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## 1 TERRORIST KILLED IN FRESH ENCOUNTER IN J&K'S RAJOURI

### On Friday, five soldiers who were part of the army's assault team to flush out terrorists were killed in an IED blast during the operation

Srinagar: A fresh encounter is underway in the Kandi forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district today where five special forces soldiers were killed on Friday.

According to Army, one terrorist has been killed while another likely to be injured.

A massive reinforcement of troops was rushed to the region as part of 'Operation Trinetra' to flush out terrorists who are believed to be entrenched in caves in the forest areas.

"In the ongoing operation in the Kandi forest in Rajouri sector, contact has been established with terrorists at 0115H Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is expected to visit Rajouri today to review the situation on the ground. Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, the Jammu and Kashmir Police DGP and other top officers are already supervising the anti-terrorist operation



that is underway. Yesterday, five soldiers who were part of the army's assault team of elite special forces to flush out terrorists were killed in an IED blast during the operation. An officer of the special forces was critically injured in the process. This is the second major loss that the army has suffered in the last two weeks. On April 20, five soldiers were killed when an

army truck they were travelling in was ambushed by terrorists at Bhata Durian in Poonch. After killing the soldiers, the terrorists set the truck on fire and decamped with the weapons of the fallen army.

Following the attack, a major manhunt was launched in the Poonch-Rajouri region. According to the police, around a dozen heavily armed terrorists are present in the region. During a large-scale crackdown, the police detained over 200 people for questioning and arrested at least six persons for helping terrorists responsible for the attack on the army truck. This led to resentment among locals and a villager died by suicide alleging torture by the police. Meanwhile, a terrorist was killed in a separate encounter in the Karhama Kunzer area of Baramulla today, the Jammu and Kashmir Police said. "Encounter has started at Karhama Kunzer area of Baramulla. Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow. @JmuKmrPolice" tweeted the Kashmir Zone Police



## WORLD WHO declares Covid no longer qualifies as global emergency

The World Health Organization said Friday that Covid-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency, marking a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic that triggered unprecedented lockdowns, upended economies worldwide and killed at least 7 million people worldwide. WHO said that even though the emergency phase was over, the pandemic hasn't come to an end, noting recent spikes in cases in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

## REVAMPING RAILWAY STATIONS NOT ENOUGH, CLEAR MESS OUTSIDE, CR TELLS CIVIC AUTHORITIES

Under the ABS scheme, CR will explain to them the various works being undertaken a makeover of 15 stations undertaken under the Amrit Bharat Station (ABS) on the main and harbour lines such scheme. Under the ABS scheme, CR will undertake as Byculla, Matunga, Diva, Mumbra a makeover of 15 stations on the main and harbour and Titwala, to make them lines such as Byculla, Matunga, Diva, Mumbra and aesthetically appealing, user-friendly Titwala, to make them aesthetically appealing, user-friendly and provide amenities that will contribute to long-term convenience of passengers.

"People's experience will improve holistically only if the situation outside the railway stations is overall experience of passengers at equally pleasing. If the condition outside the rail the railway stations across the city, premises is unsuitable, then irrespective of how the Central Railway (CR) officials well the stations are improved, it is of little use. have "earnestly requested" the Civic bodies need to address multiple issues from municipal corporations in Mumbai, encroachment by hawkers, garbage strewn around on the road and footpath to auto rickshaws and taxis blocking the entry/exit points," said a CR official. Sources said they have written a letter to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Thane Municipal Corporation and Kalyan-Dombivali Municipal Corporation under whom the areas outside the railway station premises have been identified under the ABS scheme. "Improvement at stations and railway premises will be visible and effective only when the station-approaches roads, the surrounding area of railway stations are made free from encroachments and garbage. Hence it is earnestly requested to undertake necessary improvement works with respect to these aspects at stations under your jurisdiction," read the letter by CR. "We have also written this letter to public representatives so that there is enough pressure built on them and improvement works are constantly monitored," said another CR official.



## Business MSCI to lower free float of two Adani group companies — Adani Total Gas, Adani Transmission

MSCI will lower the free float of two of India's Adani Group companies, Adani Total Gas and Adani Transmission in its May index review, the financial index provider said on Friday.

MSCI now sees the Adani Total Gas free float at 14% and Adani Transmission at 10%, from 25%. Free float is defined as the proportion of outstanding shares considered available for purchase in public equity markets by international investors.

In February, MSCI postponed implementation of these updates to weightings that were due March and said "potential replicability issues" are behind the decision. Its methodology calls for indexes to be replicated "in an actual portfolio in a cost efficient matter", it said. MSCI also said in the same month it will review the free float designation of some of the Adani firms' securities after U.S. short seller Hindenburg Research accused it of improper use of offshore tax havens and stock manipulation.

## MUMBAI: VAPI LOCALS STEAL GOLD CHAIN WORTH RS 15 LAKH FROM VILE PARLE RESIDENT

Police zero in on the accused thanks to CCTV footage and arrest them in their city; the duo had stolen a motorbike at Mira Road to pull off the crime

Over the past few years, an increase in the number of thieves coming to Mumbai from other states, especially from Gujarat, has been observed by the police. One such case was detected in Vile Parle where two snatchers who hail from Vapi, Bhaumik Trivedi, 38, and Shahid Kapadia, 34, were nabbed after they snatched a gold chain from the neck of a 68-year-old Vile Parle local on the evening of April 3. With the help of CCTV footage, the police caught the duo this week.

According to a police source, the duo targeted the woman outside the gate of her residence. The victim was heading to a dental clinic at the time of the incident.

The accused sped away with the chain, which is worth about Rs 1.50 lakh, on a bike. "The incident was reported to the Vile Parle police and under the guidance of Dicit Gedam, DCP (Zone 8), Senior Inspector Sanjay Narvekar formed a team and caught the accused at Vapi on May 2," said an officer.

During the investigation, it was revealed the duo are repeat offenders and multiple cases have been registered against them in Ahmedabad and Vapi. "They used to come to Mumbai to commit crimes and had a unique modus operandi," a police officer said.

"They would first steal a bike, use it to commit crimes, ditch it and take an auto or taxi to get to the railway station, where they would board a Gujarati-bound train. For this particular crime, the accused used a bike that was stolen from Mira Road," the officer added.

## NCB SEIZES 1 KG OF COCAINE IN GOA; TWO AFRICAN NATIONALS HELD

Goa Customs officials The accused had travelled to intercepted a Kenyan national India from Johannesburg (South identified as Samuel at Dabolim Africa) via Dubai, he said. The airport on the intervening night NCB Goa was informed and a of Wednesday and Thursday on thorough search of the luggage the suspicion of concealing some unearthened two packets of the substance in his luggage, he said contraband weighing 1.009 kg, The Narcotics Control Bureau which was concealed in the false (NCB) seized 1 kg of cocaine and bottom of a trolley bag, he said.

arrested two African nationals In a probe revealed that the Goa and Delhi, an official said on contraband was to be delivered Friday. A Kenyan national was to New Delhi, and in a follow-up apprehended at Dabolim airport operation, the other accused as in Goa, while a Nigerian, who was James EC was arrested in the the receiver of the contraband, capital on Friday, the official said. was caught in Delhi, he said.

In another operation, the NCB's Goa Customs officials intercepted Mumbai unit busted an interstate a Kenyan national identified as drug syndicate being operated Samuel at Dabolim airport on the from Pune with links to Andhra intervening night of Wednesday Pradesh, Bihar and a few other and Thursday on the suspicion of states, an official said. The NCB concealing some substance in his had received information about a luggage, he said. Pune-based person procuring.

## G-20 MEET: ENVIRONMENTALISTS BLOW FUSE OVER BMC MOVE TO LIGHT UP 15,000 TREES

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's decision to install LED lights in 15,000 trees on five roads, in preparation for G-20 delegates, has sparked outrage among environmentalists who claim the fittings will harm the trees and disturb nocturnal birds. However, municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said the lights had a near-zero LUX level and did not emit heat. The G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group is meeting in the city from 23 to 25 May. While the city is gearing up to host G-20 delegates later this month, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) decision to illuminate trees on the routes the dignitaries will take from the airport has sparked outrage among environmentalists.

The second meeting of the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group will be held in the city from May 23 to 25. Last week, municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal reviewed the preparations and directed the departments to complete the related works



on time. As part of a beautification plan, the civic body has issued a tender to permanently install LED lights in nearly 15,000 trees on five roads - from the airport to Taj Hotel, BKC, Taj Lands End, Juhu beach, and Worli.

"We want Mumbai to look better. The issue of illuminating 15,000 trees on five important roads was discussed with higher authorities. We took presentations from companies. Instead of taking the lights on rent, we will purchase them and maintain them so that they can be permanently on our trees," Chahal said.

## MUMBAI: WHY ISN'T THE STATE GOVERNMENT RECOVERING ₹40,000 CRORE FROM BUILDERS?

The PIL pertains to the alleged "unholy nexus between the defaulting developers and the officials of MHADA that caused and resulted in unlawful losses to the state's exchequer to the tune of ₹40,000 crores. On May 16, the Supreme Court will have a final hearing on the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) to recover ₹40,000 crore from several developers in Mumbai.

**MHADA had challenged Bombay HC order**

The SLP was filed by MHADA challenging the Bombay High Court's order in the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by activist Kamalakar Shenoy. The PIL pertains to alleged "unholy nexus between the defaulting developers and the officials of MHADA that caused and resulted in unlawful losses to the state's exchequer to the tune of ₹40,000 crores by virtue of defaulting builders not surrendering surplus area of approximately 1.37 lakh sq. mtrs or 30 lakhs sq. ft saleable area, which otherwise is exclusive property of the state as per the terms laid out in the



Development Control Regulation 33(7) Scheme of the Maharashtra Government." Challenging the appeal of the Chief Executive Officer of MHADA, activist Shenoy in his reply has argued that though the fact of the loss of ₹40,000 Crore was well within the knowledge of MHADA officials, nothing has been done since the last over 30 years against the defaulting developers intentionally by MHADA officials. MHADA has failed to protect its own interest and that of the state government, he alleged. Willful acts of omission and commission by MHADA officials: petitioner Shenoy.

## CBI BOOKS CGST OFFICIAL FOR 'SEEKING RS 1 CR BRIBE AS PER THE COMPLAINT REGISTERED BY CBI, THE AGENCY RECEIVED A COMPLAINT ON APRIL 20 FROM KANDIVALI RESIDENT JITENDRA LUNAWAT AGAINST DHIRENDRA KUMAR, SUPERINTENDENT AT ANTI-EVASION, CGST MUMBAI CENTRAL COMMISSIONERATE, CHURCHGATE.



The Anti-Corruption Wing of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recently booked a superintendent of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) from Mumbai and two other persons for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 1 crore from a man for not arresting his businessman friend in a tax evasion case.

As per the complaint registered by CBI, the agency received a complaint on April 20 from Kandivali resident Jitendra Lunawat against Dhirendra Kumar, superintendent at Anti-Evasion, CGST Mumbai Central Commissionerate, Churchgate.

Lunawat filed the complaint on behalf of his friend Arpit Jagetiya, who has a gold sale and purchase business. The complaint alleged that Dhirendra Kumar demanded a bribe of Rs 1 crore and had already accepted a part of it. A preliminary inquiry conducted by CBI has revealed that a CGST evasion case against Shree Bullions and others is pending, and is being dealt with by Dhirendra Kumar.

As per the FIR, Dhirendra Kumar, along with others, met Arpit Jagetiya at the CC Creation Building in Kalbadevi on April 20, 2023, at around 4:30 pm. He later compelled him to come to the CGST office's 3rd floor at Churchgate and kept him there for around 5 to 6 hours. "Here, Dhirendra demanded Rs 1 crore in exchange for not arresting Arpit Jagetiya. After negotiation, he agreed to accept Rs 50 lakh, of which Rs 25 lakh was to be paid that very night, and the remaining Rs 25 lakh on the next day, April 21, 2023," the CBI FIR said.

"Dhirendra allegedly accepted the first instalment of Rs 25 lakh through other accused persons, Amritlal Sankhala and Baban, on April 21, 2023, the FIR said.

After a preliminary inquiry, CBI recently booked Dhirendra Kumar and others under Section 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC and Sections 7 and 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act for offences relating to the demand of bribes by public servants and abetment to offences.

## SON DENIED A SEAT IN DADAR SCHOOL; PARENT ALLEGES SYSTEM GLITCH IN RTE ADMISSION

**AN OFFICIAL FROM THE BMC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID, "ONCE A CHILD IS ALLOTTED A SCHOOL IN THE LOTTERY UNDER RTE, THE SAME NAME IS NOT GIVEN THE BENEFIT AGAIN. SPECIFICS OF THIS CASE NEED TO BE REVIEWED."**



Amid ongoing school admissions under the Right To Education (RTE) Act, a new issue with the online system has come to the fore as a parent has alleged losing out on an allotted seat due to a system error. A Dadar resident, Amit Jadhav, applied for his son's admission to school under RTE and was allotted a seat in a Dadar school via the lottery system. But when he went to confirm the admission, Jadhav was told it could not be done as the system shows his name as a student (admitted under RTE) in a Wadala school.

In 2019-20, Jadhav's son was allotted a seat under RTE in a school in Wadala. "We decided not to confirm the admission as it was a long distance from home. Soon after, we shifted to Thane and my son completed pre-primary in a local school there. Now we are back in Dadar, and so I applied for his admission under RTE in nearby schools. But, now that the school is allotted, we are told the system is not confirming the admission because the name is already registered in the Wadala school. How was my application accepted by the system then?" said Jadhav. He said this was the second consecutive year the same issue had arisen.

Jadhav said, "Last year, too, I applied for my son's admission to a Dadar school under RTE. A school was subsequently allotted, but due to the same error, we were denied admission. I had approached BMC which conducts RTE admissions, but the admission process was over by then. I was told to submit a letter requesting cancellation of the old admission, and then retry next year." The parent has now approached activist Nitin Dalvi.

An official from the BMC education department said, "Once a child is allotted a school in the lottery under RTE, the same name is not given the benefit again. Specifics of this case need to be reviewed."

## TWO MUMBAI COPS WERE SUSPENDED FOR ASSAULTING DOCTORS. AND EXTORTING MONEY FROM THEM; ANOTHER FOR LAPSES

MUMBAI: Two Mumbai Police personnel who allegedly assaulted two doctors, who had flouted traffic rules, and extorted money from them have been suspended, an official said on Friday. Similar action has also been taken against another cop for alleged lapses.

PTI quoted the official as saying the alleged incident took place on April 25 when two doctors were brought to the Samta Nagar police station in suburban Kandivali for violating traffic norms. The doctors were allegedly hit with a belt and made to stand at the police station for a long time.

One sub-inspector and a police naik extorted money from them, he said. The doctors then approached senior police officials and narrated their ordeal at the police station.

A preliminary inquiry found that there was truth in the doctors' version, he said. A police inspector who was on duty at the time has also been placed under suspension for failing to instruct his juniors to take lawful action and guide them, the official said, adding a departmental inquiry is on against the cops.

## UDDHAV DENIED PERMISSION TO HOLD RALLY AT BARSU



Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was denied permission to hold a rally at Barsu in Ratnagiri district, Mumbai. He will only meet protestors opposing a petrochemical refinery project and address a press conference before heading to Mahad for a party rally.

## AIRLINE TROLLS NEWLYWED COUPLE IN VIRAL TWEET: 'SHE'S REGRETTING MARRYING'

Europe's largest airline by passenger numbers, and one of Twitter's top trolls, has hit out again—this time at a newlywed couple—showing that nobody is safe from its witty social-media presence.

Ryanair, a low-cost Irish airline founded in 1984, is famed for its cheap airfares for passengers travelling around Europe.

In a tweet on May 3, Ryanair's official Twitter account replied to a customer complaint. Mark Bowe, a meteorologist from Ireland, wrote: "I'm hitting home runs with flights for my wedding. Off on honeymoon now about to fly into Ibiza for the first time and we just can't wait to check out the view on the way over... Oh...wait... Cheers @Ryanair."

Alongside the tweet that has now been viewed 7.7 million times, Bowe shared a picture of himself and his new wife sitting on a Ryanair flight with no window next to their seat.

Where some may expect a generic customer-service apology from the airline, the response from the social-media team at Ryanair offered something different. Quoting the tweet, the message reads: "She's regretting marrying someone who can't read the fine print."

With more than 27,000 likes and hundreds of responses, the way the airline poked fun at its customer left people in stitches. One Twitter user replied: "LOOOOOOOL Ryanair admin your days are numbered," to which the social-media worker replied: "like this marriage."



**VIRAL TWEET**