

# Army commanders whose bases breached in terror attacks may be told to quit



Agency  
New Delhi June 21,

Commanders who were in charge of the Uri brigade, the Sunjuwan military camp and the Nagrota army base in Jammu and Kashmir when their establishments were stormed by terrorists in past years may have "to go home", the government has decided, seeking to take action against the senior leadership for security lapses that may have aided the attacks. The government has communicated its recommendation to the Indian Army, a senior official in the security establishment said, requesting anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to the media. Essentially, the government wants these officers to put in their papers and retire. The officers will still be eligible to receive all the benefits that are due to them, he added. "The army was communicated that commanders should put in their papers days after the new government was sworn in," said a second official in the security establishment, who also did not want to be named. The decision comes less than a month after the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National

Democratic Alliance (NDA) was sworn in for a second successive term in office after winning a commanding majority in the April-May general elections. A total of 36 army personnel died in the three attacks, two of which — on the Uri brigade and the Nagrota base — took place in 2016, and the third — on the Sunjuwan camp — last year. An Indian Army spokesperson did not comment on the government's decision. "I have no information," the spokesperson said in reply to a query by HT. A group of terrorists sneaked into the Brigade Headquarters in Uri, killing 19 soldiers, on September 18, 2016. Seven soldiers, including an officer, died when terrorists stormed the 16 Corps Artillery Brigade located in Nagrota on November 29, 2016. Eleven soldiers were killed when terrorists attacked the Sunjuwan camp on February 10, 2018. The Uri attack prompted the Indian Army to carry out cross-border "surgical strikes" on terrorist camps on 28 September, 2016, an action that sparked fears of war between India and Pakistan.

Inquires by the Indian Army into the Uri attack revealed lapses, according to the first official. For instance, troops were housed in tents although safer shelters were available. Importantly, there had been prior information about a possible attack. Similarly, inquiries into the attacks in Nagrota and Sunjuwan also revealed command and control lapses, the official said. For instance, a terrorist breached the security cordon in Nagrota and entered the camp but was not detected by multiple layers of security. A machine-gun mounted security post that came in the way of the terrorist allegedly offered no resistance. Action against commanders is not a completely new proposal. During the NDA's previous regime, then defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman had pushed for strong action in such cases. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed his extreme displeasure over the attacks in conversations with the army and air force chiefs, a third government official said on condition of anonymity. The military, however, resisted, he added. On its part, the government wants to hold senior leadership responsible for lapses that may have aided the terror attacks.

After the Modi government came back to power last month, it revived the move for action against commanders under whose watch their establishments were attacked by terrorists, a fourth senior official who did not want to be named said.

The Indian Army is not keen to retire the commanders because of operational issues. "The attacks have been probed. Necessary steps have been initiated already, can action be initiated again?" a senior Indian Army officer, who did not want to be named, asked.

Interestingly, one of the base commanders had just assumed charge two days before the attack.

The military had resisted previous attempts by the government to initiate exemplary action against officers on grounds that any action, other than removal from command, against them could set a bad precedent and make future commanders engaged in counter-insurgency and counterterror (CICT) operations apprehensive.

"Being removed from command is disgraceful," General Bipin Rawat, the army chief, had earlier said when asked whether the army was considering stricter action.

The army had also argued that punishing officers for terror attacks would lead to a "fortress mindset" at a time when militaries spend more energy protecting bases and minimising casualties rather than pursuing terrorists. "If officers are punished for terrorists managing to carry out an attack, casualties of soldiers, the focus and tempo of counterterror operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the north-eastern states will have to change," another senior army officer, who has served many years in Jammu and Kashmir, said.

# International Yoga Day Celebrated



IT News  
Bishnupur, June 21:

Humanism Foundation in collaboration with Loktak Brigade has jointly organised the International Yoga Day at the premise of Loktak Skill Development Center here today.

The celebration was participated by trainees, who are undergoing Field

Technician: Computing and Peripheral under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana (PMKVY), Jawans of Loktak Brigade and staffs of Humanism Foundation. As part of the celebration around 110 (hundred and ten) participants demonstrated various yoga Asanas.

Humanism Foundation is empaneled Training

Provider with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.

Currently, Humanism Foundation is running skill development centres at Bishnupur Thiyam Leikai, Louko Pat and Moreh providing various job oriented skill development courses for unemployed youths of the state.

## Sport News

# India Predicted XI against Afghanistan - Rishabh Pant set for World Cup debut

Agency  
New Delhi June 21,

The Indian cricket team will be looking to continue their unbeaten run in the ICC

World Cup 2019 when they take on Afghanistan in the group stage encounter in Southampton on Saturday. With three wins in four matches (including a no result), the Virat Kohli-led side are currently fourth in the points table with a net run rate of +1.027. In their previous encounter, India defeated traditional rivals Pakistan in a mainly one-sided encounter with brilliant performances from Rohit Sharma and the bowlers.

The Men in Blue have enjoyed a good run of form in the tournament till now with wins over South Africa, Australia and Pakistan. Rohit has already slammed two centuries and skipper Kohli has also regained his form with a fifty in the previous match. However, the team is plagued with injury issues that will force changes in personnel. Opener Shikhar Dhawan, who started the tournament with a hundred against Australia, was ruled out of the tournament with a fractured thumb and his replacement Rishabh Pant is expected to make his World Cup debut against Afghanistan. He will most likely replace Vijay Shankar in

the team and will be batting at the No.4 position.

In the bowling department, Bhuvneshwar Kumar was also ruled out for 2-3 matches after suffering a hamstring injury and in all likelihood, Mohammed Shami will take his place in the playing XI. He will be partnering Jasprit Bumrah in the pace department with Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal being the two specialist spinners.

**India Predicted XI:**

Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, MS Dhoni, Kedar Jadhav, Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami

# Himachal: Death toll in bus accident in Kullu district rises to 44

Agency  
New Delhi June 21,

In Himachal Pradesh, the death toll in bus accident in Kullu district has risen to 44. Most of the deceased are said to be locals of nearby villages of Kullu district. The ill-fated private bus was on its way from Kullu to Gadagushaini when it plunged into a deep gorge near Bhauet at Banjar Sub-division of Kullu district around 5:00 pm yesterday.

Around 34 people, who were injured in this accident, have

been admitted at Banjar Civil hospital in Kullu while seriously injured shifted to Kullu district hospital. The cause of the accident is said to be overloading and negligent driving. President, Vice President and Prime Minister have expressed sadness on the loss of lives in this bus accident. Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur expressed deep grief over the accident and directed the district administration to provide all possible

assistance to the victims of this tragic accident. The Chief Minister has also ordered Magisterial inquiry into the incident. In Himachal Pradesh, the death toll in yesterday's Kullu district bus accident has risen to 44. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has ordered magisterial probe into the incident. The ill-fated private bus was on its way from Kullu to Gadagushaini when it plunged into a deep gorge near Bhauet at Banjar tehsil of Kullu district yesterday

evening. Around 34 injured people, are being treated at Banjar civil and Kullu district hospitals. Some severely injured have been referred to PGI Chandigarh as well. The cause of the accident is said to be overloading and negligent driving. Most the deceased are locals of nearby villages of Kullu district. Meanwhile, State Transport Minister Govind Singh Thakur rushed to Kullu yesterday itself whereas Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur will visit the accident site today.

# Assam Rifles Conducts Baby League Football Cup 2019 At Ukhrul

IT News  
Ukhrul, June 21,

Somsai Battalion of 10 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in conjunction with Ukhrul Football Club concluded the District Level 7-a-side (Under - 12) Baby League Football Cup 2019 at Ukhrul. The Baby League was conducted from 18 - 20 June 2019 and has been widely appreciated by the locals.

A total of six teams participated in the tournament. The final match was played between Ukhrul Basic Soccer Foundation versus Wunggayam FC. Football is the most popular sport in Manipur and passionately followed by the locals. The inaugural Baby League was organised by Assam Rifles under the banner of Late Major Bob Khathing Football Tournament in

February 2019. Based on popular demand, a similar tournament has been organised for the young players. The Assam Rifles has also been supporting the budding talent through scholarships and training. This tournament helped in reinforcing the sports culture in Ukhrul District and encourage the efforts of local clubs like Ukhrul FC in harnessing the young talent.

# India likely to let budget deficit rise as tax receipts fall short

Agency  
New Delhi June 21,

The government is likely to overshoot the budget deficit target previously set for the current fiscal year, three officials have warned, as a slowing economy creates a big shortfall in tax collections and prompts new stimulus plans.

New Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents her first budget on July 5, for the fiscal year ending March 2020. It is also the first budget of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's second term after his government was returned in a landslide election win last month. Since becoming prime minister in 2014, Modi succeeded in improving public finances, trimming the fiscal deficit to 3.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) from 4.5% in 2013/14, mostly through subsidies cuts and fuel taxes. He is now, however, under pressure to loosen the purse strings to follow through the

election promises such as increased spending on roads and housing and tax cuts for companies and individuals. "There is no other option but to defer the fiscal consolidation target as boosting economic growth and reviving private investment is our top priority," a senior finance ministry official involved in the budget discussions, told Reuters. Such a decision would ultimately be made by the prime minister's office after consultation with advisers, he said. That may well mean raising the

fiscal deficit target to as much as 3.6% of GDP from an already upwardly revised target of 3.4%, set in February's interim budget, he said. The original goal, set in February 2018, had been 3.3%. Slipping fiscal discipline would hurt the "credibility" of the budget and in turn hit investment, the bond market and the rupee, analysts say. "If the (fiscal) target does slip by 10 or 20 bps it will be seen as a setback," said A. Prasanna, chief economist at ICICI Securities Primary Dealership in Mumbai.

## Voter I-Card lost

I, the undersigned Tilotama Sougaijam, daughter of Sougaijam Samson Singh of Nongmeibung Chakpram Leirak, Imphal East, have lost my Voter I-Card (Epic No. - CMN0554576) on the way between Lamlong Bazar and Nongmeibung on June 14, 2019.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned

Sd/-  
Tilotama Sougaijam  
Contact No. - 8730821116

## Registration certificate lost

I, the undersigned, Konjengjam Sandeep Singh of Yaikul Chingkhams Leirak, Imphal West have lost my Registration certificate bearing Registration number 16868 issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between my home to Tera on 6/6/2019.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Konjengjam Sandeep Singh

## Pension book lost

I, the undersigned, Senjam Manihar Singh of Thangmeiband Polem Leikai, have lost my Pension book - P.P.O. No. 12098/SM. Nominee/Spouse - RK Sanatombi Devi. (Date of Birth - 01/03/1940, date of Appointment - 01/04/1958 and date of Retirement - 25/02/1998) on the way between Thangmeiband to Paona Bazar on June 14, 2019.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Senjam Manihar Singh