

03 Shopian FIR an attempt to demoralise army

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Sunjwan attack 'frustrated' attempt by Pak: Gen

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A top army general of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday refused to accept the contention that a security lapse led to last week's suicide attack on an army camp in Jammu and said it was a "frustrated" attempt by Pakistan after it failed to counter the army's dominance at the LoC.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen D Anbu, who was presenting gallantry awards here, told reporters that the army is continuing with its "pro-active" strategy in the aftermath of the 2016 terror attack in which 17 soldiers died when terrorists stormed the brigade headquarters at Uri in North Kashmir.

The army commander of the strategically-important Northern Command, which looks after the borders from Ladakh to Jammu, maintained that the force would continue with its endeavour of ensuring zero infiltration.

"Infiltration does take place. We endeavour to ensure zero infiltration that is our job and we put our best effort," he said.

According to the officer, there was considerable reduction in infiltration, but the number of attempts almost doubled in 2017 compared to the previous year.

The general said terrorists were always present at the camps and launching pads across the border to be pushed into India.

"If we take south and north of Pir Panjal, 185 to 220 are always present in south and 195-220 continue to remain in north," Anbu said. South of Pir Panjal are the areas in Jammu and North is in Kashmir.

On the Sunjwan terror strike in the State on Saturday, he said, "It is the frustrated enemy (Pakistan) which does involve itself in such activities when it is not able to face us on the borders."

"It is but natural that the enemy is on the receiving end and looks for the easier alternative. While immediately behind the borders we have strengthened ourselves

The three are believed to have travelled to Jammu the night before the February 10 attack, in which seven people, including six soldiers, were killed. The three terrorists were eliminated by the Army.

A new video of Jaish commander Mufti Vakas has emerged on social media in which he is seen threatening more suicide attacks "very soon".

Videos of other Jaish terrorists asking local youths to join militancy have also been doing the rounds of social media, officials said.

"This trend is not encouraging and counter measures had to be taken," said one official. Giving details of the Sunjwan attack and the investigations so far, the

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'Army doesn't communalise'

UDHAMPUR: General Anbu hit back at AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's statement that Muslim soldiers were killed in the Sunjwan attack, saying the Army does not communalise its soldiers.

"We take on the religion of our troops and we do not communalise any of them. There is 'Sarva Dharma Sthal' in every formation. Go to Badambagh (a cantonment in Srinagar) or Udhampur (the Northern Command headquarters) or even my residence," Northern Command chief Lt Gen D Anbu said.

The comment of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the strategically-important Northern Command came a day after the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief slammed those questioning the patriotism of Muslims and Kashmiri Muslims.

Four Kashmiri soldiers were among the six Army personnel killed in the attack on the 36 Brigade of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry camp in Sunjwan on Saturday. "It is only for people who do not know the inside functioning of the armed forces.

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General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen D Anbu briefing media at Udhampur.



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Pak army shells LoC areas in Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pakistan army on Wednesday violated ceasefire again by resorting to heavy mortar shelling and firing on civilian areas along the LoC in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan army initiated ceasefire violation by resorting to small arms, automatics, and mortar firing in Noushera sector in Rajouri district from 1815 hours today", a defence spokesperson said.

The Indian Army retaliated effectively, he said.

On February 11, Pak troops resorted to heavy mortar shelling in forward areas and villages in Rajouri

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Govt working to facilitate industry: Mehbooba

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said her government is working to facilitate the industry and trading community in the State as Jammu and Kashmir is first on many counts to incentivise business and industry.

Chairing the 7th Industrial Advisory Committee meeting here, the Chief Minister said her Government took many reformative steps to encourage and instil confidence among the industry. She said Jammu and Kashmir is the first State to roll out incentives under GST and even major reforms in labour laws



Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti flanked by Deputy CM Dr Nirmal Singh chairing a meeting at Jammu.

in the State were undertaken by the present Government.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh; Minister for Industries and Commerce,

Chander Parkash Ganga; Minister for Finance, Dr. Haseeb Drabu and Minister of State for Industries

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who were facing the heat from senior government functionaries also claimed the State police failed to pay heed to notices circulated by them from time to time. Secondly the issue of illegal sale of combat uniform across different outlets to unauthorised persons have also come to haunt the State Government agencies responsible for implementing the order of the district magistrate.

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He has reportedly been accused of transferring crucial and confidential

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India wants to be powerful for welfare of all, not to intimidate others: Rajnath

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: India wants to become a powerful nation for the "welfare of the whole world" and not to intimidate people living in other countries, Union minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

Waving a saffron flag, the home minister kicked off the 'Rath Yatra' from the India Gate lawns that would collect soil and water for a week-long 'Vedic yagya' in March here.

Describing it as an "extraordinary Rath Yatra",

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Police launches ops in south Kashmir to track JeM terrorists

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Crack teams of the Jammu and Kashmir Police have fanned out across south Kashmir to trace the contacts of the three Jaish-e-Mohammed militants, who carried out a suicide attack on the Sunjwan Army camp in Jammu, officials said.

A counter-offensive against the Pakistan-based terror group became imperative after intelligence reports suggested that its cadres entered the Valley last year and were planning more suicide attacks on security forces, the officials said.

The raids at various places in south Kashmir were being carried out as a preemptive measure to track underground sympathisers, including the local contacts of the three

terrorists -- Qari Mushtaq alias Chotu, Mohammed Adil alias Irfan and Mohammed Khalid alias Rashid.

All three were based in Pulwama in south Kashmir for the last year, the officials said, citing intelligence reports and JeM's claims on various social media platforms, including Facebook and Whatsapp.

The group claims that Mushtaq was stationed in Tral, Pulwama district, for the last one year. Adil was housed in Sopore and later shifted his base to Pulwama in August last year. The third member of the group, Khalid, who infiltrated into the Valley last year, was also based in Pulwama, a JeM message said.

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Jammu traffic malady needs a surgeon; Basant is the person!

JAMMU: "Today afternoon, (a) young man, who claimed that his name is Mr Angad and that he is an IPS officer's son, was driving his audi car (CH01BK/7900) backward on the main road in front of the Police Headquarters. He almost barged into my official vehicle.

Since he knew me, I asked him politely to give his paper to the Traffic Cops. Instead of listening to my genuine request, he misbehaved with me and tried to drop names (his father and father-in-law) and started creating a scene.

He knew that I am the present IG Traffic, J&K. Please take appropriate action against him. The Traffic Cops, deployed there are the witnesses".

This is a letter from Basant Kumar Rath, Inspector General of Police, Traffic, J&K Jammu to SHO Gandhinagar, Jammu.

This letter could have been only from IGP Basant, given his reputation as an upright and daring officer. By the time these columns are before the readers, the letter must have gone viral and expectations risen sky-high. And, all eyes would be on the SHO, who is duty bound to lodge an FIR, unless back channel pressures and pulls

work overnight. After all, these days, Jammu and Kashmir Police has developed FIR syndrome, which can be fake, motivated and pressurised. Who knows, like the Shopian case, where FIR was needed to be lodged against attacking stone pelters, it was slapped on Maj Aditya. Therefore, one can only pray that Shopian is not repeated in Gandhinagar Police Station by putting IGP Basant in a dock.

After all spoil brat of politicians, bureaucrats and senior police officers have always been enjoying a definite edge over poor commoners. Had it not been so, an off spring of an ex Director General of Police would not have gone scot-free in a hit and run case on September 25, 2014. The FIR lodged at the concerned police station has not seen the light of the day despite the bereaved family of Inderjeet Padha, a morning-walker and retired Health Department official, preparing for his 'Choubari'. The hush up of the case was because the person sitting behind the wheels of hit and run luxury car Maruti Suzuki SX4, VXI JKO2 BA 4112 was daughter of the chief who killed the pedestrian.

Basant Rath must be in know of all this. He must also be in know of 'back-channel' dirty games the high-ups are used to. He must be apprehensive

about 'follow-up' of his letter to the SHO Gandhinagar. Whatever it may, the daring IGP has caught the imagination of suppressed Jammu people. He will know a day after about the good-will he has earned by acting against some spoiled brat. And, if he continues with similar actions, scope for which is huge given the traffic malady in Jammu and chronic nexus on roads, it will be too difficult for his detractors in the political establishment or police hierarchy to touch him. Daring officers generally become Achilles heel for evil forces and the perpetrators of those patronising dirty nexus.

Basant Rath has many miles to go. He has to break all these nexuses. He will find 'Mr Angad' like people roaming in the guise of traffic violating passenger traffic vehicles and others, who care too hoots for anyone because of the 'haft' they pay. The malady is much more which will need tones of newspaper to reveal. It will be revealed in the days to come provided Basant Rath carries forward his 'Mission Save Jammu Roads'.

Having said that, it is gratifying to see an officer acting against the system...Basant Rath has generated a hope. In a split moment he has pushed himself up in the line of decorated police officers, who have maintained the decorum and dignity of their uniforms. He will

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