

Plot to revive militancy in Doda, total arrests: 7

Counter-militancy specialist, body-guard held for terror links

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, June 4: In a significant development, police today arrested its 'counter-militancy specialist' Sub Inspector and his Head Constable body-guard this morning after five Hizbul Mujahideen militants, who were recently arrested in connection with a grenade attack on Thathri police station, disclosed that SI Shiv Kumar alias Sonu and his body-guard were mastermind of the attack.

A highly decorated police officer with various medals including President's Police Medal for Gallantry, Director General of Police Medal for Meritorious and Distinguished Services and Army medals for killing nearly 68 militants in Doda-Kishtwar districts, Sonu along with his body-guard and Head Constable Mohammad Ayub were instrumental in reviving militancy in Doda district, which had been declared free of militancy along with five other districts of Jammu region.

Confirming the arrests of Sonu and Ayub, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Rajesh Kumar, told the Excelsior here that during the interrogation of five militants arrested by Doda

police on May 22 in connection with investigations on grenade attack on Thathri police station on April 28, the names of two police officials figured.

"The matter was investigated and both of them were arrested



File photo of SI Shiv Kumar alias Sonu.

today in FIR No. 33/2013 registered at Thathri police station under various provisions of anti-militancy laws," Mr Kumar said.

To a question as to whether the Sub Inspector, who was instrumental in various successful operations against the militants, has "double crossed", the Jammu Police chief said: "all these issues now formed part of investigations as both the officials have been formally arrested".

On whether they could be involved in more militancy related cases, he said, so far their involvement has surfaced in Thathri grenade attack. However, the involvement of two police officials would be probed in other militancy related cases too, he added.

Police sources said no recoveries were made from the possession of Sonu and Ayub at the time of their arrests but added that grenade thrown on Thathri police station on April 28 morning and arms and ammunition recovered from five arrested militants on May 23 had been supplied to them by the two police officials with a view to revive militancy in Doda district.

Doda along with Reasi, Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts had been declared free of militancy in Jammu region.

DIG Doda-Ramban range Ashkoor Wani said Sonu and his body-guard Mohammad Ayub were mastermind of Thathri police station grenade attack. One of the five arrested militants Alif Hussain, 19, son of Nazir Ahmed, a resident of village Joura in Gandoh had thrown the grenade at the police station.

To a question on sources of (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Police busts HM module, hunt for two

Militants lob grenade in Anantnag, 7 injured

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, June 4: As police claimed to have busted a Hizbul Mujahideen militant module that threw grenade on Police Station Anantnag two days ago, militants this morning targeted an Army vehicle

sion. The injured have been identified as Mohammad Abdullah Bhat of Khiram, Dr Mohammad Ibrahim of Sarnal Payeen, Mubarak Ahmad Sheikh of Dandipora, Imtiaz Ahmad of Monghal, Firdous Ahmad Deka of Deesu Daksum, Mohammad

senior police officers rushed to the spot to assess situation.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Vijay Kumar told Excelsior that one of the militants of Hizbul Mujahideen, Mohammad Asif of Kulgam is involved in both the grenade attacks.

Kumar said that the Hizbul Mujahideen is targeting the Anantnag town to show their presence after killing of its two commanders in Shopian last week. It may be mentioned here that Sajad Yousuf Mir son of Mohammad Yousuf resident of Litter Pulwama, the Divisional Commander and Financial Chief of HM for South Kashmir and Mohammad Ashraf Rather alias Molvi, District Commander of HM for Shopian district, resident of Nowpora, Pulwama.

In the meantime, police today solved the case of grenade attack on Police Post Sher Bagh and arrested 4 persons allegedly involved in the attack.

Police said that during the investigation of the grenade attack on police post around one dozen persons were detained for questioning.

Police also detained a suspect Irshad Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar resident of Sheerpora Anantnag. (Contd on page 6 Col 4)



Police Bomb Disposal Squad collecting the pieces of grenade at main market Anantnag on Tuesday.

in Anantnag town injuring at least 7 persons including a police man.

Police said that militants lobbed a grenade on an Army vehicle at Mehandi Kadal in Anantnag and it exploded near it damaging its tyres and fuel tank. Seven people including a police man was injured in the explo-

—Excelsior/Sajad Sameer

Ashraf Wani of Daksum and Imtiaz Ahmad Malik of Khiram Lassiopora.

The injured were being treated at Anantnag district hospital where condition of all the injured is said to be out of danger.

The explosion triggered panic in the area with people and

Authorities to open 18 lodgment centres for Amarnath yatris

***QRTs to be deployed in City**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 4: Authorities today decided to open 18 lodgment centres for Shri Amarnath ji pilgrims within the City limits, which would have a capacity of accommodation 8000 plus pilgrims at any given time. They have also decided to deploy Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), para-military forces and local police at all the lodgment centres for protection of the pilgrims.

Official sources told the Excelsior that out of 18 lodgment centres, 14 fall in City North and four in City South.

"Clubbed together, 18 lodgment centres would have the capacity to accommodate 8000 pilgrims on any time. The maximum number of 1600 plus yatris would be accommodated at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas," they said.

All these lodgment centres would be declared as "pilgrim centres" much before start of the yatra and would remain at the

disposal of administration and the yatris for 55 days long annual pilgrimage starting June 28. The yatra would culminate on August 21 on the occasion of Sharavan Purnima..

Sources said all 18 lodgment centres have been declared as security zones. Deployment of security i.e. the QRTs, para-military forces and Jammu and Kashmir Police at all 18 centres would start at least a week in advance, they added.

Incharge SSP Jammu Rajeshwar Singh confirmed that all security arrangements at the lodgment centres and other places in Jammu for Amarnath ji pilgrims have been finalised.

"Security arrangements have been discussed and approved. They will be in place a week ahead of the yatra. All lodgment centres would be sanitized before letting the first batch of pilgrims in. We would be opening 24X7 two reception centres at Kunjwani and Jammu Railway Station to guide the pilgrims to lodgment centres," Mr Singh said.

Sources said the authorities have decided not to allow any pilgrims to leave Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Shri Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas without registration including Compulsory Health Certificate (CHC), which have been made mandatory by Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB). Even Sadhus would have to register themselves and procure the CHC before proceeding to the pilgrimage, they added.

The Sadhus would be accommodated at Geeta Bhawan.

"There would be no compromise with registration and CHC. No pilgrim would be allowed to leave Bhagwati Nagar base camp or any other lodgment centres for base camps of Baltal and Nunwan (Pahalgam) without 'Yatra Permit' including the CHC," sources said, adding this condition would be explained to the pilgrims at Kunjwani and Jammu Railway Station reception centres being set up by the administration.

Sources said authorities would not allow more than 15,000 pilgrims to leave Jammu (Contd on page 6 Col 4)

Quantification of IWT losses in backdrop of Halcrow's backtrack Govt says no to in-house study, to invite fresh bids from Intl firms

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, June 4: In the backdrop of backtracking by the M/s Halcrow Consulting India Ltd, the Government has decided to go in for inviting fresh bids from the international firms instead of in-house study to quantify the losses suffered due to the discriminatory provisions of Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

M/s Halcrow Consulting India Ltd, a part of M/s Halcrow Group of UK, was engaged by the State Cabinet on April 2, 2013 for assessment of losses suffered by the State on account of Indus Water Treaty but the international consultancy company refused to carry out the assignment on the ground that Government took over two years to formally convey the decision.

Though there were suggestions from different quarters for 'in-house' study for early preparation of credible database, which is imperative to vociferously project the case before various fora to get compensation for the losses suffered due to the IWT, but the State

Government has opined that study being very critical should be handled by any company having expertise in the field, official sources told EXCelsior.

"Another ground behind rejecting the option of in-house study is that there may be reservations from certain quarters at the Union Government level in accepting the figures about the losses and in such a situation State Government may be asked to go in for quantification of losses from international firms", sources said, adding "in order to avoid any such situation the Government has decided to get the job done through expert although the same will be a lengthy process".

When attention was drawn towards the time consumed in completion of such an exercise earlier, sources said, "Government has decided to complete the fresh bidding process in a shortest possible time as it would not be in the interest of the State to delay the process anymore", adding "nodoubt the completion of earlier bidding process whereby M/s Halcrow was engaged took more than two years but that doesn't mean that the exercise cannot be completed in months. Moreover, the present Government is very serious about having credible database about the losses as early as possible for taking up the issue at various forums vociferously".

It is pertinent to mention here that Working Group on Economic Development of J&K headed by Dr Rangarajan had recommended special

grant for development of various power projects in the State and enhancement of free component of power to compensate the State for Indus Water Treaty losses.

Following the recommendations of Working Group, the Monitoring Committee headed by Economic Advisor to State Government, which was constituted to oversee the implementation of various recommendations of the Working Group, suggested that Power Development Department may commission a qualified organization to quantify losses incurred like recurring losses because of IWT so that the issue of compensation is taken to its logical conclusion.

The Indus Water Treaty, which was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, dictates in perpetuity the sharing and usage of the water of the Indus River and its tributaries. As per the Treaty, India is under an obligation to ensure unrestricted flow of water of the Western Rivers which comprise of Indus, the Jehlum and Chenab rivers and tributaries to the Pakistan.

Unfortunately, for Jammu and Kashmir these rivers comprise the only three significant sources of water crossing the State which it could develop. Due to Indus Water Treaty, the State is only making limited withdrawals from the rivers for domestic use, non-consumptive use, specified agricultural use and restricted generation of hydro-electric power. Due to these limitations, the State has only been able to develop limited storage for hydropower, irrigation, flood control and domestic and other purposes.



Veteran actor and the cast of Gulaab Gang Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla during announcement of "Believe", a campaign that celebrates the triumphs of women struggles, in Mumbai on Tuesday night.(UNI)

Politics may stall NCTC

NEW DELHI, June 4:

Politics is likely to come in the way of setting up of the much-touted NCTC as the States ruled by Opposition parties may red flag the anti-terror hub proposal despite Government diluting most of its controversial provisions.

The Home Ministry does not have high hopes of getting support of all States to the modified version of the National Counter Terrorism Centre to be discussed at tomorrow's conference of Chief Ministers on internal security here.

"The opposition to NCTC is completely political. Following objections, we have proposed to completely detach the NCTC from

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Delhi-Keylong-Leh bus resumes

KEYLONG, June 4:

The bus service on Delhi-Keylong-Leh route was once again resumed as two of the Himachal Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses left for Leh and Delhi from Keylong today, corporation official said.

Regional Manager of HRTC Keylong Depot, Mangal Manyapa said that bus services had been suspended on September 15 last year which now have been retraced from Monday onwards on the entire route.

This service would start from New Delhi at 1545 hrs and arrive at Manali at 1000hrs.

It would arrive at Keylong at 1530hrs and departure for Leh on next day on 0500hrs and arrive at Leh on 1900 hrs on same day. It

(Contd on page 6 Col 4)

CIC order: Cong rejects, BJP says not wrong

NEW DELHI, June 4:

The CIC order on bringing parties under RTI ambit today divided the political class, with Congress and few others rejecting it while main Opposition BJP saw nothing wrong in such a move.

A day after the CIC gave its ruling, Congress termed it as an "adventurist" approach that would harm democratic institutions.

Its view was echoed by CPI(M) and BJP's ally JD(U), which also rejected the order passed by the quasi-judicial body.

"It is not acceptable. We totally disagree with it. Such adventurist approach will create lot of harm and damage to democratic institutions," AICC General Secretary Janardan Dwivedi told reporters (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

CBI quizzes Bansal for 6 hours

NEW DELHI, June 4:

CBI today quizzed former Railway Minister P K Bansal for over six hours in connection with bribery scandal involving his nephew Vijay Singla and Railway Board member Mahesh Kumar.

The sources said Bansal was called at 11am to CBI guest house, located five kilometers from the agency's headquarters, to avoid the media which gathered outside its headquarters.

They said he was grilled till 6.45 in the evening with a break of about one and a half hours in between for lunch.

The sources said CBI wants to examine the role of Bansal, if any, in the alleged bribery scandal.

Bansal was asked a number of questions about his meetings with Kumar, his promotion as Board member and the additional (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

16 KAS Probationers posted for training

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 4: The State Government today ordered posting of 16 more Junior Scale KAS Probationers of 2011 and 2012 batch as Under Secretaries in various departments for undergoing 5th and last phase of seven weeks 'on the job practical training'.

Sarib Sahran of 2011 batch has been posted in J&K Public Service Commission while Shafiq Ahmed Wani and Iqbal Hussain Mir of 2012 batch are posted in Finance Department and Revenue Department, respectively.

Bashir Ahmed Bhat, Irfan Ali Khan and Arshad Hussain Ganai have been posted in RDD, Home and Planning & Development Department, respectively. Nazir Ahmed Bhat goes to Health and Medical Education while Jaliel Ahmed Mir and Sheikh Enayatullah have been posted in Forest and Schools Education (Contd on page 6 Col 4)

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INSIDE	WEATHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insulating defence procurements Railway tunneling fallout ...Page 8 Karan Singh visits Kheer Bhawani ...Page 3 NC to rebound with full night in 2014: Rana ...Page 3 More Industrial Estates in Jammu soon: Kichloo ...Page 5 Remove encroachments along water bodies: Environ Penal ...Page 7 Over 2000 cricketers turn up for J&K Corporate PL trials ...Page 14 	<p>JAMMU Partially cloudy sky.</p> <p>TEMPERATURE Max: 39.5 Degree C Min: 25.3 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 48.0 per cent Lowest: 29.0 per cent Sunset on Wednesday: 07.36 p.m. Sunrise on Thursday: 05.25 a.m.</p> <p>KASHMIR Partially cloudy sky.</p> <p>TEMPERATURE Max: 29.8 Degree C Min: 17.4 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 72.0 per cent Lowest: 44.0 per cent</p>

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