

Security

of Home Affairs in North Block, Delhi.

This was the first security review meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah after the assembly elections and formation of Omar Abdullah-led popular government. Earlier, similar meeting was chaired by Amit Shah in June this year. The meeting also came in the backdrop of sporadic terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir over the past few months. In October this year seven people, including a doctor were killed in a terror attack on a construction site in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Prior to that, there have been several terror incidents in which outside labourers were targeted.

The meeting, sources said, took note of these incidents and measures to be taken on how to stop such incidents in the future.

Ahead of the meeting, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah also met Amit Shah to discuss several issues, including restoration of statehood and security situation in the Union Territory. Speaking with reporters after meeting Amit Shah, Omar Abdullah said that the meeting was regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of statehood. "The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere. The experience and the hurdles that we faced in the past two months after taking over the reins following the formation of the popular government also came up for discussion during the meet," he said.

On being asked about notifying Business Rules for Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah said that the government of India has nothing to do with it and that these are to be decided by the elected government and the cabinet. "Cabinet sub-committee will finalise the business rules, cabinet will approve it and then it will be sent to the Lt Governor. The Government of India has nothing to do with it," he remarked.

He also said that for now the responsibility of security, and law and order lies with the Lt Governor, and he only apprised the home minister that the fight against militancy cannot be fought by creating a vacuum. "I have always said that we cannot fight militancy in a vacuum, but by taking people into confidence and for that we need to take the elected representatives and the popular government in confidence," he said.

Kulgam

The operation culminated in a five-hour-long gunfight, during which five militants belonging to the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit were neutralized.

The slain terrorists were identified as Ferooz Ahmad Bhat, Mushtaq Ahmad Yattoo, Irfan Yaqoob, Adil Hajam, and Yasir Javed—all residents of Kulgam district. Ferooz Ahmad Bhat, the oldest among them, had been active since 2015 and was a key commander of Hizbul Mujahideen. He had 37 FIRs registered against him. Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat had joined the Hizbul Mujahideen cadre in 2020 and according to police, was also deeply entrenched in terrorist operations.

Brigadier Anirudh Chauhan, Commander of 2 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, while addressing the press after the gun-battle, lauded the coordinated efforts of the security forces. "We achieved significant success when we received news last night that a group of Hizbul Mujahideen cadres was present in the residential area. The operation was planned meticulously and launched jointly by the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF. Ferooz Ahmad Bhat, who played a pivotal role in reviving terrorism in the region, was among those neutralized. With the elimination of these five terrorists, not only has Hizbul Mujahideen's presence in Shopian and Kulgam been wiped out, but terrorism in Kashmir has suffered a significant setback," he told reporters.

He further credited the success to the cooperation of local residents. "I would like to thank the people of Kulgam, who provided crucial information and extended their full support during the operation. The synergy of security forces and the commitment of the Indian Army to establish peace in Kashmir could be gauged by today's success," Brigadier Chauhan added.

During the encounter, two soldiers sustained gunshot injuries and were promptly evacuated to the 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar. Both are reported to be in stable condition and are expected to recover soon.

According to Javed Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir, the operation also led to the recovery of arms, ammunition, and important documents. "These items will be examined as part of the ongoing investigation and have been included in the FIR. The sustained surveillance and intelligence-sharing among security agencies proved effective in today's gun-battle," Matoo said during a press briefing.

By the security grid, elimination of these key figures is being hailed as a significant victory. "The killing of Ferooz Ahmad Bhat and his associates has dealt a severe blow to Hizbul Mujahideen's capabilities in south Kashmir," Matoo said. He reiterated the security forces' resolve to root out terrorism from the valley.

Crime Branch

Spl. Municipal Mobile Magistrate Jammu for judicial determination. Pertinently, 03 more FIRs of similar nature registered in different Police Stations of Jammu. Ie. Akhnood, Bakshi Nagar and Domana had also been transferred to Crime Branch, and are under investigation with Special Crime Wing, Jammu. The total amount involved in all these cases is approximately Rs.70 lakhs. Crime Branch (SCW) Jammu is

committed to eradicate the menace of cheating and fraud from the society under direct supervision of SSP SCW Shri Sanjay Parihar and able guidance of Dr. Sunil Gupta IGP Crime, J&K.

Chief Justice

K. Sharma, Principal Secretary and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

R. N. Wattal, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Samba, Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Th Gulchain Singh Charak, Chairman, Dogra Education Trust, Sandeep Singh Sen, Secretary, DLSA Samba, Principal, Dogra Law College, Dean, Dogra Group of Colleges, besides other faculty members of the school were present on the occasion. In her welcome address, Shuchi Sharma highlighted the importance of such interactive sessions in bridging gap between legal education and its practical application. She emphasised the need of nurturing socially conscious and professionally competent lawyers. He underlined that programs like these are crucial for instilling in students a deeper understanding of their responsibilities as future custodians of justice.

The Chief Justice, in his keynote address, appreciated the role of students and acknowledged their talent displayed through the skit. "Such initiatives particularly of the law students can prove a milestone in spreading awareness among the masses especially in rural areas, if they associate with the Legal Services Authority and reach to the last man standing in the queue" said Justice Tashi. He urged the student community to come forward and take proactive role in bringing the change in the society.

The Chief Justice directed the Legal Services Institutions to rope in the law students in their calendar of activities including Lok Adalats so that the future law practitioners understand their role in amicable resolution of issues besides creating informed citizenry. He urged the students to use their legal education to foster equality, uphold constitutional values and ensure justice reaches to the most vulnerable sections of the society.

The Chief Justice also planted a sapling in the campus of Dogra Law College, symbolizing growth, sustainability and a commitment towards a greener future.

While tracing the history of legislation regarding acid attack, Advocate Rohit Verma, Panel Lawyer, HCLSC, Jammu in his impactful presentation said that it was on the directions of Apex Court that IPC was amended and Section 326 A & B were incorporated therein to ensure that the perpetrators of acid attack are not only booked but are also punished with stringent punishment as per the law. He further informed the audience that similar provision has been incorporated U/S 124 (1) & (2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

Advocate Verma also highlighted the broader social and emotional impact of acid attacks emphasizing that these heinous crimes are not just physical assaults but are attacks on a person's dignity and identity. He pointed out the significant role of laws like Section 357C of the CrPC, which mandates free medical treatment for victims and the Victim Compensation Scheme, which ensures financial relief. He urged the law students to become advocates of change and spread awareness to prevent such crimes in the future.

A poignant skit was also performed by the students of Dogra Law College portraying the social evils like dowry demands, domestic violence, Prenatal sex determination of child, unlawful termination of pregnancy, eve-teasing and the dastardly act of acid attacks. The scintillating performances rendered by the students in the skit left the audience spellbound.

On the occasion, NALSA theme song was also played which eloquently displayed the mission, motto and objective of Legal Services.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Chairman, Dogra Education Trust, felicitated the Chief Justice, expressing gratitude for his inspiring address and guidance to the students.

This interactive session stands as a testament to the commitment of Dogra Law College and the J&K Legal Services Authority in nurturing the next generation of legal professionals and empowering them to contribute meaningfully to the justice delivery system.

Search operation

Thursday, they said. The operation is part of the alertness of troops against suspicious movements and the threat of infiltration, they said.

Geelani faction

presented the chargesheet against Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, former president of the High Court Bar Association (HCBA), Kashmir, before the Special NIA Judge, Jammu, in the high-profile Babar Qadri murder case. Babar Qadri was killed by terrorists on 24 September 2020, at his residence, Zahidpura (Hawal), Srinagar. During the initial investigation, six people, including an active terrorist, were found involved in the killing and were chargesheeted before the Special NIA Court in Srinagar in 2021.

However, in July 2023, the case was transferred for further investigation to SIA, J&K. During this, the family members of the deceased were increasingly getting suspicious after they were being threatened and pressurised against following up the case in court. The SIA, in its investigation based on oral, documentary and technical evidence, found the direct involvement of Mian Qayoom behind the

killing. Mian Qayoom, who has been a separatist, was the right-hand man of the late Syed Ali Shah Geelani since the early 1990s. He reportedly had inimical relations with the deceased as the latter had challenged his one-upmanship at the Kashmiri Bar. Reports say the murdered advocate also used to speak against Qayoom for using HCBA Kashmir as a platform to further his secessionist agenda.

The deceased, Babar Qadri, had also set up a parallel body within the HCBA, named the Kashmir Lawyers Club. He was also contemplating fighting elections against Mian Abdul Qayoom, which too had not gone down well with him, sources said. Mian Qayoom had also reportedly extended threats to the deceased through his coterie at the HCBA. Sources said that Mian Qayoom had earned notoriety in the last two decades for literally treating the HCBA Kashmir as his fiefdom and converting it into a constituent of the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC). He had been issuing hartal calendars in the Kashmir valley on behalf of HCBA Kashmir, concurrently with strike calls given by the late Syed Ali Shah Geelani-led APHC.

Mian Qayoom had been so emboldened by the support he received at the hands of separatists that he had once declared in open court that he did not believe in the Constitution of India. Ironically, he had established a highly lucrative legal practice in the same High Court which was established under the provision of the very Indian Constitution he refused to accept. The in-depth investigation conducted by the SIA revealed that Mian Qayoom entered into a criminal conspiracy with the terrorists of the banned TRF outfit. The TRF is a proxy organisation for Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), formed after the reorganisation of the erstwhile J&K State on 5 August 2019, and their handlers in Pakistan.

The terrorists, on 24 September 2020, entered the house of the deceased and fired bullets at him, leading to his death while being shifted to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar, the chargesheet said. It is interesting to note that Babar Qadri had developed some kind of premonition on the day of his killing so much so that he went live on Facebook a few hours before the incident and expressed his fears of being eliminated. Tragically, that same evening, he was killed by the waiting terrorists who entered his house in the guise of clients and met him on the pretext of discussing some case.

Mian Qayoom was arrested on 25 June 2024, and has since been lodged in District Jail, Jammu. Though the initial trial in this case was going on in Srinagar, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in December 2023, transferred the trial to Jammu, taking note of his interference in the judicial process and the threat to the victim's family at the hands of Mian Qayoom. The police on Thursday presented a detailed 340-page-long supplementary chargesheet before the Special Judge under the NIA Act, Jammu, against Mian Qayoom. The trial in the case against Mian Qayoom is expected to begin soon.

BJP holds

from Congress or any other political party.

Sunil Sethi, chief spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this while addressing media persons at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, along with party spokespersons, Babbar Ram Rattan and SC Morcha president Neelam Langah.

Sunil Sethi said that a portion of few seconds from the full speech of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been deliberately distorted by the Congress to divert the attention of the people from its total failure to raise public related issues in the parliament and its biased approach towards Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

"Instead of countering the speech of Union Home Minister with facts, the Congress indulged in false and irresponsible allegations in frustration as it failed to clear its stand on anti-Ambedkar, anti-dalit mindset" said Sunil Sethi, adding that the history stand witness to the fact that the BJP always respected Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, whereas, Congress insulted the architect of the constitution a number of times.

Sunil Sethi said that the Congress and its allies should seek an unconditional apology for their actions, which have hurt the sentiments of the dalits across the country as well as committed crime of distorting facts of the speech of the country's Home Minister.

Sethi further said that the Bharatiya Janata Party holds Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in high regard for his contributions to social justice, equality, and nation-building. The party acknowledges his efforts to eradicate caste-based discrimination and empower marginalized communities. The party has also undertaken initiatives to preserve his memory, such as developing memorials and promoting awareness of his work.

J&K forest

nd Non-Coniferous (Hard Wood). The Coniferous forests make up 50.1% of the total forest area, with species such as Deodar (1,075 sq km), Chir (1,825 sq km), Kail (1,969 sq km), and Fir (3,401 sq km) forming the majority.

These forests play a critical role in the region's biodiversity and ecology. The Non-Coniferous forests, which include Un-commercial species, cover the remaining 49.9% of the forest area, contributing significantly to the region's rich vegetation.

A vital aspect of J&K's forest management strategy is the Protected Area Network (PAN), which spans 4,861.28 square kilometers. This network includes 4 National Parks, 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries, and 30 Conservation Reserves, which together serve as a sanctuary for the region's diverse wildlife.

The Protected Area Network is divided between

Jammu and Kashmir regions, with Jammu having 20 protected areas, and Kashmir hosting 28 protected areas, comprising 13 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 8 Wildlife Reserves, and 14 Wetlands.

The protected areas in both regions form a critical part of conservation efforts, ensuring the preservation of species and ecosystems unique to this diverse region.

BJP Indulging

across the country and that a movement against this had already begun.

"The BJP wants to divert attention from Shah's remarks on Ambedkar and that is why they are raising other issues," Kharge told reporters. He said they (Congress leaders) were only demanding the resignation of Home Minister Shah and were protesting "in support of our demands, but the BJP MPs blocked us from entering Parliament". "They pushed me, I lost my balance and sat down," the Congress chief said, adding that he condemns Shah's remarks on Ambedkar. Kharge said they will run a nationwide movement on Ambedkar issue.

Gandhi said the BJP-RSS thinking is "anti-Constitution" and "anti-Ambedkar".

"The BJP is indulging in distraction. We want the apology and resignation of home minister over his remarks on Ambedkar," Gandhi said, adding that they would continue to raise their demand and the Adani issue.

Commercial

on RCC Pillars without any internal brick walls partition against residential site plan approved in favour of previous owner Chander Bhushan in the month of April 2024 without maintaining setbacks during the tenure of enforcement Inspector Gagan Kumar and Enforcement Officer Anil Kashyap.

The owner didn't raise residential construction on ground floor like bedroom, lobby, kitchen, toilet and also cut out for ventilation and also staircase towards front side was also not constructed but to hoodwink general public and JMC Authorities kept 2 ft size two windows and small size door 2 ft in size in middle of these two windows to show construction being residential as walls adjoin with it was deliberately constructed as temporary walls with a intention to remove them easily and also didn't leave area as mandatory in setbacks like the owner left front 9 ft when he was duty bound to leave 12.5 ft besides extending 2 ft gallery on three floors and also owner was duty bound to leave 7 ft 9 inch but owner left only 3 ft from backside also didn't kept open area of plot 527 sqft and also installed round iron stairs from ground to third floor which was strongly objected by immediate neighbors disturbing their privacy and thus completely changing both internal and external dimensions against approved residential site plan.

Worthwhile to mention here that this commercial construction was duly brought into kind notice of concerned enforcement staff but they did nothing after joining hands with owner as a result of which owner getting full patronage from enforcement staff not only completed commercial hall construction on ground floor very easily completed commercial hall construction on first floor both measuring 1250 sqft against permitted 960 sqft each and now at present the construction of 2nd floor is going on RCC Pillars will be another commercial hall after completion of construction whose slab work has been completed just recently. Saddy JMC yet to take cognizance of this commercial construction on main road of Channi Himmat Housing Board colony despite strong resentment among locals and also dereliction of duty on part of enforcement staff to stop commercial construction on residential plots.

It deserves mentioning here that on the complaints of aggrieved locals and after thorough investigation, this news paper published a detailed story along with pictures both inside and outside by locals dated 6-9-2024 but JMC enforcement staff found in favour of owner and didn't take cognizance of this violated construction completely contrary to approved residential site plan. Further the owner earlier raising walls to hoodwink construction being residential has removed those walls and now at present raising walls on extended galleries nowhere mentioned in approved site plan which is evident from the pictures clicked by locals on 19-12-2024. From view of ongoing construction, even a layman can predict construction being commercial and there is no sign of construction being residential as mentioned above no windows, ventilators, cut out and insect full-fledged commercial construction. The owner also from backside didn't remove violations as claimed by enforcement staff wherein the owner didn't maintain setback from backside and from backside also it gives impression of commercial halls on residential plot which surprisingly ignored by concerned enforcement staff deployed in Channi Himmat area but sadly none of Enforcement Inspectors deployed from time to time report these violations and also by at present Enforcement Inspector Varun Kesar.

In light of above, Commissioner JMC should take serious cognizance of this commercial construction going on on residential plot falling which if they continue to give long rope to violators and unnecessary freedom to enforcement staff, the way at which commercial construction going on on residential plots it will soon convert Channi Himmat Zonal planned colony into commercial hub which will be violation of fundamental right of right to peace of law abiding citizens who have purchased residential plots to live with peace and comfort but definitely they are repenting buying a residential plot in Channi Himmat due to favour of enforcement staff to owner against JMP-2032 and Unified Building Bye-laws 2021.