

Militants detonate powerful IED with remote control

5 elite para commandos of Army martyred, Major injured during specific input operation in Rajouri

Ultras' presence detected after Satellite phone found functional

Well knit network of OGWs assisting in terror attacks

Massive searches on, no direct contact established so far

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, May 5: Five elite para commandos of Army's Special Forces were martyred and a Major was injured when militants triggered an IED blast with remote control at dense Kesari Hills forests in Kandi area of Rajouri district this morning while security personnel continued massive

***Watch video on www.excelsionews.com**

searches to track down the militants but a contact hasn't been established with them so far.

The killings of five Special Forces personnel, who were tasked for specific operation against the militants on a very credible input of their presence in Kesari Hills near village Panali opposite Mandir Gala Gali, came within fortnight of Bhatta Durrian ambush in

Mendhar tehsil of neighbouring Poonch district in which an equal number of bravehearts sacrificed their lives and another

the day the visit of Pakistan's Foreign Minister Billawal Bhutto was announced to India for attending SCO meeting of

meeting. "It wasn't a search operation. The Special Forces don't carry out searches. They go for a kill. It was very very spe-

commandos went for killing of two to three militants in Kesari forests after pin pointed information as a Satellite telephone was found working there.



Army personnel during search operation in Kandi forests of Rajouri on Friday.

one was injured. Bhatta Durrian terror attack was executed by the militants on

the Foreign Ministers at Goa while today's incident came when Bhutto attended the SCO

26 soldiers, 9 civilians killed in terror strikes in R-P in 2½ yrs

Twenty six Army soldiers and nine civilians have been killed in the militancy related incidents in Rajouri and Poonch during last about two and a half years which indicates that good number of militants could be present in the two border districts.

Here is the chronology of militancy related incidents in two districts since October 2021.

*May 5, 2023: Five Army para commandos martyred and Major injured in an IED blast triggered by the militants at Kandi, Rajouri.

*April 20, 2023: Five Army bravehearts sacrificed their lives (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

cific input about presence of the militants but unfortunately, they were trapped in the IED blast," officials told the Excelsior.

They said eight to 10 para

However, the militants had planted a powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) enroute.

The para commandos are (Contd on page 4 Col 3)



Ali Mohammad Najar, an artist making various wooden items in his Karkhana located on the outskirts of Srinagar. (UNI)

India-Pak face-off on terror at SCO meet

Art 370 is history, occupation of PoJK by Pak only issue: Jaishankar

BEANAULIM (Goa), May 5:

In an unsparing attack, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today accused his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari of being a "promoter, justifier and a spokesperson of a terror industry" after a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) witnessed a face-off between the two sides.

Jaishankar mounted the offensive against the visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister after Bhutto Zardari in his address at the SCO meeting in this beach resort contended that terrorism shouldn't be "weaponised for diplomatic point-scoring", in remarks seen as directed at India.

Hours later at a press conference, Jaishankar said Bhutto Zardari's statement on the weaponisation of terrorism unconsciously revealed a mindset.

"As a Foreign Minister of an SCO member state, Bhutto Zardari was treated accordingly. As a promoter, justifier and a spokesperson of a terrorism industry, which is the mainstay



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today accused his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari of being a "promoter, justifier and a spokesperson of a terror industry" after a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) witnessed a face-off between the two sides.

ity of India and Pakistan working towards combating the menace.

"Victims of terrorism defend themselves to counter acts of terrorism. They call it out, they delegitimise it. And that is what is happening. To come here and preach these hypocritical words as though we are on the same boat. I mean they are committing acts of terrorism," he said.

In his address at the meeting of the SCO Foreign Ministers, Jaishankar said the channel of finances for terrorist activities must be blocked without any distinction and that terrorism in all its forms including cross-border terrorism must be stopped.

Chairing the conclave, Jaishankar also said that taking the "eyes off terrorism" would be detrimental to the security interests of the grouping and that when the world was engaged in facing the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the menace of terrorism continued unabated, in another veiled reference to Pakistan.

"We must not allow anybody — individual or State — to hide behind non-State actors,"

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Will defeat terror menace, says LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 5: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his deepest condolences to the families of Army personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the ongoing operation against the terrorists in Rajouri.

"I convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the brave Army personnel martyred in a joint operation against terrorists.

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Army Comdr visits Kishtwar, Rajouri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 5: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi visited troops at remote operating bases (ROBs) in Rajouri and Kishtwar districts and reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of troops, officials said today.

This is the second visit of Lt Gen Dwivedi to the Rajouri sector to review the operational preparedness of troops after the April 20 terror attack in which five soldiers were killed in Bhatta Durrian in Poonch.

Crash victim encouraged wife to become cop

SIRCILLA (Telangana), May 5:

Pabballa Anil, the 29-year-old Army technician who died in a chopper crash, encouraged his wife to become a police personnel, and accordingly she appeared for the written test, a relative said today.

An Army helicopter crashed after a "hard landing" in a

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Pawar withdraws resignation

MUMBAI, May 5:

Sharad Pawar today said he has decided to rescind his decision to step down as Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president, owing to pressure from party leaders and workers.

"I can't disrespect your sentiments. Due to your love, I am accepting the demand that was made to me to withdraw my

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

J&K reports 19 COVID cases

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 5: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 19 more COVID-19 positive cases, 7 from Jammu division and 12 from Kashmir valley.

Five cases each were reported from Jammu and Baramulla districts, followed by 4 from Budgam, 3 from Bandipora and 2 from Udhampur district.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Cong nurtured, gave shelter to terror for vote bank: PM

BALLARI (K'taka), May 5:

Mounting a fresh attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today alleged that for the sake of vote bank politics, it has nurtured, given shelter and surrendered before terror.

Wading into the controversy surrounding the movie 'The Kerala Story', Modi said the film is said to be a work based on the terrorists' deceitful policies and conspiracies in just one State, and accused the Congress of indulging in backdoor political bargaining with people having terror inclinations.

"To make Karnataka number one State in the country, law and order is important. Karnataka remaining free from terror is equally important. BJP has always been harsh against terror.



But whenever there is action against terror, Congress will get a stomach ache," Modi said.

Addressing a public meeting here with just days to go for the May 10 Assembly polls in the State, Modi said the whole world is worried today about the danger of terrorism and that India too has on several occasions suffered due to it. The country has lost a large number of innocent civilians due to terror attacks.

"Terrorism is anti-humanity,

anti-human values and anti-development. I am surprised that for the sake of its vote bank, Congress has surrendered before terror. Can such a party protect Karnataka and its civilians in any way? Under the climate of terror, the industries here, the IT industry, farmers, and rich culture and heritage here will be destroyed," he added.

Claiming that the Congress has lost courage to speak against terror, Modi alleged that for the sake of vote bank politics, the party has nurtured and given shelter to terror.

"With changing times, the nature of terror is also changing. Whether smuggling or drug trade or communal frenzy, all are somehow connected to terror," he said.

Highlighting that in the last few years, another dangerous

form of terror has emerged, Modi said, the sound of bombs and guns can at least be heard, but there won't be any sound to terror conspiracy of "hallowing the society".

Even courts have expressed worry on this nature of terror, he said. The film made on such a terror conspiracy, "The Kerala Story" is under discussion. "It is said the film is based on the terrorists' deceitful policies and conspiracies in just one State," Modi said.

"Such a beautiful State of the country, where people are hard-working and talented. This Kerala Story film brings out terror conspiracies happening in that State," he said.

"It is unfortunate that Congress can be seen standing with this terror trend that is (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Profit historic, says MD & CEO

J&K Bank records Rs 1197 cr net profit

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 5: Adding a historic milestone to its remarkable journey, J&K Bank today recorded Rs 1197 cr as net profit for the FY 2022-23 as the Bank's highest-ever annual profit. Along with a decadal-high Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) of 15.39% and eight-years best gross NPA figure at 6.04%, the Bank also registered its best-ever Q4 profit of Rs 476 cr to successfully deliver its better-than-promised annual and quarterly performance.

The bank declared its annual and Q4 results today after its Board of Directors approved the numbers in a meeting held here at the bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Aided by good recoveries, J&K Bank today delivered its

best-ever net profit of Rs 1197 cr for the FY 2022-23 and registered Rs 476 cr as net profit for January-March quarter of the FY 2022-23.

With Net Interest Margin (NIM) for the FY 2022-23 at 3.89% against 3.50% recorded last year, the Bank's operating income increased by 18% YoY to Rs 5502 cr while as the other Net Interest Income (NII) grew 21% YoY to Rs 4745 cr.

Bank's Yield on Advances rose annually to 8.91% from 8.32%, while as the CD and CASA ratios stood at 67.43% and 54.10% respectively for the reviewed financial year.

The Bank's gross and net NPA as percentages to gross and net advances improved considerably to 6.04% and 1.62% respectively when compared to 8.67% and 2.49%, recorded last year.

The Bank's Return on Assets jumped from 0.42% to 0.89% for the FY 2022-23, while as the NPA Coverage Ratio of the Bank improved to 86.20% against 84.26% recorded a year ago.

After raising over Rs 1021 cr as (tier-II) capital and significant internal accruals during the FY 2022-23, the Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio witnessed marked improvement of 216 bps to 15.39% from 13.23% recorded last year, thereby ensuring adequate availability of capital to support business growth while maintaining the regulatory buffer comfortably.

With advances growth outpacing the increase in deposits, the Bank's advances grew by 17% to Rs 82285 cr while as the deposits increased by around 6%

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

'Marks, ACRs, professional records exempted from disclosure'

CIC admonishes J&K SSB for providing personal information of third parties

Says conduct of PIO not in accordance with RTI Act

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 5: In a decision which will act as eye-opener for several Public Authorities, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has admonished the Services Selection Board (SSB) of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for providing personal information of third parties in blatant violation of the explicit provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

As per the case before the Central Information Commission, an application was filed under RTI Act before the

Public Information Officer (PIO) in the office of the J&K Services Selection Board on November 12, 2021 seeking information vis-à-vis OMR sheets of some applicants with regard to Advertisement Notification dated 01/2020.

Having not received any response from the PIO, the appellants filed First Appeal on January 14, 2022 and aggrieved over alleged non-receipt of information, they approached the Central Information Commission with the Second Appeal on March 26, 2022.

During the course of hearing, Pulkit Dutta, Under Secretary and present PIO in

the office of J&K Services Selection Board submitted before the Commission that the relevant information sought in the RTI application has been furnished to the appellants by the then PIO vide letter dated June 29, 2022.

On a query by the Commission on whether the First Appeal has been adjudicated or not, the respondent submitted that the First Appeal had been adjudicated by the First Appellate Authority on September 16, 2022.

The Commission was apprised through written submission by Under Secretary and

PIO vide letter dated April 13, 2023 that First Appeal was disposed off by the First Appellate Authority wherein it was mentioned that the information stand already provided to the appellants by the PIO.

Keeping in view the facts of the case and the submissions made by the respondent, the Commission observed, "the appellant in the instant RTI application has sought OMR sheet of third parties and the then PIO has provided the same to the appellant. It appears that there is nothing on record which shows that the appellants are authorized (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Dismissed SPO arrested for drug peddling

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, May 5: A Special Police Officer was arrested today after he was dismissed from service for alleged involvement in drug peddling in Doda district, officials said.

The SPO, identified as Javed Ahmed, was attached with the District Police Lines in Doda.

He was apprehended with cannabis in his possession after it was learnt through reliable sources that he was engaged in illegal narcotics trade, they said.

"A case under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was registered against him at Doda Police Station and investigation

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

3 militant associates arrested in South Kashmir

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, May 5: Security forces today arrested two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant associates in Awantipora area of Pulwama district and one from Shopian district.

A police spokesman said that based on a specific input, an operation was carried out by joint parties of police, 42 RR, 3 RR and 180 Bn CRPF leading to the arrest of two militant associates identified as Bashir Ahmad and Gulzar Ahmad, both residents of Tral Awantipora.

One AK-56, one AK magazine, 55 AK live rounds, 4 pistol, 6 pistol magazines and 24 pistol rounds were recovered from their possession.

A case (FIR U/S of Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Explosive Substances Act and Arms Act) has been registered in Police Station Tral and investigation taken up.

The spokesman said that the timely arrest with arms and ammunition has averted militant attacks like target killings in Awantipora and adjoining areas, as well as avoided the nefarious designs of JeM to recruit young boys into their ranks.

In the meantime, a militant associate was arrested by the security forces during naka checking at Tulran Nagisharan, in Shopian district today. A joint party of Shopian Police, 34 RR and 178 Bn CRPF intercepted one person Mohammad Asghar Dar of Nagisharan and recovered one pistol, one magazine and 8 rounds from his possession.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

CAs, Company Secys brought under PMLA

NEW DELHI, May 5:

Chartered and Cost Accountants and Company Secretaries have been brought under the anti-money laundering law for five specified financial transactions, including buying and selling of any properties and management of bank accounts, undertaken on behalf of their clients.

A notification to this effect was issued by the Finance Ministry on May 3.

The five broad categories of financial transactions listed in the notification are buying and selling of immovable property; managing of client money, securities or other assets; management of bank, savings or securities accounts; organisation of (Contd on page 4 Col 5)