

Yasin Malik Held Under PSA, Moved To Jammu



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik was detained under the harsh Public Safety Act (PSA) on Thursday and shifted to a jail outside the Valley.

Police sources said Malik was shifted to Kot Balwal Jail in Jammu district. Anybody detained

under the PSA can be held for a maximum of two years without any judicial intervention.

Over 800 warrants under the PSA were issued during the 2016 unrest that followed the killing of Hizbul poster boy Burhan Wani in a gunfight with the security forces in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Hafiz Saeed's Assets Seized

ISLAMABAD: At least two seminaries and assets belonging to Hafiz Saeed's proscribed Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and its charity arm Falah-e-Insaniyat (FIF) have been taken over by the Pakistan government as it intensified its crackdown on Wednesday against Islamist groups in the wake of the Kashmir suicide bombing that killed 40 CRPF troopers.

The operation, launched by the law enforcement agencies under the National Action Plan, came a day after Pakistan formally placed the proscribed organisations in the list of banned organisations, Dawn News reported.

The crackdown began amid tensions between India and Pakistan after the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) claimed responsibility for the February 14 bombing. The incident resulted in mounting pressure from the international community on Islamabad to act on terror groups based on its soil. The Pakistan government on

Tuesday arrested the brother and son of JeM chief Masood Azhar along with 42 others affiliated with the banned terror groups.

Reports say that in Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority list, which was updated on Tuesday, the JuD and FIF were among 70 organisations proscribed by the Ministry of Interior under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. According to Dawn, major action was taken in Punjab's Chakwal and Attock districts after the additional Chief Secretary of the region told commissioners and divisional police heads to seize the assets.

Later, the seminaries of JuD situated in Chakwal - Madrasa Khalid bin Waleed in the Talagang area and Madrasa Darus Salam on Chakwal's Railway Road - along with their staff were placed at the disposal of the Punjab government's Auqaf Department. In Attock district, the management and operational control of three properties were taken over.

Sonia, Rahul To Contest From Their Rae Bareli & Amethi Seats

NEW DELHI: Congress President Rahul Gandhi will contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from his traditional Amethi seat and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi from Rae Bareli, according to Congress's first list of candidates released on Thursday.

The list of 15 candidates includes four candidates from Gujarat and 11 from Uttar Pradesh.

In Uttar Pradesh, the party has again fielded former Union ministers Salman Khurshid from Farrukhabad, Jitin Prasad from Dhaurahra and R.P.N. Singh from Kushi Nagar. Salman Khurshid lost badly in the last Lok Sabha

elections. The party has fielded former MP Annu Tandon from Unnao, Nirmal Khatri from Faizabad, Imran Masood from Saharanpur, Saleem Iqbal Shervani from Badaun, Rajaram Pal from Abkarpur and Brij Lal Khabri from Jalaun.

In Gujarat, the party has fielded Raju Parmar from Ahmedabad West, Bharatsinh M Solanki from Anand, Prashant Patel from Vadodara and Ranjit Mohansinh Rathwa from Chhota Udaipur.

The first Congress list has come even as the schedule of Lok Sabha elections has not been declared.

With both Rahul Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi contesting, there is still speculation if Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is general secretary of eastern Uttar Pradesh, will enter the poll fray.

The Congress, which is not part of Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance in Uttar Pradesh, is fighting the elections on its own though it has not ruled out possibility of alliance with smaller parties during and after the elections are declared.

Party leaders said the list shows that the party will contest the elections "on the front foot" and strongly.

Grand Goa Carnival Begins



Panaji: King Momo announcing the start of Carnival Festival in Goa during the Carnival Parade held in Mirmar, Panaji on March 2, 2019. (Photo: IANS)

PANAJI: The carnival festivities kicked off in Goa with a colourfully-decorated float parade passing through the state capital last Saturday evening.

Speaking to reporters after flagging off the parade, Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar gave the celebrations a dash of patriotic flavour: "Viva Carnival! King Momo has given message

-- eat, drink, be merry. Today, the country is also moving ahead. Our bravehearts have returned after demolishing Pakistan," he said. Carnival processions, symbolic of Goa's colonial Portuguese legacy, are held every year before the holy season of Lent, which began on March 6.

The festival, which involves public celebration in form of long

parades of colourful floats, with masqueraded dancers, is led by King Momo, the king of carnival. King Momo is usually a locally-chosen dignitary who is given a symbolic key to the city and formally announces the festivities open.

Similar carnival float parades will be organised in other towns in the state in the coming days.

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