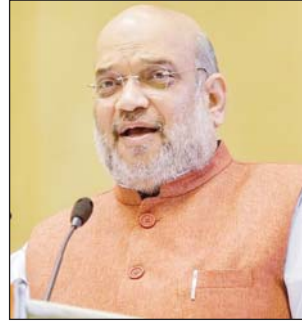


'Terror contained in Kashmir after Modi came to power' Govt has taken Poonch incident very seriously, agencies will work it out 100 pc: Shah

Sanjeev Pargal
 JAMMU, May 2: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said today that Narendra Modi Government has taken Poonch incident (martyrdom of five Army soldiers) very seriously and declared that investigating agencies will solve the case 100 percent.

Poonch incident very seriously. "Investigating agencies will solve it 100 percent," he added. When asked by the reporter as to who was behind



the incident and whether Pakistan had a hand in it, the Union Home Minister said terrorism has been contained in Kashmir after Narendra Modi Government came to power at the Centre.

"Entire country knows, terrorism has been declining in Kashmir," Shah said.

The Union Home Ministry had deputed the teams of National Investigation Agency (NIA), National Security Guards (NSG), Intelligence Bureau (IB) among others to Bhatta Durrian soon after the terror attack. The Central agencies are also assisting in the investigations. Police have so far arrested six Over Ground Workers (OGWs) who had sheltered the militants and provided them logistics.

Weapons and explosives used in the terror attack had been dropped through drone from Pakistan.

Shah said only Prime Minister Narendra Modi can make Karnataka developed, prosperous and safe, no one else.

Stating that it was the BJP Government led by Modi which banned Popular Front of India (PFI), Shah while addressing an election rally in Karnataka said, "if Congress party comes to power and if Siddaramaiah wins

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Process initiated to attach properties SIA Jammu raids at 3 places in Valley including female separatist's house

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Jammu today conducted raids at three places in the Kashmir valley including Pampore, Rajpora and Barzulla including house of a female separatist Hurriyat leader in connection with a hawala money case registered against former Minister Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh.

Sources said the SIA teams fanned out at three locations early this morning and carried out raids in connection with hawala funds transactions in Babu Singh case.

House of female separatist Hurriyat leader Yasmeen Raja daughter of late Ghulam Nabi Bhat was raided at Tulbagh in Pampore town of South Kashmir's Pulwama district, they said.

Two other persons whose houses were also raided by the SIA include Mohammad Shaffi Lone, son of Rasool Lone at New Colony, Near Masjid Sharief at Rajpora, Pulwama and Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah alias Imtiyaz Ahtowala, son of Sidiq Shah R/o Barzulla.

Searches were conducted after obtaining search warrant from the Court in connection with a case registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar last year which was subsequently transferred to SIA Jammu in which former Minister Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh was arrested by the investigating agency for an alleged terror-funding case.

*** Pic on page 4**

During the searches, electronic gadgets have been seized from the house of Yasmeen Raja in the presence of Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses.

It is pertinent to mention here that SIA has produced preliminary charge sheet in the case along with three supplementary charge sheets. Nine accused are already in judicial custody while three accused are absconding and operating from Pakistan.

The court has initiated proceedings to attach property of the absconding accused persons under Sections 82 and 83 CrPC.

Sources said properties of absconding accused are being identified for attachment and the action is expected to be taken shortly.

NIA conducts raids at 12 locations in militancy conspiracy case

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, May 2: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today conducted multiple raids across Jammu and Kashmir in a militancy conspiracy case from across the border.

The day-long searches were conducted at 12 locations in Jammu and Kashmir including eight in Pulwama, one each in Kulgam, Anantnag and Budgam districts of Kashmir and Poonch area of Jammu region.

The case (RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU) related to the hatching of a conspiracy, both physical and in cyberspace, and plans by militants to execute violent attacks in J&K with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms.

The NIA said that plans are part of a larger conspiracy by the militant groups to carry out attacks in association with local youths/Over Ground Workers in order to create communal disharmony in J&K. The NIA identified as Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

(HM), Al-Badr and Al-Qaeda as the militant outfits that are involved in the conspiracy.

The NIA said: "Searches were also carried out in the premises of cadres and hybrid Over Ground Workers linked with the affiliates and offshoots of these organisations, operating under pseudo names such as 'The Resistance Front (TRF)', 'United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (UL J&K)', 'Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH)', 'Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF)', 'Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others'."

"Initial investigations by the NIA indicated that these workers and cadres were involved in collection and distribution of sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, IEDs, cash, narcotics and small weapons. These weapons, bombs, narcotics etc were being pushed on to the Indian soil by PoJK-based handlers and commanders of proscribed terrorist organisations using drones in the Kashmir valley," the NIA said.

The NIA had conducted similar multiple searches in the said terror conspiracy case at 14 locations in Jammu and Kashmir on 24th June last year. The searches, conducted then in the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla, Pulwama, Anantnag Budgam and Kathua, had led to the seizure of incriminating material and digital devices. NIA had registered a suo motu case on 21st June 2022 about the terrorist conspiracy.

In Poonch district, NIA conducted raids in Jhulas and Khaneter areas and detained a woman. She is being questioned in Police Station Poonch.

The SIA, meanwhile, also went to District Jail Poonch where they questioned Rafiq Lala, a PSA detainee.

More than Rs 2 crore cash and narcotics were recovered from his house earlier.

The woman is reportedly being questioned by the NIA in connection with Bhatta Durrian (Mendhar) terror attack in Poonch district on April 20 in which five Army bravehearts sacrificed their lives.

Further details were awaited.

Central agencies assisting in investigations

This was the Union Home Minister's first reaction on Poonch incident in which five Army bravehearts sacrificed their lives and another was injured in an ambush laid by the militants at Bhatta Durrian in Mendhar tehsil on April 20.

In an interview to News 18 Network, Shah said Narendra Modi Government has taken

MHA issues order in consultations with Law Ministry Armed Forces personnel get protection from arrests in J&K, Ladakh

UTs empowered to issue such orders for police

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: In a major decision, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has provided protection from arrest to the personnel of the 'Armed Forces of the Union of India' and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The provision of this protection has been made after the abolition of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir which was

done away with by the Central Government on August 5, 2019 as it provided special status to erstwhile State. Now no jawan can be arrested without the consent of the Central Government in both the Union Territories," the official sources told the Excelsior.

Asserting that till three years back, the 'Ranbir Penal Code 1989' was in force in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said because of this, under Section 45 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 'CrPC', 1973, members of the Armed Forces were not protected from arrest.

Now, the Union Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah has approved the proposal after discussing it with the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department of Jammu

and Kashmir. The decision, as per the sources, has been taken in consultations with the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

Following approval by the Union Home Ministry, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Headquarters have also issued the same order.

Sources pointed out that before the abolition of Article-370 in Jammu and Kashmir, 'Ranbir Penal Code 1989' was applicable here. Because of this, many laws of the Central Government could not be implemented. However, in 2019, when Article-370 was abolished from Jammu and Kashmir, the way was paved for granting exemption from arrest to the personnel of the

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Mysterious blast at Narwal petrol pump

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: A mysterious explosion occurred at a petrol pump in the Narwal area

*** Pic on page 4**
Video on
www.excelsiornews.com

here today, officials said. No one was injured in the blast.

The officials said the explosion

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

2 Judicial Officers transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh today ordered transfers and postings of two Judicial Officers.

According to the order issued by Shahzad Azeem Registrar General, Y P Bourney, Registrar Vigilance, High Court has been transferred and posted as Director, J&K Judicial Academy.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Proceedings in PIL on stampede at Bhawan closed Take effective steps on report of high-level panel for pilgrims' safety: DB directs Govt, SMVDSB

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 2: A Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh comprising Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal has directed the Government as well as Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) to take effective steps in furtherance of the decision/recommendations of the committee, which was constituted to look into the unfortunate incident of stampede at Bhawan on the intervening night of December 31, 2021 and January 1, 2022, in order to ensure safety of the pilgrims and devotees.

However, the Division Bench expressed satisfaction over the measures including short term and medium/long term taken by

the Shrine Board with a view to streamline the yatra as such deemed it appropriate to close the proceedings in the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) titled Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed Versus Union Territory of J&K and Others.

The petitioner—Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed was seeking appropriate directions to the respondents to make public the Inquiry Report of three members Committee constituted vide Govt Order No.01-JK(GAD) dated 01.01.2022 to look into the unfortunate incident of stampede at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine which resulted into the death of 12 devotees and injuries to several persons. Besides, the petitioner was also seeking

appropriate directions against the respondents to fix accountability of the delinquent officers/officials in the matter so that such like incidents do not occur again.

The respondents submitted before the Division Bench that a meeting was convened with regard to the unfortunate incident under the chairmanship of Chairman of the Shrine Board—Lieutenant Governor and in pursuance to the directions of the Board, several safety measures were, accordingly, put in place for effective yatra management from Katra onwards up to the holy cave.

They further submitted that hallmark change in almost every sphere relating to the dignity, (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

6 JOs appointed as Spl Judges Anti-Corruption

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: The Government today appointed six Judicial Officers as Special Judges Anti-Corruption for trial of offences specified in Section 4 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

As per the order issued by

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

6 SEs, 28 X-Ens shifted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: The Government today ordered transfers and postings of six Incharge Superintending Engineers (Civil/Mech) and 28 I/C Executive Engineers in the Jal Shakti Department.

Amulya Rattan Bhardwaj, I/C Superintending Engineer (Civil) has been transferred from J&K Water Resources (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

'Revival of SAARC can genuinely make India Vishwaguru' PDP accuses BJP of plundering J&K resources like East India Company

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, May 2: Alleging that the residents of Jammu and Kashmir are faced with an existential threat, People's Democratic Party (PDP) today accused the ruling Bhartiya Janta Party of plundering resources of the Union Territory like the East India Company once did in the country.

"Special settlements are being constructed for outsiders as the local population is evicted from their homes and lands while an economic disempowerment is being executed by bringing in contractors aligned to BJP from outside like the East India Company once did and looting

State' resources from water to sand," said a resolution adopted in a joint meeting of the PDP's Political Affairs Committee (PAC), senior leaders, office bearers, members of District Development Boards (DDC) and youth leaders in Srinagar today.

In the meeting, which was presided over by the party president Mehbooba Mufti, PDP pointed out that the planes of Jammu province, including Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur and Reasi are right now getting swamped by the floodgates opened by scrapping of the State, its constitution and special status granted by the Constitution of India as a guarantee against what is happening

here over the past four years.

Further alleging that J&K continues to witness unbridled exercise of power by the security-bureaucracy combine, the party said in the resolution: "Our youth are being wasted in prisons on whims of Government agencies, their employment avenues are curtailed with an officially sponsored import of population from other States in the BJP's settler project and demographic change currently under execution."

Claiming that the special status under Articles 370 and 35A was a source of dignity and comfort not just for people of the State but had its positive (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Fresh WDs to hit Kashmir on May 4 Rain lashes J&K, 12.9 deg fall in Jammu's temp

Gopal Sharma

SRINAGAR/ JAMMU, May 2: Many areas of J&K continued to experience heavy rain since last night, bringing sharp fall in temperature while the Met office forecast widespread light to moderate rain and snowfall on higher

had fresh snowfall bringing down the temperatures. The incessant rains led to waterlogging in low lying areas of Srinagar and other places.

Director Meteorological Department Sonam Lotus said that a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm was expected at scattered places towards evening on May 3.

From May 4-6, he said, "weather was likely to be fair to partly cloudy. A brief spell of rain/thunderstorm may occur towards late afternoon/evening."

From May 7-8, he said, rain was likely at many places. The higher reaches of Jammu region also experienced fresh snowfall while day temperature in Jammu recorded a (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Pawar announces he is stepping down as NCP chief

MUMBAI, May 2:

Springing a surprise, Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar today said he is stepping down as chief of the NCP, the political outfit he founded and has (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

BJP lacks courage to face people: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 2: National Conference leader and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of avoiding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir for fear of facing voters.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

*** Pic on page 4**
Video on
www.excelsiornews.com

reaches across Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours and fresh Western Disturbances (WDs) will bring more rains later this week. Srinagar and South Kashmir areas were lashed by rains today while the hills including Zojila

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