

Targeted killings: Terrorists kill TA jawan's brother in Rajouri



After back to back targeted killing in Kashmir Valley, the terrorists shot dead a man in Rajouri district on Monday night, taking the region by shock. The incident that came ahead of Lok Sabha elections for Rajouri-Anantnag Parliamentary Constituency scheduled on May 7, took place when the victim, Mohammad Abdullah Razaq (40), came out of a mosque in his village Kunda Top under the Thanamandi police station area.

Razaq's brother is a soldier in the Territorial Army, while he himself was an employee in the social welfare department.

A day later, Police claimed a for-

ign terrorist codenamed "Abu Hamza" of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba was involved in the killing of Razaq and announced a Rs 10 lakh reward for information on him.

Credible evidence has been obtained that identifies one of the assailants as a "foreign terrorist" with the code name Abu Hamza, a police spokesperson said. A reward of Rs 10 lakh has been announced for providing information on the terrorist, the police said while releasing a poster of his likeness.

The 32-year-old terrorist was wearing a Pathani suit with a brown shawl and had an orange bag. He has been operating in the Shadra Sharief

and the Der ki Gali areas and involved in numerous terror activities, the police said.

In the 48 hours that passed after the killing, as many as 67 suspected people were detained for questioning, while police along with security forces deployed in the twin districts of Rajouri-Poonch range are working in close synergy to neutralise the terrorist group behind the killing and dismantle their support ecosystem.

Fourth targeted killing in 2024

This was the fourth incident of targeted killings in Jammu and Kashmir in this year, and third in last two weeks.

On April 8, a non-local cab driver, identified as Dilranjeet Singh was shot and injured by terrorists in Shopian district. On April 17, a labourer from Bihar was shot dead by terrorists in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. The deceased Raja Shah was shot at from point-blank range at Jablipora in the Bijbehara area. On February 7, terrorists shot dead Amritpal Singh, a worker from Amritsar in Punjab, at the Shalla Kadal locality in the Habba Kadal area of the city here. Another non-local worker, identified as Rohit Mashi, who also hailed from Amritsar, sustained injuries in the incident and succumbed a day later.



Tulip garden visited by 4.46L people, highest since 2007

A record 4.46 lakh visitors visited Asia's largest tulip garden, ensconced between the Dal Lake and the Zabarwan Hills here, which was closed for public on Wednesday after remaining open for over a month.

This year the garden remained open for 33 days and saw a footfall of 4.46,154 visitors.

This is the highest footfall ever recorded in the garden since its inception in 2007.

The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, earlier known as Siraj Bagh, was opened for the public on March 23 this year.

Among the visitors, 3,204 were foreigners, 3,35,636 domestic tourists and 1,07,314 locals, "Floriculture Officer of the garden, Javed Masood informed.

He said the garden saw the highest footfall on April 11, a day after Eid-ul-Fitr when a total of 30,659 people visited the garden. The locals, 18,888, were the bulk of the visitors that day.

More than 3.65 lakh visitors, both domestic and foreign, visited the garden last year, while it witnessed a footfall of 3.60 lakh people in 2022.

This year, the floriculture department added five new varieties of tulips to the existing 68. It also increased the area of the tulip garden by adding another two lakh bulbs.

A record 17 lakh tulip bulbs were planted in the garden spread over 55 hectares.

Art 370 scrap, J&K at heart, Amit Shah steps up attack on Congress

JAMMU: Accusing the Congress of pampering the Article 370 like an illegitimate child, Union Home Minister Amit Shah this week stepped up the attack on Congress, saying it wants to bring back the now-scrapped constitutional provision that provided special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

But we will not allow this to happen, said Shah, while addressing an election rally in Akola in eastern Maharashtra on Tuesday.

Shah also said that the Congress failed to effectively tackle terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir emanating from Pakistan due to vote-bank politics, and it took Modi government to launch surgical and airstrikes in Pakistan to counter terrorism and send out a strong message.

The Home Minister also said the Modi government will never change the Constitution or scrap reservations for Dalits, tribals and OBCs, and asserted as long as the BJP is around, it will not allow the Congress to touch the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Shah noted the BJP-led government used its majority in Parliament to nullify Article 370



(which provided special status to J&K), end terrorism and ban the practice of instant triple talaq, and accused the opposition of creating a false narrative that the saffron party will change the Constitution if it wins more than 400 Lok Sabha seats.

"The Modi government, by removing Article 370, has integrated Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country," emphasised the home minister.

For 70 years, the Congress

"pampered" Article 370 like an "illegitimate child" and it was Modi who repealed the decades-old constitutional measure in August 2019, he opined.

Shah on Sunday accused the Congress-led opposition of being soft on terrorism, saying that under the strong Modi government, Indian security personnel went across the border with Pakistan and bumped off the terrorists in their own hideouts.

Addressing an election rally

in the Katihar Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar, Shah said, "When the Congress was in power, terrorists struck at will and nobody could muster the courage to retaliate. In contrast, the attacks in Uri and Pulwama were followed quickly by surgical strikes and Balakot airstrikes. Our security personnel went across the border with Pakistan and the terrorists were bumped off in their own hideouts," said Shah.

Sajad Lone gets support from Apni Party, Baig's

In two back-to-back shots in arm for People's Conference, Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari extended its support to PC chief Sajad Lone, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from north Kashmir's Baramulla constituency, even as former Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig has also given indications for his support to Lone's candidature.

Bukhari announced the support for Lone at a press conference, days after Lone had sought his help to consolidate the anti-National Conference votes in the constituency, where Lone is contesting against Omar Abdullah, the National Conference vice-president and a former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state. The People's Conference chief had also assured its 100 per cent support to the Apni Party in Srinagar in return. Baramulla goes to the polls in the fifth phase on May 20 while Srinagar will vote in the fourth phase on May 13.

On Tuesday, Lone called on former deputy chief minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig and his wife Safina Baig, DDC chairperson, Baramulla, at their residence and sought their support for his candidature.

"I have a right. And seeking their support is my right," Lone said on X. Hours later, Safina endorsed Lone's assertion. "Whenever Beigh sahib and I host Sajad sahib at our residence, it inevitably reminds all of us of the decades long that we share. Beigh sahib has seen him grow and evolve. And yes @sajadlone sahib is correct when he says he is here by virtue of a right," she posted on X.