jammu expressed anguish that despite repeated attacks on minorities in Valley, the Government / authorities have not learnt any lesson and completely failed to provide appropriate security to innocent citizens. Prominent among others present during the meeting included Advs Amandeep Singh, Rohit Sharma, Gagandeep Singh Lucky, Yaseer Farooq Khan, Mohinder Pal Singh Pali, Surjeet Singh Andotra, Aditya Sharma, Karanjeet Singh Johal and Naresh Kumar.

In a condemnation statement issued here, Vinod Pandita, a KP leader appealed to the Government of India and LG J&K to work more seriously and vigorously to dismantle terror ecosystem existing in Valley. He also appealed for ensuring foolproof safety and security arrangements for PM package employees and all minorities working in valley. Others who condemned the ghastly killing included Ashok Kumar Koul, Ravinder Raina, M K Koul and Ashok Kumar Pandita.

Kashmiri Pandit Sabha has condemned the brutal killing of a woman teacher in Kulgam. "It is abject failure of the UT government. The hollow claims by LG, in a television interview that by and large normalcy has been restored except for occasional killing, are not reassuring. The frequency of such killings has increased alarmingly and it seems UT government is not only at a loss to tackle this situation but is also brazenly refusing to accept responsibility," said K K Khosa, President KPS. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to take direct control by changing the present regime which has proven to be incompetent and irresponsible.

Senior National Conference Leader and Former Minister Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra condemned brutal and inhuman killing of Rajni Bala, saying the targeted terror attacks have assumed alarming proportions in the Valley and government must take effective measures to infuse a sense of security and confidence among people in general and those working there in particular.

Chairperson District Development Council Kulgam Mohd Afzal Parray along with DDC Members, PRIs of District, Civil Society Kulgam, NGOs also organised a candle march to pay homage to Rajni Bala, who was martyred by terrorists in Gopalpora, Kulgam.

Killers will be...

condemn the killing of Rajani Bala," Azad tweeted. "I urge the administration to take stringent measures to safeguard the lives of innocent civilians. I express my sympathies with the bereaved families," he added.

Protests erupt in...

"total failure" to protect them. They also raised slogans against Pakistan. "There have been 22 killings of Hindus by terrorists in the Valley and over 14 people have been injured. Four temples have been attacked. This is an undeclared assault on minorities in Kashmir and the government is saying that the situation is normal," Kashmiri Pandit leader Vinood Tickoo said.

The Dogra Front also took out a protest rally in the city. Two hundred Bajrang Dal activists also held a protest here against Bala's killing. They raised slogans against the Jammu and Kashmir administration for failing to protect government employees belonging to the minority community. They blocked a road for an hour and burnt an effigy of the administration.

The protesters also raised slogans against Pakistan. "The government should grant us arms licenses, we will fight in Kashmir. Minority Hindu employees serving in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley should also be given weapons for their personal protection," Jammu president of Bajrang Dal Rakesh

Kumar told reporters.

Shiv Sena activists led by the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Manish Sahni also held a protest against Bala's killing.

At a press conference held at the Shiv Sena's office here, Sahni said the killing of innocent people is intolerable.

The "heinous acts" of terrorists are increasing day by day. All the assurances of security given by the central and state governments are proving to be completely false, he said.

Sahni demanded that people be granted arms licenses to be able to fight terrorism in the Kashmir Valley.

Licensed weapons in the hands of people is the only way for them to protect themselves and their families, he added.

Sahni said the targeted killings in Kashmir have created panic among the minorities as well as the majority community.

Activists of Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir also held a protest at the Janipur High Court road and blocked traffic.

They raised anti-Pakistan slogans and demanded that all government employees from the minority community be transferred to Jammu from Kashmir.

Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir chief Sunil Dimple appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit shah to stop the bloodshed and targeted killings of innocents in Kashmir.

Bala's is the second killing of a non-Muslim government employee in May. On May 12, Rahul Bhat, a clerk, was shot dead inside the tehsildar's office in Budgam district's Chadoora.

This is also the seventh targeted killing in Kashmir this month. While three of the victims were off-duty policemen, four were civilians.

Two terrorists killed...

investigation has been initiated. People were requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any, a police spokesperson said.

Aakash Institute's Chemistry...

be unaware about the FIR lodged against the teacher; a copy of which is in the possession of the STATE TIMES.

Meanwhile, the complaint from the girl's father added that his daughter (name withheld) is studying in Aakash Institute Gandhi Nagar Jammu for the last over one and half year and Rambaran Tyagi, a Chemistry Teacher was delivering online classes.

"Tyagi called my daughter telephonically and asked her to join his birthday party with her other batch mates in Hotel Shivam Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. My daughter with good intentions went to the Hotel and found no one but only Rambaran Tyagi in the room," the complainant father stated in his complaint to police.

Confirming the arrest, police has made an appeal to parents to come forward if anyone commits such type of crime.

JKNPP founder Bhim...

condolences to the bereaved family & friends in this hour of grief. Om Shanti", he said in a tweet.

To expressed grief and sorrow over passing away of Prof Bhim Singh, Chairman Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party, senior National Conference Leader and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Tuesday visited office of JKNPP to pay homage and respects to departed leader. In his condolence message, Sadhotra described Prof Bhim Singh a legendary politician with qualities of head and heart, who kept public interest above all during his entire life. The former minister conveyed condolences to bereaved family and members of the JKNPP.

Expressing deep sorrow over the passing away of veteran leader Prof Bhim Singh, JKPCC President Ghulam Ahmad Mir recalled the selfless services of Prof Bhim Singh towards people of J&K and termed his passing away as a great loss to J&K. "I am deeply saddened to learn about passing away of veteran leader, who was known for his ability and uprightness," Mir said in a condolence message.

Jammu Kashmir National Panthers party leadership, workers and supporters have expressed shock over demise of party Founder, mentor Prof Bhim Singh. P K Ganju Senior Vice President and founder member of the party described Prof Bhim Singh as Computer of political history and territorial geography of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh after Maharaja Hari Singh. Great personalities of high stature like Bhim Singh are born once in centuries, who struggle, work and leave indelible impact on society, he added.

Other leaders who paid floral tributes to the great leader included Anita Thakur; Hakikat Singh, Balwan Singh, Bansilal Sharma, Shivecharan Singh Sambyal, Naresh Chib, Pushpa Devi, Ravinder Jamwal, Nagender Singh, Sumitra Devi, Jagdev Singh, Hoshiyar Sharma, Anil Parihar and Balwan Singh Manyotra. They also requested people to attend cremation of Prof Bhim Singh at Bughtayan village in Udhampur on June 1, 2022 at 3 PM.

Former Member Parliament, Dr Karan Singh expressed profound grief and sorrow over untimely demise of Prof Bhim Singh. In a condolence message issued here, the former Member Parliament said, "I am grieved to learn that my old friend Prof Bhim Singh has passed away. I knew him for six decades ever since he was a fiery student leader. He was a highly intelligent and motivated person, a talented lawyer and an aggressive political activist. He was also an eloquent and often controversial speaker. We will all miss his presence."

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed grief over the demise of Prof Bhim Singh, who passed away in Jammu on Tuesday morning. In a statement issued here, Apni Party President condoled demise of Bhim Singh and expressed sympathies with bereaved family.

Paying glowing tributes to Panthers Party founder and Senior Advocate, Prof Bhim Singh, JKHCBA President, Adv M K Bhardwaj said that due to his death, Jammu has lost a true son of soil, a revolutionary politician and veteran advocate who espoused cause of people in all the three manifestations. Prof Singh had inspired generations after his advent in public life during early 1960s by his simplicity and zest for struggle, he added. Remembering Prof Bhim Singh's commitment and contribution to strengthen secularism in J&K, Bhardwaj said that he stood like a rock even during peak days of terrorism in the erstwhile State unmindful of threats from separatists and communal forces.

All J&K PoJK 1947 Sharmarathi Intellectual Forum called a meeting of its core committee members under leadership of its President Adv Amrik Singh, joined by Surjit Singh Secretary and attended by a number of other leaders. The Forum expressed condolence over unfortunate demise of Prof. Bhim Singh, leader of J&K Panther party. The Forum, while appreciating his dedications, elaborated that Prof Bhim Singh was the only leader who travelled worldwide on Motorcycle and interacted with heads of various countries. Prof Bhim Singh filled many writ petitions in concern with public relations and other suo motive matters in J&K High Court and Supreme Court of India. Others present on the occasion included Inder Singh Sooden, Paranjit Singh, Nasib Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Prof K D Singh, Kuldip Singh Kuku, Paramjit Singh Shingari, S H S Sudan, Manjit Singh, Avtar Singh, Gursinran Singh and Jagjit Singh.

Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana expressed profound grief and shock over the sad demise of veteran leader Prof Bhim Singh, describing him as an institution. "Prof Bhim Singh will be remembered for his legal and political acumen, qualities of head and heart, down to earth approach towards all and deep political understanding," said Rana in a condolence message while praying for peace to the departed soul.

Devender Rana recalled his association with the departed leader and said despite divergent political ideologies they shared common view about equitable opportunities of progress and development to all the regions and sub regions of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. The void created by the departure of Prof Sahib is hard to fill, he said and conveyed condolences and expressed solidarity with bereaved family.

SASB to go for online booking of chopper service for Amarnath Yatra, HC told

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court was informed on Tuesday that the Amarnathji Shrine Board has decided to do sale of tickets of helicopter services from Jammu and Kashmir online for the yatra.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta disposed of a plea seeking direction to the board to adopt online system for booking and sale of tickets of helicopter services from Jammu and Kashmir, especially for old, ailing and disabled pilgrims, for the yatra.

The bench disposed of the plea after the petitioner organisation Indian Council of Legal

Aid's general secretary and advocate R K Saini submitted that it has no grievance with the system put in place and now nothing survives in the petition. The board's submission was made in a counter affidavit filed in pursuance to the high court's May 23 order when notice was issued on the petition. The petition had submitted that the refusal of Centre and the shrine board to introduce the online system for booking and sale of all tickets of helicopter services from Jammu and Srinagar for Amarnath yatra, is resulting into hoarding and black marketing of tickets leading to the misery for thousands of genuine and needy pilgrims.

It had termed it as wholly arbitrary, discriminatory, irrational, unwarranted and unjust, and against public interest. The petition, through lawyer Avadh Kaushik, said that according to a news report, it is the priority of the Narendra Modi government that the pilgrims coming for the Amarnath yatra should have hassle free darshan and they should not face any problems. "But surprisingly, the problem of not being able to obtain helicopter tickets for Baba Amarnath Yatra, by the old and ailing and disable pilgrims on account of the black marketing of tickets by the authorised agents in collusion with the local hoteliers which

already stood highlighted /exposed by the local newspapers and about which a representation already stood made by a public representative...," the plea said.

It sought to direct the authorities to forthwith make available all the tickets of helicopter service from

Jammu/Srinagar to Baba Amarnath Shrine through online booking system only and also revoke the quota of tickets allotted by it to its authorised travel agents for this year's yatra.

This year's yatra will begin from June 30 and conclude on August 11.

COVID: One fresh case in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported one new Covid case on Tuesday that took the infection tally to 4,54,249, officials said. The only case was reported from Jammu district, they said. There are 54 active cases, while the overall recoveries have reached 4,49,443, officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll stands at 4,752. No Covid-related fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

There were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), they added.

Tarun Chugh grieves...

issued to media , he said that the brutal killing of a female teacher by terrorists in Kulgam, Kashmir is extremely sad and painful. May God rest the departed soul at his feet and give strength to the family members to bear this profound loss, statement added.

Eastern Ladakh row...

"The two sides exchanged views on the current situation along the LAC in the Western Sector in Eastern Ladakh," the MEA said.

The meeting on the lingering row on Tuesday was the first one after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India on March 24 and 25.

"They agreed that as instructed by the two foreign ministers, both sides should continue the discussions through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC at the earliest so as to create conditions for the restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations," it said.

"In this context, they agreed to hold the next (16th) round of the Senior Commanders meeting at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement from all friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols," the MEA added.

Indus Water Treaty...

in New Delhi from May 30-31, it said.

The Indian delegation was headed by the Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters, A K Pal.

A wide range of water-related issues between Pakistan and India were discussed which included the advance sharing of flood information, the program of tours/inspections and signing of the report of the Permanent Indus Commission for the year ending March 31, 2022, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"Both sides reiterated their commitment to implement the Indus Waters Treaty in its true spirit," it said.

It said that Pakistan also highlighted its objections on India's hydroelectric projects on the Western rivers and sought response to its objections on Indian projects including 1,000MW Pakal Dul.

The Indian side was also urged to communicate advance flood-flow information as per the provisions of the Treaty.

"Indian side assured to arrange tours/inspections after the coming flood season. Indian side also assured that Pakistan's outstanding objections would be discussed in the next meeting as the Indian side is still in the process of examining the details," according to the statement.

Both sides also expressed the hope that the next meeting of the Commission would be held at an early date in Pakistan.

ED grills Farooq...

old three-time chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state had recorded his statement in the same case in 2019, officials said.

The National Conference said the veteran leader would continue to cooperate with the authorities like he has done in the past.

Abdullah was JKCA president from 2001 to 2012 and the scam being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED is about alleged financial misappropriation between 2004 and 2009.

The ED has attached properties worth over Rs 21 crore already. This includes Rs 11.86 crore of immovable assets of Abdullah.

The ED claimed its probe so far has revealed that Ahsan Ahmad Mirza in connivance with other office bearers of the JKCA, had misappropriated JKCA funds to the tune of Rs 51.90 crore and utilised proceeds of crime for settling his personal and business liabilities .

It initiated the money laundering probe against the JKCA office bearers on the basis of a case registered at the Rammunshi Bagh Police Station in Srinagar.

The case was later transferred to the CBI on the high court's directions.

The CBI has filed a charge sheet in the case against the former JKCA office bearers for misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs 43.69 crore.

Set new benchmarks...

the Anti Corruption Bureau is working tirelessly to prevent and investigate corruption-related matters and ensure transparency in the governance system, besides taking various measures to deal effectively with the menace of corruption, the Lt Governor observed.

He said the grievance redressal and preventive mechanism have added a new dimension to the vigilance work to curb malpractices, adding that the initiatives like Satarak Nagrik application and Departmental Vigilance Officers portal are playing a key role in the effective and right dissemination of information to all stakeholders, and have led to better vigilance work.

Congratulating the entire team of Anti Corruption Bureau on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that the new building would not only add infrastructural space for the working of ACB but also displays the resolve of the UT government for zero tolerance towards corruption.

Speaking on the occasion, Dilbag Singh, DGP J&K complimented the Engineers of the Police Construction Division (PCD) for completing the work in record time.

Manoj Kumar Diwedi, Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, in his address, said that the new building is symbolic of the efforts of strengthening the Anti Corruption Bureau in terms of manpower, infrastructure and IT equipment.

Anand Jain, Director, Anti Corruption Bureau gave a briefing about the functioning of the ACB and features of the new building.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 9.04 crores, the work on the building was completed in a short span of 23 months. The infrastructure comprises of 39 rooms including Director's Chamber in addition to Conferencing Hall with AV facilities, waiting Lounge, VIP Lounge, Dinning Hall, Help Desk, Canteen, two meeting halls and a common kitchen.

56 police officers...

as Sub Inspectors.

DGP J&K Dilbag Singh congratulated the promoted officers and their families. He has expressed hope that the promotion will serve as an inspiration for the officers to perform their duties with more dedication and zeal.

Those promoted in Ministerial Cadre (Steno) as Inspectors include Raiyaz Ahmad Shah, Rohit Chibber, Hira Lal Pandit, S. Karanjit Singh, Shakti Koul, Rajesh Kumar Tikoo, Manohar Vemesh Raina and Molina Chibber and those who have been promoted in Ministerial Executive Cadre as Inspectors include Abdul Hamid Dar, Mohammad Shafi, Fida Hussain Sheikh, Jasvinder Singh, Abdul Rashid Teli, Pran Nath Koul, Farooq Ah. Naikoo, Manzoor Hussain, Mohinder Singh, Mohd Farooq Mir, Manzoor Hussain, Jahan Afroz, Nazir Ahmad, Romesh Kumar, and Abdul Rashid Mir.

The Sub Inspectors of JK Police Telecommunication who have been promoted as Inspectors include Ab Rashid Lone, Ab Rashid Bhat, Abdul Ahad, Ab Rehman Kumar, Kartar Chand, Mohammad Yusuf and Suresh Kumar.

The ASIs of Ministerial Executive Cadre who have been promoted as Sub Inspectors include Satish Kumar, Lakhvinder Singh, Bilal Ahmad Allaie, Rinku Kumar, Rajinder Kumar, Anil Kumar Zutshi, Mohd Amin, Bashir Ahmad Sofi, Vinod Kumar, Mohammad Maqsood, Shafiq Ahmad Shera, Ashraf Ali Khan, Mohd Yousuf Bhat, Rouf Ahmad, Kuldeep Singh, Bhushan Lal, Kuljeet Singh, Bashir Ahmad, Pawan Kumar, Farooq Ahmad Wani, Sunder Singh, Showkat Ajiaz Mir, Syed Altaf Ahmad, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Nisar Ahmad and Shabir Ahmad.

Former Hizbul terrorist arrested by SIA in Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A former Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terrorist was arrested by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Tuesday for remaining in touch with Kashmir-based militants and carrying out many terror activities in Doda, officials said.

"SIA team that was deputed to Doda arrested ex-HM terrorist Abdul Rashid code Aarsalan from Tantna-Ghat area," an SIA officer told PTI.

The former terrorist was involved in a case of

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in Jammu in 2010, he said. The SIA team was directed to identify the terrorist involved in the FIR and after strenuous efforts, the team arrested him, the officials said.

As the ex-terrorist was active during 2009-2010 and was in constant touch with Kashmir-based Hizbul terrorists and carried out many terrorist activities in Doda valley, which will be further unfolded during the investigation of the said case, they said.

Two J&K officers deputed to Delhi, Amritsar recalled

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday recalled two officers including Veedushi Kapoor (JKAS) Deputy Labour Commissioner, New Delhi holding additional charge of Deputy Director, Information (KBI), New Delhi and Preeti Sharma, Manager J&K State Properties, Amritsar.

The order in this regard was issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department. The order further read that both the recalled officers shall await their orders of adjustment in the General Administrative Department with immediate effect.