

5 bodies found in Pawan Hans crash

Hans crash
MUMBAI, Jan 13: A Pawan Hans helicopter with seven people on-board, including five ONGC officers and two pilots, crashed off the Mumbai coast minutes after it took off for the State-owned company's oil installation in the Arabian sea.

So far, five bodies have been recovered, the Coast Guard and the Navy said in their statements. Search operation is on for other missing persons.

Bar Council cautions parties, leaders

NEW DELHI, Jan 13: The Bar Council of India (BCI) today cautioned the political parties and leaders from taking an "undue advantage" of the situation, following a virtual revolt of four senior Supreme Court Judges against the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

It said the four seniormost Judges going public with their differences with the CJI had given an opportunity to the political parties and leaders to interfere in the affairs of the judiciary.

2 labourers die of suffocation

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Jan 13: Two labourers were found dead under mysterious circumstances at Dalipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district this morning.

Four persons, who were working as labourers, were found in unconscious state by the locals of the area inside a rented room at Dalipora village. All the persons were immediately shifted to nearby hospital where doctors declared two of them dead.

The deceased were identified as Nasir Ahmad Kalas son of Shah Ali Kalas and Mohd Ashraf Kalas son of Abdul Haleem of Abhama. The condition of the other two - Mohammad Amin and Riyaz Ahmad - is said to be stable.

After conducting all legal medico formalities, the bodies

3 Pak posts targeting troops decimated

Another Army jawan martyred, 2 injured in ceasefire violations

Panic grips civilians near LoC villages

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Jan 13: An Army jawan was martyred while two others including a civilian were injured as Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing on the Line of Control (LoC) in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district prompting retaliation by the Indian troops in which three Pakistani posts, which had been targeting forward posts of the Army, were decimated. There were reports that Pakistan suffered two to three casualties either fatal or non-fatal in retaliatory firing brought down by the Indian troops after the killing of a jawan.

Only yesterday, Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat had stated that Indian Army will destroy all Pakistani posts on the LoC, which aid and abet infiltration of



A civilian injured in mortar shell explosion at Shahpur, Poonch on Saturday. (Inset) Martyr Yogesh Bhadane.

an Army jawan was martyred. The Indian side retaliated effectively.

The martyr soldier has been identified as Lance Naik Yogesh Muralidhar Bhadane, 28, hailing from village Khalane in Dhule district of Maharashtra. Initially, Bhadane was seriously injured in the firing and was evacuated from the spot and shifted to hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

"Lance Naik Yogesh Muralidhar Bhadane was a brave and sincere soldier. The nation will always remain indebted to him for the supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," a Defence spokesman said. He is survived by his wife Punam Yogesh.

Soon after the martyrdom of Army jawan, the Indian Army retaliated effectively

and destroyed three Pakistani posts, which were targeting forward positions of the troops on this side. Pakistan was also reported to have suffered two to three casualties, either fatal or non-fatal in retaliatory firing by the Indian side.

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During past 20 days, seven Army and BSF jawans have attained martyrdom in Pakistan firing on the LoC and International Border. Four soldiers including a Major were martyred in Keri sector of Rajouri district on December 23 while another Army personnel was killed along the LoC in Rajouri district on December 31 last year.

Sepoy Jagsir Singh, 32, was killed when he was shot by Pakistani troops from across the border along the LoC in Rajouri district on the last day of 2017, the year which recorded the highest number of ceasefire violations in the past decade resulting in the death of 35 people, including 19 Army personnel and four BSF men.

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Hizb comdr, associate give slip

Major tragedy averted; IED detected, defused

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Jan 13: Security forces averted a major tragedy today when they detected and defused a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by militants in Srinagar on Srinagar-Baramulla road this morning while a Hizbul

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Members of the Bomb Disposal Squad trying to defuse an IED in Srinagar on Saturday. (UNI)

Mujahideen militant commander and his Pakistani associate gave slip to security forces in Srinagar.

The Commanding Officer of 44th Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Rakesh Kumar, told reporters that early in the morning they got information that an IED has been planted on the highway in Shalteng area. "We informed the local police and 2-RR as the

Army has the responsibility of ROP in this area. Army, CRPF and Police cordoned off the area and conducted searches. We used our dog squad to scan the area and finally at around 9:30 a.m we managed to locate the IED. We later called

Engineering wing of Army and they defused the IED", he said. Traffic on Srinagar to North Kashmir was suspended and entire area was sealed off and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) summoned to defuse the IED. The IED was later defused by

the Bomb Disposal Squad and traffic on the highway was restored but it led to massive traffic jams. However, part of traffic was diverted through Zainakote.

And two persons were injured after Army opened gunshots in HMT area of Srinagar outskirts today.

Army had inputs about movement of militants in the area and fired when a vehicle did not stop despite being asked to do so. Two persons were injured and they have been shifted to hospital. The firing caused panic in the area.

A militant commander of Hizbul Mujahideen and his Pakistani associate gave slip to security forces in Lal Bazar area of Srinagar this evening. Sources said that the security forces had information about the presence of two militants in the area but they gave slip

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SC upholds HC's verdict on PRIST degrees

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 13: The Supreme Court has dismissed the plea of Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science and Technology (PRIST) University Tamil Nadu, challenging the verdict of Jammu and Kashmir High Court declaring the degrees of the university as invalid for Government Jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The university (PRIST) approached Apex Court by way of Special Leave Petition, challenging the verdict of Jammu and Kashmir High Court in which university's degrees were

held as invalid for obtaining Government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

"No ground for interference is made out in exercise of our jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution of India. The special leave petition is accordingly dismissed. Pending application, if any, stands disposed of", Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar said after hearing a battery of lawyers on the issue.

In 2012 hundreds of candidates had approached the High Court with a prayer that State Government and Services Selection Board be

directed to declare the degrees obtained by the candidates from the PRIST university as valid and genuine. However, the State High Court dismissed all the petitions of the aggrieved candidates.

The Government had maintained that for awarding M Ed and B Ed degrees, the PRIST University was to get permission from the National Council of Technical Education and SRE.

Government's stand in opposition to these petitions was that in 2009, a committee, constituted by the Government of India to assess the educational standards, had recommended

Government to derecognize the varsity.

The SSB had already rejected certificates by the PRIST University, maintaining that the degrees were not genuine and acceptable. Defending the SSB, State counsel had argued that the advertisement notice issued by the recruiting agency had mentioned that the degrees and diploma certificates obtained through distance mode of study centers, except from IGNOU, shall not be entertained unless the degrees or diplomas are recognized by the University of Kashmir, University of Jammu or the State Board of Technical Education.



A Kashmiri wood carver works on a piece of wood in Srinagar. —Excelsior/Shakeel

No calendar drawn for speedy trial of corruption cases

Govt not interested in empowering SVO, augmentation proposal gathering dust

Amendments proposed in SVC Act fail to get attention

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Jan 13: Notwithstanding the tall claims of the PDP-BJP Government about initiating various steps to eradicate the deep-rooted menace of corruption, a proposal for augmentation of the State Vigilance Organization-the premier investigating agency of Jammu and Kashmir, has been gathering dust in the General Administration Department during the past three years.

Even the amendments proposed in the Jammu and Kashmir State Vigilance Commission Act, 2011 have failed to receive the due attention of the Government.

A detailed proposal along with the financial implications regarding augmentation of State Vigilance Organization (SVO) was sent to the Government by the Director of Vigilance Organization vide communication No.Estt-01/15-3163-64 dated March 6, 2015, which was subsequently endorsed to the Chief Secretary by the State Vigilance Commission vide DO No.SVC/Gen/26/2015 dated March 13, 2015.

Taking the matter further, the Commission vide communication No.SVC/Gen/26/2015 dated March 31, 2015 addressed to the General Administration Department, recommended to consider the need for creation of necessary infrastructure at various levels which would be

required to be put in place immediately after creation of the additional staff in accordance with the augmentation proposal.

It was mentioned in the communication by the Vigilance Commission that if carried to its logical conclusion, the proposal would go a long way in ensuring time bound and quality investigation by the Vigilance Organization.

"The Vigilance Organization is finding it extremely difficult to conduct timely and quality investigations owing to the resource constraints, both in respect of the manpower and the infrastructure", read the communication of the State Vigilance Commission dated March 31,

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Kashmir under grip of cold wave, temps dip

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 13: Kashmir valley is in the grip of cold wave conditions due to dry weather and clear skies during the night which led to partial freezing of the water bodies and taps.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, down from minus 3.2 degrees Celsius the city had experienced a night before. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 12.7 degree Celsius.

The night temperature in Qazigund, in South Kashmir, settled at a low of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius down from yesterday's minus 3.2 degrees

Celsius. Qazigund recorded a maximum of 12.6 degree Celsius.

In Kokernag town, the mercury decreased marginally to minus 2.7 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded a maximum of 11.1 degree Celsius.

Kupwara in North Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius. Kupwara recorded a maximum of 12.6 degree Celsius.

The night temperature in Pahalgam dipped nearly three degrees from the previous night to settle at minus 6.1 degrees Celsius last night.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius. The resort was the only place in the Valley

where the temperature increased last night.

Leh had experienced an improvement in temperature the previous night when the mercury rose nearly six degrees to settle at a low of minus 7.7 degrees Celsius. However, the cold wave tightened its grip again and the minimum temperature dropped over seven degrees last night. Leh was the coldest place recorded in the State. Leh recorded a maximum of 9.2 degree Celsius.

The fringes of many water bodies, including the famous Dal lake, froze due to extreme

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WEATHER

JAMMU :
Mainly dry.
TEMPERATURE:
Max: 19.9 Degree C
Min: 5.8 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY:
RH-I (Morning): 80.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 59.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday: 05.47 p.m.
Sunrise on Monday: 07.34 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Mainly dry.
TEMPERATURE:
Max: 12.7 Degree C
Min: -4.6 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY:
RH-I (Morning): 84.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 62.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE:
Max: 9.2 Degree C
Min: -15.0 Degree C

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