



JAMMU KASHMIR COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY (JKCCS)

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**A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY JAMMU KASHMIR
COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY (JKCCS)**

AND

**ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS OF DISAPPEARED
PERSONS (APDP)**

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The Informative Missive is a monthly newsletter published by Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS). The Informative Missive is a collection of all human rights related news, stories and data on a monthly basis. The Informative Missive provides monthly figures of killings due to violence in Jammu and Kashmir and information on related human rights violations and abuses.



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1. Editorial

In view of the Rehabilitation Policy of the Ex-Militants adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir government in 2010 for the return of ex-militants, who had crossed over to Pakistan administered Kashmir for acquiring arms training, a lot of these ex-militants returned to Jammu & Kashmir alongwith their families.

The dates stipulated in the order was that between 1989 to 2009 all those, who had gone across to Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PaK) for acquiring arms training and have shunned militancy and were intending to return back to Jammu and Kashmir could avail this policy. In addition, the policy was extended to the wives and children and other dependents of these ex-militants. Pertinently, the long stay of these ex-militants in PaK has resulted in their marriages with women there and in other parts of Pakistan as well. The policy further stated that “the wives of these militants and children would be considered, after their counselling, on entering into the country so that they could lead a normal life.” Earlier also, a procedure was followed up after an order was passed in 2004 for amnesty by the then Jammu & Kashmir government for the rehabilitation of ex-militants. However, this earlier order was meant for the militants within the Jammu & Kashmir.

Following the government order in 2010, nearly 300 ex-militants decided to return to the valley along with their families comprising of their wives and children, and are currently living in various parts of the valley. Pertinently, these ex-militants families were registered as refugees in PaK and were entitled to Rs. 1500/- per person and accommodation (Rs. 12,000 per family).

These families for various reasons returned via Nepal border and not the route authorized by the Jammu & Kashmir government i.e. Wagha-Attari, Salamabad or Chakan-da-Bagh or Indra Gandhi International Airport. They were forced to take this route despite repeatedly approaching the Indian High Commission at Islamabad for the issuance of visas but were refused under one or the other pretext.

After entering Kashmir and living here these families are facing multiple problems. They are being denied mandatory documents like state subject certificates (citizenship document), passports, Adhaar cards and ration cards for which most of the families have applied. Only in few cases, the state subject certificates were “managed” for the children but none for the wives. In most cases, the issuing authorities have questioned and harassed them. And ironically, the authorities have provided them with election cards, with which the State has no problem.

It is amply clear from the denial of passports to them, that they are not being treated as bonafide citizens of Jammu & Kashmir. The wives of these ex-militants, who belong to PaK and other parts of Pakistan, are unable to travel back to their parental homes and relatives since they have arrived here. Meanwhile, the close relatives of many of these women have died and they were unable to visit during those times. Out of the 49 women who approached JKCCS, 40 women have lost their nearest relations in Muzaffarabad. One of the women has lost three nearest relatives.

These women are being denied the right to mourning as they can’t travel to their families who live only 170 kilometres away. Calling their families via phone is not a possibility as the phone communication is barred from this side of Kashmir, only piling up their miseries. Very

few relatives of these women from the other side of Kashmir have managed to visit them here.

These families are quite concerned about their children as they are very eager to visit their grandparents in PaK, where they feel comfortable and are at ease. These children are insisting upon their parents to arrange travel documents for them, which seems unlikely at least in near future. Parents have to lie to their children that their travel documents are in progress and with the passage of time it seems very difficult for them to sustain the lie.

The ex-militants and their Pakistani wives are facing problems in the Kashmiri society. The wives don't have any relatives here and when in case of any matrimonial dispute they have nowhere to go. The wives especially are also feeling a sense of isolation. These women face an uncomfortable barrage of questions not only from the society but also from their in-laws for not getting married at their native places. Most of them were reluctant to join their husbands to return back to Kashmir. It was the matrimonial compulsions and fear of losing their children which drew them to an 'alien' conflict zone. At that time they were under the impression that it would be a normal domicile and they could frequently visit their homes, as assured.

The perpetual frustration generates suicidal tendencies in many of them. So far two persons have taken the extreme step. One Bashir Bukhari from Kreeri who had returned to the valley in 2012 killed himself only after a year. Saira of Shahgund who had also arrived in the valley in 2012 committed self-immolation in 2014 and as a result of the shock of her death, her mother also passed away in Muzaffarabad.

These couples come from the lower-middle class strata of society and have tried to organize themselves for highlighting their plight. In 2010, they held demonstrations in a local park just near press enclave in Srinagar to attract media attention to their plight. They have also made a representation to the then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who would often publicize this policy, and they have contacted former Chief Minister from PDP Mehbooba Mufti (before Burhan Wani's killing) who assured them of taking up the matter with Government of India. They also staged as many as three sit-ins in press colony in Srinagar to highlight their sufferings from 2013 till early 2016.

All these women and their ex-militant husbands are still on the police watch list and are facing harassments and criminal cases under Foreigners Act before different courts. The wives of these ex-militants, for the fear of reprisal, prevailed upon them not to agitate further. They (women) are a frustrated and feel trapped in the valley. They feel living completely at the mercy of their in-laws and husbands, who are mostly struggling for manual jobs.

Ironically, two of these women from Uri contested the recent Panchayat elections, which were generally boycotted by the local politicians, for the promise that they will be provided passports. One woman stated that, if they will get travel documents they will leave this place for good. And when asked about her husbands she replied: "they will cross the border, if they will have to".

Normally, these women according to the law are entitled to get all the rights of the citizens here as after marriage the domicile merges with that of her husband as a legal consequence of the nuptial knot. As per domestic and international laws, they are so entitled but the government has broken the promise made to them in 2012, whom they trusted and returned

back to the valley. The women say that if the government hadnt made promises, they would be leading a normal life in PaK.

It is the doctrine of Promissory Estoppel, a universally recognized right *where the government makes a promise knowing or intending that it would be acted upon by the promisee and promisee acting in reliance of it and if government alters its position, the government will be held bound by the promise and the promise will be enforceable against the government at the instance of promise.* There are several judgements by the courts which can be agitated before the judiciary.

These dejected, desperate and exhausted families have approached JKCCS for agitating the matter before the judiciary and also for intensifying and launching an effective campaign as it is a humanitarian issue.

Currently, the position of these families is of almost stateless persons who are not acknowledged as the citizens bestowed with privileges and rights and is in violation of UDHR, to which India is a signatory, which guarantees everyone the right to nationality. Besides judicial remedy, which is per se exhaustive and time-consuming, a campaign is needed to highlight their plight particularly of their children who are being punished due to the breaking of a promise by the government.

2. Chronology of Incidents

Nov 01: Two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were killed in a pre-dawn gun battle at a perfume manufacturing factory, which was blasted by explosives, located in Malwanche forests in Zoogu village of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Charred bodies of the duo were recovered from the debris of the mangled factory and were later identified as those of Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, resident of Brass Arizal, and Mohammad Amin Mir, resident of Drangbal Pampore. In another encounter, police said that Army shot dead a militant in Kupwara district. The militant was later identified as Naseer Teli, a resident of Gulabad Arampora associated with TUM, was killed in a brief shootout with the forces in Sagipora area of Handwara. Deputy inspector general of police north Kashmir Atul Goel told media that the militant has been killed and his identity is being ascertained. In another incident, a senior leader of the rightwing Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and his brother were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in at Tapal Mohalla in Kishtwar, triggering massive protest demonstrations following which the government imposed curfew. The slain were identified as Anil Parihar, State Secretary BJP, and his brother Ajit Parihar. In a different incident, a 55-year-old woman, who died due to possible cardiac arrest in Tenghar village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on October 31 night, accused forces of stopping them from ferrying her to hospital after she suffered the heart attack. Fazi Begum wife of Ghulam Hassan Wagay of Tenghar village of Pulwama died of cardiac arrest on October 31 night.

Nov 02: The Army staged a flag march in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar town where curfew was imposed after a senior BJP leader and his brother were killed by unidentified gunmen on Nov 01 night, officials. District Magistrate Kishtwar Angrez Singh Rana told PTI the situation was tense but under control. "The Army staged a flag march in Kishtwar town in order to maintain law and order," District Magistrate Kishtwar Angrez Singh Rana told PTI. He said the curfew, which was imposed in the town, was strictly in place and additional security personnel were deployed in sensitive areas of the town.

Nov 03: A mentally unsound man who allegedly tried to walk into an army camp was shot dead by army soldiers at Pahnoo village in Shopian district in the intervening night of

November 2 and 3, police said. The official identified the slain man as Rayees Ahmad Wani, resident of Begam village in neighbouring Kulgam district. While an encounter broke out in Shopian district. The news of killing of two militants was also reported but not confirmed.

Nov 04: A 32-year-old construction worker and a local militant in an encounter on November 3 evening in Gagren village in Khudpora area of Shopian district. The slain militant was identified as Irfan Ahmad Bhat, a native of Bandzoo village in Pulwama district who was currently living in Shopian district's Gund-Hadov village. The slain civilian was identified as Shaheen Ahmad, son of Manzoor Ahmad Mir, resident of Gagren village. Police said that two militants had escaped from the encounter site as blood trails were found leading away from the house.

Nov 05: After a brief exchange of gunfire with militants, armed forces launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) at Bakoor area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Nov 06: Two Hizbul Mujahideen militants including a former soldier were killed in an overnight gun-battle with armed forces in a village south Kashmir district. They have been identified as Amir Amin son of Mohammad Amin Rather of Awneera, Shopian and Idrees Ahmad son of Mohammad Sultan of Safnagri, Shopian. While an Indian Army soldier was injured in a sniper fire in Rajouri along the de facto border, defence sources told IANS. The injured soldier has been shifted to the Army hospital in Udhampur, sources said on Tuesday. "It was a sniper fire from across the Line of Control in Nowshera sector," said a defence source.

Nov 07: A complete shutdown was observed on November 4 in Shopian to mourn the killing of two Hizbul Mujahideen militants in a nocturnal encounter at Safnagri village of Shopian. While a CASO was launched in Andoora village in Handwara in Kupwara.

Nov 08: No incident of violence reported.

Nov 09: A JeM militant of Pakistani origin was killed in a daylong encounter in Daar Ganaiund village, some 13 kilometers from main town Tral area of Pulwama district. A policeman was injured during the gunfight. The police said that the militant, based on material retrieved from his body, has been identified as a Pakistani national codenamed Anwar. Clashes meanwhile erupted around the site of the encounter soon after the news spread in the area. Hundreds of local youth hurled stones at the government forces who retaliated with tear smoke shelling. Clashes also erupted in main town Tral, where forces resorted to aerial firing. No one was injured during the clashes, however. Mobile internet services in police district Awantipora were suspended early Friday morning and were still snapped when last reports came in. While an army porter was killed in a ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops in Akhnoor sector along the Line of Control in Jammu district, news agency IANS reported. "An army porter identified as Deepak Kumar was killed in sniper fire from Pakistan side. Our troops have retaliated strongly", the agency quoted a defence source as saying. In another incident, a BSF soldier was injured when Pakistani forces targeted Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Nov 10: Two militants were killed in a brief gun-battle with government forces in laid a siege around Tikken village of Pulwama south Kashmir. Special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 55 RR and paramilitary CRPF were involved in the encounter. The slain militants were identified as Liyaqat Wani of Bellow village and Wajidul Islam of Babhara village, both in Pulwama district. In another incident Rifleman Varun Kattal, from Jammu and Kashmir's Samba, was killed in sniper fire from across the LoC in the Sunderbani sector and two BSF soldier injured in cross LOC shelling in Rajouri.

Nov 11: One militant was killed when he tried to hurl a grenade on a police party at Handwara bypass in Kupwara district, however, the grenade exploded in his hand and he died on the spot. The slain militant was identified as Ishtiyahq, a Pak national. His associate managed to escape from the spot. While an Army soldier was killed by a Pakistani sniper

along the Line of Control in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials told media, the third fatal casualty due to sniping from across the border in three days. The soldier, manning a forward post in Kalal area of Noushera sector, was shot by a Pakistani sniper, resulting in his death, they said.

Nov 12: An army soldier was killed and another critically injured in yet another alleged Pakistan sniper attack along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch. In the incident, two soldiers suffered critical bullet wounds and were taken to nearby army hospital where Lance naik Antony Sebastian succumbed to wounds.

Nov 13: The army claimed to have killed two unidentified militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of frontier Kupwara district. Army also claimed it has killed an unidentified heavily-armed Pakistani intruder along the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnour in Jammu.

Nov 14: The armies of India and Pakistan exchanged gunfire at two locations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nov 15: Unidentified gunmen abducted a youth from south Kashmir's Shopian district. A police official said that at around 7 pm some unidentified gunmen abducted Nadeem Mansoor, 17, from his native village of Safanagri.

Nov 16: A student was abducted by militants on November 15 evening was found dead. The body of the killed student was found in Niklora village Pulwama district. The killed student was identified as Nadeem Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmad Dar, resident of Safnagri village of Shopian. He was accused of being army informer.

Nov 17: Five civilians were abducted in Shopian and the corpse of one, with the throat slit, was found lying in an orchard a few hours later. The corpse of 18-year-old Huzaif Ahmad Kuttay, son of Muhammad Ashraf Kuttay, resident of Manzgam village of district Kulgam, was found lying in an orchard in Tongri Nalla area of Landoora village in Shopian. Huzaid was one of three persons abducted by unknown gunmen. The two other abducted civilians, Farooq Ahmad Thoker and Shahid Ahmad Ganie, were released in the afternoon by their abductors, but Huzaif was brutally killed. In Meminder village of Shopian, unknown gunmen abducted two civilian youths in the evening. Villagers identified the abducted persons as Haqib Ahmad Ganie, son of Javid Ahmad Ganie, resident of Meminder, and Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh, son of Muhammad Yousuf Sheikh, resident of Pudsoo village. Both were abducted from Meminder village.

Nov 18: A teenager was among two Al-Badr militants killed in an overnight gunfight with armed forces at Reban village in Shopian's Zainpora. The slain militants were identified as Nawaz Ahmad Wagay of Reban village of Shopian and 18-year-old Yawar Ahmad Wani of Bhatnor village of Pulwama. Internet services were suspended in Shopian district on November 17 midnight for some hours when the gunfight broke out. In another incident, a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) constable on Panchayat polls duty was killed when militants attacked a CRPF and police camp at Kakapora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. While two army soldiers received bullet injuries during an ambush by militants on them in Kakapora village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Nov 19: A BSF soldier was killed in a mysterious blast at a border outpost (BOP) along the International Border (IB) in Samba. Reports said, a blast has taken place at a BOP in Samba sector. One BSF person has died and few others (were) injured.

Nov 20: An army soldier and four militants from Shopian district who joined Hizbul Mujahideen this year were killed, along with an army soldier, in an encounter at Nadigam village in Shopian on the intervening night of November 19 and 20. Three army men were injured during the exchange of gunfire, while in street clashes near the encounter site; three civilians including two teenage girls were injured by bullets fired by government forces. The slain militants were identified as Basharat Ahmad Nengroo, son of Abdul Rashid Nengroo,

resident of Chotigam, who joined militant ranks on 1/8/2018; Mehraj ud Din, son of Abdul Ahad Najar, resident of Drawani village, who joined militant ranks on 21/5/2018; Abid Nazir Chopan, son of Nazir Ahmad Chopan, resident of Padderpora village, who joined militant ranks on 18/4/2018; and Anam ul Haq, son of Mubarak Hussain, resident of Motijun village, who joined militant ranks on 23/5/2018. While a senior Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) leader, Mir Hafizullah, was shot at and killed by unidentified gunmen in Anantnag district of south Kashmir. His wife was also injured during the shootout, which took place right outside his house, in Badura area of Akinagam village in Achabal, Anantnag. In another militancy related activity, militants attacked CRPF camp in Nawa village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. The official said no loss or injury was reported in the incident. In cross LOC shelling, two army soldiers were injured along LOC in Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu. An attempt to burn down the Panchayat Ghar was foiled in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. A cop who allegedly attempted suicide outside the residence of Director General of Police, succumbed to his injuries at Government Medical College and Hospital (GMC&H) Jammu, police said. IRP head constable Subash Chander son of late Nanak Chand of Aanjana (Rajal), Nowshera, Rajouri, was on duty outside the residence of DGP Dilbagh Singh at Bikram Chowk area jammu, when he allegedly shot himself with his service rifle on November 19.

Nov 21: An army trooper injured in a landmine explosion along LOC in Poonch district of Jammu division. While another army soldier was injured in cross LOC shelling in Akhnoor sector in Jammu.

Nov 22: A 14-year-old girl was critically wounded in cross-fire between militants and government forces in Qaimoh, Kulgam district. The injured girl, who went into comma, was identified as, Muskan Jan of Qaimoh area. In another incident, suspected militants hurled a grenade into a camp of the police's special operations group (SOG) which also houses the official residence of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Shopian district. The grenade landed near the fencing of the camp without causing any damage.

Nov 23: In a pre-dawn gunfight, six militants, one of them accused of killing journalist Shujaat Bukhari, were killed by armed forces in Satkipora village on the outskirts of Bijbehara town of Anantnag district. Four among the slain militants belonged to Lashkar-e-Toiba and two to Hizbul-Mujahideen. One of them was the district commander of the Hizbul for Anantnag. The slain militants have been identified as Azad Malik alias Daada of Arwini Bijbehara; Unais Shafi Bhat of Takia Bal, Bijbehara (district commander of the Hizb); Firdaus Ahmad Mir of Pulwama (district commander of Lashkar); Basit Ahmad Mir of Khannabal, Anantnag (Lashkar operative); Shahid Ahmad Malik of Sangam Anantnag; and Atif Hassan Najar of Waghama, Bijbehara (of Hizb). A former Special Police officer (SPO), who was among three persons abducted by suspected militants from Reben village of Shopian, has been killed. However, two others, both civilians, were released in late evening. Reports said that suspected militants abducted former SPO Basharat Ahmad Wagay and two civilians, Riyaz Ahmad and Zahid, from Reben village at about 4:30 pm. While a 27-year-old man was shot at in his head and leg in what local said was army firing but the army said was gunfire opened by militants in Chattergam village in Budgam district. The injured as identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie, son of Nazir Ahmad Ganie, resident of Magraypora Chattergam, was fired upon by army soldiers of 50RR after a grenade was lobbed at their camp by unknown persons. In another incident, a grenade was hurled at the residence of a senior Congress leader Surinder Chani Singh in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. The grenade exploded in the lawn and no one was injured, a police official told media.

Nov 24: A civilian, injured in a firing incident near an army camp in central Kashmir's Budgam district, and a girl, critically injured in a shootout in Khudwani area of south

Kashmir's Kulgam district, succumbed to injuries. Ishfaq Ahmad Ganaie was injured in the firing near the camp of Army's 50 Rashtriya Rifles unit at Chattergam area of Budgam November 23. Meanwhile, an official said Muskan Jan, a resident of Wangud- Qaimoh was injured in cross-firing when militants attacked an Army camp at Khudwani in the wee hours. She was taken to the SMHS hospital where she succumbed.

Nov 25: The police claimed three top commanders among six militants of Lashkar and Hizb, and a Territorial Army soldier from Kashmir's Kulgam, dead in Batgund area of Kapran in district Shopian. The slain militants were identified, as one of the slain militants was a foreign national, as Mushtaq Ahmad Mir son of Ghulam Hassan of Cheki-CholanShopian; Muhammad Abbas Bhat son of Abdul Jabbar of MantribughShopian; Umar MajeedGanie son of Abdur Rehman of Souch, Kulgam; Muhammad WaseemWagay son of Abdul Hameed of AmshiporaShopian, and Khalid Farooq Malik son of Farooq Ahmad Malik of Bagander, Aliyalpora, Shopian. A 15-year-old civilian resident of Kulgam, Nouman Ashraf, was hit by a bullet and died of the injuries. In what locals described as "unprovoked, indiscriminate firing", forces showered civilians with pellets, and also fired bullets, to leave 68 persons injured including 15 with pellets among them a 3-year-old baby girl. Two residential houses were destroyed during the firefight. The operation lasted nine hours, police said. Doctors said that among the pellet injured was a three-year-old girl who, too, was referred to Srinagar. In another encounter a Pakistani Jaish-e-Mohammad militant was killed and his associate arrested during a brief gunfight in a forest area at Khrew in Pampore, police said. The SP said that during the brief gunfight, one Jaish-e-Mohammad militant of foreign origin was killed and his associate, a local, was captured alive. Police identified the arrested militant as Suhail Ahmad Lone, son of Nisar Ahmad, resident of Khrew.

Nov 26: An army soldier was injured in an alleged sniffer shot launched by Pakistan forces along LOC in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. While suspected militants attacked an army patrol party in Pinglish village in south Kashmir. No damage was caused. Suspected militants also lobbed grenades at the residential houses of a Congress activist and Panch in two different villages of Tral and Pulwama.

Nov 27: Three local militants and an army man were killed and two paramilitary CRPF men were injured in two separate gunfights in south Kashmir. Two Lashkar-e-Toib militants and an army were killed and two CRPF men injure in Redwani Bala area of Kulgam district in the evening. The deceased militants were identified as Ajaz Ahmad Makroo son of Late Ghulam Rasool Makroo of Qaimoh, Kulgam and Waris Ahmad Malik son of Bashir Ahmad of Arwani, Anantnag. The area also witnessed clashed between the youth and force personnel. The clashes started in the middle of the night while troops were laying siege to the area. The troops fired tear smoke shells and pellets to disperse the stone pelting youth. At least 25 youth sustained pellet injuries and were referred to different hospitals. In another encounter one militant identified as Shakir Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Hassan Dar of Rathsuna Tral was killed at Reshipora village of Tral. The deceased militant was affiliated with Zakir Musa led AGH. Reports said residents said three houses suffered damage during the encounter. While two army soldiers posted on the Line of Control in Krishna Ghati area of Poonch district were injured in a landmine explosion late last night. The reports said the two soldiers were immediately taken to a nearby army medical centre where from they were referred to the general hospital of the force for specialised treatment. The injured soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer, received multiple splinter injuries in their lower body parts.

Nov 28: Pakistani militant and commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) Naveed Jutt was killed along with a local militant Mehraj-ud-Din Khan alias Maroof of New Colony, Sopore by a team of army's 35 RR and police's SOG in Kutipora village of Budgam district. Three houses were set ablaze, following which the militants came out and were killed, witnesses said. Only the body of Naveed Jutt could be identified while the identity of the other militant has not yet

been established. At least 50 youth were injured, 15 of them by pellets, during clashes near encounter sit after killing Naveed Jhatt and his associate.

Nov 29: Two militants were killed in a gunfight with government forces in Krew area of Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. The slain militants were identified as Adnan Ahmad Lone alias Uqaab, son of Ghulam Mohammad Lone, resident of Braw Bandina, Awantipora; and Adil Bilal Bhat alias Umair Al Hizbi, son of Bilal Ahmad Bhat, resident of Malangpora, Pulwama. Adnan was the district commander for Pulwama of the Hizbul, the police officer said. While violent clashes between crowds of mourners and armed forces broke out during the funeral of local militant Mehraj-ud-din Sofi in Sopore. Sources said that when the body of Sofi reached his native village in Sopore, thousands of people took to the streets and tried to march to different areas of the town. Along the way they clashed with deployed forces of police and paramilitary CRPF. The people hurled stones and rocks at the forces' personnel, who in turn fired tear smoke shells to disperse them. Three boys were injured in clashes between the youth and the forces on election duty in Botingoo Zaingeer area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district

Nov 30: A complete shutdown was observed in Sopore and Awantipora districts of north and south Kashmir to mourn the killing of local militants. Reports said that all shops business establishments and schools remained closed in the apple town, Sopore, while public transport remained off the roads. However, a thin movement of private transport was visible on the roads. According to reports, stone pelting occurred at some places in Awantipora and at Panzgam railway station, following which the authorities suspended train services on the Srinagar-Banihal track.

3. Killings in November 2018

In the month of November 2018, at least **61 killings** took place which included **13 civilians, 39 militants and 09 armed forces**. The day to day break up of killings is given in the table below.

Table of Killings

Date	Armed Forces	Militants	Civilian
Nov 01	-	3	3
Nov 02	-	-	-
Nov 03	-	-	1
Nov 04	-	1	1
Nov 05	-	-	-
Nov 06	-	2	-
Nov 07	-	-	-
Nov 08	-	-	-
Nov 09	-	1	1
Nov 10	1	2	-
Nov 11	1	1	-
Nov 12	1	-	-
Nov 13	-	3	-
Nov 14	-	-	-
Nov 15	-	-	-
Nov 16	-	-	1
Nov 17	-	-	1
Nov 18	1	2	-
Nov 19	1	-	-

Nov 20	2	4	1
Nov 21	-	-	-
Nov 22	-	-	-
Nov 23	-	6	1
Nov 24	-	-	2
Nov 25	1	7	1
Nov 26	-	-	-
Nov 27	1	3	-
Nov 28	-	2	-
Nov 29	-	2	-
Nov 30	-	-	-
Total	09	39	13
Total Killings		61 killings	

4. Human Rights Stories

Mentally unsound Rayees's killing leaves behind many unanswered questions

Mentally challenged, Abdul Hameed Wani, 28, of Begam, Pombai, Kulgam was pumped two bullets, one each on his chest and head, by armed forces, who accused him of entering Pohan military camp situated at the Ambri research centre of SKUAST

sharing the details of the case with *The Informative Missive*.

According to Rayees's family, he hardly ventured out of his home and often kept himself busy with daily chorus at home. He also used to

“How come he reached Pohan camp at Shopian, 15 km from his village and that too at night time? The claim made by the army and police was only defeating the logic that he was killed while entering the camp.”

university campus at around 3 am on November 3. The camp is manned by 44 Rashtriya Rifles. It is not for the first time that a mentally challenged person was killed by armed forces accused of intruding into army camp. Since 2003 as many as seventeen lunatic persons fell to armed forces bullets. An FIR was lodged stating Hameed was killed while making an attempt to enter army camp.

“Ask anyone in our village, Hameed never leaves his village alone. How come he reached Pohan camp at Shopian, 15 km from his village and that too at night time? The claim made by the army and police was far from the truth and was made with an attempt to cloud the killing. For what fun a lunatic person enters a military camp. Even deranged people here better understand going close to the forces camp would be suicidal. This is an old conflict now, every body understands what to do and what not to,” stated Hameed's brother-in-law Bilal Ahmad while



Photo shared by Rayees's family

take cattle for grazing and went market to fetch household items. In late afternoons, he used to sit at a shop threshold and returned back by evening well before *Isha* (fifth) prayers. He had never faced any trouble. By nature he was an introvert fellow, who talks only when needed.

His family said, he was not like many other deranged people; he has good understanding of things and occurrences around him. He also had, his family said, good understanding of his limitations being a mentally challenged person. Whenever he leaves the home he reports back well in time, knowing his absence could perturb his family.

Pertinently, he never ventured alone outside his village, how come on that day.

Bilal further stated, “Whenever the local boys asked him to assist them to other villages he never went with them. He remained confined to his village. Him being shot dead at Pohan camp at

Shopian raised many questions which forces need to answer."

On 2nd of November, 2018, Rayees family was busy in filling apples boxes in the courtyard of their house. Rayees was also helping them with passing boxes and apples. At around 3:30 pm, Rayees went out. The family presumed that he may have gone to the village market, as he often goes there. At around 4 pm, family received a call from Kulgam Police Station that Tawseef Ahmad, Rayees cousin, was arrested from Kulgam during the clashes between protestors and the police. He was kept at the Kulgam Police Station. Rayees's father, Abdul Hameed Wani along with his brother rushed to the police station. At the Police Station they were told that Tawseef will be released on next day. They returned home at around 7 pm.

"After returning from the police station, at 8 pm the family started making dinner arrangements but Rayees was missing from dinner rag. When the family members started asking each other about his absence none has idea of his whereabouts. The family started contacting their relatives via phone and even made an announcement from local Masjid and some went to search him in the village. A Facebook post - "...If anybody has any information about the person whose photograph is attached with the post, they may please contact (on the given number) or any person from Begam. Please. Note that the said person is mentally retarded..." - was also drafted appealing people to inform in case he was seen by them. Till 1 am family keep searching him but to no avail," stated Bilal.

who posted his missing appeal on his social media account received calls from police station Damhal informing them that the youth about whom they had posted an appeal on social media has been killed and his body was lying at police station Shopian. Both Maqbool and Shakeel visited the family informing them about Rayees's whereabouts but didn't tell them anything about his killing.

Bilal Ahmad, Shakeel Ahmad and Yakoob Ahmad, a neighbour, went to the Police Station Shopian. "When we reached the police station we saw his bullet ridden body lying there. He had two bullet holes on his body. One on his head and the other on his chest. The Sub Inspector told us that he was shot when he tried to make an attempt to breach the gate of Pohan army camp. The police official told us the forces had fired few warning shot but when he (Rayees) ignored the warning, he was fired upon by the Sentry on duty," Bilal stated.

It was hard for the family to believe the police and army version on the incident, "When I asked the police officer why not the Sentry fired in his legs to keep him away. The officer was speechless," averred Rayees.

The family says, "It is impossible for us to believe that he had gone there of his own and tried to enter into the camp. It looks like that he has been picked up and killed by the army as many cases of the same kind has happened in Kashmir"

Police Station Shopian has registered a case under FIR no. 355/2018, mentioning that the victim was killed while he was trying to enter the Pohan Army camp. The family has received the copies of the FIR and Death Certificate. Besides no

"How come he reached Pohan camp at Shopian, 15 km from his village and that too at night time? The claim made by the army and police was only defeating the logic that he was killed while entering the camp."

At around 5 am, Mohammad Maqbool Wani, village head and Shakeel Ahmad, the boy

case has been filed by the family.

Youth injured in forces firing dies in hospital

Family was asked to bring witnesses to get FIR file

On November 23, a carpenter Ishfaq Ahmad Ganai, 26, son of Nazir Ahmad Gania of Magraypora, Khanda, district Budgam was fired at and injured seriously by armed forces when he was on his way to Kutipora to collect money of his labour from his client. The eyewitnesses to the incident told Ishfaq's family that he was fired by the forces without any provocation. However, the army disowned its involvement in the killing. When Ishfaq's father went to police to file FIR, he was told to bring some eyewitness to get his complain entertained.

To collect the case details a researcher of *The Informative Missive* went to Ishfaq's house where his father Nazir Ahmad shared the details of the case, and the witnesses accounts he received from the people.



Ishfaq's photo shared by family

On November 23, at around 6:00 pm, a hardworking carpenter, Ishfaq had left his home to another village called Kutipora, some 3 km away from his village, to collect his wages from a customer for the work. However, he didn't reach there, and was shot on way by the armed forces deployed on the road to track militants.

"Initially we have no idea of how he was fired in his head. We only got the information that he was badly injured by the forces when he was riding his bike. It was after some days

that some locals, eyewitnesses, of Kutipora, told us he was targeted by the forces without any provocation," stated the dejected father.

The locals told the family that army appeared at 5:00 pm in the area probably on receiving the information of militant movement in

the area. They were checking every vehicle going through the road. The army came from 50 Rashtriya Rifles stationed at a Chattergam camp.

"When around 6:30 am, Ishfaq was passing through the same road on his motorcycle, one of the forces personnel opened fire at him targeting his head from the back. Ishfaq fell on the ground and his bikes skidded to some metres. Sensing they (army) had targeted the wrong person, the army themselves took him to the district hospital," stated Nazir Ahmad while detailing how his son was fired at and injured critically.

When army targeted the youth locals were present there, as there was no restrictions on movement of the people, only the passing vehicles were stopped for checking.

After administering him the first aid, Ishfaq was referred to SMHS hospital for advanced treatment. After remaining admitted for one-and-half-hour at SMHS with his conditions show no sign of improvement, he was shifted to SKIMS, the largest medical Institute of J&K. In the dead of night at 1:20 am he succumbed to his injuries. He had received multiple shots on the back side of his head leaving bleak chance of his survival. He had multiple shots on the back side of his head clearly indicating the intentions of the forces.

The army spokesperson in his statement to media said "the Army troops heard sound of firing, the Quick Reaction Team immediately rushed towards the direction of fire to find out what was happening. When the party reached the spot, they saw Ishfaq in a pool of blood. He had bullet injuries, one in head and the other in leg and was immediately taken to Chhatargam hospital from where doctors shifted him to SMHS," said the spokesman". Army also refuted the news reports claiming that a grenade was hurled upon the army camp at Chattergam leaving few army soldiers

injured and in the army retaliation Ishfaq, passing by the road was shot.

Ishfaq's family vehemently rejected the army version of the incident. "How come army will come up with facts, when its men were I involved in killing a young man. The (army) will definitely provide cover to its men by weaving lies around the incident. We reject what they (army) say, as we have witnesses' against their concoction," stated Nazir Ahmad.

After few days Nazir Ahmad approached the police station Chadoora to get the FIR filed into his son's killing and to release his bike, which was kept at the police station. There the Sub-Inspector asked him to bring some eyewitnesses to get his complaint registered.

"I knew they will not file FIR against the army, as they all belong to the same system. I didn't go to any court to file the case against the army, as it would be futile as the courts also will not go against the army. They (police) asked me for eyewitnesses, if I would have brought the eye witnesses then they would have surely harass them and force them to withdraw their names as eyewitnesses," stated disillusioned Nazir Ahmad.

Ironically, FIR filed by the police under FIR NO. 176/2018 mentions only the army version that "some gun fires were heard by the army of 50 RR, the forces rushed towards the direction from where the sound was coming and on reaching the spot they found Ishfaq in the pool of blood."

Showing no confidence in judiciary, the family has filed a case under SRO-43 for *ex gratia* relief at Tehsil office B.K Pora, Budgam, which it feels would be the only possibility in the matter.

Boy, 15, killed after being shot in chest near encounter site

The encounter sites protests continue to consume lives of young Kashmiri boys and the number of such killings are only showing upwards trend. Nouman Ashraf Bhat, a fifteen-year-old, 10 standard student was a new victim. Nouman like many other boys had reached the encounter site in Batgund village of Shopian where militants were trapped. As the encounter was going-on youth assembled to protest resorted to stone pelting. The forces deployed there used force to repel the protestors and in the forces action scores of youth were injured including Nouman. Nouman has bullet in his chest injuring him



Nouman's photo shared by his family

critically.

In the night long encounter six militants and one army trooper were killed.

Nouman's family has no idea of him being gone to the encounter site. The youth of Kashmir gets attracted to the encounter sites and their families have no idea as to how to prevent those young boys from reaching the deadly sites. Number of times the army and police issued advisories asking youth to stay away from the sites but not heeded. Even the army

chief Bipin Rawat termed the youth protesting or pelting stones during encounters as over ground

"On reaching the hospital, we spotted his lifeless body lying on a stretcher. We couldn't believe what our eyes were seeing. He was dead having bullet hole in his chest."

workers of militants.

On November 25, as early as 7:45 am, Nouman quietly left for the encounter site at Balgund village of Shopian district without giving any hint to his parents. To reach there he had covered 15 km. "We had no idea that he had gone to the encounter site to join the protestors," stated Nouman's father Ashraf Bhat while talking to a researcher of *The Informative Missive* who has visited his house for collecting information about the incident.

The encounter between militants and armed forces had started at 1:00 am on November 25. Since failing to deal with the surge of protests during encounters the forces go for militants during nights for sometime now. But the forces changed strategy couldn't stop youth from reaching the encounter sites.

At 10:30 am a relative informed Nouman's family that he was taken to district hospital for treatment of an injury he received when armed forces used force to deal with the protests. As many as 50 people were injured, who had come from different villages to disrupt the forces operation against trapped militants.

Doctors posted at Shopian hospitals told media that 51 injured including two with bullet injuries were received in two different hospitals of the district, DH Shopian and PHC Vehil. "Two with bullet and four with pellet injuries were referred to SMHS for specialised treatment," a doctor at DH

A stray bullet hit minor girl's head, dies later in hospital

On 22nd November 2018, at around 7:30 in the morning, some gunshots were heard in the Qaimoh area of Kulgam district. Muskan was in her room, situated in the second storey of her hosue, when a stray bullet came and hit her in head. The injury was grievous and she later died in hospital.

"As usual she went to her room to do the cleaning. While she was opening the window of the room a bullet hit her. The bullet pierced her head and she fell down. In first floor a thud was heard and we quickly rushed upstairs only to find her in pool of blood," Ghulam Nabi stated while sharing the details of how his daughter got bullet.

Her parents immediately took her to Primary Health Centre at Qaimoh. "As her injury was grave in nature so the doctors at Primary Health Centre referred her to District Hospital. After examining her for over half-an-hour and



Shopian said, adding that one youth with bullet injury was shifted under critical conditions.

"The news came as shock to us. Most of the family members rushed to the hospital to see its son. On reaching the hospital, we spotted his lifeless body lying on a stretcher. We couldn't believe what our eyes were seeing. He was dead having bullet hole in his chest," stated his father while struggling to hold back his tears.

Some of people, who had witnessed forces firing on the protestors, who had come for condolence, informed the family that Nouman was fired when youth were pelting stones on one armed forces vehicle. A live firearm came from the vehicle hitting Nouman in his chest.

"There were ways to deal with the protests. The forces can target legs or arms of the protesting boys to chase them away. However, they chose to fire above waist only to inflict serious damage," lamented the father.

Ashraf said, "No amount of compensation is enough to compensate my son's killing. I lost a young son. His killing would have been averted but the forces chose to kill him. The bullet in his chest simply reveals the intentions of the forces."

The village *Chowkidar*, a man holding some official position in village, has visited victim's house and asked the father whether he had got his son's death certificate. The father has no idea who has send the *Chowkidar*.

However, at now stage of her treatment she had shown any sign of improvement.

Despite being hit on head she was able to communicate for over an hour while she was taken to the hospitals.

The doctors at SKIMS after examining her, were of the opinion that conducting surgery of the girl can't be done because of fluctuation in her blood pressure. So the doctors prescribed strict medication of the girl and she was put on ventilator. "The hope of her recovery from the injury was declining with every passing minute. And when she was put on ventilator our hopes were badly jolted, we were only praying for miracle to happen," stated Ghulam Nabi.

It was painful for her relatives to wait in the hospital seeing her dying every minute till she breathed her last

"Standing on her bedside seeing my daughter dying was severely painful. The helplessness with which I was watching my daughter was frustrating. And when he died I can't understanding what could be good for her a vegetative state or death,"

administered glucose she was referred to SMHS hospital at Srinagar for advance treatment," stated the dejected father.

Finally she was referred to Kashmir's top medical institution SKIMS at Soura, Srinagar.

on November 23.

"Standing on her bedside seeing my daughter dying was severely painful. The helplessness with which I was watching my daughter was frustrating. And when she died I

can't understanding what could be good for her a vegetative state or death," stated the father while sharing his pain.

Later, the family came to know through locals that militants had launched an attack on the army camp stationed at Agricultural University at Khudwani area of Kulgam. The forces had also retaliated and during the cross firing the victim

Shahid was a civilian, Army killed him in cold blood: Family

Nov 04: As police claimed to have killed two militants in a gunfight in Khudpora village of Shopian on November 4, Saturday evening, the family members of one of them said he was a civilian who Army killed him in cold blood.

The family members of the slain, Shahid Hussain Mir, son of Mansoor Ahmad Mir, of Gagan area of Shopian said he was a civilian killed by the Army after catching hold of him a few yards away from the gunfight scene.

A paternal cousin of the slain civilian said Saturday afternoon Shahid had barely left his house and walked a few yards when he was caught by the Army, who had laid a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in the area, and bundled him into a vehicle.

He said another teenage boy, who was also detained by the Army inside the vehicle but later let off told them that he saw Army bundling Shahid into their vehicle.

After the revelation of the teenager, the family tried to reach to Shahid on his mobile number but it had been put on a switch off mode by then.

He said they also enquired from senior Police officials of the district if any civilian had been killed who had denied any killings of civilians having occurred.

Next day, early morning, Shahid's cousin said that he along with other relatives visited the house of Shahid and they noticed that it had been vandalised.

"The window panes were smashed, other household items were damaged," he said.

After getting no clue about the whereabouts of Shahid, they went to Police Station Shopian where from they were directed to District Police Lines Shopian.

"The Army killed our brother, a civilian," Shahid's cousin said.

Shahid, who was the youngest among four siblings, leaves behind a six-year-old son and wife.

He was working as a contractor constructing buildings after taking a loan from a bank.

living around 1 km away from the camp received a bullet on her head.

The family has not visited the police station to get the FIR registered neither have been summoned by Police to get their statements recorded. Only the village *Chowkidar*, an official position, had visited the family to summon the father to Tehsil Office. Besides, no case has been filed in any court.

He had availed a Rs 16 lakh loan from a bank in Shopian last year, the family members said.

Police said they retrieved two bodies from the site of gunfight in Khudpora Shopian.

"The killed militant has been identified as Muhammad Irfan Bhat of Pulwama who was associated with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen outfit since June 2017. The other one was identified as Shahid Mir, who, as per Police records was part of a case under FIR 201/2004 under sections 7/25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Shopian for militancy-related incidents," Police said.

A couple of militants managed to escape from the site as blood trails have been seen at the site.

However, the family members denied Shahi's involvement in any militancy related case and termed the accusations as "vague" saying that he had been arrested by the Army in 2004 on suspicion of his association with some militants.

"He was released 25 days later and never ever picked by Army or Police because since then he was living a civilian life," the family members said.

Meanwhile, thousands of people turned up at his funeral which was held a multiple times.

He was buried in his village graveyard.

Meanwhile, at Hudo area of Memander, thousands participated in the funeral prayers of the slain HM militant, Muhammad Irfan Bhat, son of Ali Muhammad Bhat of Bandzoo Pulwama. Funeral prayers were held six times for the slain militant.

Irfan joined militant ranks in June 2017 after dropping out of school.

Locals said he was living with his maternal grandparents in Shopian since early age and had left a will that he be buried at the same place though residents from Bandzoo too claimed to bury his body at his native village.

Irfan is survived by six siblings including four brothers and two sisters.

Pulwama woman dies of heart attack

Family says troops didn't allow them to ferry her to hospital

Nov 01: The family members of a 55-year-old woman, who died due to possible cardiac arrest in Tenghar village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on October 31 night, accused forces of

stopping them from ferrying her to hospital after she suffered the heart attack.

Fazi Begum wife of Ghulam Hassan Wagay of Tenghar village of Pulwama died of cardiac arrest on Wednesday night.

Giving details, one of her relatives told media that forces personnel, who were conducting searches, asked them to put off the lights of the house.

"Few street lights too were smashed. At around 12 pm, we heard bang on our window. It terrified us," he said.

The house owner Ghulam Hassan said his wife (Fazi) started complaining of pain in the heart and then felt unconscious.

"We put her in a vehicle and tried to rush to the hospital. As we had moved few yards, forces stopped us and barred us from ferrying her to hospital," Hassan said.

Hurriyat leader Mir Hafizullah shot dead

Nov 20: A senior Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) leader, Mir Hafizullah, was shot at and killed by unidentified gunmen in Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

His wife was also injured during the shootout, which took place right outside his house, in Badura area of Akinagam village in Achabal, Anantnag.

A senior police official confirmed the news of Mir's killing while talking to media. He said that the gunmen came in a car and shot at Mir right outside his un-walled house at about 11:00 AM.

He said that the injured Mir and his wife were shifted to a nearby hospital, from where Mir was referred to Anantnag district hospital.

"He was declared brought dead at the hospital," the police official said.

The news spread like wildfire in Anantnag district despite curbs in place on mobile internet in wake of the ongoing Panchayat elections.

Thousands of people reached Badura village to participate in funeral prayers of the slain.

Mir is survived by his ailing mother, his wife, and five little kids.

A relative told media that Mir had been receiving threatening calls and had observed suspicious movement around his house since more than a month now.

"He had recently caught a man snooping around his house. He had informed the police about the same," the relative said.

Abduction of civilians accused of forces extensions, policemen continues

Abducting civilians and off duty policemen by unidentified gunman and militants had created matrix of fear in south Kashmir. The civilians were abducted on charges of being informers of armed forces. In past few months various videos of abductees were realised by militants wherein the captives confessed of being forces informer. Many were tortured and killed and some were set free. Herein we are incorporating this month's incidents.

➤ **12th student killed for having alleged link with armed forces**

Militant release shocking video of his killing

He said they pleaded with the force personnel that the condition of the patient is very critical and she needs immediate medical attention.

"We begged them to let us go but they refused saying that they couldn't do so without getting orders from their officer. After our pleas and requests for about half an hour, they allowed us to ferry her to hospital," he said.

Hassan said her wife died before reaching District Hospital Pulwama.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama Chandan Kohli said the house of the person was not under any cordon.

"The lady died a natural death," he claimed adding there was no truth in the allegation that their vehicle was stopped by forces.

Mir, taking precautions, had left home a month ago and was staying at an undisclosed location.

"He came back on November 19, as he had to get one his kids admitted to school today. He was shot at as he stepped out of his house this morning," the relative said.

Mir has been a political activist since 1983. He joined the Jamiat-e-Tolba (JeT), the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, in 1983 before he joined the armed resistance in Kashmir in early '90s.

Mir was arrested and jailed for more than six years by the authorities. He joined the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat soon after his release from jail.

Even after joining the TeH he was frequently jailed, starting in 2008.

"He rarely remained out of jail since 2008 and was booked under PSA twice during this time," the relative told Kashmir Reader.

He said that Mir was arrested in a dramatic manner from Achabal in 2016, by the slain police officer Feroz Dar, who posed as a militant to arrest Mir from a pro-freedom rally.

Mir remained jailed since 2016 and was released less than two months ago.

Following a massive funeral, Mir was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard, after several rounds of funeral prayers.

Nov 16: A student who recently wrote his Class 12 exams was abducted by unknown gunmen on November 15 evening, 5:30 pm, and was found dead, shot with bullets, in a Pulwama village.

A police officer told media that the body of the killed student was found in Niklora village in neighbouring Pulwama district.

The killed student was identified as Nadeem Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmad Dar, resident of Safnagri village of Shopian. Villagers from Safnagri speculated that the killing could be related to the killing of two Hizb militants who

were gunned down by government forces near the house of the slain student on the night of November 6 this month.

A relative of the slain student told media that gunmen on November 15 twice raided the house of Manzoor during the day but they found no one there. "They even searched the house and came a third time in the evening, when they abducted Nadeem. On Friday morning we came to know that he had been killed," the relative said.

Nadeem, according to relatives, has left behind two brothers, a sister, and his parents. They said that his body was handed over to the family by police on November 16 morning for burial.

Villagers said that Manzoor, the father of the killed boy, is a bread maker who has his own shop in the village. They said that Nadeem was 18 years old.

Confirming the incident, SSP Pulwama Chandan Kohli told media that the bullet-ridden body of Nadeem was taken to a nearby hospital for conducting medico-legal formalities. He said that a case in this regard had been registered and investigation initiated.

Hizb releases video

A video has emerged on social media showing unknown militants firing a barrage of gunfire on a civilian, Nadeem Manzoor of Shopian's Safnagri, whom they charged with tipping off government forces about two militants.

The two militants, identified as Idrees Ahmad (Chota Abrar) of Safnagri and Amir Amin (Abu Shoban) of Awneera, were killed in Shopian's Safnagri village on November 6. Both the militants were killed near Nadeem's house.

Hizbul Mujahideen operations chief Riyaz Naikoo in the video acknowledged they killed Nadeem and said "investigations by their 'do or die squad'" found him involved in informing the forces about the two militants.

"He accepted that money made him to commit the act. And later he was not given any money by forces," Naikoo said and added, "We don't want to kill anyone, but they (informers) are forcing us.

"You saw the consequences of informer. We appeal parents to counsel their wards to stay away from forces," Naikoo can be heard saying in the video, which went viral on WhatsApp.

According to the most-wanted militant, "Whether informer is small or big, punishment will be given to him."

The video showed Nadeem being asked by militants, whose faces are not seen, to move his face towards another direction while they say, "We won't open fire on you."

After that, the militants can be heard shouting, "What Abrar and Shoban did to you?" while opening fire on him.

➤ Gunmen abduct 5 civilians in Shopian, slit throat of one

Nov 17: A day after Hizbul Mujahideen released a video of an abducted teenager being shot dead by its militants, five civilians were abducted in

Shopian and the corpse of one, with the throat slit, was found lying in an orchard a few hours later.

The corpse of 18-year-old Huzaif Ahmad Kuttay, son of Muhammad Ashraf Kuttay, resident of Manzgam village of district Kulgam, was found lying in an orchard in Tongri Nalla area of Landoora village in Shopian on November 17 afternoon. Huzaif was one of three persons abducted by unknown gunmen on November 17 morning at about 8:30 from near a bread shop in Saidpora-Payeen village of Shopian district.

The two other abducted civilians, Farooq Ahmad Thoker and Shahid Ahmad Ganie, were released in the afternoon by their abductors, but Huzaif was brutally killed. Villagers from Saidpora told media that Huzaif was working as a bread maker in the village though he was a resident of Manzgam village in Kulgam. They said he was 18 years old.

A senior police officer told media that Huzaif was abducted by militants.

In Meminder village of Shopian, unknown gunmen abducted two civilian youths in the evening. Villagers identified the abducted persons as Haqib Ahmad Ganie, son of Javid Ahmad Ganie, resident of Meminder, and Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh, son of Muhammad Yousuf Sheikh, resident of Pudsoo village. Both were abducted from Meminder village.

Villagers said that Ishfaq works in the village as a bread maker and Haqib is a local of Meminder.

On Friday, the body of Nadeem Ahmad, a Class 12 student, was recovered from Niklora village in Pulwama district a day after he was abducted by unknown gunmen. Militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen took the responsibility of the killing and also released a video showing him being killed. The Hizbul's operations chief in Kashmir, Riyaz Naikoo, said in the video that Nadeem had informed government forces about the presence of militants at his village, Safnagri. Two Hizb militants were killed at Safnagri in an overnight encounter on November 6 by government forces.

➤ One more Shopian youth abducted

Nov 19: Suspected militants abducted a youth from Batmuran village of south Kashmir's Shopian district Monday evening.

A Police official informed that suspected militants abducted Parvaiz Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Mohaden Wani of Batmuran village on Monday around 7:30 pm.

Parvaiz, 21, is said to be tractor driver by profession.

Since last Thursday this is the eighth incident of civilian abduction in Shopian in which six were set free and two killed.

On November 18 morning, militants abducted Suhail Ahmad Ganie, son of Sheeraz Ahmad Ganie of Memander village of Shopian.

He was set free in the evening.

In a similar fashion on Saturday afternoon, two youth Hakib Javid and Ishfaq Ahmad were

abducted from Memander and later let go in the night.

Three youth were abducted from Sadipora village of Shopian Saturday morning and two among them were set free but one Huzaif Kutay, a baker from Manzgam village of Kulgam, was killed.

A video showing a masked man decapitating him was also released on social media.

On Thursday, a 11th standard student Nadeem Manzoor was abducted from Safanagri village of Shopian and later shot dead in a village in neighbouring Pulwama district.

A video showing his killing was too circulated on social media.

Police on Monday said they had identified the people sharing ISIS-type execution videos in cyber space and would soon take action against them

On November 20, a youth who was abducted by suspected militants from a village in south Kashmir's Shopian district has received injuries in leg and later released.

Parvaiz Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Mohiuddin Wani was abducted from Batmuran village Monday evening.

However, source said Ahmad was released this morning but he has been shot in his leg.

He was among eight persons abducted by militants from Shopian villages during past one

House destroyed, man of the house abducted, wife and kids on God's mercy

Oct 04: For almost two weeks now, 37-year-old Nusrat and her three kids have been living in a neighbour's house, as their own was blasted to rubble by government forces during a gunfight in Laroo village of Kulgam. Three Jaish-e-Muhammad militants were killed in the gunfight, and then a huge blast from explosives lying in the rubble of the house claimed the lives of 7 civilians, including a 12-year-old boy.

A week after the devastation of their home, Nusrat's husband, Sheeraz Ahmad Bhat, was kidnapped by masked gunmen.

On the evening of October 27, Sheeraz had arranged the vehicle of a cousin to drop Nusrat's mother and sister to their home. Sheeraz's cousin was in the driving seat and the others were getting into the car when a Santro car came and stopped right beside them, Nusrat's sister said.

"Some masked gunmen disembarked from the Santro car and forced Sheeraz into it. Then they drove away," Nusrat's sister told media.

She said that Sheeraz's cousin immediately chased the Santro in his car for a few kilometres, managed to overtake the car, and then blocked its way ahead.

"The gunmen in the car, however, fired shots in the air and asked us to clear the way. Petrified, Sheeraz's cousin gave them passage to move ahead and we returned here," Nusrat's sister said.

The family, ever since, has been living in fear and uncertainty. Nusrat, after every five

week. Two were killed, while six including Ahmad were released.

➤ Abducted former SPO killed in Shopian village, 2 others released

Nov 23: A former Special Police officer (SPO), who was among three persons abducted by suspected militants from Reben village of Shopian district Friday evening, has been killed. However, two others, both civilians, were released in late evening.

A local news agency quoted official sources as saying that the bullet-riddled body of the SPO was recovered from Nikloora area of Shopian.

The body has been recovered and taken to a local hospital for medico-legal formalities; it quoted a police officer as saying, adding that a case has been registered and further investigations taken up.

Reports said that suspected militants abducted former SPO Basharat Ahmad Wagay and two civilians, Riyaz Ahmad and Zahid, from Reben village at about 4:30 pm.

The family sources of the released civilians confirmed that they had reached home safely.

Last week, nine persons were abducted in Shopian district and two of them were killed by militants for allegedly tipping government forces about the presence of militants.

An encounter took place at Reban village last week in which two local militants were killed. Both militants were killed outside a residential house.

minutes, breaks into wails and pleads with folded hands before visiting journalists to help get her husband back.

"We have done nothing wrong. I don't know why he has been abducted like this. I have two daughters and a toddler son. What will I do, where will I go?" Nusrat asks amid her wails, while her toddler looks at her with concern, unable to fathom what has befallen his mother and the family.

Nusrat said that on the night the gunfight took place in Laroo, she and Sheeraz were about to sleep when militants knocked on their door.

"The militants first asked for water and then insisted that they will spend the night in our house," Nusrat said.

She said her husband was petrified and reluctant to let the militants stay, but he had no choice in the matter. He showed the militants into a room where they could stay the night.

"We don't know how the forces arrived in the dead of the night. The militants asked us if there was a safe exit. We showed them one. As soon as they jumped out of the window, the firing started. It was all hell after that," Nusrat recalled.

She says that her entire family, including her toddler son and two daughters, remained trapped in the house for more than three hours while the forces kept bombarding the house.

"Our neighbours pleaded with the forces to let us out of the house," she said. The family did manage to leave the house but they could not go

back in: the government forces had used explosives to blast it to the ground.

The now homeless Bhat family moved into a portion of their neighbour's house. Many relatives dropped by to express sympathies, including Nusrat's mother and sister. Sheeraz's father, Ghulam Muhammad Bhat, says his son never wronged anyone.

"He was a simple man who worked hard to provide for his family. He has been working as a driver at a local gas agency for 13 years now. He has nothing to do with any of this. Why would someone want to harm such a person?" Bhat asked.

19 month-old baby got pellet in eye, doctors not optimistic of restoration of eyesight

Just 19-month-old baby Hiba got pellet in eye; doctors not optimistic of restoration of sight over 20 people were injured when security forces fired tear gas shells and pellets at protesters, but the youngest victim-Hiba-is only 19 months old and there is a high chance that she may never be able to see from her right eye again.

In ward number 8 of Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (SMHS), Srinagar, Masarat Jan is trying to ease the pain of her child,



Hiba (Courtesy Twocircles.net)

Bhat said that the family has no clue about Sheeraz's kidnappers. "We would have gone begging for his life had we known who abducted him," Bhat said.

As the family lives in uncertainty, the police also are yet to get any leads on Sheeraz's whereabouts. "He was abducted by militants. We have registered an FIR but we have got nothing so far," SSP Kulgam Harmeet Singh told media.

Nusrat, meanwhile, continues to run to the door at every knock, thinking it must be her husband.

"We were brought to the hospital by her neighbours because I fell unconscious after seeing blood oozing from her eye," says Masrat. According to doctors Hiba has been operated once to stop the bleeding from the eye and will be operated again.

"We can't say anything this time about her eyesight, let's wait for at least 6 days, we have to operate multiple times to see the results," said Medical Superintendent of SMHS

"We are poor...we don't have enough money to buy medicines. For God's sake, tell me where should I go with my daughter?"

Heba Jan, after a pellet left a "hole right in the middle of her eyeball".

Hiba's mother Masrat Jan says that on November 25, she had to open the door of her house to save Hiba and her 5-year-old brother from tear smoke coming from the encounter site. "We were sitting inside our house. However, the intense tear smoke forced us to leave the house. As soon I opened the door of my house forces fired pellets on us. I pushed my son to one side and covered my daughter's face with my hand," said Masrat Jan.

Showing her right hand dotted with pellets, Masrat says if she had not placed her hand on her daughter's face, the pellets would have damaged both her eyes and the injuries could have been more 'grievous'.

The ophthalmology ward of SMHS hospital is overwhelmed with patients, most of them with bloody eyes. At least 20 people were injured on Sunday clashes between government forces and protesters.

"We are poor...we don't have enough money to buy medicines. For God's sake, tell me where should I go with my daughter?" says Masrat whose husband Nisar Ahmad is a labour by profession.

"She was hit by pellets even when she was inside her home. She might lose her eyesight also. What was her crime? And you know what, nobody will ever be held accountable because you are living in a place where forces have been given a free licence to kill and blind people," said Hiba's uncle.

hospital, Dr Saleem Tak.

He added that her eye is like a balloon and that if it is punctured, it will be very tough for her to regain eyesight. "Let us hope we are able to correct the devastation caused by the pellet in her eye," he added.

Pellet guns were first used in 2010 when protests engulfed Kashmir. The then National Conference (NC) government led by Omar Abdullah allowed pellet guns to be used for controlling protesters.

On Jan 2 of this year, the Jammu and Kashmir state government admitted in the state legislative assembly that 6,221 persons received pellet gun injuries, including 782 eye injuries, between July 2016 and February 2017.

An ophthalmologist at SMHS hospital said he is not optimistic about Hiba seeing again. "The chances of her seeing again are dismal."

"Pellets have caused damage. The retina and lens of the eye has been damaged. She may need more surgeries. The pellet is still in her eye and it has not been removed yet." he said.

Medical Superintendent (MS), SMHS, Dr Saleem Tak told media that Hiba was operated yesterday and needs more surgeries.

"Then we can say about the damage caused by the pellets. Basically, if eye suffers injury, the liquid inside gets leaked and that has been treated," he said.

Tak said within two or three days, the baby would be operated again.

"We will assess the condition of her eye and improvement after the surgery. And then we can say about the vision," he said.

At least 10 pellet-hit youth withering in pain are being treated at ward-8 of SMHS hospital and one among them with severe injuries.

In 2010, non-lethal weapons including pellet guns, pepper sprays and chilli grenades were introduced in Kashmir to help control mobs. However, the use of pellets has snatched the vision of many and ruined lives of hundreds of people.

There have been repeated calls to ban use of pellet guns in Kashmir.

Govt orders inquiry into pellet firing on Hiba to 'fix responsibility'

The government has ordered inquiry into an incident

The government inquiry was announced three days after the incident that triggered widespread outrage.

Bullet pierces minor girl's abdomen

Four injured by pellets in eye operated on at SMHS

Nov 20: The Casualty ward of SMHS Hospital witnessed frenzied scenes when a minor girl from Shopian district was brought with severe bullet injury to her abdomen.

16-year-old Simran Jan of Kuthpora Shopian was operated on immediately as the bullet had pierced her abdomen and internal organs, doctors at SMHS said.

"We removed her gallbladder to save her life because it had burst from the bullet impact. Other organs including liver had also been affected. We have fixed the damage and perforations but her condition continues to be critical. The government forces probably fired at her from point-blank range," an on-duty doctor at SMHS said.

Family members and people accompanying Simran, a Class 10 student, raised slogans while she was ferried on a stretcher at the hospital's Emergency ward, her clothes soaked in blood.

Simran's family told media that government forces fired at people indiscriminately and left them unattended at Kuthpora village.

"They targeted civilians while returning from the encounter site in Nadigam village. Simran was outside her house when she was hit by their bullet," her mother, Afroza, said.

She said Simran was found unconscious and lying in a pool of blood by some local youths. They shifted her to the district hospital in a critical condition, from where she was referred to Srinagar.

Simran had recently entered Class 10 after passing Class 9 exams with good marks, her mother said.

"The whole family is in shock and distress due to her condition," Afroza said.

Doctors who treated Simran said that many of her vital organs, especially liver, had been badly affected as the bullet had entered her body with a 1x1 sq cm entry wound.

"Her condition is very bad as the bullet has pierced the vital organs. Though we have

"I have ordered an inquiry into the incident," K Vijay Kumar, security advisor to the J&K governor, told media.

"Responsibility will be fixed," Kumar said while terming the incident unfortunate and said that during the inquiry, circumstances and other related factors will be looked into.

He said that Hiba will undergo another surgery after some days and they are in touch with medical authorities.

"I talked to the principal Government Medical College Srinagar and have asked her to provide the kid the best possible treatment," Kumar said.

"I have been told she will undergo another intervention in coming days and things are being monitored."

stabilised her and plugged the entry wound, we are apprehensive that the injuries may complicate the situation later," a resident doctor said, on condition of anonymity.

As per the Casualty Medical Officer, Simran will likely need long-term therapy. "Currently she is out of danger but she might need long-term treatment for repair of vital organs," the officer told Kashmir Reader.

According to doctors, SMHS hospital received six injured persons on Tuesday, including four youths hit by pellets and another female who had bullet injury to her leg.

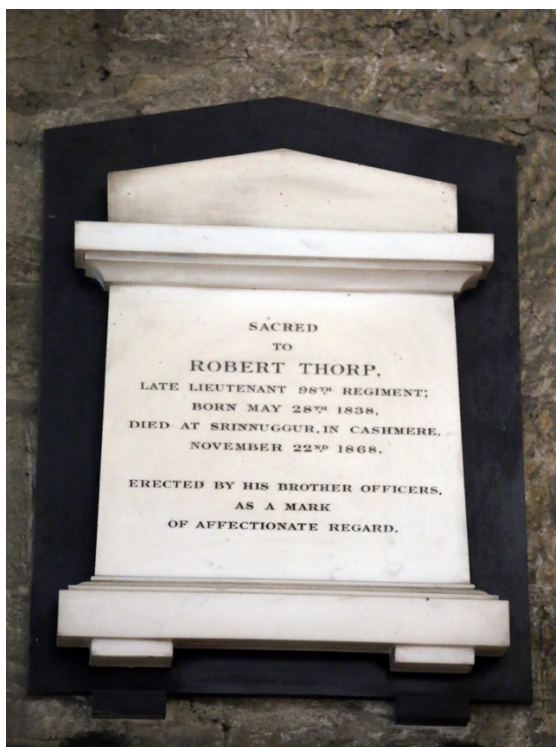
Doctors said that the four pellet victims had been hit by pellets in one eye and were operated on immediately.

Robert Throp Remembered on 150th Death Anniversary

On the 150th death anniversary of Robert Throp, the man who gave his life for Kashmir, a tribute paying ceremony was held at the grave of Robert Throp on 22nd November 2018 at the Christian Cemetery Sheikh Bagh, Lal Chowh. On this occasion, aside from the JKCCS staff, distinguished members of the society participated in the tribute paying ceremony. While lauding the role of Mr. Throp in highlighting the sufferings of Kashmir, the distinguished members reflected on his life and times.

JKCCS was pleased to shared with the distinguished members of the society that we were approached by the great grand niece of Robert Throp, Jane Strand. In her email, which are attached below, Ms. Strand requested us to correct some of the history regarding the family of Robert Throp.

Ms. Strand also shared a memorial plaque Mr. Throp hanging in a Church in Alnwick in Northumberland, England.



Subject: Robert Thorp
 Date: 2018-10-19 11:08
 From: Jane Strand
 To: info@jkccs.net

Dear Sir,

I have been very interested to read about the Robert Thorp award. The reason that I'm so interested is that I am very sure that he was the brother of my Great Grandfather.

Unfortunately, this means that a lot of the family history you give is wrong. - but not the information about what he did in Kashmir, which I think is wonderful! I cannot believe that there were 2 Robert Thorps, late of the 98th regiment who died in Srinagar on the same day. So this must be the same person. I have a lot of information about him and his family. I have a portrait of him with his mother and brother as a child hanging in my house.

There is a memorial plaque to him hanging in the Church in Alnwick in Northumberland, which I will attach for you to see.

His father was Thomas Thorp, a solicitor in Alnwick, and his mother was Elizabeth Jane Tudor of Bath. (Who's portrait I also have.) His brother, William Tudor, was a vicar in the English Church.

I think it would be great to have his family story put right. - I think the fact that he didn't actually have family ties to Kashmir puts him in an even better light, - he was a true humanitarian who cared for all people, and opposed oppression even when perpetrated by his own people.

Yours faithfully

Jane Strand (nèe Thorp)

Jane Strand
 To: Khurram Parvez
 Oct 23 at 6:42 PM

Dear Khurram,

Thank you for your reply. I was so pleased to hear that you were interested.

I will set out below what I know of him from my research, and attach photographs of the portraits that I have. I don't know of any portrait of him as an adult man, unfortunately. My research here is still ongoing, and I'm hoping to be able to find more about him in some family archive material which has recently come to light. It is in the possession of

a museum, and they are just beginning to look at it all, though most is about other people than the Thorps.

I think it's strange that my family never talked about him, - but they didn't talk much about the past anyway. My grandfather lost a brother and 2 cousins in the second world war. I think they found it all difficult, and as I child I didn't ask that much.

This is what I have of basic information for which I have documentation:

Robert Thorp

Born. 28 May 1838

1841. Lived in Baliffgate Street, Alnwick, Northumberland

1851. At school in Durham. Living at 48 South St, Crossgate, Durham. Aged 12

1853-1856 Attended Charterhouse School, Surrey

1858-1867 98th Foot in India

5 Feb 1858 Ensign in 96th. Foot (Edinburgh Gazette.)

9 Feb 1858. transferred from 96th Foot to 98th Foot.

10 May 1861. Ensign Robert Thorp to be Lieutenant 98th Foot. London Gazette.

14 May 1861 same in Edinburgh Gazette

13th February 1867. Retirement from 98th Regiment. London Gazette

May 1868. Met Richard Shaw in Leh. This was mentioned in a book called *Famous Western Explorers to Ladakh* by Prem Singh Jina. He had apparently been travelling in Tibet.

22 Nov 1868. Death. Srinuggur, Cashmere (now Srinagar, Kashmir.)

15 January 1869. Report in the Berwick Journal about the suspicious death of Robert Thorp in Srinuggur.

13 Jan 1869. Newcastle Journal: Death announcement. "In Upper India, Robert Thorp, Esq., eldest son of the late Thomas Thorp, Esq., Baliffgate Street, Alnwick. The particulars of his death have not yet reached England."

1868. Publication of book: *Cashmere Mismanagement.*

His Family:

His father was Thomas Thorp, solicitor, born 28 Oct 1805 in Alnwick, Northumberland, and his grandfather was Robert Thorp, (1771-1843), also solicitor of Alnwick and Clerk of the Peace for Northumberland.

His paternal great grandfather was Robert Thorp, (1735-1812), Archdeacon of Northumberland.

His mother was Elizabeth Jane Tudor (1813-1890), daughter of William Tudor (1769-1845) of Bath, Surgeon, and granddaughter of Thomas Tudor of Monmouth, Wales, Surgeon.

He had one younger brother: William Tudor Thorp, born 25 April 1841. William married twice and had 3 children with his first wife and 6 with the second. He was my great grandfather.

I have a detailed family tree, but that is very large and complicated, and I don't think it will interest anyone who isn't related to them all!

I did see a report that Robert's death was to be investigated, but I haven't found any report of the results, - only what I've found in the media, which seems a little variable, to say the least.

If you'd like to see what documentation, I have I can send you them all as attachments in another mail. For now, I'll just send the 2 portraits that you might find interesting.

Best wishes,

Jane

5. Vandalism of Civilian Property by Armed Forces

Shopian militant's family alleges vandalism by government forces

Nov 01: The family of a former policeman, who fled with four rifles to join militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen in May last year, alleged on Thursday that government forces vandalised their house at Nazneenpora in Shopian during the night.

Syed Mushtaq, father of policeman-turned-militant Syed Naveed, told media that government forces damaged windowpanes, geysers, kitchenware and other property of his

house, and also took away curtains and other items, in a late-night assault.

"Last night, the forces barged into our house and damaged property including windowpanes, geysers, taps, and kitchenware," Mushtaq said.

He alleged that this was the second attack on their house by government forces this week. He also alleged that government forces took away curtains, taps and other household goods.

Mushtaq said that earlier the forces had attacked his house on October 28, after militants attacked an army patrol at Poterwal, a neighbouring village. Mushtaq said that

vandalising people's property has become a routine of the government forces.

Superintendent of Police Shopian Sandeep Choudhary did not respond to repeated calls from this reporter.

SHRC annoyed by SSP's ignoring, demands Gawkadal report by Jan 28

Nov 12: The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has directed the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar to file a report with respect to Gawkadal Massacre, 1990, by January 28, 2019, or else remain present in person before the commission and explain the delay in filing the report.

The commission passed the direction after it was noted that despite several directions, SSP Srinagar had not filed the report.

On January 21, 1990, as word about nocturnal arrests and alleged molestation in Chotta Bazaar locality spread across Srinagar city, thousands of people came out on the streets to hold protests. Processions marched through almost every part of the city and a major one was reported from Rajbagh and Radio Colony localities in Srinagar. Eyewitnesses say the protesters defied the curfew and marched through the city. The protesters were on the way to Chotta Bazar. As the peaceful protesters reached Gawkadal, they were fired upon, resulting in death of 50 persons and injuries to dozens.

"It has been 28 years now but the government has neither prosecuted any official involved in the massacre nor has any credible investigation been carried out into the case," the petitioner before the SHRC stated.

A police report submitted earlier before the commission on this matter said that kin of six deceased persons have been granted relief, out of the 22 persons who lost their lives, the kin of the rest being "untraced".

The police details received by the SHRC from Police Station Kralkhud stated that 22 people were killed and 12 were injured in what is known as the Gawkadal Massacre of 1990. The police reply stated that only six families were traced whose relatives were killed in that incident, while the rest 16 families remained untraced as they had "perhaps changed their residence as more than 25 years have passed since then".

The police reply also stated that records were not available as to whether any relief was provided to any of the 12 injured persons.

SHRC seeks report on 'torture' of Ganderbal cousins

Nov 13: The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) issued a notice to Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Ganderbal asking them to file a report about alleged torture of two persons at Warapahow, Ganderbal by army on November 6.

The notice was issued in response of the petition filed by rights activist Muhammad Ahsan Untoo.

As per the petition, Shabir Ahmed Raina and his cousin Rouf Ahmed Raina were bundled up in army vehicle and beaten to pulp and "asked to drink kerosene oil and cold water while

as forces sat on their thighs making them cry louder".

The petitioner said while as Shabir was released and continues to be in a critical condition his cousin Rouf is still under custody for no fault. The petitioner rued that charges against Rouf have not been made clear yet.

The petition demanded that FIR be lodged and thorough probe be conducted into the incident.

"Every day an innocent Kashmiri is suffering at the hands of security forces by torture or usual harassment. This needs an end otherwise situation will deteriorate with each passing day."

HR abuses by Police in Kashmir worst in India: SHRC Chairman

Nov 27: Human rights abuses by police in Kashmir are the worst in entire India, State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Chairman Justice (Retd) Bilal Nazki said Tuesday.

Speaking at a one-day basic training programme on human rights organised by the School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir in association with the National Human Rights Commission, Justice (Retd) Nazki said, "Kashmir is the worst in the context of human rights abuses in whole of India."

Making confessional statements about the role of SHRC, he said, "SHRC is part of the State establishment."

Using metaphors, the SHRC Chairman said the role of SHRC was like an "inverter" that

comes into place where other forums fail while the role of the High Court and the Supreme Court was like a "generator".

Criticising the State for its failure in safeguarding the interests of widows, old aged, destitute and disable population, he said, "A total of 5 lakh cases of pensions of widows, destitute, old age and disable seeking monthly pension of Rs 1000 under various schemes are pending with the authorities since year 2009 and it was only after the intervention by SHRC that 50,000 such cases had been cleared."

Justice (Retd) Nazki said the government had even failed the people whose land it had acquired for various public purposes.

"Lakhs of people are not being compensated for the land acquired by the government for various projects," he said.

Accepting that SHRC was a "toothless tiger", the SHRC Chairman said, "I agree that we are a toothless institution but people should not forget that every child is born toothless and with the passage of time, the teeth evolve, and same is true in our case."

However, he was also all praise for commission he heads for making references to the High Court.

"For the first time, SHRC made references to the High Court, which was never done prior to my appointment," Justice (Retd) Nazki said.

Police report does not identify killed civilian as involved in stone-pelting

Nov 30: A civilian who died of injuries sustained in firing by government forces has not been described in the police report as a "stone-pelter" or as being "part of a stone-pelting mob", which is how police usually explain civilian deaths during protests/clashes.

In response to a petition in the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), the police on Friday submitted a report by its Criminal Investigation Department (CID) which only says that a civilian, Sheeraz Ahmed Naikoo of Anantnag, was injured in firing of tear smoke shells/pellets by government forces "during stone-pelting" in Anantnag town on June 16, 2018, and later succumbed to his injuries at district hospital Anantnag.

The incident took place in Anantnag town on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr on June 16, 2018.

In a report submitted to the Director General of Police, J&K, the CID stated that after culmination of Eid prayers at Eidgah Ahl-i-Hadith

Expressing a grouse that the activities of SHRC were not given due credit as people remain unifocal, he said, "I have been the chairperson of Bihar Human Rights Commission as well, but, over there, I had support of the civil society and the press but Kashmiri civil society and Kashmir media doesn't play any role here."

However, SHRC chairman was left speechless when a student responded to him with a question that SHRC too does not play any role when Kashmir media comes under attack.

Justice (Retd) Nazki said in Kashmir no institution be it the executive, the legislature and for that matter even the SHRC had any credibility.

Ashajipora and at Eidgah Hanfia Janglat Mandi Anantnag, an unruly mob resorted to stone-pelting upon police/ security forces deployed around the Hanifa Eidgah and Police Post Janglat Mandi.

The report states that "police/ security forces tried to disperse the protestors in a peaceful manner but the mob turned more violent and continuously pelted stones on the deployed police/ security forces' personnel."

"The police/ security forces' personnel in retaliation fired some tear gas smoke shells/ pellets to disperse the miscreants and soon the clashes spread to other parts of town Anantnag. One youth, namely Sheeraz Ahmed Naikoo, s/o Abdul Gani Naikoo, r/o Brakpora Anantnag, received injuries during the stone-pelting who was shifted to District Hospital Anantnag for treatment where he succumbed to his injuries," the report says.

The police report was filed in response to a petition filed by rights activist in case SHRC/203/Ang/2018.

Now, SHRC can't entertain complaints older than a year

Nov 30: The State Administrative Council has cleared a proposal that renders the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) incapable of probing any complaint of human rights violation submitted one year after the incident.

Quoting its highly placed sources Greater Kashmir reported that the SAC headed by Governor Satya Pal Malik Wednesday gave its nod for amending "The Jammu & Kashmir Protection of Human Rights Act", limiting to one year the time in which victims can approach the rights panel.

"There was no such limitation period in the state Act earlier. The victim could approach the rights panel even after 20, 30 years after the incident," an official told Greater Kashmir on the condition of anonymity.

The other amendment, he said, makes it mandatory on part of the government to inform the SHRC within three months about the action taken on its recommendations.

He said the amendments are aimed at bringing the state law at par with National Human

Rights Commission Act, which governs NHRC as well as rights panels of states other than J&K.

Talking to media, governor's advisor K Vijay Kumar said the amendment will be applicable only to fresh cases.

"It will not affect the old cases," he said, adding that amendment has been brought to bring state's rights panel at par with other such bodies at the national level and in other states.

Chairperson SHRC Justice (retired) Bilal Nazki said he is not aware of the amendments.

"I don't know anything about it nor the government is required to consult me," he said.

A source privy to the development disclosed the proposal was mooted during the previous PDP-BJP rule but was never brought before the cabinet or legislature for approval.

"The intra-departmental consultations were going on over changes in the law for quite some time," he said.

In the past few years, different rights groups and activists have approached the SHRC

seeking investigations in rights violations cases that took place in the 90s in Kashmir.

The rights panel came into existence in the year 1997 by virtue of an Act called J&K Protection of Human Rights Act.

It has been often called as "toothless tiger" due to non-implementation of its recommendations by the government.

In 2018, the state government had informed the Assembly that out of 229 recommendations made by the panel since 2009, only 58 have been accepted by the government.

In 2017, the state government had rejected the SHRC recommendation seeking compensation

for Farooq Ahmad Dar, who was used as human shield by army during the by-poll for Srinagar-Budgam parliamentary segment.

An empowered committee headed by administrative secretary Home department is the competent authority to decide on whether to accept or reject the recommendations.

The committee comprises a representative of Law department, director general of police, inspector general of the Criminal Investigation Department and IGPs of Kashmir and Jammu ranges.

6. Harrasment against Kashmiris Living in India

2 Kashmiri students arrested in connection with grenade blast in Punjab

Nov 06: Two Kashmiri college students have been arrested in connection with the Maqsud police station hand grenade blast case, officials said.

Police said that Shahid Qayoom (22) and Fazil Bashir (23), students of an engineering college in Jalandhar, were associated with Kashmir-based Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH), headed by Zakir Rashid Bhatt alias Zakir Mussa, police said.

According to police, it is the second such case of arrest of Kashmiri students linked with AGH in the state. In October, police had arrested three Kashmiri students from the hostel of another engineering college in Jalandhar.

DGP Suresh Arora said in a release that four persons were involved in carrying out the hand grenade blasts inside the Maqsud police station in Jalandhar on September 14.

Apart from Shahid and Fazil, Mir Ravoo Ahmed alias Rouf and Mir Umar Ramzan alias Gazi were also involved in the act. Rouf and Gazi are absconding, the officer said.

Sikh group demands probe into Govt packages for Pandits

Nov 08: A Sikh organisation demanded a high-level probe into various packages announced by successive governments for Kashmiri Pandits and alleged that other communities in Jammu and Kashmir have been ignored.

"Over the years, it has been observed that the governments in New Delhi have been announcing packages for Kashmiri Pandits and nothing has been done with respect to Muslim and Sikh communities," All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said in a statement.

He said Sikhs are up against many odds and are facing difficulties with regard to employment, political representation and assistance in business, agriculture and horticulture sectors.

Raina said a probe should be carried out into the "undue" packages announced for Kashmiri Pandits over the years by a parliamentary panel or by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

The police said AGH's recruiter Amir of Dada Sara Tral in Kashmir had contacted Shahid and Fazil when they were in the Valley. He reportedly radicalised them and also exhorted the students to work for the outfit.

Giving further details, the DGP claimed Rouf and Gazi travelled to Jalandhar by bus where they met Shahid and Fazil around Maqsud Chowk, located near the Maqsud police station.

Arora said Fazil was arrested by the Punjab Police from Awantipora in Kashmir on November 3 and Shahid was picked up from Jalandhar on November 4.

An FIR under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder) and the Explosives Act was registered against them at police station division number one, Jalandhar Commissionerate.

The blast had occurred in Maqsud police station in a busy area of Punjab's Jalandhar city on September 14 in which a police personnel sustained minor injuries.

He said a thorough probe would expose the officials who have been doling out these packages from time to time.

"The SRO (sadr-e-riyasat ordinance) 425 issued in October 2017 by the state government to provide jobs, under the Prime Minister's package, to Kashmiri Pandits, who have not migrated from the Valley, is an act of gross discrimination against the Sikh community," Raina alleged.

He said that the SRO is arbitrary, illegal and an infringement of fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 16 of the Indian Constitution.

Right from 1989, the attitude of state and central governments has been apathetic and discriminatory towards the Sikhs, especially those living in the Valley, Raina alleged.

He asked the members of the community to wage a battle against the injustices meted out to them by people at the helm of affairs in New Delhi and in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Time has come when we shall get united and take a bold initiative so that our youth are given jobs that have been denied to them on one pretext or other. Sikhs should leave the casual

approach and it is time to become more pro-active so that rights are given to us more so when the same are guaranteed by the constitution," added Raina.

7. Surveillance

For geotagging Kashmiris, troops dropping at your doorsteps

Nov 06: The Army has been carrying out house-to-house survey, profiling residents and geotagging their houses in Srinagar without the knowledge of civil administration.

The residents of Baghi Mehtaab area of the city told media that a contingent of Army men arrived in their locality and sought details of the residents and marked every surveyed house with a particular number.

Baghi Mehtab, located 7 km south of city centre Lal Chowk, is primarily a residential area with a government housing colony and a private colony.

At 12 pm on November 6, a local Mohammad Sadiq (name changed) said the men in olive green, branding rifles, arrived at his house to document the profile of residents.

"Army men sought details of family size, names of family members, mobile phone numbers and penned down each and every detail in a register they carried with them," he said.

The surveyed housed, according to residents, were scribbled with numbers on the walls or the gates by the Army men.

Army men also recorded the details of vehicles that people own, residents said.

Another resident, wishing not to be named, said that they were not informed about the purpose of survey.

Fearing trouble, he refused to share any details with the troops surveying the residents. They (Army men) got aggressive and left the house, he said.

"But, we will return in the night to record the information," the resident quoted the Army men of threatening him.

According to residents, the Army was carrying Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates to mark the locations besides marking the gates and walls of the houses while conducting door-to-door survey.

GPS coordinates are a unique identifier of the precise geographic location, usually expressed in alphanumeric characters.

Coordinates, in this context, are points of intersection in a grid system and it is usually

Two CUK students arrested on suspicion of 'harbouring' militants

Nov 10: Police arrested two students of Central University of Kashmir (CUK), triggering protests by students at the varsity's Nowgam campus on Saturday.

Suhail Ahmad and Mohammad Ismail, both 3rd semester students at CUK's Political Science department, were arrested by police from

expressed as the combination of latitude and longitude.

Since the lanes and houses are marked with particular numbers or names in a city area, an Army official said, it makes easy to find locations.

Stating that in rural areas houses are not marked with numbers, he said once the prominent crossroads are located, they are marked with names.

However, the Army official termed the exercise as "normal" and said it was regular updating of records of prominent citizens.

"It is maintaining of data of prominent citizens including educationists, and religious personalities so that there is convenience in meeting public," he said.

The Army official said, "There is nothing to worry about and people will not be put to any inconvenience because of this."

Ironically, the survey is being conducted by Army "without the knowledge" of the civil administration.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmed Khan told Rising Kashmir that it was not in his knowledge.

"I have no knowledge about it," Khan said.

However, he did not comment on whether Army could or could not conduct any survey without the permission of the civil administration.

This is not the first time Army is collecting the details of residents.

Such an exercise was also conducted in Muslimabad area in Budgam district a year ago and Zewan area on the outskirts of Srinagar last month.

The Army had also conducted similar types of surveys in north and south Kashmir.

This is similar to 1990s when Army would seek minute details from people in Kashmir.

"Those days, the Army used to call the family out of their house and take their group photograph and maintain the same in their records," said Ghulam Mohammad, a prominent citizen from north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

their rooms in Nowgam, the varsity's PRO Arshad Meraj said.

Suhail and Ismail are residents of Shopian and Baramulla districts, respectively.

Meraj said that the varsity has taken up the matter with the district administration Srinagar and top police officials in the district.

As the news about the duo's arrest spread on Saturday morning, scores of varsity students took out a protest rally from the campus to Nowgam Chowk, a student told media.

He said that the students carried placards and banners and raised slogans demanding the duo's release.

Later, the students dispersed after the sub-divisional magistrate Srinagar and a top police officer from the district gave "in writing...that if nothing is found against them (the arrested students), they will be released," informed Chief Proctor CUK, Prof Anil Kumar.

Prof Kumar said that the police officer told them that an FIR was filed against the duo.

"They did not say why the students were arrested," he added.

Vice Chancellor CUK, Prof Meraj ud Din, quoted a police official as saying that there were "some allegations" against the arrested students.

"They have said that if there is nothing against them, they are going to release them," Prof Meraj said.

Prof Meraj also said that the police had not disclosed the reason for the arrest of the two students.

A top officer in the J&K Police told Kashmir Reader, on the condition of anonymity, that the arrested duo was being investigated on the charge of "harbouring, transporting and giving shelter to" two active Hizbul Mujahideen militants on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

He said that the two militants whom the duo "accompanied" had escaped.

The officer said that some "incriminating material" was recovered from the duo's possession.

"One is actively involved. The role of the other is being investigated. Let us not conclude anything. They are students also," said the officer.

8. International statements on Kashmir

➤ UN passes Pak resolution on right to self-determination

Nov 20: The Third Committee of UN General Assembly has unanimously passed resolution on the right of self-determination.

The resolution, co-sponsored by 75 countries was adopted without a vote in the 193-member Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues, reports Dawn news.

Earlier, introducing the resolution in the committee, Pakistan's Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi said that self-determination had provided hope to people in their struggle against foreign occupation, a right that had been upheld by all major UN summits, Non-Aligned Movement and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The resolution is expected to come up for General Assembly's endorsement next month.

The text also declared the General Assembly's firm opposition to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world.

The resolution called on those states responsible to cease immediately their military intervention and occupation of foreign countries and territories, as well as all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment.

It is a message of support from the international community to peoples, everywhere in the world, who still find themselves subjugated and oppressed and struggling against foreign occupation.

"It is my earnest hope that this august body will once again adopt the resolution by consensus, and that more of you will join as cosponsors to show your firm and unwavering commitment to the right to self-determination for

all occupied, oppressed and suffering people of the world", the ambassador added.

➤ OIC chief reiterates support to Kashmir movement at 'Black Day' event in Jeddah

Nov 21: Secretary General, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has reiterated his full support to the Kashmir struggle while inaugurating an event to mark 'Kashmir Black Day' organized by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah, a media report said.

While presiding over the event, Dr. Yousaf Bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, OIC Secretary General, reiterated OIC's full support to the people of Kashmir in their legitimate struggle for the fundamental right to self-determination, said the report.

The ceremony and the symposium that followed took place in the presence of Pakistan's Consul General Shahryar Akbar Khan, along with the Member States' permanent representatives to the OIC and diplomatic corps, OIC said on its website.

"The Secretary General underlined that organizing Kashmir's Black Day commemoration at the OIC General Secretariat's headquarters is a true expression of the OIC's firm stance and continued support to the Kashmiris to exercise their long overdue right to self-determination."

"He pledged that the OIC will continue to advocate the Kashmiri issue at every international forum."

"The OIC is closely following the developments of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Al-Othaimeen added, stressing that the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) is monitoring the gross violations of human rights in Indian-administered-Kashmir."

The OIC chief said that lasting peace in south-east Asia can only be achieved through a just

and lasting settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute based on UN resolutions.

This was the second consecutive year that the secretary general of OIC has presided over the seminar, reported Saudi Gazette.

➤ **World community interested in Kashmir problem, says former Norwegian premier**

Oct 29: Former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik has said that international community is interested in Kashmir and that he was willing to mediate between India and Pakistan over the long-pending dispute.

"We can't ignore the fact that the international community is interested in the issue, there have been UN resolutions on Kashmir, and recently, there was a report of the UN Human Rights Commission. So there is an international interest," Bondevik was quoted as having said by the Indian Express.

9. Official Statements

➤ **2010 uprising haunts me: Omar**

Nov 02: Former chief minister and National Conference (NC) Vice President, Omar Abdullah said he went into a shell after the 2010 uprising but did not comment on the initiative of Government of India (GoI) of trying to get Salahuddin to return to Kashmir saying he was bound by the oath of secrecy.

Speaking at the launch of New Delhi's former interlocutor on Kashmir, Radha Kumar's book, 'Paradise at War: A political History of Kashmir', Omar, while referring to the 2010 uprising in which over 110 Kashmiri youth were killed when he was the chief minister of the State, said: "The year 2010 still haunts me and I tend to question myself whether things could have been handled better. It's a truth that I retreated into a shell, but my being out wouldn't have helped."

The former chief minister said he had worked with the GoI and tried to learn and manage the situation.

"For the 2010 situation, the lion's share of blame lies on me as I lacked experience and working in a difficult state like Jammu Kashmir compounded the problem," he said accepting his "mishandling" of the situation during the 2010 uprising.

"Thereafter, till 2016, we had a competitively peaceful period, but I regret that we don't use peaceful periods for building up solutions and only think when violence is there," Omar said.

However, he did not comment on the revelations in Kumar's book that in 2010, GoI was trying to get Salahuddin to return to Kashmir saying, "I'm bound by the oath of secrecy."

On why Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commanders, Burhan Wani and Mannan Wani and not Omar Abdullah were the role models for Kashmiri youth, the former chief minister said, "I believe in a practical idea that there is no scope of

He said if India and Pakistan could solve the matter without help, "it is good, then they must come to the table because the situation in Kashmir is escalating".

He said: "I am convinced there is no military solution to the Kashmir problem".

Bondevik said it was imperative that the Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control should also be involved in the working out of any solution, "because they are the people most affected".

Bondevik acknowledged that his visit to the Valley must have been cleared by Delhi as it was the first time a foreign dignitary has visited the Valley and met with Hurriyat leaders but he underlined that he had no contact with anyone in the Indian government.

"If I am asked to play a role by both (governments of India and Pakistan), I am willing to do so," he said but he also underlined that there was no such invitation at the moment from the Indian side.

Kashmir's independence and the State's future lies only with India."

Commenting on Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti's handling the 2016 uprising after the killing of Burhan Wani, Omar said,

"I sympathise with Mehbooba Mufti as she didn't have anybody to advise her."

However, he said, "She had a difficult partner unwilling to concede space. In comparison to her, I had my father, who could advise me on difficult situations."

➤ **NIA questions Hurriyat leader Aga Hassan, Mehbooba calls it 'witch-hunt'**

Nov 02: The National Investigation Agency on Friday questioned senior separatist leader and president Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi, triggering a shutdown in parts of Budgam district.

Officials said he was let off after questioning at Humhama police station. The NIA had issued a notice to Aga Hasan.

The agency had conducted a raid at his residence in Budgam district in September last year in connection with funding case that was registered on May 30 last year.

Scores of protestors took to streets to protest against the revered Shia cleric and leader's questioning. A complete shutdown was observed in Budgam and Magam towns of the district. Anjuman-e-Sharie-Shian, a religio-political organisation headed by Hassan, had called for the strike.

Peoples Democratic Party president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti expressed "disappointment" over summoning of Aga Syed Al-Hassan Al-Mousvi by the National Investigation Agency.

In a statement, the PDP chief stated that it is "high time that the government of India sees the futility of its muscular policies and not treat everybody as a criminal in Kashmir."

➤ **Militancy, stone pelting incidents dropped: Governor**

- Militants killed BJP leader, brother in Kishtwar
- No militant recruitment in last 2 months
- Will try to create atmosphere for holding talks

Nov 05: Governor Satya Pal Malik said militancy and stone pelting incidents in Valley have dropped after he took charge of the State.

He also claimed that no militant recruitment took place in last two months and blamed militants for killing the BJP leader and his brother in Kishtwar.

According to Governor, militants were frustrated due to peaceful elections in the State. "And on direction from Pakistan, the militants throw grenades at some places on security naka, but forces nab them."

"Being Governor of Jammu and Kashmir is itself a challenge," he said when asked how challenging his job is.

Asked about militant posters in Doda district which call for boycott of Panchayat elections, Malik said, "It is an isolated incident and forces will take care of it. Everyday election boycott posters of militant groups would surface in many places in Valley. However, it did not had any impact on the elections".

He said morale of forces is high and there is total synergy among them.

"We will not allow disturbance of Panchayat polls in the State," he said.

The Governor disclosed that stone pelting incidents have reduced in Valley after he took over as Governor of the State.

"There are hardly any major incidents of stone pelting in Kashmir because I addressed issues honestly. We accept the mistakes, but they (separatists-militants) did not accept their mistakes," he said.

He further disclosed that there was no militant recruitment in Valley in last two months except for one youth, who joined recently.

"People have understood our policies and militants won't yield anything.

We have been successful to make people understand that violence has no solution," he said.

Maintaining that Delhi has a friendly government," Malik said, "I have got the mandate from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reach out to people and remain available to people. I have been given mandate to create conducive atmosphere for talks and I am hopeful that we can create an atmosphere for dialogue in coming months."

Referring to National Conference and PDP's boycott of ULB polls, he said both the regional political parties faced problem because they did not participate in polls.

He hoped that both the parties would participate in the panchayat polls.

➤ **Around 160 militants waiting to infiltrate: Lt Gen Singh**

Nov 11: The militant training infrastructure in Pakistan remains intact and around 160 militants are waiting across the Line of Control (LoC) to infiltrate into Indian territory, a senior Army officer said.

Lieutenant General Paramjit Singh, who took over as the general officer commanding of the Nagrota-based White Knight Corps, commonly known as XVI Corps, also said that "cross-border terrorism" will stop only if Pakistan changes its policy and intentions.

The officer, involved in the planning of the 2016 surgical strikes in Pakistan administered Kashmir, told PTI in an interview that the Army was not letting up on "our preparedness and the counter-infiltration grid is strong enough to deal with infiltrators".

Lt. Gen. Singh, who has served in all three regions of Jammu and Kashmir, said, "140 to 160 terrorists at different locations in Pakistan are being pushed into the state."

➤ **Our focus on youth not joining militancy in Kashmir: Army chief**

Nov 12: Army chief Bipin Rawat said while the government's policy was that those triggering militancy in Kashmir should be neutralised, the Army's focus was to ensure that the Kashmiri youths do not join militancy.

The Army chief said infiltration was going on from across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government has a clear cut policy that it will not allow militants to create violence. Anybody who creates violence will be neutralised, he told reporters here.

Rawat, who was on a two-day visit to Pathankot, presided over a conclave of disabled soldiers in Pathankote.

Our focus is militants in the valley. The basic aim of the Army is to ensure that young boys do not join militancy, he said.

Rawat said the Army's aim was that it approached the youth's family and told them that they could ask the youth to surrender as it was still giving them a chance.

"Then if the people still do not behave and continue with violence, then the alternative left (with us) is to neutralise them," the Army chief said.

Asked whether India is following a tit-for-tat policy towards Pakistan, which was resulting in many casualties, Rawat said the policy keeps on changing.

"See we have to keep changing the policy...We have (to) keep doing something different. It has to be reviewed so that we keep ahead of adversary," he said, adding that it had to be more than a tit-for-tat policy.

He said what the Indian Army was doing along the LoC was not being put into public domain and they were doing more than Pakistan.

"We do not want blow our trumpet unnecessarily. Whenever they do something, it is given a befitting reply. Whenever they are doing something, it is a reaction. They don't take initiative. They know we are strong and we can take strong action," he said.

The Army chief said Pakistan kept sending militants to cause damage and ultimately it led to violence against the people.

"Kashmiris are our people. We have to look after them," he said, adding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions were part of the country and violence would not be allowed there.

On sniping, Rawat said it was a regular affair and there was nothing new in it.

"Pakistan have got snipers and India also has snipers. It is subject to exposure of any soldier. Our drills should be good and we have to ensure that we do not give them any opportunity to snipe at us," he said.

On former chief minister Omar Abdullah and Kashmiri politicians advocating for dialogue instead of muscular policy, Rawat said the government had a clear policy that it would not allow militants to create violence. He said it had already initiated dialogue through an interlocutor with the people.

"The government has tasked an interlocutor to speak to the people in valley. Dineshwar Sharma is saying that he is open to everybody and those interested in talking to him can come up and speak to him," he added.

"I don't understand who is saying talks are not going on. Sharma is the government's interlocutor. If the people are not listening to him, what can he do," he asked.

He said they were holding indirect talks to see if they could approach stakeholders.

"What makes us think that necessary action by the government is not being taken to bring people into mainstream", Rawat questioned.

➤ **More militants killed in north than south Kashmir from Jan-Oct**

Nov 24: Contrary to the notion that north Kashmir is less affected by militancy, the region comprising three districts has witnessed more militant casualties than volatile south Kashmir till October this year.

According to statistics, from January to October this year, at least 86 militants of different outfits were killed in encounters with forces across north Kashmir.

"The militant casualties in north Kashmir is higher than south Kashmir, where 80 militants were killed in gunfights with forces," it revealed.

The north Kashmir comprises three districts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora while south Kashmir comprises four districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam.

In September and October, 30 militants were killed in encounters with forces in north Kashmir.

During the same period, 19 militants were killed in gunfights with forces in south Kashmir.

Till 2017, north Kashmir was seen as relative calm region than south Kashmir.

"From January to August this year, 56 militants of Hizbul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad were killed in north Kashmir. During the same period, 61 militants of Hizb, Lashkar, Jaish, Ansar-Gazwat-ul-Hind and ISJK were killed in south Kashmir," reveals the statistics.

Overall, 191 militants have been killed in encounters with forces during anti-militancy operations across Valley till October this year.

The militants were killed in encounters in hinterland and along the Line of Control while trying to infiltrate in the State.

In south Kashmir, majority of militants active are locals while in north Kashmir, most militants active are Pakistani nationals belonging to Lashkar and Jaish.

Despite army claiming to have robust anti-infiltration grid in place along the LoC, infiltration of militants remains a major concern for security agencies.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Law and Order and Security, Munir Ahmad Khan told Rising Kashmir that there remains a threat of infiltration by militants from across the LoC in north Kashmir.

"The successful anti-militancy operations were conducted in north Kashmir during which both foreign and local militants were killed," he said.

Khan said more foreign militants than local militants were present in north Kashmir.

"The situation in north Kashmir is well under control," the ADGP added.

➤ **50 civilians killed at gunfight sites this year**

Oct 26: Civilian killings at the sites of gunfights in Kashmir have seen a sharp decline in the past three months, Greater Kashmir quoting security agencies, day after a teenager was killed near an encounter site in southern Shopian district.

According to official figures, 50 civilians were killed in protests at encounter sites this year (until November 26).

"There has, however, been a sharp decline in incidents of civilian killings at the encounter sites for the past three months," a senior police officer said, wishing not to be named as he wasn't authorised to speak to media.

He said that after "repeated reviews" on preventing civilian killings at gunfight sites, a "series of steps" were taken in May this year, including "strengthening multi-layer security cover at such spots".

About killing of 17-year-old boy at Batagund village in Shopian on Sunday during a protest at the encounter site, the officer said: "Shopian was a major operation where six militants

including some top commanders were killed. Some youth had managed to reach very closer to the encounter site where bullets were raining from all directions, and in between the youth was hit”.

He said “despite knowing that they can get killed, youth still try to get closer to encounter spots”.

“It is not possible to say whose bullet had hit the youth (in Shopian). The only possible way to avoid such killings is that youth must realise that they can get killed if they try to inch closer to encounter spots,” the officer said.

➤ **44 militants, 28 civilians, 10 policemen killed, 500 injured, 80 by pellets in eyes, this year: Officals**

Nov 26: According to official figures, 44 militants, 28 civilians, 10 policemen, and 5 army/paramilitary soldiers have been killed in the district this year, so far. More than 500 people have been injured during this time, according to numbers given out by government hospitals/health centres. Many of them sustained bullet and pellet injuries, with about 80 civilians hit with pellets in their eyes.

Twelve encounters between militants and government forces have taken place in Shopian district this year, during which seven residential houses and two cowsheds have been destroyed with explosives used by government forces.

Of the 10 policemen killed in the district, five were killed while on duty and five were abducted by unknown gunmen from outside their homes.

Police say that with all the militant commanders killed, Shopian now has none left but Zeenat-ul-Islam, who recently joined Al-Badr militant outfit.

“There are many recruits but no commander or any big strategist in the district now,” a senior police officer said, on condition of anonymity.

He said that probably 30 local youths of Shopian survive in militant ranks, after a surge in new recruitments from the month of September this year.

➤ **HR abuses by Police in Kashmir worst in India: SHRC Chairman**

Nov 27: Human rights abuses by police in Kashmir are the worst in entire India, State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Chairman Justice (Retd) Bilal Nazki said.

Speaking at a one-day basic training programme on human rights organised by the School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir in association with the National Human Rights Commission, Justice (Retd) Nazki said, “Kashmir is the worst in the context of human rights abuses in whole of India.”

Making confessional statements about the role of SHRC, he said, “SHRC is part of the State establishment.”

Justice (Retd) Nazki served as the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Bihar and also heads the Government of India’s

committee to review functioning of the Hajj Committee of India and its state units.

Nazki, a retired Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, served as a High Court judge in Kashmir and Jammu, Andhra Pradesh and Bombay.

Using metaphors, the SHRC Chairman said the role of SHRC was like an “inverter” that comes into place where other forums fail while the role of the High Court and the Supreme Court was like a “generator”.

Criticising the State for its failure in safeguarding the interests of widows, old aged, destitute and disable population, he said, “A total of 5 lakh cases of pensions of widows, destitute, old age and disable seeking monthly pension of Rs 1000 under various schemes are pending with the authorities since year 2009 and it was only after the intervention by SHRC that 50,000 such cases had been cleared.”

Justice (Retd) Nazki said the government had even failed the people whose land it had acquired for various public purposes.

“Lakhs of people are not being compensated for the land acquired by the government for various projects,” he said.

Accepting that SHRC was a “toothless tiger”, the SHRC Chairman said, “I agree that we are a toothless institution but people should not forget that every child is born toothless and with the passage of time, the teeth evolve, and same is true in our case.”

However, he was also all praise for commission he heads for making references to the High Court.

“For the first time, SHRC made references to the High Court, which was never done prior to my appointment,” Justice (Retd) Nazki said.

Expressing a grouse that the activities of SHRC were not given due credit as people remain unifocal, he said, “I have been the chairperson of Bihar Human Rights Commission as well, but, over there, I had support of the civil society and the press but Kashmiri civil society and Kashmir media doesn’t play any role here.”

However, SHRC chairman was left speechless when a student responded to him with a question that SHRC too does not play any role when Kashmir media comes under attack.

Justice (Retd) Nazki said in Kashmir no institution be it the executive, the legislature and for that matter even the SHRC had any credibility.

➤ **Had I looked to Delhi, I would have installed Sajjad Lone: Guv**

Nov 27: J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik said that had he looked to Delhi for instructions, he would have had to install a government led by Sajjad Lone instead of dissolving the state assembly. History would have remembered him as a “dishonest man”, he added.

After the remarks embarrassed the central government, the Raj Bhavan issued a clarification that said: “There was no pressure or any kind of intervention from the Centre in the entire matter and some news channels are misinterpreting

Governor's statement and putting them out of context to convey that there was pressure from the central government."

Malik had abruptly dissolved the state assembly after the PDP led by Mehbooba Mufti staked claim to form a government with the backing of National Conference and Congress. This was followed by another bid from the two-member People's Conference led by Sajjad Lone which claimed the support of BJP and "18 other legislators".

During a pre-convocation academic conclave of ITM University in Gwalior today, Malik said, "Delhi ki taraf dekhta toh mujhe Lone ki sarkar banani padti aur mein ithihas mein ek beimaan aadmi ke taur pe jata... (Had I looked to Delhi, I would have had to install a government led by Lone, and history would have remembered me as a dishonest man)."

"Therefore, I ended the matter. Whosoever wants to scold can do so now, but I am convinced that whatever I did was right," he said in his address after journalist Ravish Kumar mentioned in his speech the "faulty fax machine" in Raj Bhavan that apparently failed to receive Mehbooba Mufti's letter staking claim to form the government.

➤ **230 militants killed in 10 months, 250 still active: DGP**

Nov 28: The police chief said the graph of militancy has "come down" in Kashmir saying 230 militants have been killed by troops in anti-militancy operations during last 10 months of this year while 250 were still active.

"There has been a large decrease in graph of militancy. There have been many successful operations in last many days. Many militant commanders have been killed. This will bring down militant activities in south Kashmir," Director General of Police, Dilbagh Singh said while addressing a press conference, here after killing of top Lashkar-e-Toiba Commander Naveed Jhatt and his associate in a gunfight in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

He said in last week, more than two dozen militants have been killed in south Kashmir including those killed in Budgam today.

The state police chief said about 250 militants were active in Kashmir.

"The number of militants increases when there is an infiltration and it decreases when militants are killed. But, they militants are not getting new recruits," he said.

Singh said during last ten months, 230 militants have been killed. "We are working with cooperation of people and we hope for a better tomorrow."

The DGP claimed that the pattern of militant recruitment has largely come down and it was now "equal to nil".

"In last two months, there has been no information about any youth joining militant ranks," he said.

➤ **227 militants including 9 top commanders killed this year so far, 37 in November: Report**

Nov 29: 37 militants have been killed in gunfights with government forces across Kashmir in the month of November making it the bloodiest month of this year for the militants. The slain militants include top nine commanders.

As per official figures, 227 militants have been killed in different parts of Kashmir so far this year. While they belonged to different organisations, the Lashkar and Hizbul Mujahideen suffered major losses this month as both groups lost some of their top commanders, especially in south Kashmir, Hindustan Times reported. Last year, 207 militants were killed in this period.

This November, nine militant commanders were killed - five affiliated with the Hizbul Mujahideen and four with the Lashkar. J&K's director general of police, Dilbag Singh told Hindustan Times that the number of militants at present is hovering around 250. "After several successful operations, the graph of militancy, especially in south Kashmir, has come down and fresh recruitment has also declined."

The report quoting another senior police official said that this year more than 15 top militant commanders affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar, Hizbul Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Ansar-ul-Gazwat-ul-Hind were killed in different anti-militancy operations by the government forces.

The officer said that now only three to four prominent top commanders are active - Hizbul Mujahideen's operational commander, Riyaz Naikoo, Al Badr commander, Zeenat-ul Islam who was earlier with Hizbul Mujahideen and now has shifted to Albadr, Lateef Tiger who was an associate of Burhan Wani and Zakir Musa, the chief of Ansar-ul-Gazwat-ul-Hind. "The killings of several commanders have put the commanders who are at large under tremendous pressure," the officer said.

➤ **Can use strike drones in Kashmir if people will accept collateral damage: Army chief Gen Rawat**

Nov 29: The Indian army chief General Bipin Rawat has said that they can use drones in Jammu and Kashmir only if people are willing to accept "mistakes and the collateral damage," said a media report.

Gen Rawat made the remarks while responding to a query whether India will use drones as the United States does.

"There is just no problem in using these kind of weapons" on either the Indian side of the Line of Control or in Pakistan territory, said Gen Rawat, according to a report in The Wire.

While delivering the ninth Y.B. Chavan Memorial Lecture at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, Gen Rawat said they can use the drones as long as there was no backlash from the public or from the international community.

"You see, across also there can be mistakes. Either way, whether in your territory or the territory across, there will be mistakes. So if we are willing to accept these mistakes, and we feel that there will be no repercussions, there will be no backlash, there is a way forward," he said.

"It's not to say that we can't use it. That is the reason why we are trying to procure these weapons. But these weapons are being procured more for... not for the hybrid warfare systems, we're looking at it from the conventional war... but yes, anything that we procure has got dual use."

"But the first issue is of collateral damage. We get so concerned. In your own nation, your people get concerned about collateral damage so much - when you are fighting this kind of warfare, I think you have to accept that collateral damage will happen. It is war. If that is something which we can accept, then there is just no problem in using these kind of weapons."

"But can we accept it. Will the international community get after us? Or will they spare us in case mistakes happen? That is a call we have to take. Otherwise there is just no problem in using it."

➤ **407 die in militancy violence in Kashmir in 11 months**

Nov 30: With the killing of 48 persons in militancy-related incidents in November, at least 407 persons including militants, civilians and force personnel have been killed in militancy-related violence in strife torn Kashmir this year so far.

Of the 407 casualties recorded till November-end in different militancy-related incidents in Kashmir, 227 were militants, 94 civilians, 50 policemen and paramilitary personnel and 36 Army men.

The deceased militants mainly belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen—the largest militant group operating in Valley—and Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). The Jaish-e-Mohammad, Al Badar, Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen and Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind also suffered damage.

The militants—both local and Pakistani—were killed in gunfights with forces both in the hinterland and along the Line of Control in Kashmir.

According to statistics, more militants were killed this year as compared to last year when 209 militants were killed.

Four south Kashmir districts comprising Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag, which have emerged as hotbed of militancy, witnessed 110 militant killings out of total 227 militant casualties.

The north Kashmir districts of Kupwara, Bandipora and Baramulla recorded around 88 militant killings while the remaining militants were killed in central Kashmir's Budgam and Srinagar districts.

Of 227 militants killed this year, 36 died in encounters in November followed by 33 in September, 28 in October, 24 each in August and

June, 19 in April, 18 in May, 17 in March, 11 in July, 10 in January and seven in February.

Civilian casualties

Of the 94 civilian casualties this year, highest 17 were witnessed in April followed by 14 each in October and May, eight each in November and July, seven each in January and June, five each in September, February and March and six in August.

Most of the civilians were killed in forces' firing during on protestors during clashes near the encounter sites.

Police said some of the civilians were killed in cross firing incidents at gunfight sites while others were killed by militants after being abducted.

Month-wise casualties

Of 48 casualties recorded in Kashmir in November, 36 were militants, 8 civilians, three Army men and a paramilitary CRPF man.

The militant groups lost many top commanders including LeT commander Naveed Jhatt, who was killed along with his aide in a gunfight at Kuthpora village of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

The month also witnessed a series of kidnapping of alleged informers in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Among those abducted by militants, three were killed for allegedly tipping off forces about militants and their confessional videos were circulated on social media by militants.

October was bloodiest month this year with 52 casualties. Of 52 dead, 28 were militants, 14 civilians including seven killed in a blast at a gunfight site at Laroo in Kulgam. Three policemen, a paramilitary SSB man and an ASI of CISF and five Army men were also killed in the month.

September and August were also violent with 45 casualties in each month followed by 42 killings in June, 41 in April, 36 in May, 29 in March, 27 in July, 23 in February and 21 in January.

Of 45 casualties reported in September, 33 were militants, five civilians, four policemen and three army men while of 45 killings in August, 24 were militants, eight policemen, seven army men and six civilians.

In July, eight civilians, 11 militants, three policemen, four paramilitary CRPF personnel, and an army man were killed.

In June, 24 militants, six civilians, eight policemen and three army men were killed, as per the data.

In May, 18 militants, 14 civilians, three cops and an army man were killed in different militancy-related incidents in Kashmir.

In April, 17 civilians, 19 militants, four army troopers, a policeman and a political worker were killed in the month.

In March, 17 militants, five civilians, four cops including three Special Police Officers and three army men were killed.

In February, seven militants, five civilians, five cops and six army men were killed.

In January, 10 militants, seven civilian and four cops were killed, while army suffered zero

damage from militants in the month.

Masrat Alam slapped with 37th PSA, shifted to Jammu jail

Nov 14: The incarcerated chairman of Muslim League Jammu Kashmir Masarat Alam Bhat was shifted to Hira Nagar jail Jammu after authorities booked him under the fresh Public Safety Act (PSA).

The fresh orders, incidentally 37th in the series, were passed Wednesday morning by the

Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, a spokesperson of the League Sajad Ayoubi said.

He said Alam was brought to JIC Jammu a few days ago, and in the meantime a fresh PSA - which is 37th in a row - was slapped on him.

After being slapped with 37th PSA, which is a world record, Masarat Alam was shifted to Hira Nagar Jail in Jammu, Ayoubi said.

10. Suicides by Armed Forces

Cop commites suicide

Nov 20: A cop who allegedly attempted suicide outside the residence of Director General of Police, succumbed to his injuries at Government Medical College and Hospital (GMC&H) Jammu, police said.

IRP head constable Subash Chander son of late Nanak Chand of Aanjana (Rajal), Nowshera, Rajouri, was on duty outside the residence of DGP Dilbagh Singh at Bikram Chowk area jammu, when he allegedly shot himself with his service rifle on November 19.

