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**Bus terror attack...**

It was en route from the Shiv Khori temple to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra near Teryath village in the Poni area. The bus, which was ferrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, Rayees Mohammad Bhat said the security forces have got some leads as 11 teams of police, Army and CRPF are jointly working on two different axes to neutralise the fleeing terrorists.

"The search operation is going on today in and around the area (where the attack took place) with 11 teams working on the ground apart from a multi-directional cordon laid around the (Poni-Treyath) belt," another senior police officer said.

The officials said that based on the statements of those injured in the attack, they have not ruled out the possibility of a fourth person being present at the spot who acted as a lookout for the three terrorists.

Sources said security forces suspect the Pakistani terrorists are hiding in the mountainous terrains of Rajouri and Reasi and have intensified combing operations in the region. They are taking directions from Pakistan's ISI through secured communication, the sources said.

There are reports that four terrorists including a local over ground worker were involved in the attack which was carried out on the directions of Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Abu Hamza, they said.

The NIA team visited the attack site for the second consecutive day on Tuesday. It examined the entire area, including the bus, and recreated the scene of the attack. They have also questioned some of the detainees to gather leads related to the attack.

Armed with surveillance equipment, including drones, and sniffer dogs, the security personnel launched the massive combing operation on Monday. A chopper was also pressed into service to keep an eye on movement in the area.

Of the 41 people injured in the attack, 10 sustained bullet wounds. Bus driver Vijay Sharma died of multiple bullet wounds. As many as 11 bullet marks were found at various places on the bus, the officials said.

The teams of NIA, State Investigation Agency (SIA) and forensic department joined the probe on Monday.

**Devotees continue to...**

attack through news but decided to continue our journey to have darshan of Mata Rani (Vaishno Devi)," Parmeela Bajaj, a part of a 20-member group from Maharashtra, told PTI.

The group was on its way to Shiv Khori temple after praying at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine when it stopped at the scene of Sunday's terror attack to have a look at the spot where the attacked bus still lay in a gorge.

"Whatever happened was terrible. The dead included a two-year-old boy and his mother ... We pray for the departed souls," Bajaj said.

Terrorists opened fire at the 53-seater bus, which was on its way to Katra from the Shiv Khori temple, causing it to veer off the road and fall into a deep gorge. Forty-one persons were also injured in the attack.

The bus was ferrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi. "Fear is natural but we have full faith in our security forces who defend our country without fear for their lives. We have faith in our Lord," Mangla Mahajan, also from Maharashtra, said.

A massive hunt is on for three suspected foreign terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit, with 11 teams of police, Army and CRPF jointly combing the dense forest area for a third day on the trot.

"We have full confidence that our forces will track down the terrorists and punish them. When it comes to our army, we have no fear," Mahajan said.

Nitin, another devotee, said there was no doubt in their minds about their safety when they left their home state for Jammu and Kashmir.

"We performed darshan at Vaishno Devi and are now heading for Shiv Khori ... The attackers will be punished as our army is carrying out a massive hunt for them," he said, adding, "We pray for good sense to prevail in the enemy camp otherwise our forces will wipe them out."

Authorities said there was no drop in the rush to the famous Vaishno Devi shrine, located in the Trikuta hills, over 80 km from Shiv Khori temple.

"Adequate security arrangements are in place at both Vaishno Devi and Shiv Khori temples. A fresh security review of both places was carried out in the wake of the terror attack," an official said.

Security has been beefed up on the main road leading to Shiv Khori from both the Reasi and Rajouri sides with the deployment of additional security forces, the person said.

**Terrorism still there...**

Asked about Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's congratulatory post on X on Narendra Modi's third term as PM, the NC president said while the two counterparts may keep congratulating each other, they should act upon the bonhomie.

**Will build Bharat...**

at the National Police Memorial," he said. Shah was elected from Gandhinagar constituency in Gujarat in the Lok Sabha election after defeating his nearest rival by a margin of 7.44 lakh votes. He has also retained his other portfolio in the Ministry of Cooperation.

In his fresh tenure as home minister, the immediate priority of Shah will be the implementation of the three newly enacted criminal laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023.

These laws, scheduled to come into effect from July 1, are set to replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, marking a significant shift towards a more efficient and effective legal framework.

Aimed at reshaping the landscape of the country's criminal justice system, Shah brought the three laws last year aimed at modernising and replacing outdated British-era legislation.

As Union home minister in the second Modi government in 2019, Shah had played a pivotal role in shaping key policies, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Known for his meticulous approach, Shah's tenure has been marked by proactive decision-making and a commitment to strengthening national security and justice systems, exemplifying his enduring influence in Indian politics.

Shah has also been instrumental in quelling Maoist violence and restoring peace in the northeastern states through strategic peace accords.

Known as the second most influential figure in the country after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a person dedicated to the saffron ideology, Shah rose as the BJP's master organiser when its alliance secured 73 seats from Uttar Pradesh in 2014 under his leadership as the party's general secretary.

Recognised for his political acumen and strategic prowess, Shah has played a pivotal role in the phenomenal growth of the saffron party.

**24x7 Lakhanpur Yatri...**

Singh was designated as overall nodal officer for the yatra, while Deputy Commissioner State Taxes, Pardeep Manhas was named nodal officer for Lakhanpur facilitation centre, they said.

Minhas, reviewing the status of arrangements, instructed the concerned departments to complete the pending work well before the commencement of the yatra, considering the expected increase in the number of pilgrims.

A round-the-clock yatri facilitation centre, a dozen Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) counters and 36 lodgment centres would be set up in the district, the officials said.

The district administration will prepare a contingency plan to accommodate 12,500 pilgrims in case the yatra is halted due to inclement weather or any other emergencies, for which 36 lodgment centres would be established, the officials said.

To ensure smooth issuance of RFID tags to registered pilgrims, they said the district administration has decided to increase the number of counters at the Lakhanpur facilitation centre from six to 12, reducing congestion at the Jammu base camp.

The meeting also discussed in detail the facilities at lodgment centres, setting up a control room, disaster planning, monitoring the quality of food and eatables, maintaining proper sanitation along the yatra route, and enforcing anti-polythene measures, the officials said.

**Over 8,400 devotees...**

Bhawani Mela, celebrated on Zeisht Ashtami, will take place on June 14 at the shrines of Tullnulla (Ganderbal), Tikker (Kupwara), Laktipora Aishmuqam (Anantnag), Mata Tripursundri Devsar (Kulgam), and Mata

Kheer Bhawani Manzgam (Kulgam) in Kashmir. "We have registered over 8,400 devotees for the pilgrimage," Relief Commissioner Dr Arvind Karwani told PTI here.

Karwani said that nearly 200 buses have been made available for the journey to the five temple complexes where Kheer Bhawani festival is being celebrated to pay obeisance to the Goddess Maha Ragnaya.

"The relief department, administration, and security forces have made comprehensive arrangements to ensure the success of this pilgrimage," Karwani said.

**Omar should quit...**

has already conceded his defeat by withdrawing from the Assembly elections, which are round the corner. Chugh described Abdullah's move as a clear sign of defeat.

"Omar Abdullah's decision to step away from the assembly polls is nothing but an admission of his inability to face the electorate," Chugh said, declaring, "It reveals his awareness of the diminishing support for his party among the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Chugh highlighted the inconsistency in Abdullah's political stance, particularly regarding statehood. "It's perplexing to see Abdullah refusing to contest the Assembly elections due to the lack of statehood when he didn't hesitate to contest the Lok Sabha elections under the same conditions," he said. "This is a transparent tactic to avoid further political embarrassment", he added.

Highlighting the achievements of the Narendra Modi government, Chugh pointed to the significant progress in eradicating dynastic politics in the region.

"PM Modi has delivered on his promise to free J&K from dynastic politics, and Omar Abdullah's exit from the fray confirms it. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected the rule of a few families, who have long dominated the political landscape," Chugh observed, adding, "The overwhelming defeats of the Abdullah and Mufti families in recent elections are clear indicators of the people's desire for change."

"With over 12.5 lakh tourists visiting Kashmir this year, we are witnessing unprecedented growth," he noted.

"This boom in tourism, along with numerous completed developmental projects and the establishment of new 5-star hotels in every district, showcases our commitment to economic progress," he stated.

Contrasting the BJP's developmental focus with the NC's political strategies, Chugh asserted, "While we are dedicated to bringing tangible improvements to the lives of the people, the National Conference remains fixated on outdated issues like Article 370. The electorate has moved beyond such rhetoric and is now focused on a future of stability and prosperity."

They are likely to travel to Itanagar on Wednesday.

The BJP has returned to power in the north east state by winning 46 seats in the 60-member assembly. Incumbent chief minister Pema Khandu may retain his position, sources said.

**Ravi Shankar, Tarun...**

at 25.3 degrees Celsius, a MeT spokesperson said. He said Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, recorded a high of 38.8 degrees Celsius and a low of 23.6 degrees Celsius.

only lacking was the commitment from the policy making side emphasising the government's focus. Dr. Singh briefed that Innovation in Bio-economy, Blue-economy, Space economy will remain a priority.

Union Minister took a review meeting having presence of all secretaries in Science and Technology Ministry . Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, PSA to Government of India along with Prof. Abhay Karandikar, secretary, DST ; Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, DBT along senior scientists ISRO and CSIR were also present.

Dr. Jitendra sensitised senior officials on the PM's plan for 100 days. He also discussed plans to revamp CSIR to increase its efficiency and contribution in the country's progress.

**NEET sanctity hit...**

allegations of malpractice in holding the exam in the state. "How much time do you want...Immediately on the re-opening? Otherwise, the counselling will start," the bench said.

It tagged the plea filed by Shivangi Mishra and nine other MBBS aspirants with a pending petition and asked the NTA to file the response in the meantime. The top court will resume regular hearings from July 8 after the summer vacation which commenced on May 20 comes to an end.

NEET-UG, 2024, was held on May 5 and results were declared on June 4. It was expected to be declared on June 14.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) examination is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

"Issue notice. In the meantime, the response will be filed by the National Testing Agency," the bench said.

It, however, did not agree to the submission of lawyer Mathews J Nedumpara, appearing for the students, that the counselling of students be stayed in the meantime.

"Let the counselling start, we are not stopping the counselling... We will not stop the counselling. If you argue further, we will dismiss this (the plea)," the bench told the advocate.

It took note of the submission that the fresh plea be tagged with a similar petition filed earlier on which a bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud had issued notices to the Centre and the NTA on May 17 and that the plea was already listed on July 8. The court granted the prayer.

"The allegation is that exam papers were leaked, and large number of students got the exam papers in advance, and they became successful. Twenty three lakh students wrote the examination, and total number of seats available is 1 lakh. This is the most coveted examination. Sixty-seven students got 720 out of 720 marks.

"The sanctity of the examination is so sacrosanct, and something has gone terribly wrong. The court has refused to stay the counselling, i.e. the admission..." lawyer Nedumpara later told PTI Video.

Mishra and nine other MBBS candidates sought a direction to the NTA "to recall the results of the examination conducted on May 05 and to conduct the examination afresh after issuing due public notice upon revelation at the end of investigation through a report that large number of examinees are bound to be affected by the declaration of results depriving those qualified examinees of just and fair opportunity to compete in seeking admission in college of their choice."

The plea has also sought a direction to the Centre and the NTA to take effective and meaningful steps to ensure that "malpractices and fraud", in particular leaking of the question papers as has happened in the previous examination, does not happen again.

It said petitioners are young aspiring students hailing from different states and are "shaken at the core" due to the question paper leak. The petitioners are under tremendous stress and anxiety as the alleged paper leak has denied them a level playing field, it said.

"Four individuals, including two MBBS students, have been arrested for allegedly running a paper solver gang for NEET exams at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Mehta Vidyalaya in New Delhi," the petition said.

"Hence, in the backdrop of ...peculiar facts and circumstances, the Petitioners seek kind indulgence of this court urgently in the interest of justice, equity and good conscience," it said.

The plea alleged that NEET-UG, 2024, was riddled with malpractices and various instances of paper leaks have come to the knowledge of the petitioners.

The instances of question paper leak were violative of Article 14 (right to equality) under the Constitution as they gave an undue advantage to some candidates over others who chose to attempt the examination in a fair manner; it said.

On May 17, a CJI-led bench refused to grant a stay on the results of the NEET-UG 2024. It, however, had agreed to issue notice on the plea for re-examination. Similar petitions are pending in different high courts as well.

One of the petitions before the Supreme Court has specifically referred to the allegations that the paper was leaked in Patna and wrong question papers were given to candidates in Rajasthan. News reports also state that an extraordinarily large number of candidates got a perfect score of 720 out of 720.

**Stolen cattle recovered, lifter arrested**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Police has worked out a cattle theft case registered in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba, arrested thief and recovered stolen cattle from his possession.

On June 10, 2024, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Samba by one Kuldeep Kumar, son of Shiv Lal, resident of Deveka tehsil & district Samba regarding theft of his cattle from the cattle shed by some unknown person.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No. 160/2024 U/S 379 IPC was registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, a police team of Police Post Goran (PS Samba) headed by Incharge PP Goran has rounded up one suspect namely Saif Din, son of Gulab Din, resident of Chanoori tehsil & district Samba who upon sustained questioning, confessed his involvement in the instant case. Further on his disclosure, stolen cattle has been recovered. It is pertinent to mention here that the said accused is a bovine lifter and used to supply the stolen cattle to the bovine smugglers.

**Drug peddler arrested; psychotropic substances recovered**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BUDGAM: In continuation of its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Budgam have arrested a drug peddler and recovered psychotropic substances from his possession. On receiving an information from reliable sources about one person of Choon Budgam believed to have concealed/dumped psychotropic substances in his residential house, a special Police team headed by SHO Budgam raided the spot.

During search, Alprazolam -03 Strips (65 tablets), Clonazepam -04 Strips (50 Tablets), Carispram -01 Strip (65 tablets) and SpasnoProxyvon Plus -24 tablets were recovered from the residential house of Uzlifat Nazir son of Nazir Ahmad Magloo resident of Choon Budgam. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 212/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation has been taken up.

**Hit & run case solved, accused nabbed**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Police solved a hit and run case registered at Police Station Vijaypur district Samba by seizing the vehicle and arresting the accused driver within 48 hours after the commission of crime.

On June 8, 2024, PS Vijaypur received an information through reliable sources that an accident had taken place nearDuggarHavelli,Ranjari Road Vijaypurduring the intervening night of 7/8-06-2024by an unknown vehicle driven by an unknown driver in rash and negligent manner and hit a pedestrian namely Rakesh Kumar, son of Belli Ram, resident of Ranjari Vijaypur.

Due to accident, the pedestrian got seriously injured and was shifted to GMC Jammu who later succumbed to his injuries. The driver along with the vehicle fled away from the spot after committing the accident. In this regard, a case FIR No. 80/2024 U/S 279/337 IPC has been registered at PS Vijaypurand investigation started. During the course of investigation, a Police team of Police Station Vijaypur headed by SHO PS Vijaypurafter hectic efforts coupled with analysis of CCTV footage, identified the accidental vehicle as Swift carbearing registration No. JK21B-7677 and succeeded in tracing the driver of said vehicle. The accused driver identified as Sahil Sharma, son of Kulbhushan Sharma, resident of Suchani Vijaypur district Samba has been arrested and the vehicle involved was also seized.

**Un-identified Male body found**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: One unknown male person age about 35 years found unconscious at Platform No. 2 and was shifted to GMC Jammu for treatment. After check up doctor declared him as brought dead. The body of the said deceased person kept in mortuary room of GMC Jammu for post-mortem/identification. The description includes Height- 5' 7" Approx; Colour-Wheatish, Black Beard; appearance-Wearing grey T-shirt and Black Pant. Anybody having any clue about the identity/residential particulars of the said deceased may contact GRP Jammu on Telephone Nos.0191-2474946 and/or Mobile No. 9797329127 and PCR GRP Jammu Helpline No. 1512.



**Bovine smuggling attempts foiled; 41 bovines rescued, smuggler arrested**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: In continuation to thwart the conspiracies of Bovine Smuggling from the society, J&K Police succeeded in foiling two bovine smuggling attempts in the jurisdictional area of PS Rajbagh; rescued 41 bovines, 01 person arrested and seized 02 vehicles involved.

In the first instance, On June 10, 2024 Police team led by SHO Rajbagh under the supervision of SDPO Border while on Naka/checking duty near NHW Rajbagh noticed one suspicious Vehicle (Truck) bearing Reg. No. JK02BQ-2863 enroute from Lakhampur side towards Jammu which was being driven by a person namely Karamat Hussain, son of Liyaqat Hussain, resident of Dehari Ralhote Tehsil Manjakot District Rajouri who was signalled to stop for checking. On thorough checking, Police team was able to found total 19 bovines (15 Cows and 04 Oxen) which were being transported without any legal permission. Thereafter all the 19 bovines ( 15 cows & 04 oxen) were rescued, 01 person arrested and seized the vehicle involved. In this regard a case FIR No. 144/2024 U/S 188/ IPC, 11PCA act has been registered at Police Station Rajbagh and further investigation into this matter has been initiated.

While in another instance on dated 10/06/2024 acting on the reliable information that few persons were indulged in illegal trade of smuggling of bovine animals from Kathua towards NHW Rajabagh in a truck bearing Reg No. JK02DG-4813. Acting swiftly the police team headed by SHO Police Station Rajbagh under the supervision of SDPO Border during special checking duty noticed said truck bearing Reg. No. JK02DG-4813 which was driven by an unknown person who was directed to stop for checking. On seeing the naka party driver of the vehicle parked the vehicle a few metres away from naka point and managed to flee away. On thorough checking 22 more bovines were recovered from the said vehicle. Thereafter all the 22 bovines were rescued and the vehicle got seized on spot.

On this instant case vide FIR No. 145/2024 U/S 188/IPC 11/ PCA Act has been registered at PS Rajbagh and further investigation into this matter has been set into probe. Thus ,overall 41 bovines were rescued, 01 person arrested and 02 vehicles were seized as well.

**2 missing women traced, reunited with families**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: J&K Police reunited two missing ladies with their family members in the jurisdictional area of Police Stations Rajbagh and Basohli.

In the first instance as per complainant, on 24/05/2024 a complaint was lodged at PS Rajbagh regarding one missing lady namely Kursheda Begum @Bholu D/o Nawab Din R/o Boura Tehsil & District Kathua and accordingly a missing report was entered into the daily dairy of this police establishment vide DDR No. 07 dated 24.05.2024 and search was started to trace out the missing lady. On 10.06.2024 a police team of PS Rajbagh headed by SHO PS Rajbagh under the supervision of SDPO Border after hectic efforts and traced out the missing lady and missing report has been closed vide DDR No. 08 dated 10.06.2024.

While in the second instance one more missing report was entered at PS Basohli vide DDR No. 14 dated 06/06/2024 regarding one missing lady resident of Ghodal Basohli who was missing since 06/06/2024 has been traced out by police team of PS Basohli led by SHO PS Basohli under the guidance of SDPO Basohli and missing report has been closed vide DDR No.12 dated 09/06/2024. Meanwhile, after completing legal formalities, both the traced out ladies were handed over to their legal heirs.

**2 arrested for drinking alcohol during shikara ride in Dal Lake**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Two people have been arrested for allegedly consuming liquor during a shikara ride in Dal Lake here, police said on Tuesday.

The step was taken by the city police after a video of the episode made rounds on the internet, they said. Consuming liquor in public places as prohibited in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Srinagar Police has taken cognizance after a video of unidentified individuals indulging in offensive behaviour in a shikara in Dal Lake in an inebriated state went viral across social media platforms," a police spokesperson said in posted on X.

He said a case under relevant sections of law was registered and two accused persons were arrested. "Two accused have been arrested while more suspects are being questioned. Further investigation into the matter is going on," he added. Last weekend, a video surfaced showing a group of tourists consuming liquor during a shikara ride in Dal Lake, leading to an outcry from civil society and religious leaders.

**Three held for providing support to terrorists**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Three over ground workers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) have been arrested in Pulwama district in connection with the recovery of two improvised explosive devices, police said on Tuesday. The explosive devices, weighing about six kgs, were recovered on Sunday and were destroyed a day later, a police official said.

During further investigation following the killing of LeT commander Reyaz Dar and his associate Rayees Dar on June 3, police recovered the explosives from the over ground workers (OGW) network of the slain terrorists, the official said. He said three OGWs have been arrested for providing shelter and logistic support to the slain terrorists.