

AFTERMATH OF PAHALGAM ATTACK

Terrorists' houses razed in Kashmir

Hundreds of overground workers detained for questioning, say officials



Debris of the house of Ahsan Ul Haq Sheikh, a suspect in the Pahalgam terror attack, which was razed in a blast, in Murran area of Pulwama district, on Saturday

PTI, SRINAGAR: Authorities in Kashmir have launched a massive crackdown on terrorists and their sympathisers in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, razing homes of the ultras, raiding their safe havens and detaining hundreds of overground workers for questioning, officials said on Saturday.

The security forces are going after the known terrorist associates and their sympathisers across the length and breadth of the Valley, with an aim to create a deterrent against any Pahalgam-like attacks, the officials said.

Terrorists on Tuesday opened fire in Baisaran, Pahalgam, killing 26 people.

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COMBATING TERROR

■ Houses of five terrorists or their associates demolished in the past 48 hours

■ Mysterious blasts blew up the houses of two active terrorists -- Aadil Thoker in the Bijbehara area of Anantnag district and Asif Sheikh in the Tral area of Pulwama district

■ The security forces rounded up hundreds of overground workers and their supporters -- mostly in four south

Kashmir districts

■ In Srinagar, raids were carried out at Safakadal, Soura, Pandach Bemina, Shalteng, Lal Bazar & Zadibal areas, officials said

■ In Anantnag district, search operations are being carried out as security forces step up vigilance

■ Mobile vehicle checkpoints have been put up across the district to monitor any suspicious movement, they said

Mighty and meek bid farewell to the people's Pope

The Argentine pontiff's plain wooden coffin was driven to Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore church, where he was interred in a private ceremony

AGENCIES, VATICAN CITY: World leaders and Catholic faithful bade farewell to Pope Francis in a funeral on Saturday that highlighted his concern for people on the "most peripheral of the peripheries" and reflected his wishes as pastor.

The Vatican said 400,000 people packed St Peter's Square and lined the streets of Rome for the funeral of the first Latin American leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

After a solemn funeral, the Argentine pontiff's plain wooden coffin — a testament to a life of humility — was driven slowly to Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore church, where he was interred in a private ceremony.

Cardinals marked his coffin with red wax seals before it was lowered into a tomb set inside an alcove, according to images released by the Vatican.

Fourteen white-gloved pallbearers carried the coffin into the church, as children placed baskets of



Pallbearers carry the coffin of late Pope Francis at the end of the funeral ceremony at St Peter's Square in the Vatican

flowers at the altar and a choir sang prayers.

The marble tomb is inscribed with just one word: "Franciscus", his papal name in Latin.

Earlier, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, the 91-year-old

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dean of the College of Cardinals, eulogised Francis as a pope of the people, a pastor who knew how to commu-

nicate to the "least among us" with an informal, spontaneous style. "He was a pope among the people, with an open heart towards everyone," Re said in a spirited and highly personal sermon.

He drew applause from the crowd when he recounted Francis' constant concern for migrants, including when he celebrated Mass at the US-Mexico border and travelled to a refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece, and brought 12 migrants home with him.

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“Farewell to Pope Francis and a special Mass at St Peter's Square. In this moment of unity, people from all corners of the world come together. Our gratitude to Pope Francis, whose prayers strengthened and inspired hope”
—Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine President

“A solemn moment of prayer & reflection, bidding farewell to a guiding light of faith & humanity”
— Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs

“The Christian world bows its head in honour of Pope Francis. We will never forget his courage, his commitment to peace, and his unwavering faith. May he rest in God's eternal light”
—Viktor Orbán, Hungary Prime Minister

“Our presence here is a thank you to God for allowing us to share the departure of a Pope who made history in the 21st century. Pope Francis was a symbol of emotion and heart, a great leader both religiously and politically, standing against war and inequality”
— Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil

UK NRI mowed down in Candolim by rental car

Deceased identified as 86-year-old Harish Solanki; wife Chandrakanta in critical condition

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: In a tragic accident reported in Candolim, an octogenarian NRI tourist from the United Kingdom died on Friday after being hit by a rental car driven by a tourist from Uttar Pradesh. The victim's wife, who was also knocked down, has been shifted to the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, in a critical condition.

Calangute Police said that the deceased, Harish Solanki, 86, and his wife, Chandrakanta Solanki, 81, were walking along the road near the Can-



Video grab of the CCTV footage that captured the accident

dolim Primary Health Centre (PHC) in front of a resort when they were hit by a speeding rental car driven by Vicky Jain, 48. Vicky was travelling from Siquerim to Calangute when he lost control of the car and hit

the couple.

Both, husband and wife sustained serious injuries and were immediately moved in ambulance to GMC, where Harish later passed away.

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“The accused Vicky Jain, who had undergone open heart surgery three months ago, suffered a blackout and ended up knocking down the couple. He was assaulted by the locals and started bleeding and had to be rushed to the district hospital and then he was shifted to a private hospital. We are waiting for the blood reports to see if there is alcohol content in the blood and accordingly if found positive, he will be arrested”
— Paresh Naik, Calangute PI

Benaulim doctor held for 'sexual' assault on nurse

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Cuncolim Police arrested a doctor from Benaulim for the alleged sexual assault of a nurse employed at his clinic.

Following a complaint filed by the victim's mother, police arrested Dr Samuel Arawattigi on Friday.

According to the police, the victim has been working as a nurse at the clinic and diagnostic centre in Salcete for several years. The alleged incident took place on the night of April 22, prompting the police to register an offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The complainant stated that Dr Arawattigi, un-

der the guise of a house visit for treatment, took advantage of his position as the victim's employer and sexually assaulted her at his residence in Benaulim without her consent. The victim disclosed the incident to her family, and her mother filed the complaint on April 25.

A forensic team visited the site to collect fingerprints and other evidence. The clinic staff were summoned, and their statements were recorded. The victim was taken to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim for a medical examination, and the report is awaited.

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Discontent over shifting of Old Goa PS to Exposition Secretariat

The new address of PS in heritage zone was to be torn down after Exposition



The Old Goa Police Station shifted to the Exposition Secretariat in Old Goa on Saturday

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a surprising move, the Old Goa Police Station was shifted to the Exposition Secretariat in Old Goa on Saturday. The decision has sparked discontent among parishioners and activists, who point out that the structure was temporarily built and had to be demolished after the Exposition of the sacred relics of St Francis Xavier.

Raising apprehensions that this structure could be a permanent structure within a heritage area, they have demanded that the police station be shifted to some other location.

The structure where the current police station was housed will be demolished to construct a new police station building. At the time of laying of the foundation stone for the new police station on September 18, 2023, Chief Minister Pramod

“It is the same arsenal area where the ASI has asked the Goa Tourism to stop excavation following discovery of cannonballs”
—John Mascarenhas, activist

Sawant had stated that the new police station will be ready within a year ahead of the Exposition. But the work got delayed and there were reports that the police station would be temporarily shifted to Santa Cruz out-post premises.

Taking strong objection to move, activist John Mascarenhas said, “All the structures including Exposition Secretariat were temporarily built and had to be dismantled within 10 days upon conclusion of the Exposition, which ended on January 5 this year.”

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Love's labour lost in border tension, Indian groom gets stuck at Wagah

Authorities refused to let Rajasthan's Shaitan Singh, his family and 'baraat' cross the border

PTI, JAIPUR: Rajasthan's Shaitan Singh got engaged to Kesar Kanwar from Pakistan's Sindh province four years ago. As the groom's family struggled for years to get visas, the cross-border wedding was hit by another hurdle when the government closed the Attari border on Thursday.

With his wedding attire ready and all set to tie the knot in Pakistan's Amarkot city on April 30, Singh along with his family and 'baraat' set out from Barmer district for the Attari border on Tuesday.

But by the time they reached there, authorities refused to let them cross the border as India on

CROSS-BORDER WEDDING INTERRUPTED

■ As the cross-border wedding remains disrupted. The visa of Singh, a resident of Indroi village in Barmer district, is valid until May 12

■ The cross-border marriage was arranged through family ties, a common practice among the Sodha Rajput community, which has a significant population in the Sindh province of Pakistan

■ Many prefer marrying within the community and often seek matches across the border to preserve their cultural traditions

■ Singh, who works in the finance sector, is one of many in the region with relatives in Pakistan

■ His family waits in the hope that the situation improves and the border reopens in time for the marriage to go ahead

this day,” said Singh, adding that after years of efforts, he, his father, and his brother were granted visas only recently, on February 18.

The groom's cousin Surendra Singh said the situation has left both families disheartened.

“Our relatives from Pakistan had come here but they had to return. We are very disappointed. Terror attacks cause a lot of damage. Relations get spoiled. Movement on the border stops,” he said.

As the cross-border wedding remains disrupted. The visa of Singh, a resident of Indroi village in Barmer district, is valid until May 12, giving the families a

glimmer of hope that the wedding might still happen if the border reopens in time.

“Whatever the terrorists did was wrong. The wedding has been interrupted. What to do? It is a matter of borders,” the groom said.

The cross-border marriage was arranged through family ties, a common practice among the Sodha Rajput community, which has a significant population in the Sindh province of Pakistan.

Many of them prefer marrying within the community and often seek matches across the border to preserve their cultural traditions.

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Wednesday ordered an immediate shutdown of the Attari-Wagah border as part of a series of retaliatory steps following the tragic Pahalgam terror attack. “We've waited a long time for