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Sticky bombs grave...

attempts to recruit youngsters, he said.

The DGP said Jammu police scuttled all their attempts to revive terrorism by busting their modules in Udhampur; Doda-Kishtwar belt and Poonch-Rajouri and since Shah is heading one such module, his questioning will solve many more cases.

His arrest is a big achievement and people are equal partners in this success. The people overpowering the terrorists with bare hands is a good beginning, he said.

The DGP said police had been chasing Shah ever since his name came up during investigation of the recent blasts in Rajouri.

They were not getting a hideout and were moving aimlessly and ended up being overpowered by people. The action of the villagers is worth praise and so I have personally come to thank them, he said.

On the number of terrorists on launch pads in Pakistan, he said the numbers hover around 150 and there were attempts by them to infiltrate into this side but they were tackled and neutralized either on the border or in the hinterland.

The anti-terrorist operations will continue with border security grid being further beefed up with the recruitment of 200 Special Police Officers in recently created border battalions, Singh said.

The J&K Police chief said the attempts to foment trouble in the Union Territory from across the border have not lowered and we are planning counter-measures accordingly .

He said sticky bombs pose a grave threat but the police and other security agencies are alert to foil all conspiracies.

The terrorists were able to set off sticky bombs at vegetable market in Udhampur (in March) and at two places in Rajouri (in April-May). Police have recovered many such bombs and IEDs airdropped through drones (from Pakistan) before they could be used to hit a target, he said.

Asked about the investigation in the Katra bus fire incident that left four passengers dead and 20 others injured in May, he said the investigation into the cause of the fire is on as we are yet to reach a conclusion .

Singh said the security deployments have been made for Amarnath Yatra and we are taking all necessary arrangements (to foil any attempt by terrorists to target the yatra with sticky bombs) .

Asked whether the villagers who overpowered the terrorists will be given a job in police, he said there is a system in place for the recruitment in police and other security forces. There are many people linked with us like Village Defence Committee members and Dhok Defence Committee members who are doing great job in anti-terror operations, he said.

LeT terrorist was...

arrest two most-wanted LeT terrorists – Shah, the mastermind behind a recent series of explosions in Rajouri, and his associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama.

Some pictures emerged on social media purportedly showing Shah with Bharatiya Janata Party leaders. One of the pictures shows Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina purportedly presenting Shah with a bouquet and a letter issued by party leader Sheikh Bashir on May 9, assigning him the role of the IT and social media in-charge of the party's Minority Morecha (Jammu province).

Responding to a question about Shah's association with the saffron party, the DGP said, "Such elements always make attempts to take cover at such places where they can continue their (anti-national) activities. It is a matter of happiness that he did not remain in the party for a long time. He had a brief association with the party."

"He is being questioned and we will share details with you once his interrogation is complete," he said when asked about Shah's intention behind joining the BJP.

The DGP said inimical elements try to outsmart the security arrangements.

"It is not just a matter of a political party. He (Shah) was also posing himself as a mediator. He is not the first mediatorperson to be arrested as we have arrested many such people in the past and such arrests will take place in the future as well.

"They will try to take shelter and we are duty-bound to identify and nab them," the top police officer said.

Singh, who announced a cash reward of Rs 2 lakh for the villagers who overpowered the two terrorists before handing them over to police, said Pakistan and its agencies, through terror groups, are making repeated attempts to revive terrorism in Jammu province but "the Jammu police has played an appreciable role in thwarting their attempts".

"I have come to appreciate our young friends who showed exemplary courage and took on the two heavily-armed terrorists with bare hands, giving a clear-cut message that we will not allow the revival of terrorism," the DGP said.

He said people living in the remote areas saw the brute face of terrorism when terrorists used to forcibly intrude into their homes, take shelter and even exploit their women.

"The villagers have done a great job which is praiseworthy," Singh said, adding that terrorists are killing innocent people "at the behest of Pakistan and its agencies".

Referring to the terror attack on police personnel Firdous Ahmad in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Sunday, the DGP said the policeman challenged his attackers and escaped with two bullet injuries.

"The selective and targeted killings are part of the Pakistani conspiracy to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Singh said the people of Kashmir are fully cooperating with police and other security forces, leading to successful anti-terrorist operations.

He said the people have always stood with the security forces. "There are some black sheep in every community but mostly, the people are with the establishment, with police and we are thankful to them," the DGP added.

Six sticky bombs...

were overpowered by people and handed over to police in a remote village in Reasi district on Sunday, a police official said.

He said Shah revealed the presence of a hideout in his Draj village of Rajouri during questioning and accordingly a raid was carried out and the hideout was busted.

The search of the hideout led to the recovery of six sticky bombs, a pistol, three pistol magazines, 19 pistol rounds, an Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL), three UBGL grenades, 75 rounds of AK assault rifle and one IED remote with antenna, the official said.

Shah and his Kashmiri accomplice Dar were arrested from Tuksan Dhok after they were tactfully disarmed by local residents with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police Dillbag Singh lauding their courage and announcing cash rewards for them. However, a political slugfest erupted between the local units of BJP and Congress after Shah was reported to be an active member of the saffron party who was recently selected as its IT and social media cell in charge of the minority morecha in Jammu province.

Some pictures emerged on social media purportedly showing Shah with BJP leaders. One of the pictures shows J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina purportedly presenting him with a bouquet and a letter issued by party leader Sheikh Bashir on May 9, assigning him the responsibility of new IT and social media incharge of Minority Morecha (Jammu province).



in the Union Territory. It has initiated the revision of electoral rolls following the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Election Commission will publish the finalised electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, the union territory's first voters' list after the boundaries of the assembly seats were redrawn.

In a letter to the chief electoral officer of Jammu and Kashmir, the poll panel has given a timeline to complete various activities before the final publication of the electoral rolls.

ACB nabs Patwari...

red-handed while accepting bribe of Rs 15000. The bribe money was recovered from the possession of accused in presence of independent witness," said official, adding that accused was arrested on the spot and legal formalities were carried on for further course of necessary action.

LG visits Baltal...

vulnerable spots to tackle any exigency.

The Deputy Commissioner also briefed the Lt Governor about the day wise status of the Yatris arriving at the Baltal Base Camp and Yatris who have returned from the Holy cave after paying obeisance.

While interacting with the yatris, stakeholders, and members of Langer management committees, the Lt Governor enquired about their experience of the ongoing pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji. He also extended his best wishes for their safe spiritual pilgrimage.

Later, the Lt Governor had food at the Langer established at the base camp.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/ Secretary to Government Revenue Department; Shiyambir, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Army accompanied the Lt Governor.

J&K BJP says...

against Pakistan and terrorists.

"He had received threats to his life many times and Shah's frequent visit to party headquarters was a conspiracy to target our leader, the BJP leader told reporters.

Congress activists on Monday staged a demonstration here against the BJP, accusing it of sheltering terrorists .

Shah, the mastermind behind the recent series of explosions in Rajouri, along with his Kashmiri associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama were overpowered by villagers of remote Tukson Dhok in Reasi district early Sunday and later handed over to police. Two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

Some pictures emerged on social media purportedly showing Shah with BJP leaders. One of the pictures shows J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina purportedly presenting him with a bouquet and a letter issued by party leader Sheikh Bashir on May 9, assigning him the responsibility of new IT and social media in-charge of Minority Morecha (Jammu province).

Carrying the posters of the LeT terrorist sharing a stage with BJP leaders including Raina, Congress activists emerged from the party headquarters at Shahedli Chowk here and tried to take out a protest march.

However, the police stopped the protesters who later returned to the party headquarters after making failed attempts to break the police cordon.

That Shah was an active member of BJP's IT cell needs no proof but it is a matter of concern and a big security lapse, Congress working president and former minister Raman Bhalla told reporters.

Shah's pictures with Raina and even with the Home Minister speak volumes about his association with the BJP which facilitated his induction into the party and also to a top post in the IT and media cell, Bhalla said and questioned the "failure of the intelligence agencies in detecting the presence of a terrorist in the BJP".

It a serious security breach and failure of intelligence agencies, which needs high-level probe and action, he said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the BJP was using criminal elements to perpetuate its agenda of "communal division and hatred".

"First the Udaipur murderer & now an LeT militant caught in Rajouri both have active links to the BJP. The ruling party is using criminal humpen elements be it cow vigilantes or terrorists to perpetuate their agenda of communal division & hatred," Mehbooba charged in a tweet.

The former chief minister said had these accused had been associated with any opposition leader, multiple FIRs would have been filed.

The Aam Aadmi Party too targeted the BJP. "This is neither a coincidence nor an experiment. ...The BJP's relationship with terrorists should be probed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

"This is a very serious and national interest issue," AAP leader Sanjay Singh said.

Bhalla said the BJP cannot absolve itself of the responsibility.

Right from Jammu and Kashmir to Udaipur, the presence of such elements in BJP is a matter of great concern..., the Congress leader said.

The Congress had alleged that the accused in the killing of a tailor in Udaipur were BJP members but the BJP had denied the charge.

The Congress spokesperson said the party will not stay silent on the important issue concerning national security.

BJP spokesperson Abhinav Sharma, meanwhile, said the letter in circulation, allegedly issued by Sheikh Bashir, is under investigation.

Whether Bashir gave him (Shah) the charge unofficially was not cleared yet as the posting in IT and media cell is made at the highest level, he said.

He termed as a myth that Shah was an activist of the BJP and said he was making frequent visits to the party headquarters as a journalist and clicked pictures with senior leaders.

We request the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and his administration to strengthen the security of the BJP headquarters and the party leaders, especially Raina who is facing threat from anti-national elements since a terrorist has visited the office, he said.

Questioning the silence of NLA, Bhalla, however, said, "They should probe the high-security places he has visited using BJP leader's identity. It is a matter of probe. The BJP should apologise over this."

"The terrorists are penetrating the cadres of the BJP and party, which calls themselves nationalists, should tell people what are these terrorists doing in the BJP," he said.

But Sharma termed it a conspiracy to target BJP leaders.

"His (terrorist's) intention was to undertake recee of BJP office and share the movement of the BJP leaders with Pakistan-based terrorists," he said.

"A conspiracy was hatched and his frequency of visiting BJP office increased. Raina is under threat. His visits to the office are a part of this conspiracy", he said.

India eliminated all...

industrial revolution. "But now, India is guiding the world about the fourth industrial revolution - Industry 4.0. Gujarat has taken a lead in this initiative too, as the state had already taken initiatives like data centre, GSWAN, e-Gram and ATVT Jan Seva Kendra" said Modi, referring to measures taken on the digital front by the state government when he was Gujarat CM.

The experience of launching those initiatives in Gujarat became the foundation for the Digital India Mission, he said, adding the nation-wide programme of the Centre has given relief to the poor from corruption and it is working for elimination of middlemen in all fields.

The PM said the combination of Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar and Mobile, called 'JAM', has benefited the poor as well as the middle class more than other sections of the society.

While explaining how Digital India initiatives are saving people's time, as they are no longer required to visit government offices, Modi shared an experience of his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, where he learnt that labourers and poor citizens were preferring to travel by premium semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train despite it being costlier than regular trains.

"The (Varanasi) station master said the train serves two purposes. It not only provides more space to keep the goods, it also saves 6 to 8 hours of their travel time, which these labourers can use to earn more money. This extra money would easily cover the high ticket fare (of Vande Bharat Express). This is the true example of (the proverb) time is money" said the PM.

Bhadarwah man booked...

in her support. "On June 9, following a bandh call, law and order problems erupted in the Bhadarwah area as the people, on the instigation of some trouble creators, of Bhadarwah took out processions," police said in a statement.

"... Gafoor surfaced (was found) to be a mastermind who instigated the processionists and also delivered hate speech and derogatory remarks against a particular community from Jamia Masjid, Bhadarwah. Being a serious threat to public order, the accused person has been booked under the PSA and lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail, Jammu," it said.

Two cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code are already registered against Gafoor at Bhadarwah police station, the police said.

Hotels, restaurants barred...

approach the government obviously because we will tell them just don't single us out. Please ensure that other people also don't do it. Don't single us out," he added.

The guidelines further said "no restriction on entry or provision of services based on collection of service charge shall be imposed on consumers".

The service charge cannot be collected by adding it along with the food bill and levying GST on the total amount.

If any consumer finds that a hotel or restaurant is levying service charge in violation of the guidelines, s/he can request the concerned establishment to remove it from the bill amount.

The consumers can also lodge a complaint on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH), which works as an alternate dispute redressal mechanism at the pre-litigation level, by calling 1915 or through the NCH mobile app.

They can also file complaints with the Consumer Commission. The complaint can be filed electronically through the e-Daakhil portal for its speedy and effective redressal.

Moreover, the consumer can submit a complaint to the District Collector of the concerned district for investigation and subsequent proceedings by the CCPA. The complaint can also be sent to the CCPA by e-mail.

The CCPA said it has observed, through grievances registered on NCH, that hotels and restaurants are levying service charge in the bill by default without informing consumers that paying such a charge is voluntary.

"Further, service charge is being levied in addition to the total price of the food items mentioned in the menu and applicable taxes, often in the guise of some other fee or charge," it added.

The guidelines state that a component of service is inherent in price of food and beverages offered by a restaurant or hotel.

"Pricing of the product covers both the goods and services component. There is no restriction on hotels or restaurants to set the prices at which they want to offer food or beverages to consumers.

"Thus placing an order involves consent to pay the prices of food items displayed in the menu along with applicable taxes. Charging anything other than the said amount would amount to unfair trade practices under the (Consumer Protection) Act," the guidelines said.

The CCPA, in its guidelines, said a tip or gratuity is towards hospitality received beyond basic minimum service contracted between the consumer and the hotel management, and constitutes a separate transaction between the consumer and staff of the hotel/restaurant at the consumer's discretion.

Only after completing the meal, a consumer is in a position to assess the quality as well as service and decide whether or not to pay a tip and if so, how much.

The decision to pay a tip by a consumer does not arise merely by entering the restaurant or placing an order:

"Therefore, service charge cannot be added in the bill involuntarily, without allowing consumers the choice or discretion to decide whether they want to pay such charge or not," the guidelines said.

Further, any restriction of entry based on collection of service charge amounts to unfair trade practice, it added.

The government had earlier in 2017 come out with guidelines on service charge, where it had said the levy has to be voluntary and not mandatory.

According to an official statement, various cases relating to levying of service charge have also been decided by consumer commissions in favour of consumers, holding the same as an unfair trade practice and in violation of consumer rights.

The CCPA has been established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements. It has been set up to promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

Drone spotted along...

officials said. On Monday morning, a massive search operation was launched in the entire border belt from Chilliyari to Manguehak area to find out if the drone had dropped any object on the Indian side, they said.

Drones were also used in the search operation the area, they said, adding nothing has been found.

Security personnel have been asked to remain alert in view of threat of drones, they said.

Earthquake of magnitude...

longitude of 75.55 degrees east at a depth of 5 km.

There have been no reports of any loss of life or damage to any property so far due to the tremor, the officials said.

13 killed, 2...

officials said. Dead Jhablu Devi's brother-in-law Tej Prakash alleged callous attitude on the part of the authorities in rescuing the victims.

"It took almost three hours to take Jhablu Devi from the accident site to the hospital. Had the administration acted swiftly, some lives could have been saved," he said.

Twelve of the 13 dead have been identified as Tanu, Prem Chand, Fateh Chand, Anita Devi, Sushel Kumar, Khim Dasi, Roshni Devi, Parvati Devi, Jhablu Devi, Amit Kumar Rajak, Aakash and Rakhi Maya.

The injured were admitted to the Kullu regional hospital for treatment.

The president and the prime minister have condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

President Ram Nath Kovind said he was distressed to learn about the death of students and other people in the accident.

Condoling the loss of lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of those who died. The injured will be given Rs 50,000 each, the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur also expressed grief over the tragic bus accident.

Nine AEEs assigned temporary charge of XEns in JSD, 12 adjusted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Monday assigned temporary charge of the post of I/C Executive Engineers (XEns) (Civil) to the nine I/C Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Jai Shakti Department.

"Sanction is accorded to the assigning of temporary charge of the post of I/C Executive Engineers (Degree Holders) to the nine I/C Assistant Executive Engineers Jai Shakti Department in their own pay and grade," reads an order issued by Ashok Kumar Parmar, Principal Secretary, Jai Shakti Department.

As per order, The I/C Assistant Executive Engineers who have assigned temporary charge of I/C Executive Engineers include Muneer Hussain, Javid Iqbal Shah, Mohmad Shafi Bhat, Rajesh Khajuria, Gopal Krishan Gupta, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, Manzoor Ali, Rajeev Gupta and Subash Chander.

Consequently, nine I/C AEEs and three I/C XEns adjusted. Muneer Hussain, I/C AEE, Irrigation Division Nowshera has been posted as I/C XEn, PHE Division Poonch; Javid Iqbal Shah, I/C AEE, PHE Rural Division Jammu as I/C XEn, PHE Division Chadoora; Mohmad Shafi Bhat, I/C AEE, PHE Division Doda as I/C XEn, SMC, Srinagar; Rajesh Khajuria, I/C AEE, Flood Control Division, Kathua has been posted I/C XEn and his services placed at the disposal of JKPD for his further posting.

Gopal Krishan Gupta, I/C AEE attached with office of CE PHE Jammu (on health grounds) has been posted as I/C XEn; Tariq Ahmad Zargar, I/C AEE, JKPD as I/C XEn, Irrigation Division, Tral; Manzoor Ali, I/C AEE, UEED as I/C XEn, ERA, Srinagar; Rajeev Gupta, I/C AEE, DIQC Jammu as I/C XEn and his service placed the disposal of JKPD for his further posting in the Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Ltd.

Subash Chander, I/C AEE, Irrigation Division Bhadarwah has been posted as I/C XEn, Irrigation Division, Bhadarwah; Rajesh Sethi, I/C XEn Engineer, PHE Division Poonch as I/C XEn (Technical Officer to Chief Engineer, UEED Jammu); Fayaz Ahmad Mehta I/C XEn, under orders of transfer to JKPD, as I/C XEn S&D, Division-I UEED Srinagar; and Najeeb-ul-Aziz Trambo, I/C XEn, PHE Division Chadoora as I/C XEn, Irrigation Division Shopian.

‘Grant ST status to Pahari Tribe’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Pahari Tribe ST Forum submitted memorandum to Prime Minister of India through Deputy Commissioner, Poonch regarding granting of due ST status to the Pahari Tribe as earliest.

Deputy Commissioner, Poonch Inderjeet ji received the memorandum and assured the delegation that the document in original shall be submitted to the desired office without any further delay.

Pertinent to mention that recently Jammu and Kashmir Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission has submitted its interim and supplementary reports to the Government on reservations to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Paharis community.

A final call is now expected to be taken shortly by the Jammu and Kashmir Government followed by the Union Home Ministry after which the issue of reservations will go to the Parliament.

This is well assumed that the Paharis are likely to get the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status which will make them eligible for political reservations too as the Delimitation Commission has reserved 10 per cent seats in the Legislative Assembly of 90 constituencies for STs.

Final report is yet to be given by the Commission which was set up in March 2020 with two-year term to finalize recommendations. However, it has submitted an interim and supplementary report to Jammu and Kashmir Government.

The Commission is headed by Justice (Retired) GD Sharma and comprised Rup Lal Bharti and Munir Khan as Members.

Those prominent Executive Members of Pahari Tribe ST Forum who were the part of delegation includes Naresh Pal Verma Nabil Sarpanch Mangnar, Dr Rahul Khajuria, Thakur Surya Partap, Nischal Sharma, Dr Nitin Sharma, Sayed Nusrat Shah Kazmi, Advocate Bhann Partap, Advocate Iftikhar Bazmi, Advocate Sanjeev Kumar Sharma.