

Infiltration bid foiled in Machil, 2 militants killed

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 3: Security forces today foiled an infiltration bid by neutralizing two militants in the Machil sector along Line of Control (LoC). Srinagar based Defence spokesman said that based on a specific intelligence input provided by SSP Kupwara of likely infil-

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tration from one of the militant launch pads across the Line of Control towards Machil sector, troops were put on high alert.

"A well-coordinated counter infiltration grid was put in place in this rugged and extremely difficult area. A number of additional ambushes including those of



Security personnel with recoveries at Machil sector on Wednesday.

Indian Army and SOG Kupwara were placed along the likely routes of infiltration. The alert troops in ambushes braved continuous bad weather marked by incessant rainfall, poor visibility and significant drop in temperature for two con-

secutive nights. Early morning May 3 at around 8.30 militants were sighted by the troops having infiltrated onto their own side of the Line of Control. Intense firefight ensued resulting in elimina-

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Ex-CMD WAPCOS, son arrested Govt approves Rs 687 cr for RDSS in Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, May 3: The Central Government has given its approval for the implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the Union Territory of Ladakh with a sanctioned cost of Rs 687.05 crore. Officials told the Excelsior that the Union Ministry of Power has conveyed its approval to RDSS for implementation in Ladakh.

In this regard, an agreement was signed between Chief Engineer, Distribution, Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD), Tsewang Paljor and Executive Director WAPCOS Limited AK Gablot in the presence of Administrative Secretary Power, Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar, the sources said.

The scheme includes the grid

connectivity of the Changthang region, downline infrastructure in the Zaskar region along with other loss reduction works in the Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh, they said.

The Union Ministry of Power also approved the appointment of WAPCOS, a Government of India undertaking as the project management agency (PMA) for the implementation of RDSS in Ladakh.

The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme aims to improve operational efficiencies and financial sustainability, by providing result-linked financial assistance to DISCOMs for strengthening of supply infrastructure based on meeting pre-qualifying criteria and achieving basic minimum benchmarks.

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Were travelling in a truck from Punjab 3 Pulwama suspects nabbed at Lakhapur, sent to JIC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 3: Police today nabbed three suspects from South Kashmir's Pulwama district soon after they crossed Lakhapur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir, in a truck from Punjab following reports that they could be part of Ashiq Nengroo module and plotting to cause terror acts in the region.

Police intercepted a truck on a specific information when it entered Lakhapur in Kathua district from Punjab and seized it.

All three suspects from Pulwama travelling in it were taken into custody.

They have been identified as Asif Mohammad, Basharat Mehmood and Masrat, all residents of Qasbayar Shadimarg in

Pulwama district.

Soon thereafter, they were shifted to the Joint Interrogation Centre (JIC) for sustained questioning to ascertain their motives on visit to Punjab and returning to the Valley in a truck.

Preliminary investigations revealed that they might have been associated with Ashiq Nengroo group of Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit.

However, details will be available only after questioning of the suspects is over.

Sources said three suspects were nabbed as police and security agencies have been maintaining very high alert in Jammu region in the wake of G20 event in Srinagar from May 22-24 which is first major international event in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of

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LG reviews Kashmir security scenario, G20 arrangements to be discussed today

Sanjeev Pargal

***Top officials reaching Srinagar for assessment**

JAMMU, May 3: Top Central Government officers dealing with G20 event are reaching Srinagar for high-level review of May 22-24 event on Tourism Working Group (TWG) while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today held high-level review of security situation in the Valley and will tomorrow review G20 security arrangements specifically.

Officials told the Excelsior that top Central Government officers engaged with G20 events being held across the country will reach Srinagar and review arrangements for TWG meeting of G20 nations which will be held at Srinagar from May 22-24 on May 5.

Top civil and police officials from Jammu and Kashmir will attend the meeting.

G20 meeting is first major international event scheduled to be held in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of special status of erstwhile State and its bifurcation into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

"The G20 officials will hold detailed review of three days event by inspecting venues where the functions will be held, the places they will visit, their travel from one place to another, boarding and lodging and security etc," the officials said.

A large number of international delegates besides Central offi-

cials are likely to attend the event, they said, adding only China may miss the event just like it did in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh. However, China hasn't found any support from any other member country.

While the Government has almost finalized all arrangements for G20 event, it is now trying to ensure fool-proof security arrangements for the international delegates.

"Security for G20 event may not be a big issue. The problem is that the militants are planning to carry out strikes at other places ahead of G20 event to create trouble just like they did by targeting

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Major JeM plot foiled, militant associate working in 5-star hotel arrested

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, May 3: In a major breakthrough, police in Kashmir foiled a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) plot of a major militant attack when they arrested a militant associate of the outfit who was working in a five-star hotel as a driver.

Police last week arrested Farooq Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Rashid Wani, resident of Wagoob Hygam, Baramulla district from a five star hotel in Kashmir where he was working as a driver.

A senior police official told Excelsior that during the interrogation it was found that he was in touch with his handlers across in Pakistan and had sent pictures and other details of some of the 5-star hotels of Kashmir where high pro-

file guests including Union Ministers and other top leaders and senior officials stay.

The plot has been foiled ahead of G20 group meeting in Srinagar that is being held from May 22 to May 24 and the officer said that it is a major success.

A grenade was recovered from his possession and he is being questioned and police is working on the leads provided by him.

He said that the security has been further tightened around the hotels in Srinagar and other places ahead of the G20 meet as there is serious input about possible militant strike in Kashmir.

It may be mentioned here that only yesterday, Additional Director General of Police Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, took a security review meeting in

Srinagar during which a special focus was laid on the emerging threat of Vehicle Based Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) and other modes of potential militant attacks including Fidayeen.

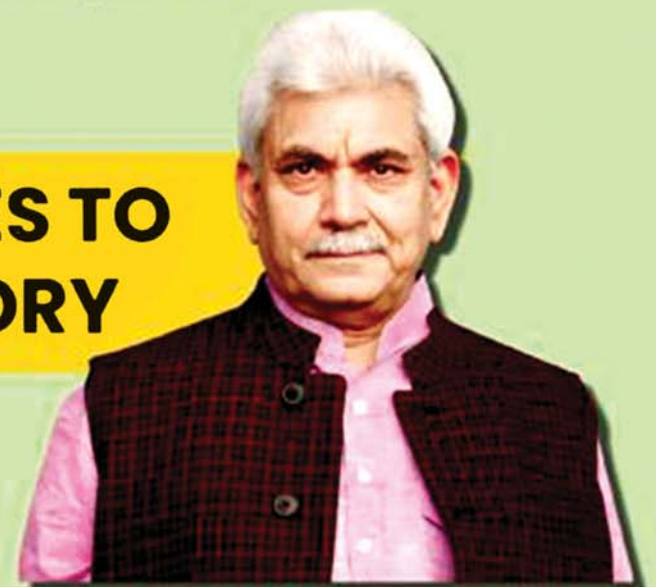
Sensing the gravity of the threat after audacious attack in Poonch last month on Army and the presence of a militant in 5-star hotel, elite Marine Commandos (MARCOS) and National Security Guards (NGS) are being placed for the security of G20 Group meeting in Srinagar.

The official said that the hotel management had no knowledge about the driver having militant links. He further said that Wani had developed links several months after working in the hotel.



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