

23 terror associates booked under PSA in Srinagar

PTI, SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said it has booked 23 terror associates and miscreants under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Srinagar.

The accused have been detained and lodged in district jails of Poonch, Udhampur and Kot Balwal Jammu, a police spokesperson said.

"In a decisive action against subversive and criminal elements inimical to the security and public order of the nation, Srinagar police has booked 23 terror associates of proscribed terror outfits involved in subversive activities and miscreants involved in public disturbance under the PSA," he said.

The accused were booked after obtaining formal detention orders from the office of the district magistrate of Srinagar based on dossiers prepared against them by the Srinagar police.

He said several criminal

cases have been registered against these individuals.

"They did not mend their ways even after getting bail from the courts. They were brazenly involved in the disturbance of public order, criminal and subversive activities against the nation," he said.

The spokesperson said the Jammu and Kashmir Police has been systematically targeting and dismantling such anti-national and anti-social infrastructure in Srinagar city through its relentless crackdown on such elements. "Police affirms its steadfast commitment to eliminating criminal activities prejudicial to the security and public order in this region with the full might of law," he said.

The spokesperson cautioned those engaged in unlawful or disruptive activities detrimental to the security of the nation that the long arm of the law would catch them sooner than anticipated, and every offender will face justice.

Soldier injured in landmine blast near LoC in J&K's Poonch



PTI, JAMMU: An army personnel was injured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said.

The landmine exploded when the troops were patrolling in a forward area in Digwar sector this afternoon, the officials said.

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with landmines which sometimes get washed away by rains, resulting in such accidents.

The injured Havaldar was immediately evacuated to hospital for treatment, the officials said.

Meanwhile, a Bomb Disposal Squad destroyed an unexploded mortar shell in a controlled explosion near the Regal border outpost in Samba district this morning.

The mortar shell was found by some villagers who informed police and

subsequently, a team of experts was rushed and the explosive device was neutralized, the officials said.

Dozens of unexploded ordnance were defused by army and police experts in villages along the LoC and International Border in the past week after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on May 10 announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

Under Operation Sindoor, India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in re-

ARMY REACHES OUT TO POONCH RESIDENTS HIT BY PAKISTAN SHELLING

PTI, JAMMU: The Army on Saturday reached out to the residents of several forward villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch that were hit by Pakistan shelling in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, a defence spokesperson said. The troops visited affected families in Khari Karmara, Jhallas and adjoining villages, and expressed solidarity and support to the people whose houses and livelihoods were impacted, he said. They interacted with the local residents to understand their immediate concerns and reassured them of continued assistance. Essential ration packets were distributed among the affected households, the spokesperson said. The Army reaffirmed its commitment to stand by the local population during challenging times and work towards restoring normalcy in the region, he said. He said the locals expressed gratitude for the Army's timely support, and the interaction strengthened the bond of trust and cooperation between the security forces and the people. Pakistan army heavily shelled Poonch district after Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country on May 7 in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.

sponse to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian ac-

tion, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

alloverindia



Braving the rain, a family is seen riding a two-wheeler amid rain as showers continued to lash the region of Chikkamagaluru, in Karnataka

10 gold biscuits worth Rs 1 cr seized in Bengal, two held

KOLKATA: The BSF arrested two persons in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district for allegedly smuggling 10 gold biscuits worth Rs 1.1 crore into India from Bangladesh, an official said on Saturday. BSF personnel of the 143 battalion of South Bengal Frontier were on high alert after receiving information about the possible smuggling of gold through Hakimpur area, he said in a statement. Noticing suspicious movement of two individuals near Hakimpur Uttarpara village on Friday morning, BSF jawans stopped them and on search, ten gold biscuits, weighing 1.167 kg, were recovered from their possession, he said. During separate operations on Friday, jawans of the 32 battalion in Nadia district and the 143 battalion in North 24 Parganas seized 41 kgs of ganja, a narcotic substance, the official said.

Fire at multistorey building in Kolkata, no casualty reported: Official

KOLKATA: A fire broke out at a multistorey building in south Kolkata on Saturday afternoon, an official said. Eight fire tenders were deployed to douse the blaze that broke out on the fifth floor of a building at AJC Bose Road-Beckbagan crossing around 2.55 pm. The fire was brought under control within an hour, the official added. There was no report of any casualty or injury because of the fire, which was suspected to have been triggered by a short circuit, he said. Many offices in the building were closed for the weekend, while employees in other private establishments were safely evacuated, the official added.

Bovine smuggler detained under PSA in J&K's Udhampur

JAMMU: An alleged bovine smuggler was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Saturday, police said. Totu Din, a resident of Katwalt village in Ramnagar, is a habitual bovine smuggler and his detention order under PSA was issued by Udhampur district magistrate, a police spokesperson said. The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial up to two years in some cases. "Totu has been involved in several bovine smuggling cases registered in the district. Despite multiple FIRs and previous arrests, he continued his illegal activities, posing a serious threat to public peace. Consequently, he has been booked under the PSA and lodged in jail," the spokesperson said.

Neighbour hacks woman to death with spade in Uttar Pradesh

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP): A 60-year-old woman was hacked to death with a spade by her neighbour in Kadipur village of Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Saturday. The accused, Sushil Kumar, has been arrested and a case is being registered against him, Circle Officer Ravishankar said. The woman and the accused had a confrontation over an unspecified issue. During this, Kumar attacked her with a spade, resulting in her death on the spot, the CO said. "The body has been sent for postmortem examination, and further investigation is ongoing," he added.

Youth stabbed by group of four men in Karnataka say police

MANGALURU (KARNATAKA): A youth was stabbed allegedly by a group of four men in Dakshina Kannada district, police said on Saturday. Hameed, who works as a painter, was allegedly attacked with a knife while he was standing by the roadside near the Akkarangaadi bus stop close to Panemangalore in Bantwal taluk on Friday night, they added. Preliminary investigation has suggested that the assault may have been carried out by a group led by a person called Harris, and personal enmity is suspected to be the motive, a senior police officer said. The victim sustained serious injuries to his hand and was rushed to a private hospital in Mangaluru by locals, he said. The incident has triggered tension in the area, which had recently returned to normalcy following the murder of Hindutva activist and rowdy sheeter Suhas Shetty in the Dakshina Kannada district.

Three persons, including Nigerian national held for selling ganja in TN

ERODE (TAMIL NADU): Three persons, including a Nigerian national, were arrested for selling ganja, the Erode Unit of the Prohibition Enforcement Wing (PEW) police said here on Saturday. According to the PEW police, when they were on patrol duty at Vijayamangalam area near Perundurai on Friday night, they spotted the Nigerian. When checked, they found 1.2 kg ganja and one gram of Methamphetamine. Police identified him as Jones (45). He admitted that he was working in a factory and used to sell ganja to the workers and others. The police registered a case against him under the Narcotics Act and investigations are on. The PEW police also arrested Saravanan of Vijayamangalam with three kg ganja and Kausik with a small quantity of drugs during the night patrol.

FROM PAGE 1

MHADEI DIVERSION WILL SPELL DOOM FOR GOA, WARNS OPPOSITION

The perennial flow of water from Kalasa and Banduri is vital to maintain the evergreen forests. Ignoring these critical factors, especially in the context of global warming and environmental degradation, places our entire ecosystem - and our very way of life - at grave risk. It is west flowing rivers like Mhadei rising from the Western Ghats that carry the nutrients that nurture the wide variety of marine life and sea food abounding in Goa's coastal waters, Capt Fernandes said.

The MP warned that if Kalasa and Banduri dams are built by Karnataka then it will reverse the flow of Mhadei water away from Bhimgad and Mhadei wildlife sanctuaries and forest in Maharashtra thereby affecting 500 sq km of biodiverse forest South West of Khanapur taluka in Karnataka.

Capt Fernandes informed that Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav had already written to him that the Centre is awaiting Goa's proposal to declare Tiger Reserve. The constant sighting of tigers, leopards and black panthers in villages in the State is a wake-up call to the government to declare the Tiger Reserve.

He claimed that the Malaprabha river basin is surplus water and that a multinational company bottling soft drinks was using one lakh litres of water every day for its manufacturing plant at Hubballi.

"It's a false narrative that Karnataka requires water to meet drinking needs of Hubballi and Dharwad. They are diverting water for sugarcane cultivation and sugarcane is water guzzler and we cannot allow Mhadei diversion to satisfy the greed of sugarcane cultivators," Capt Fernandes said.

The Congress leader said that the studies conducted by renowned researchers will be submitted to the Chief Minister and the Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan (MBA) and to submit it to the Supreme Court.

Rivers possess their own natural flows and rhythms; they cannot be manipulated or partitioned as if they were mere sections on a map. Moreover, being a coastal river, the Mandovi, which serves as a lifeline for over 43% of Goa's population, is particularly vulnerable to saline ingress. A reduction in water flow from Mhadei could spell disaster for both the communities as well as the biodiverse wildlife that share this fragile habitat. The proposed three dams by Karnataka pose an additional threat by potentially severing water access to vital wildlife sanctuaries of Mhadei in Goa and Bhimgad in Karnataka. Constructed on Eco-Sensitive Zones category 1, the cascading effects of the dams will jeopardise the essential flora, fauna and forest that underpin our food and water security and play such an important role in carbon fixing and arresting global warming.

The Congress also released a video on the effects of the Mhadei river diversion project, and it will be circulated across the world.

Capt Fernandes went a step ahead in appealing for unity across party lines and suggested to the Chief Minister to take all the 40 legislators and the three MPs to the Prime Minister to present Goa's demand for saving river Mhadei.

Meanwhile, Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan (MBA) secretary Rajendra Kerkar said, "Three scientists of NIO have written this paper by studying rainfall data of the region and never visited the Mhadei region or took any look towards the wildlife sanctuaries of the Mhadei in Goa and Bhimgad in Karnataka. Installing pipelines, pump houses, construction of open cut channels and canals have already posed serious threat to the wildlife, ecology and forest in the region. These scientists have challenged even the yield calculation figure that was arrived by the Mhadei Water Dispute Tribunal and recorded in its final award."

Save Goa Save Tiger convenor Rajan Ghatge said, "Mhadei is a deficit river basin. Chief Minister is always claiming that Mhadei is his mother, but it is unfortunate that for the sake of his chair, the chief minister is helping the Centre. Karnataka has 28 MPs compared to two from Goa and Centre is always favouring bigger State Karnataka. All MPs from Karnataka come together for Mhadei. In Goa, Congress MP Capt Viriatio Fernandes has not appealed to all MLAs and MPs from the State to come together to fight unitedly to protect Mhadei."

Supreme Court lawyer Adv Bhavanishankar Gadnis, who represented the MBA in the Mhadei matter, said, "As per the last report of the PRAWAH, it appears that the Karnataka government is not ready to allow the Goa team for a site inspection in the Mhadei river basin. Therefore, the Goa government should now approach the Supreme Court by producing the final report of PRAWAH and appeal to the apex court to give its verdict. There is no need of any other report as it will further delay the matter. The two reports by Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan cover up everything."

Meanwhile, the recent report by the CSIR-NIO will not affect Goa's case in the Supreme Court regarding the Mhadei river water dispute, informed Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

Speaking to reporters at Ponda on Saturday, Sawant stated that the State government had not commissioned the CSIR-NIO to conduct any research on the Mhadei river.

"If they (CSIR-NIO) have done it, they have done it on their own accord. We had not told them to prepare the report. The government has nothing to do with it. It will have no effect on our case," he said.

HARYANA YOUTUBER ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF SPYING FOR PAKISTAN

She has made a total of 487 videos so far.

She has described herself as a 'Nomadic Leo Girl', 'Wanderer Haryanvi + Punjabi' and 'purane khayalon ki modern laddi' on her YouTube channel.

In 2023, Jyoti came in contact with Ehsan-ur-Rahim alias Danish at the Pakistan High Commission where she went to seek a visa to visit the neighbouring nation, according to an FIR lodged at Civil Lines Police Station on May 16.

Jyoti, who visited Pakistan twice, had met Danish's acquaintance Ali Ahwan who arranged her stay there, the FIR read.

Ahwan arranged Jyoti's meeting with Pakistani Security and Intelligence officials and met Shakir and Rana Shahbaz. She saved Shahbaz's mobile number as 'Jatt Randhawa' to avoid any suspicion.

She was in contact with these persons through WhatsApp, Telegram and Snapchat, and passed on sensitive information to them, according to the FIR, which was registered on the complaint of sub-inspector Bijender Singh.

She met Danish several times at the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi and was found to be in touch with Pakistani Intelligence Operatives, it said.

Jyoti's arrest came days after Punjab Police arrested two persons, including a woman, from Malerkotla district for their alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to the Pakistani official posted at the High Commission.

The accused Guzala and Yameen Mohamad, both resi-

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TODAY

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