



JAMMU KASHMIR COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY (JKCCS)

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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

Changing the Newtonian Law

In recent times, the statements by Indian army leadership speak volumes about their growing frustration while dealing with the on-going Kashmir conflict. Conflict in Kashmir has graduated and fear, which was used as a weapon of war the army by following the doctrine of Sub Conventional Warfare in conflict areas, is increasingly getting diluted. The United States also started similar operations like *Operation Rolling Thunder*, *Operation Foot Boy* or *Operation Enduring Freedom* in Afghanistan but they haven't really succeeded. Kashmiris are crossing the barrier of fear and it is said that once people override fear they cannot be subdued or defeated.

Following the *Operation All Out* by the government in New Delhi, the army continues conducting Cordon and Search Operations (CASO) and Cordon and Destroy Operations (CADO) and area domination but nowadays they face stiff resistance from the general masses, once unthinkable for them. Time to time government has claimed to neutralize militancy. Militancy also has graduated now; it is less number of militants but more militancy. Earlier, it was more number of militants and less militancy. Not caring for their lives, young civilians are rushing to the deadly encounter sites and engage the armed forces in order to facilitate the escape of the trapped militants, whom the civilian population considers as freedom fighters. One of the recent cases of this nature took place in Badigam village of Shopian in South Kashmir where three civilians were shot dead by armed forces near an encounter site. The civilians were part of the protest near the encounter site. The growing incidents near encounter sites where local civilians throw stones on armed forces and obstruct anti-militancy operations has caused alarm for the army and in political circles in India. Indian army's recent statements amply depict that.

The Indian Army Chief's statement on 10 May 2018 wherein he said that, "I don't understand why people are coming out in huge numbers to disrupt our operations. I want to tell Kashmiri youth that Azadi isn't possible and those who obstruct operation during encounters and are not supportive will be treated as Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of the militants who organise such protests around the encounter site". Further expressing his frustration, the Army Chief in another statement stated, "it would have been easier for armed forces if the protestors were firing weapons instead of throwing stones. I wish these people instead of throwing stones at us were firing weapons at us then I would have been happy. Then I could do what I want to do."

The Army Chief's frustration was quite evident from his observations. The resistance exhibited by the people to army actions appears to be demoralizing the army in Jammu & Kashmir. The army's top brass is seriously worried about the new manifestations of resistance their men are facing day-in and day-out in Kashmir. The Chief's concern is how to stop his troopers downgrading morale, which is his job. The sagging morale of the Indian army is also a major concern for the political leadership, who are convinced that they can hold Kashmiris against their will and caprice. Worthwhile to mention here, India's first Prime Minister contemptuously called Kashmiri people as 'soft people, not virile and used to easy life'. The transformation of the Kashmiri people to this extent where deaths are glorified and young people are not afraid of facing bullets is due to the treatment meted out to them by the army from last seventy years of conflict. Daily humiliations, harassments, torture, detentions, FIRs, different forms of collective punishments and false and facile cases including countless cases of illegal and administrative detentions has pushed Kashmiri people to a point that they now resort to violence believing that it is the only honourable response. Lot of victims of violence fighting for justice feel helpless, as no victim has ever got justice and there exists perpetual and complete impunity for the perpetrators and on the contrary, the perpetrators are glorified for killing innocent people by mainstream Indian media.

Occupation per se is an incitement. India is following the Israeli path and the widespread demonstrations by Kashmiris in 2008, 2010 and 2016 reminds us of the Palestinian Intifada of 1987, which rocked the

Israeli state for the next five years. The then Chief of the Israeli Army Staff Mr. Robin threatened, “breaking the bones of protestors and blowing the houses of suspects”. Kashmiri people have given an unwavering response to the routine oppression of the army, which has complete impunity and is supported by the politicians and their military leadership. The armed forces make no differentiation between a non-combatant and a combatant. It is likely so because the entire Jammu & Kashmir population is convinced that they are living under an occupation and the alien army is not paying any heed to in the International Humanitarian Law.

Normally, any State would have seen the writing on the wall - the army cannot fight a war against a rebellious and defying population. It is unlikely Army can hold or control people against their will for a longer period of time. Ironically, Indian politicians and current Indian leadership want to change the Newtonian Law, probably they want to make an example that they can do what other States have failed to do.

2. Chronology of Incidents

May 01: A complete shutdown was observed to protest the militants and civilian killings in Pulwama on April 30. While a teenager was thrashed allegedly by a CRPF trooper at Bohri Kadal area of Downtown Srinagar. The incident occurred during restrictions imposed by authorities to thwart civilian protests following killing of two militants and a civilian in south Kashmir’s Drabgam village of Pulwama.

May 02: A civilian youth was killed and more than thirty others were injured, some of them with bullets, as government forces fired bullets and pellets to quell protests around the site of an encounter, in Shopian. The killed civilian has been identified as Umar Kumar, son of Abdullah Kumar, resident of Pinjoora village in Shopian district. In a bizarre incident, an 8-year-old student of a private school was injured grievously after the school bus he was travelling in came under stone-pelting in Zavoora village in Shopian district. The injured kid, a student of Class 2 at Rainbow International School, has been identified as Rehan Ahmad Gors, son of Nooruddin Gors, resident of Zampathri, Kellar, in Shopian district. In another incident, unidentified person hurled a petrol bomb on the house of PDP MLA in Shopian. The bomb landed on the rooftop of the MLA house which caught fire.

May 03: Shutdown continues in parts of Shopian and Pulwama districts over the killing of student on May 2 at the hands of armed forces in Shopian during an encounter.

May 04: A man was shot dead while his wife was injured when unknown gunmen barged into their house at Harwan area of Sopore and opened fire. The slain was identified as Mohammad Ashraf Mir, 34, a driver and his injured wife as Saima of Mir Mohalla Harwan, Sopore. While a woman was injured and several houses were damaged in cross LOC shelling in north Kashmir’s Tangdar sector. In another incident of cross LOC shelling a minor was injured in Degwar sector along LOC in Poonch. In Pulwama, suspected militants hurled a grenade targeting Pulwama police station. However, no casualties were reported. Police fired in air after the explosion.

May 05: Three LET militants were killed and three armed forces personnel injured in an encounter in Chattabal area of Srinagar down town. Two of the slain militants were identified as Showkat Ahmad Tak, 26, s/o Ghulam Hassan Tak of Panzgam, Pulwama and Fayaz Ahmad Hamal at Khanqah-e-Moula and the third militant were said to be a foreigner. The encounter triggered clashes at various places in Srinagar during which a forces armoured vehicle crushed a protestor. The slain protestor was identified as, Adil Ahmed Yadoo of Gasi Mohalla of SafaKadal was removed to SMHS hospital where doctors failed to resuscitate him. In Hajin area of Bandipora, unidentified gunmen abducted and killed two civilians uncle-nephew in relation. The slain were identified as Ghulam Hassan Dar and Bashir Ahmad Dar, 26, a sumo driver of Shahgund, Hajin, Bandipora. In another incident, suspected militants shot at and critically injured a SPO in Rohmoo area of Pulwama district.

May 06: Five militants and equal number of civilians were killed by armed forces during in Shopian and Kulgam areas of south Kashmir. The slain militants were identified as top militant commander, Saddam Padder, Mohammad Rafi, who gave up his job as Assistant Professor to join militancy, Tawseef Ahmed Sheikh, Adil Malik and Bilal Moulvi. All the five militants belonged to the HM militant outfit. Five civilians were also killed in the clashes after the encounter as forces fired bullets and pellets to break demonstrations. The slain civilians were identified as Adil Ahmed of Ashmuji Kulgam, Zubair Ahmed of Ayandgund Rajpora Pulwama, Sajad Rather a resident of Shahpora Dooru at Anantnag district, Nisar

Ahmed of Arihal Pulwama and Asif Ahmed Mir of Rahmoo Pulwama. In the clashes over hundred persons were injured. District Hospital Shopian witnessed chaotic scenes throughout the day as 85 injured were brought to this hospital. “We received 85 persons at our hospital out of which 25 were referred to Srinagar hospitals in which 12 had bullet while as 13 had pellet injuries. A youth was also brought dead here and he had a bullet wound in his chest. We were able to treat the remaining 60 injured at our hospital, who were all stable”, said an official at Shopian. In Mendhar, a civilian was injured when he accidentally stepped over an anti-personnel mine in Daheri near Nanda post along LOC. The injured was identified as Parvez Ahmad, 30. While a Border Security Force (BSF) personnel allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in a camp at Humhama adjacent to Srinagar Airport on May 6 night. “Awdish Singh (35), a driver constable of 182 bn BSF last night shoots himself at BSF headquarters camp near Srinagar Airport at Humhama while he was on duty,” a police officer told reporters.

May 07: A tourist from Tamil Nadu was killed after being hit reportedly by stone pelting in Narbal area of central Kashmir’s Budgam district. A police officer said a tourist bus, which was on its way to Gulmarg, came under stone pelting at Narabal area in Budgam district in the morning. A 22-year-old tourist from Chennai, Tamil Nadu S Thirumani travelling in the vehicle was hit by the stone on forehead and nose.

May 08: The civilian death toll in forces firing on protestors near encounter site in Badigam area of Nagbalon on May 6 Sunday has mounted to six after a critically injured youth succumbed to injuries. The boy was identified as Iqbal Hassan Bhat, 17, son of Ghulam Hassan Bhat of Dacho village of Shopian. While the protests and shut down continues across Kashmir valley over civilian killings. While shut down continues against civilian killings.

May 09: District Shopian remained shut down for the 13th consecutive day against the civilian and militant killings of the last two weeks in different forces’ actions in South Kashmir, particularly Shopian. The shutdown call was spontaneous.

May 10: An army man committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Kunzar area of north Kashmir’s Baramulla district. Sources said that the soldier of 2 RR, posted at Kunzar, shot himself while on duty in the wee hours. He was rushed to a military hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

May 11: A 22-year-old man was killed after Indian and Pakistani troops resorted to cross firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir’s Poonch district. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Ikhlqa, a resident of Kalsan Malti Baghal Dhara. He suffered serious injuries and died on the spot, the officer said. While a policeman was killed after cops foiled a weapon snatching bid of militants on the guard post in central Kashmir’s Budgam district.

May 12: A paramilitary CRPF personnel was killed and a civilian injured in an overnight encounter in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district.

May 13: Two CRPF soldiers were injured during protests in Sopore area of north Kashmir.

May 14: Government forces used force to quell student protests – against alleged harassment of students by the police and arrest of a BTech student – here at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in Awantipora area of Pulwama district.

May 15: A Special Police Officer (SPO) was killed and a head constable seriously injured after militants opened fire at the vehicle they were travelling in, here in Bijbehara area of Anantnag district. In cross LOC shelling a BSF soldier was killed in Pakistani firing along International Border in Samba sector. In another incident, a loud explosion, suspected to be that of a hand grenade, was heard near Rajpora police station of Pulwama district. The explosion didn’t caused any damage.

May 16: At least five persons sustained pellet injuries in clashes with government forces that erupted alongside a brief exchange of fire between militants and the forces in Shopian. Reportedly, a joint team of 23 PARA commandos, CRPF and police launched a search operation in orchards falling between the villages of Jamnagri and Reshnagri in Shopian. Militants believed to be hiding in one of the orchards fired at the approaching forces before escaping. In Kamla forest area of Tral, two to three militants opened fire on the army's 42 Rashtriya Rifles, police said.

May 17: Dead body of a youth Hilal Ahmad Parray, 28, of Parray Mohalla, Hajin was recovered from Hajin in Bandipora district. Hilal was abducted from his home by masked gunmen the previous night and his body was found next day morning by villagers in a nearby apple orchard. His hands were tied behind his back, and his body bore several torture marks, visible on his back and legs, villagers said. While a BSF man among two persons injured in cross LOC shelling at over 15 border out post along IB in Samba and Kathua.

May 18: Four civilians and a Border Security Force (BSF) man were killed and 10 others including nine civilians injured in cross LOC shelling along the International Border (IB) in Jammu. Two civilians identified as Jagmohan and Satpal were killed in in Treva village of Arnia. A couple identified as Tarsem Lal son of Prakash Chand and his wife Manjeet were busy in their routine work in their home at ChanduChak village of R S Pura, when a mortar shell exploded in their compound. Both Tarsem and his wife died on spot. While army claimed three unidentified militants were killed by them who according to them had infiltrated the LOC in a gunfight in Brinjal forest area of Kupwara district.

May 19: The army recovered bodies of four non-local militants from Brinjal forest area in Vilgam Hnadawara in north Kashmir. Earlier army claimed it had killed three militants on May 18.

May 20: Army soldier, Naik Deepak Nainwal, 35, from Dehradun's Harrawala who was injured in an encounter last month in south Kashmir's Islamabad district, died in Pune. In cross LOC shelling an army jawan sustained injuries in cross LOC shelling in Nowshera sector in Rajouri district. While a minor boy was critically injured a forces action in Sopore town.

May 21: In cross LOC shelling at border outposts and villages with mortar shells and small arms in Jammu district an eight-month-old boy was killed and injuring six including a special police officer, officials said. Eight-month-old Nitin Kumar, sleeping with his family outside their home in Pallanwala sector along the LoC, was killed in Pakistani firing, while six people including the special police officer were injured in Pakistani shelling in Arnia sector along the IB. While two girls were hit by bullets fired by army soldiers at Dred-Kalipora (DK-pora) village in Shopian district after a scuffle took place when army soldiers came to the village to give an "Iftar party" to the villagers. Villagers said that an army team from the Imam Sahib camp came to the village on this evening. They said that the soldiers brought food items but the villagers refused them. The arguments turned into a scuffle and the soldiers opened fire on the villagers. "They came here just for clicking photos of their Iftar party but we resisted and told them politely to leave the village as we were in no need of any Iftar party from army. But they didn't listen to us. Later, some youths held a protest at which the army opened indiscriminate fire in which several persons sustained bullet injuries," a villager alleged.

May 22: Five people, including a 70-year-old woman, were injured as Pakistani Rangers fired mortar shells on forward posts and villages along the International Border (IB) in the Jammu region for the eighth day, officials said. Hundreds of panic-stricken villagers fled their homes and took shelter either at houses of their relatives or at relief camps set up by the government. Educational institutions in the affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir remained closed.

May 23: Five civilians, including ten-year old boy, were killed while over thirty others, including three BSF jawans, were injured as Pakistani Rangers for the ninth consecutive day shelled five sectors targeting border posts and the villages on the International Border (IB) in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts. Two civilians each were killed in Ramgarh sector of Samba district and R S Pura sector of Jammu district while one was killed in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district. Five deceased were identified as Krishna, 10, and Champa Devi both residents of Bain Glad area in Ramgarh sector of Samba district, Rampal Sharma (55), resident of Londhi Hiranagar, Raghuvveer Singh (50) of Satowali RS Pura and Bhajan Singh Samkha of R S Pura. While a grenade was hurled in Bijbehara town of Anantnag district left at least ten civilians, including three women, injured – one of them critically. Four of the injured have been shifted to Srinagar for specialised treatment. As per eyewitnesses and police reports, the explosion took place in the busy Goriwan market at about 11:55 AM.

May 24: After the week-long shelling and gunfire across the International Border in Jammu, the armies of India and Pakistan exchanged heavy gunfire across the Line of Control in north Kashmir's Uri. Muhammad Mishri, 60, a resident of Pukharni village in Rajouri district's Nowshera area sustained bullet injury during cross-border firing between Indian and Pakistani forces. Mishri is currently being treated at the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu. His home is close to the Line of Control. While at least two policemen were injured after they received splinter injuries in a grenade attack at BC road area of the Jammu bus stand, police said. They said that the grenade was hurled at a police vehicle outside Jammu bus stand causing injuries to two policemen.

May 25: Five masked gunmen barged into the house of Mohammad Yaqoob Wagay, 38, a butcher by profession, in the middle of the night and attacked him with knives, then slit his throat, before the eyes of his wife and 7-year-old son. They did not leave till he had bled to death. While at least 30 youth were hit by pellets, 15 among them in eyes during massive clashes between the state forces and protestors after Friday

prayers at Nowhatta area of Srinagar. In another incident, a grenade was hurled at an army installation in Nehama area of Kulgam district. The explosion caused no loss of human life or injuries to anyone. A weapon-snatching bid was also foiled in Wanpoh area of Kulgam district on Friday. In another incident of grenade explosion, suspected militants hurled a grenade towards a CRPF camp but there was no loss of life in the incident, police said. Militants lobbed a grenade on the CRPF camp at Brari Pora in Nawakadal area of the city, a police official said. He said there was no loss of life due to the explosion

May 26: Army claimed five unidentified infiltrators believed to be foreigners were killed in Tangdar area of frontier Kupwara.

May 27: A civilian and an army soldier were killed in exchange of fire between militants and soldiers in Pulwama district late Sunday night, police said. A police official said that militants fired upon army's 50 Rashtriya Rifles camp at Kakapora around 10:15 pm. "The militants first lobbed a grenade and later fired towards the camp. Soldiers retaliated the fire triggering a brief gun battle in which a civilian and a soldier were injured," he said. The injured were rushed to the hospital where a civilian identified as Bilal Ahmad Ganie- sumo driver by profession--son of Muhammad Ramzan Ganie of Narwa Pulwama and a soldier succumbed to their injuries.

May 28: Three army soldiers were injured when an IED blast hit an army Casper vehicle near Sukan village in Shopian district.

May 29: A Special Police Officer (SPO) was injured critically after being fired upon by militants at Puchal area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

May 30: Suspected militants launched two grenades at two different places in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Police said militants lobbed a grenade towards a joint naka party of police and CRPF at Bonora area in Pulwama outskirts at around 2:40 pm. The grenade missed the target and exploded in an orchid. "No loss of life or property was caused in the blast," a police official said. While three youth were arrested by forces during the nocturnal raids from Sukan village of South Kashmir's Shopian district, where three army men were injured in IED blast few days back. The arrested youth were identified as Mohammad Altaf Shah son of Ghulam Mohammad Shah, Gazi Mohammad Bhat son of Gulzar Ahmad Bhat and Farooq Ahmad Najar son of Noor Mohammad Najar.

May 31: The army claimed to have killed two non-local militants in a gunfight in Qaziabad area of Handwara the night of May 30. Army said that on May 31 morning, a search party recovered bodies of two unidentified militants from the suspected spot along with arms and ammunition including two rifles and other material. While a 70-year-old man was killed when he accidentally stepped over a landmine near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. The slain was identified as Imam Din son of Kama of Solkah Bagial Dhara was injured critically in the blast and was taken to nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival. In another incident, a CRPF trooper was attacked with an axe in main town Kulgam during an unsuccessful weapon-snatching bid by some youth. The incident took place at about noon, inside the premises of the mini-secretariat of Kulgam district.

3. Killings in May 2018

In the month of May 2018, at least **56 killings** occurred in various incidents of violence in Jammu and Kashmir, which included **27 civilians, 19 militants and 9 armed forces**. The day to day break of killings is given in the table below.

Table of Killings

Date	Armed Forces	Militants	Civilians
May 01	-	-	-
May 02	-	-	1
May 03	-	-	-
May 04	-	-	1
May 05	-	3	3
May 06	1	5	5
May 07	-	-	1
May 08	-	-	1
May 09	-	-	-
May 10	1	-	-
May 11	1	-	1

May 12	1	-	-
May 13	-	-	-
May 14	-	-	-
May 15	2	-	-
May 16	-	-	-
May 17	-	-	1
May 18	1	3	4
May 19	-	1	-
May 20	1	-	-
May 21	-	-	1
May 22	-	-	-
May 23	-	-	5
May 24	-	-	-
May 25	-	-	1
May 26	-	5	-
May 27	1	-	1
May 28	-	-	-
May 29	-	-	-
May 30	-	-	-
May 31	-	2	1
TOTAL	9	19	27
Total Killings in May 2018		56 KILLINGS	

4. Human Rights Stories

Young civilians continue to get killed near encounter sites

There is no let-up in civilians getting killed near encounter sites. On May 6, five civilians were killed in armed forces action reportedly after the encounter at in Beadigam village of Shopian district of south Kashmir was over. One of the injured civilian succumbed to his injuries two days later taking the toll to six civilian casualties. The police stated that the civilians were killed in cross firing, the claim rubbished by the families of the victims and locals, who accused the forces of carrying the killings. The killed civilian were identified as (1) **Adil Ahmed of Ashmuji Kulgam** (2) **Zubair Ahmed of Ayandgund, Rajpora Pulwama** (3) **Sajad Rather of Shahpora Dooru at Anantnag district** (4) **Nisar Ahmed of Arihal Pulwama** (5) **Asif Ahmed Mir of Rahmoo Pulwama** and (6) **Iqbal Bhat son of Ghulam Hassan Bhat of Shopian**. In the clashes over hundred persons were reportedly injured. Two of the slain boys were students of 10th standard.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited the families of some of the victim families to gather the case details.

On May 6, five militants were trapped in a house in Beadigam village of Shopian district during the midnight at 2:30 am. The exchange of fires between militants and troops started during the midnight itself. As soon as the dawn broke people from the other villages

came to know about the encounter and rushed towards the encounter site. Zubair Ahmad Nengroo, 16, along with his friends also decided to go to the encounter site and left at around 9:00 in the morning. The village Ayandgund, Zubair's native village is 25 kilometers away from the encounter site. At around 2:30 pm Zubair's elder brother Muzaffar received a call from his friend informing him about Zubair being shot by the forces. Muzaffar had also gone to the encounter site but had not seen his brother that day. Zubair was shot after the encounter was over. After the killing of five militants people hurled stones over the forces vehicles while they were leaving from the encounter site. In retaliation, forces fired bullets over the people and injured several out of them six died.

While talking to the researcher from *The Informative Missive* Muzaffar stated, "More than five thousand people were gathered around the encounter site. Multiple layers of cordons were laid around the encounter site. The last layer of cordon was laid to deal with the people gathered around the encounter site. The soldiers from Army, CRPF Central Reserve Police Forces and Special Operation Group of J&K Police deployed around the encounter site. The forces deployed in final layer were dealing with the protesters preventing them from going close to the encounter site."



Zubair Ahmed

Nisar Ahmad Kumar

Mohammad Asif Mir

The encounter ends at noon with the killing of all five militants. “After killing the militants when the forces were leaving the spot they were pelted with stone by the youth. The forces vehicles were moving with army vehicles were ahead of CRPF and SOG vehicles. Only the SOG and CRPF personnel were firing tear smoke shells towards the protests,” stated Muzaffar.

He further stated, “The last two vehicles were a

was another boy who was killed in forces firing on May 6.

Asif, as per his family, has left his home at 7:15 am to the encounter site. It was not the first time Asif had gone to the encounter; in past as well, he has visited some encounter sites. Saddam Padder, a militant commander, was also trapped that day he went for him, as he was a fan of him.

“Zubair has three bullet holes. One on his chest, other on his shoulder and third one was on his belly. When I reached hospital I saw people carrying his corpse”.

“Many people in the village had already knew about my son’s killing but no one was willing to share the same with us fearing it could shock us”

“We had no information where he had gone till I received a call from his friend Sartaj telling me Adil has received bullets and was taken to the hospital in critical conditions”.

“Among the visiting delegation was a boy who claimed to be an eyewitness to Nisar’s killing. The family is not aware about the name of the eyewitness. The boy told the family that after the killing of five militants, the clashes which were stated during the encounter were going on. The police was dealing with the protestors using smoke shells to disperse them.”

gypsy and a truck carrying only SOG personnel. It was seen some SOG personnel from the truck fired bullets over the protestors resulted into the killing of civilians among them was my brother Zubair.”

Zubair has received three bullets. “Zubair has three bullet holes. One on his chest, other on his shoulder and third one was on his belly. When I reached hospital I saw people carrying his corpse,” Zubair stated while sharing the condition of his brother’s body after being shot.

Muzaffar said, if the SOG men have restrained for a while the civilian casualties would have been avoided.

At around 4 pm, Zubair body was brought home and was laid to rest at 6 pm in the same evening at martyr’s graveyard.

No case has been filed by the family. Once the victim’s father was summoned through *Moqdam* (village head) to visit the police station Rajpora but he chose not to go.

After this incident the mother of the victim, a diabetic, lost vision in one eye complete while 50 percent in her other eye.

Ist year Arts student, Mohammad Asif Mir, 19, son of Ghulam Mohammad Mir r/o Rahmoo, Pulwama

“On May 6, when the news of Saddam being trapped in armed forces cordon spread in our village Rahmoo. Asif took his bike and left for the encounter site early in early morning. The encounter had started at around 2 am. I had gone to Masjid to offer pre-dawn prayers. Asif has told his mother that he was going to Beadigam village to help the militant Saddam Padder to escape from the cordon. After performing ablution, a norm for him while visiting the encounter sites, he left to Beadigam,” stated Ghulam Mohammad while giving the details of his son’s killing.

At about 9:30 am, news of Asif’s killing reached his native village. His family was not informed about it, as no one in the village want to shock the family with the news.

His father further stated, “Many people in the village had already knew about my son’s killing but no one was willing to share the same with us fearing it could shock us. Finally, when his body was transported to the village it was then we came to know about his killing”.

Asif, as per his family information, was first boy to be shot by the forces on May 6. He was taken to District Hospital Pulwama from where he was referred to SMHS Hospital at Srinagar and there he was declared brought dead by the doctors.

“The SMHS hospital administration initially, for unknown reasons, refused to hand over the body to the people who took him there. This forces the people to raise hue and cry to mount pressure on the administration, who finally handed over the body to them,” stated Ghulam Mohammad while mourning the death of his young son.

In the evening, Asif was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard with multiple rounds of funeral prayers.

After two days, Asif’s parents visited the spot where their son was killed. “I have developed strange restlessness and I was eager to see the spot where my son was martyred. I and my wife visited the spot and there we talked to the people who identified the spot where my son fell to forces bullets. The spot was some 40 meters from the encounter site.” Ghulam Mohammad averred while relating his visit to the place where he son was shot.

The people, Ghulam Mohammad said, told him a dozen boys tried to approach the house where the militants were tapped. When the forces spotted them (boys) advancing towards the house fired towards them. In the firing, Asif got seriously injured, as the bullet hit him in his chest, presumably he had died then and there.

Next day, a *Patwari* (revenue official) and *Girdawar* of the area visited Asif’s house to collect the details from the family. Both the *Patwari* and *Girdawar* did not share the purpose of taking the family details.

The family was not sure about whether to take legal recourse against the perpetrators or not. Asif is survived by two brother and two sisters besides his parents.

Asif’s family believes that he has chosen martyrdom for himself. While explaining his persona, his family said, he was very upright boy and dutiful towards his parents.

The third boy who lost his life to forces bullet was identified as Nisar Ahmad Kumar, 17, S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Kumar of Arihal, Pulwama. Nisar was a 10th Class student.

On May 6, at 7 am, Nisar also went to the encounter site. He did not inform his family because he thought informing parents means he will not be allowed. He covered some 17 km to reach there.

At around 1:30 pm, some person riding on a scooter came to the house of Ghulam Mohammad and informed him that Nisar had received pellets in one of his eyes. The person told Ghulam Mohammad that he has been taken to Zainapora Primary Health Centre.

“When I was resting at my home an unknown person appeared at my home informing me that my son was injured with pellets. The locals of the area already knew that my son was killed but they didn’t inform me. The people told me that the person on scooter has misinformed me, as it was not about Nisar. So I didn’t go to the hospital,” Ghulam Mohammad stated while revealing the details of the day when his son was killed.

At 4:30 pm, an ambulance driver who took Nisar from Sub District Hospital to SHMS Hospital Srinagar knew the victim so he called his family and informed it about Nisar’s injury. Nasir has received two

bullets one in his chest and another on right side of belly. At SMHS hospital he was declared brought dead.

After few days, some villagers from Beadigam village, where encounter has taken place, visited the

“When I was resting at my home an unknown person appeared at my home informing me that my son was injured with pellets. The locals of the area already knew that my son was killed but they didn’t inform me.”

Nisar’s family. Among the visiting delegation was a boy who claimed to be an eyewitness to Nisar’s killing. The family is not aware about the name of the eyewitness. The boy told the family that after the killing of five militants, the clashes which were stated during the encounter were going on. The police was dealing with the protestors using smoke shells to disperse them. Suddenly, after sometime, an army gypsy carrying Rashtriya Rifles (RR) personnel arrived at the spot. Some army personnel from the same gypsy fired bullets towards the protestors injuring many people. It was then Nisar received bullets injuring him critically.

At around 6 pm his dead body was brought home in an ambulance. It is then when the family actually came to know about his death. Thousands of people participated in his funeral and was laid to rest in the same evening.

Nisar was adopted by his uncle and his wife Azi, who was treating him as her son, said” I have two houses and both were for him. I would not have complained if the forces have destroyed them and have not killed Nasir. If he was part of any protest why don’t the forces shoot him in his legs or arrested him? Why don’t they shot pellets at him at least he would have survived. They could have put him into the jail that would be less painful then taking him away from me.”

No case has been filed by the family, neither have received the copy of FIR. “We have no hope of justice from the current system. The most they can do offer blood money,” laments nasir’s family.

The fourth person killed on May 6 was a school teacher Adil Ahmad Gania of Ashmuji, Kulgam.

On 6th May, 2018, at around 1:30 pm, the elder brother of Adil, 27, namely, Mushtaq Ahmad received a call from his friend Sartaj informing him that his brother has received a bullet injury and has been taken to the hospital. Just a while after, Adil’s body was brought home in an ambulance.

On May 6, he was supposed to visit Lal Ded hospital at Srinagar where Mushtaq’s wife was in need of blood. On the night of May 5, he called his friend whose blood group was same as of his brother’s wife.

“Adil informed me on the intervening night of May 5 / 6 that he has arranged blood for his brother’s wife and will reach hospital along with his friend on May 6 morning. Instead of going to the hospital, we don’t know how he reached the encounter site,” stated his brother.

When the news of Shopian encounter reached Klugam youth, the youth there couldn't resist their temptation and in hoards rushed to the site. Adil was one among the hoard.

Mushtaq while talking to the researcher at his home stated, "Many boys rushed to the Shopian encounter site and Adil also went with them. He did not inform us about his visit. We had no information where he had gone till I received a call from his friend Sartaj telling me Adil has received bullets and was taken to the hospital in critical conditions".

That day Mushtaq was at Lal Ded, maternity hospital, at Srinagar with his wife so he called his father and informed him about the incident. "I was at hospital when I got the news of Adil being injured near encounter site. I quickly called up my father and informed him about it. A little later I had to inform an ambulance was coming with the body of Adil," stated Mustaq while sharing the pain of how difficult was it to inform a father about the arrival of the dead body of his young son.

At 5:30 pm, he was lowered in the grave in a local martyr's grave yard.

A day after his killing army of Ashmuji camp summoned his cousin Ashiq Hussain. Ashiq is an *Imam* in a local Masjid. Army interrogated Ashiq asking him about the details of his cousin. While funeral of Adil was performed a drone was seen hovering over the people.

No case filed by the army and no information if the police has filed the FIR.

Besides his parents, Adil is survived by his elder brother and three sisters.

It was on the insistence of his elder brother that Adil had joined CRPF in early 2010.

"It was me who applied for him as he was never interested in pursuing this. In fact after he quit the job he even refused to apply for other government jobs even though he passed post-graduation in Sociology during that period," Mushtaq Ahmad averred.

Sajad Rather was the fifth civilian causality of May 6.

At about 8:30am Sajad had left home, without his morning tea, telling his family that he was going to work.

"This was a routine. He left home early morning for work and had his breakfast after he came back later in the morning," stated his family members.

Sajad worked as a labourer, often loading and unloading goods vehicles at a local hardware shop.

On the fateful day, as well, he went to the particular hardware shop to unload a truck carrying cement bags, the family believes.

But what happened after remains a mystery to them.

How did he reach Shopian, where was he shot-during the encounter where five militants and four other civilians were killed? How did he breathe his last? The family knows nothing of it and the burden of these questions is crushing them.

"I had even called him at around 10:30 and asked if he could accompany me to a place of work in case he was free. But he turned down my offer," Another brother, Bilal Ahmad, who also works as a laborer, said.

Less than three hours later, Altaf got the dreaded call. In another hour and a half three young boys from Shopian, in an alto car, drove into Dooru carrying the lifeless body of Sajad.

"They told us he died before they could rush him to the hospital. He was shot in the left eye, the bullet piercing his skull in the process," Manzoor said.

The family members are unable to comprehend the turn of events, for Sajad never gave them a reason to think he could travel more than 40 kilometers, someday, to be at an encounter site where bullets are flying blindly.

"He was the most capable of the three brothers. He had mastered the art of unloading goods vehicles and earned decent money to support the family," Manzoor said, adding that what Sajad earned in half a day others took two days to earn the same.

As per the family Sajad seemed to have only two things on his mind, earning for the family and playing cricket.

They describe him as an avid cricketer who took time off from his hardworking days to play a match of cricket.

On May 8, sixth civilian succumbed to his injuries received on May 6. Iqbal Hassan Bhat, 17, son of Ghulam Hassan Bhat of Dacho village of Shopian died in the hospital bed while his family was hoping against hope that he would get well. The doctors might understood it well that the youth was not going to survive after examining his fatal wounds.

Iqbal, who was known as Sufail at home, had sustained critical bullet injuries in the forces firing, which people said, was opened by the armed forces.

He had appeared in 10th class examinations in March 2018 and was eagerly waiting for his results, his relatives said.

They said Iqbal had left his home after the gunfight in Badigamarea of Shopian.

"He along with other youth were going to visit the gunfight site," his cousin Rameez Ahmad said.

He said when Iqbal reached near Urpora area, force personnel, who were retreating after killing five HM militants fired indiscriminately on civilians in which many youth including Iqbal were injured.

Iqbal had sustained bullet injuries in abdomen and was shifted to Zainapora hospital in an ambulance along with six other injured youth. "However, the ambulance was stopped by army men from moving ahead. The ambulance then took another route and ferried the injured to SDH Yaripora in Kulgam, where from Iqbal was referred to District Hospital Anantnag," his cousin said.

From DH Anantnag, Iqbal was shifted to SMHS hospital Srinagar, where he succumbed at 6 am.

Thousands of people participated in his funeral prayers at his native place today. Five rounds of funeral prayers were offered for the deceased youth.

Clashes also erupted in the village after some youth pelted stones on a nearby army camp.

The local residents said that burial of the deceased was delayed.

"We had to take coffin of the slain youth to home after army, which is located very near to the graveyard in Dacho, prevented us from moving ahead.

They fired shells and pellets on mourners approaching towards the graveyard,” the locals said.

However, a senior police official refuted the allegations.

He said the burial got delayed due to stone pelting and clashes.

Young tourist’s death turned the lives of locals miserable in the area

May 7: A tourist from Tamil Nadu was killed after being hit reportedly in a stone pelting incident in Narbal area of central Kashmir’s Budgam district falls on the outskirts of Srinagar. The deceased civilian was identified as R Thirumani, who had visited Kashmir along with his family for vacations. There were protests at various places over the civilian killings in Shopian and Srinagar by armed forces and police. The rage of the people could be understood by the intensity of the protests and this month alone ten civilians were killed till May 7. At many places youth resorted to stone pelting and Narbal was one of the locations where clashes between forces and youth were intense in nature. It was during these clashes at Narbal a passing tourist vehicle caught in clashes and a young tourist on board was seriously injured and later died in the hospital.

There was not much details available of the incident, how it happened and how exactly the stone hit the boy causing his death, as the incident occurred early morning with very thin movement of the people on the streets. A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited the spot of the incident and talked to the people and shopkeepers of the area who witnessed the incident from a distance. On time of this researcher’s visit, after ten days of the incident, to the area there was panic all around. A fearful situation, according to the locals, was created by the police immediately after the incident. A keen eye of policemen, in plain clothes, was kept on the people visiting the area and there was unusual forces deployment. After carefully



R THIRUMANI

“The parents of the youth appealed people to allow them to bury their son peacefully”, he said. Iqbal is survived by three elder siblings including a physically challenged brother.

Another local said, “At around 6 am two vehicles carrying tourists returning from Gulmarg towards Srinagar. At Narbal, there were clashes going between the protestors and the forces. The two vehicles were stopped by some locals and were requested not to move ahead as there is fear of being getting trapped. However, the passengers on board ignored the warning and move ahead.”

When the tourist vehicles reached Ghat Narbal, where exactly the clashes were going on, the tourist vehicle got trapped and one of the tourists suffered injuries when a flying stone hit him in his head. According to the media reports quoting killed tourist’s father reported, “It started all of a sudden. Stones started hitting all vehicles carrying the tourists. There was very little time to react. Some of us yelled at other passengers to duck and take cover. Only my son, who had earphones plugged in, didn’t hear me,” Rajavel, Thirumani’s father, said.

Immediately, the injured was taken to Primary Health Centre Gagarpora, which is around 2 kms away from the place of the incident. Some locals also accompanied the injured to the Health Centre. From there he was referred to SKIMS Bemina where after giving some first aid was referred to SKIMS Soura.

In SKIMS, the tourist was kept on ventilator and at around 12:30 am he was declared dead. Around the same time police from police post Gagarpora along with Police Station Magam cordoned Gath Narbal area.

According to the locals, they (policemen)

“At around 6 am, two vehicles carrying tourists returning from Gulmarg towards Srinagar. At Narbal, there were clashes going between the protestors and the forces. The two vehicles were stopped by some locals and were requested not to move ahead as there is fear of being getting trapped. However, the passengers on board ignored the warning and move ahead”

moving around in the area this researcher managed to talk to few persons in the area. While moving around, one could easily see broken window panes, rubber bullet hit doors etc. While talking to a shopkeeper on the threshold of his shop, a policeman appeared in plain clothes most probably to ascertain the reasons of this researcher’s visit. After looking around for a while the policeman left the spot and the researcher had to hide his bag and other stuff to avoid the cop’s attention.

“The situation was quite bad after the killing of the young tourist. The area has been turned into hell and police deployment was massive. Many families leave their houses to move to the safer places to escape the police wrath,” a local said wishing not to be named.

barged into the houses resorted to ransacking, broke doors, windows and other house hold items. The policemen beat the family members of every house they barged in. The women irrespective of their age were beaten too.

Noor Mohammad, 63, shared how police barged into the houses in his locality after breaking the main doors. “It was 12:30 am, when I heard noise of police vehicles and painful screams of people. I peeped out through the window of my room and saw police in more than 10 vehicles barging one house after another.”

He further stated, “Just a while after police came towards my house; they break open the main door and made their entry into my house. They beat everyone in the house. They did not even spare my elder sister

who is in her 80's. She was beaten with a cane. They used some spray to faint women when they raised cry. During beating the policemen were using choicest abuses. Even a five month old baby was snatched from her mother's lap by a police man, when the mother raised cry the policeman threatened her to kill her baby. I was beaten by policemen with the canes. For around half-an-hour police were in our house. On leaving they broke my Television set and window panes of my house. Police entered every house of the area and did same to every family". The cordon continued till 4:00 am in the morning. Six people were arrested during the raid.

On next day, police cordoned the area in the same way and arrested seven more people of the area. The cordon continued overnight. For three days police raided the area during the night arrested people and ransacked the houses. People of the area are harassed if they want to go outside their area. Huge number of police was deployed on Narbal Bridge from the area of Ghat Narbal starts. Due to the continuous harassment the many families moved to other places. Men are not able to go for their work.

Umar was seventh civilian killed near encounter site in May

Ninth class student, Umar Abdullah son of Abdul Ahad Kumar of Pinjoora, Shopian was the seventh civilian who lost his life near encounter site in the month of May. Umar, a minor, was not taken by the people to the encounter site but his forced his way into a vehicle carrying people to the encounter site at Turkwangam village of Shopian district, a distance of 10 km away from village Pinjoora.

While talking to a researcher of *The Informative Missive* at his residence Umar's dejected father Mohammad Ashraf shared the following case details.

On May 2, 2018, at around 4 pm, an announcement was made through public address system that armed forces has laid Cordon and Search Operation of Turkwangam village of Shopian district. The announcement was made some

militants were tapped in the cordon. The same announcements were also made in the villages falling around the encounter site. In this process people gathered around the encounter site to engage the forces in stone pelting so that the militants could escape from the cordon.

The villagers from Pinjoora also rushed towards the encounter site in cars and Sumo taxis. Umar had just returned from his school when the announcement was made. He changed his uniform and like other people he too left to the encounter site. The villagers did not allow him to board the vehicles because of being minor, but he didn't relent and jumped in one of the vehicles.

Around the encounter site the forces had laid multiple layer cordon. The final layer of cordon was laid

"We know that a tourist had died during clashes. His dead can be result of stone pelting does that mean the police punish us collectively. Are we being punished for a tourist dead by someone" said Noor Mohammad.

The incident in no times invited large-scale condemnations from all walks of life. Late evening TV debates were held to discuss the incident. The Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti visited the bereaved family ensured all kinds of help and punishment to the perpetrator responsible for killing the tourist.

Hurriyat Conference also termed the incident abhorrent and not in the interest of the on-going movement.

Police registered a case at Police Station Magam under FIR number 57/2018, under section 148, 247, 307 and 336 RPC.

at village Daraspora, which is around two-and-a-half kilometres away from the encounter site. The forces deployed in this layer of cordon were dealing with the people assembled to protest. The vehicle in which Umar was travelling stopped at the same place. As soon as Umar stepped out of the vehicle, he was shot with four rounds of bullets. One of the bullets hit him in his heart,

the other at shoulder, the third one in his thigh and the last one was pumped in his belly. The army firing continued towards public gathering for some time. This made people to lay on ground to avoid being hit by the bullets. In the firing, many persons were injured but Umar was the only who got killed on the spot. As the firing stopped, the people took Umar to the District Hospital Shopian not for treatment, as he had already died, but to cease the blood flow gushing



Umar's school I-card

from his bullet wounds.

The army had claimed that they have trapped Saddam Padder but later said that he has managed to escape. Army put the blame on Special Operation Group of police (SOG) for opening fire on the people, however, the people of Pinjoora were witnessed that army fired upon the public and Umar was killed by the bullets fired by army.

The dead body of Umar was brought home by the people at 7:30 pm and was laid to rest on next morning at 10:30 am after offering seven different funerals.

No case has been filed by the family neither the police has given the copy of FIR to the family. After

“As the firing stopped, the people took Umar to the District Hospital Shopian not for treatment, as he had already died, but to cease the blood flow gushing from his bullet wounds”

some days army from Pahnoo Camp were looking for the house of Umar. When they (army) reached Umar village

Boy ran over by police vehicle dies on spot

On May 5, a 20 seconds anonymous video gets viral wherein a young boy was deliberately hit and ran over by a police vehicle. One can easily see the boy, who was seen pelting stones, could be easily arrested and his life could have been saved. The police driver chose to hit him with an apparent intention to kill the boy. The boy was identified as eighteen-year-old, Adil Ahmad son of Bashir Ahmad of Gasi Mohalla, Safa Kadal, Srinagar.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited the house of Adil in Srinagar downtown to collect their version of the case. The house where Adil lived has very little space to accommodate even three guests at one time. The condition in which the family lives speaks of the abject poverty the family lives in.

“It is quite clear from the video who and how my son was killed. Adil didn’t even survive to reach to the hospital. The moment he was examined by the doctors at SMHS hospital, he was declared dead,” stated Adil father.

That day in the morning, three militants were killed in a gunfight with armed forces that triggered protests at various places in downtown Srinagar. While dealing with the protests, police killed Adil by hitting and running over a vehicle over him.

Recently, Adil has passed his 10th board exams and was also working as a labour, had left his home in order to get some material for making schools Bags.

“We were at home when the news of my son reached me. It was shock of my life. I hid no words to say. When I heard and even see (on video) how brutally

they were hurled with stone and were forced to return back.

my son was killed further pushed me deeper in the shock,” stated the dejected father of Adil.

The father further stated, “If there would not have been video of my son’s killing police could have easily termed the murder an accident. I am thankful to the people who recorded the incident”.

Bashir Ahmad has filed a case in the court against his son’s killing with the hope that the perpetrator will be book.

A CRPF spokesman Rajesh Yadav said the youth was not hit by the CRPF vehicle.



Screen shot from video footage

The police first said Adil died in a “road traffic accident” while the gun battle was on in Chattabal, but later following the video clip issued a statement saying legal proceedings had been initiated against the driver of the police armored vehicle that crushed the youth to death.

“A case has been registered a police station Safa Kadal under relevant sections of law and proceedings have been initiated against the police vehicle/driver which was involved in the accident,” the statement said.

Protests and clashes with government forces intensified after Adil’s death and as he was buried in the main ‘Martyrs’ Graveyard’ at Eidgah.

Police officials and witnesses said at least 30 youth were injured when government forces fired pellet guns, tear smoke and pepper gas canisters to disperse the angry mourners.

Anger among the youth was already running high after police refused to let Adil’s family take his body straight home from the hospital.

Family blames army for killing son in Kakapora shooting

On May 27, evening, Bilal Ahmad Ganie, a cab driver, broke his fast and left with his brother Mehraj-u-din in his Sumo vehicle for their poultry farm in the Dogam village of Kakapora, Pulwama. While he was there, a kilometer away militants attacked the Kakapora army camp, killing an army man. The attack happened at 9.50 pm and sometime around 10.30 pm the 25-year-old Bilal was found shot dead in his vehicle outside the poultry farm. At least six bullets had hit him. The family blames the army for the killing.

“Why they killed you my young groom,” his mother wails next to his body while his father Mohammad Ramzan Ganie caresses his hair. A little away his three sisters are distraught, struggling to comprehend how their brother is gone forever. Three kilometers away in the Trich village sits another anguished woman, Laali Jan, the young woman Bilal was to marry. As her final gesture of goodbye to the man she was to wed, Laali was waiting outside her home with a garland and when the ambulance was on its way to

Kakapora through Trich she got a chance to garland his body for the last time.

Around 11 pm on Sunday Gulzar Ahmad, the elder brother of Bilal learnt through social media that he had been killed after militants attacked a 55 RR army camp in Kakapora

“Through social media, I came to know that he was killed in Dogam village and soon his image pockmarked with bullets started surfacing on facebook,” said Ahmad, adding that he fails to understand how he was killed in Dogam more than a km away from the RR camp.

Bashir Ahmad, a family friend and business partner of Bilal, said that as he heard about the firing, he



Source: Social media

called Bilal on his mobile phone around 10:20. An unknown voice answered the phone and said that some army men just fired indiscriminately on a sumo in Dogam and hung the phone.

“Army camp in Kakapora was attacked around 9:50p.m and he (Bilal) was killed almost half an hour after the attack and that too a kilometer away from the actual site where militants and forces exchanged the fire,” said a cousin of Bilal

As the dead body of Bilal reached the District hospital Pulwama around 12.am, Mehraj-u-din, who was accompanying Bilal, was missing.

Hajin killings, a mystery, triggers fear among locals

Unknown gunmen continue to kill civilians in Hajin area of Bandipora district in north Kashmir. Last month, two persons were killed by the unidentified gunmen and this month four more civilians were killed. The locals in the Hajin area were clueless who the unidentified gunmen were, who come at their will and kill people and run away. The mysterious killings triggered a strange unease in the area and injected fear among the general public. The police blamed LeT militants for carrying civilian killing; while the militants released an audio clip disowning their hand in the killings.

➤ **Uncle-nephew killed by gunmen buried in martyrs' graveyard of Hajin**

May 05: At 9:30 Friday night, Bashir Ahmad Rassa, 26, was standing outside his house in Shahgund village of Hajin when “three gunmen speaking Urdu” came near and took him along. At 2:30am in the night, the gunmen led him to the house of his uncle, Ghulam Hassan Rassa, 45, within hundred yards from Bashir’s house. As Rassa came out, “both of them were taken outside and dragged through the lanes of the neighbourhood to the masjid in Rahmeem Dar Mohalla, Shahgund, a kilometre away. “At exactly 3:00, gunshots resounded in this village following pro-Islamic slogans probably shouted by the gunmen,” a villager in Shahgund told media.

Saturday’s killings raised the number of civilians killed by “unknown gunmen” in Hajin area since 2017 to 6. The first killing took place in August 2017, when Muzaffar Ahmad Parry, 26, was found decapitated with his hands tied behind his torso. His family had to bear another shock last month when gunmen barged into the same house and abducted his brother-in-law, Naseer Ahmad Sheikh, 23. He was found the following day dead in an orchard nearby, with gunshot wounds in the waist.

Two days later, gunmen abducted a father-son duo. Though the father Abdul Gaffar Bhat was released after firing a bullet at him, his son Manzoor Ahmad, 26, was found decapitated, with torture marks on his body, near Shahgund village.

The slain uncle-nephew were laid to rest in the martyrs graveyard in Shahgund village, right beside the grave of Farahat Ahmad Dar, one of the nephews of Ghulam Hassan who was killed after stone-throwing clashes with government forces in 2014 in the neighbouring village, Naidkhai.

The police have once again blamed the fresh killings as the work of a group of Lashkar-e-Taiba militants active in the area. But a statement issued by the

“Mehraj-u-din returned home on Monday morning. He is unable to speak anything about the incident. Since morning he has passed out many times. We have admitted him to a hospital now,” said Bashir.

Meanwhile, a spontaneous shutdown was observed in the Pulwama town against his killing. All the business establishment, banks, government offices schools remained shut while transport was off the roads.

On May 29, the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) directed state police chief Shesh Paul Vaid to submit compliance report into the killing of a civilian Bilal Ahmad Ganie in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district.

LeT after Manzoor’s killing had refuted the allegations and instead blamed Indian agencies.

The fresh killings also come in the wake of a public threat by the LeT militants active in Hajin issued last week. The militants openly addressed the public at Hajin market and told people they “have a long list of informers and will eliminate all of them.”

Senior Superintendent of Police Zulfikar Azad said that “the killings are being carried out by the LeT group of three militants that comprises a local recruit and two foreigners from Pakistan.”

Ghulam Hassan Rassa, who according to doctors had an “entry wound at the left side of chest and lost the left side of mandible because of firearm injury,” while Bashir Ahmad had a firearm injury in the “occipital area of skull with herniation of brain matter.”

According to relatives, Ghulam Hassan was a pro-freedom activist associated with Tehreek-e-Hurriyat and also an ex-militant, having associations with militant groups like Albaraq and Hizbul Mujhadeen in the 90’s. He had served detentions on several occasions on charges of throwing stones at government forces and provoking people against India. His nephew Farahat Ahmad Dar was killed by government forces during clashes in Naidkhai in year 2014.

Hassan lived with his aged mother, Zoona Begum, and had divorced his wife only a few days back as he bore no child with her. He had sold his Tata Sumo and was now driving another passenger vehicle for livelihood. His father died last year due to old age.

His Nephew, Bashir, was a carpenter by profession. He is survived by two unmarried sisters and a handicapped brother, 12 years old, and a father who is a farmer. According to eyewitnesses, about fifteen hundred men attended his funeral.

On May 1, three militants were trapped by government forces when they were coming out of the local mosque after offering noon prayers in Hajin. In a brief exchange of gunfire, the militants managed to escape the spot. The uncle-nephew duo was killed at the same spot outside the Raheem Dar Mohalla Mosque, according to witnesses.

The SSP said of the public threat issued by militants, “Yes, they had threatened to kill the informers but the people they have killed weren’t informers. This all is their frustration at how security forces are getting the better of them.”

Police say there are five militants active in Hajin and the number hasn’t increased, but quite often there are floating groups from Pattan, Baramulla and other areas who keep moving, but five are permanently based in Hajin.

➤ **Abducted Hajin man found dead with hands tied**

May 17: Heartbreaking scenes were witnessed again in Hajin when the body of **Hilal Ahmad Parray** was brought to his home in Parray Mohalla. The 28-year old Parray was abducted from his home by masked gunmen the previous night and his body was found on Thursday morning by villagers in a nearby apple orchard. His hands were tied behind his back, and his body bore several torture marks, visible on his back and legs, villagers said.

Under a shamiana canopy erected in the lawn of his house, women wailed and lamented. Outside, a gathering of local youths talked in whispers. "We don't know who the next target is going to be," a young man said.

Hilal's family members said that "five masked gunmen came knocking at our door in the night at around 11:30pm. They asked for Hilal. When we refused to open the door, they barged inside and took away Hilal."

"We were sure that he will return but when the entire night passed and dawn broke, we became anxious. After that we began searches nearby, till some locals broke the news that Hilal's body was lying in an apple orchard," a family member said.

Though Hilal's body bore no bullet marks, it had bruises on the thighs and the back. "It was clear to us that the cause of death was strangulation," a police officer said.

A doctor at Hajin hospital said that they were not able to carry out the post-mortem because of reluctance of family members and the townspeople.

Hilal's uncle, who wished not to be named, said that Hilal was innocent. "He never spoke anything against militants or the cause (of Azadi). If it is proven that he had wronged someone or informed on militants, we will not mourn for his loss," he said.

Hilal has left behind a distraught wife, parents, four sisters, two among them still to be married, and a young, college-going brother.

Police in Hajin once again blamed the killing on a group of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants. SSP Bandipora Sheikh Zulfikar told media, "The group of LeT militants includes a local recruit. They are carrying out these killings in Hajin."

The spate of killings in Hajin by "unknown gunmen" has come after an open threat from militants to eliminate all informers in Hajin. Audio and video messages issued by a local LeT militant have surfaced online in the past few weeks. The militant has been saying that "people who refuse the call for hartal (shutdown) will bear consequences."

However, Hilal's family has a history of association with militants. In 1992, during a massive crackdown in Hajin that lasted seven days, Hilal's father Abdul Rashid Parray was picked up by government forces and was severely tortured, leaving him bedridden for months.

His uncle, Bashir Ahmad Parray alias Bohra, was the top commander of Hizbul Mujahideen and was killed during an encounter at nearby Banyari village in August 1997, a relative of Hilal, Ehsan, told media.

Witnesses said that hundreds participated in Hilal's funeral prayers at the Parray Mohalla graveyard in Hajin.

➤ **Masked men slit throat of Hajin man at his home, make wife and kid watch**

May 25: Five masked gunmen barged into the house of Mohammad Yaqoob Wagay, 38, a butcher by profession, in the middle of the night and attacked him with knives, then slit his throat, before the eyes of his wife and 7-year-old son. They did not leave till he had bled to death.

The gruesome crime took place at 12:30 am past Thursday midnight at Gund Prang village of Hajin, an area of Bandipora where such attacks and killings have become chillingly routine in recent weeks.

"Without speaking a word, the men broke the window pane and came inside," said Sufeena, the wife of Yaqoob.

The house is built amid apple orchards at Gund Prang village, some four kilometres from Hajin town.

"The men came inside. Some of them spoke a mixture of Urdu, Punjabi and Kashmiri. They cut down the power supply to our house," Sufeena said in broken speech, tears continuously flowing from her eyes.

Sufeena and her little son, Umar, watched the masked men murdering Yaqoob with knives.

"When the men caught hold of us, they separated me and my son from Yaqoob. They told us to remain quiet or 'you will be shot', they said. Two men dug their knives into Yaqoob, after which they clutched him and began to slit his throat. I saw him struggling till his last breath. We were forced to witness his murder," Sufeena said.

When Yaqoob fell lifeless on the kitchen floor, the men left. Sufeena immediately called the police but they refused to come at night, she said.

"The police said that it was not possible for them to come to our house at night, as it wasn't safe. They instead offered to send an ambulance to pick up Yaqoob's body for a post-mortem," Sufeena said.

Yaqoob ran a mutton shop near Madhwan Bridge in Hajin town. He had been in the businesses for decades.

Yaqoob's post-mortem revealed that the neck was almost severed and his spinal cord broken. His left elbow was dislocated and the fingers of his left hand were also dislocated. There were bruises on his right forearm.

The Block Medical Officer (BMO) of Hajin said that the cause of death was blood loss due to the slit throat.

Yaqoob has left behind his wife, two sons – Umar, 7, and Yawar, 10.

Yawar was at his mother's maternal house when the tragedy happened.

The Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Sumbal said that the killing was carried out by the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) group operating in the area.

The LeT denies involvement in 'unconfirmed' audio message

In the audio message, the purported LeT militants denied killing Wagay and another civilian, Hilal Ahmad Parray, who was abducted from his home on May 16 and his body was found the next day near in a nearby apple orchard, bearing severe torture marks.

Gunmen attack family, leave man dead, wife injured

May 4: A 34-year-old man was shot dead while his wife sustained critical bullet injuries after unknown gunmen opened fire upon them at Harwan area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Official sources said that the unknown gunmen fired upon Mohammad Ashraf Mir and his wife Saima at around 9:25 pm at their residence at Mir Mohalla Harwan. Both were rushed to Sub-Dist hospital Sopore where Ashraf was declared as brought dead on arrival, they said.

SSP Sopore Javid Iqbal confirmed the incident and said that Ashraf was brought dead to hospital while

the condition of his wife is said to be critical. He said that initial investigations has been revealed that Ashraf was driver by profession. "A case has been registered into the incident and investigations taken up," SSP said.

An official at Sub District Hospital Sopore said that the civilian was brought dead to the hospital. BMO Sopore Dr Sami said, "The slain civilian had received multiple bullet injuries and was brought dead to the hospital." He said that his wife is critically injured and has been shifted to Srinagar hospital.

22-yr-old man killed in cross LoC firing in Poonch

May 11: A 22-year-old man was killed today after Indian and Pakistani troops resorted to cross firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

There was small arms firing by Pakistani troops along the LoC in the district's Gulpur-Bagyal Dhara belt, the police officer told PTI.

The Pakistan Army initiated firing around 12:30 am on Indian Army posts in Baghal Dhara, he said.

The Indian Army retaliated effectively, the officer said.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Ikhlaq, a resident of Kalsan Malti Baghal Dhara. He suffered serious injuries and died on the spot, the officer said.

The man was killed during a marriage function in an area close to the LoC. A bullet fired by from across the border hit Ikhlaq, he said.

Kishtwar custodial murder: Army invokes CrPC cover after AFSPA sanction not applicable Delhi says the 25-year old 'murder case' doesn't come under impunity law

May 20: In likely the first such instance since the onset of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Army has invoked the cover of Criminal Procedure Code to block prosecution of its 16 accused personnel in the case of a custodial murder in Kishtwar 25 years ago when Armed Forces Special Powers Act was not applied to the area. On October 22, 1993 soldiers led by Captain T.K. Chopra captured Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat when he was on his way home to Hunjala from Dool.

Fearing for his life, Bhat's family immediately informed top police and civil administration authorities that Army was keeping him in illegal confinement along with few other locals.

But nothing much happened until November 3 that year when Bhat's bullet-riddled body was found.

On a complaint by Bhat's family, police registered a case (FIR number 181/93 under section 302, 364 and 34 RPC) of illegal confinement and murder against personnel of Army's 10 JAK RIF.

Later, police Crime Branch investigation revealed 16 soldiers were involved in the crime and the state government approached the ministry of defence seeking sanction to prosecute the accused personnel in a civilian court - a prerequisite under AFSPA.

On February 2, 2015 the ministry in a rare response told the state government prosecution of the accused soldiers under AFSPA could not be agreed to

because Kishtwar district, where the crime was committed, was not declared a disturbed area under the impunity law.

This meant the state government didn't need any permission and could go ahead to prosecute the 16 accused army personnel.

But the Army claimed they were covered under section 197 (1)(a) of CrPC, which implies prior permission was required to prosecute its personnel under this law too.

"Troops were on bona fide military duty and though AFSPA was not in vogue in the region, troops are covered (under) section 197 (1) (a) of CrPC," the Army's Northern Command contended.

However, after having sought their presence priori, on September 6, 2017 the Crime Branch went ahead to file a charge-sheet, but the court at Kishtwar declined to accept it in absence of the accused army personnel who had not turned up.

Enacted in 1990, AFSPA is applicable only to areas declared disturbed areas by the government. In 1990, the state government declared all the districts of Kashmir Valley as disturbed to pave way for imposition of AFSPA in the region.

Jammu region, including Kishtwar which was then a part of erstwhile Doda district, was declared as disturbed in 2001 and brought under AFSPA.

5. JKCCS / APDP statements

This month as well JKCCS and APDP issued statements related to various human rights issues.

➤ **Kashmiri Civil Society Urges Nepal Government to Ban Gurkhas from Joining Indian Army**

May 11: The recent statement by a special Left Alliance of Nepal, comprising of the ruling CPN-UML and CPN-

Maoist Centre parties demanding barring of Nepal youths from joining foreign armies is a welcome step. The appeal by the Left Alliance has stressed that 'the previous treaties and agreements governing Nepali nationals' service in foreign armies should be scrapped through diplomatic channels'. At least 40,000 Nepali nationals are currently serving in the Indian and the British army's as well as Singapore police.

The appeal by the left parties is timely and we believe that one of the main driving factors for the Nepali government to disallow use of Nepali nationals in Indian army is the record of human rights abuses committed by its nationals in Jammu and Kashmir under the Gurkha regiment of the Indian army, which is comprised mainly of Nepali nationals. Not surprisingly, Gorkhas have historically been used by the British and Indian army in the killing of civilians such as during the Jallainwala Bagh massacre in 1919. The British army also used Gurkhas to put down the Sepoy mutiny of 1857. We appeal to the Nepali civil society, the left parties, and the government to ban the recruitment of their youth in Indian army in order to stop their use as mercenaries by the Indian army against people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army has the highest recruitment of Nepali nationals in their Gorkha regiment. There are seven Gurkha regiments, 40 battalions in the Indian Army with around 40,000 Gorkha soldiers, including in the Assam Rifles. The Indian state has tactfully made use of foreign nationals in their army in their brutal counter-insurgency campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, where people are demanding the right to self-determination since the break-out of armed conflict in 1989.

The Gorkha regiment has committed war crimes in Kashmir and the documented evidence shows the perpetrators have gone unpunished. The soldiers of Gorkha regiment are accused of enforced disappearance, abduction, torture and extra-judicial killings of civilians in fake encounters. The few cases below highlight the crimes committed by Gorkha Regiment in Jammu and Kashmir and point out that these crimes have gone unpunished.

On 7 July 1997, one civilian namely Abdul Rashid Wani, 35, son/of Abdul Samad Wani of Madina Colony, Bemina Srinagar was abducted by personnel of 2/8 Gurkha Rifles and is disappeared since. A Captain Yadav of 2/8 Gorkha Rifles of Indian Army is the accused in the case.

In another case of abduction, torture and extra-judicial killing one 28-year-old shopkeeper namely Abdul Rashid Bhat son/of Ghulam Nabi Bhat of Handwara, Kupwara district was abducted by the Indian army personnel led by Major V.P Yadav of 2/8 Gurkha Rifles of Indian Army of Chogul Camp, Handwara in Kupwara district. The victim was abducted from his home in the middle of the night at 11 pm on 14 March 1998. The victim was tortured at the Chogul Army camp, to which his brother Abdul Ahad Bhat is a witness. The victim was tortured to death in the camp. The Gurkha Rifles instituted a court-martial against Major VP Yadav in the state of Himachal Pradesh but nothing came of it as the victim's brothers asked to travel to Himachal Pradesh could not do so. The perpetrator has gone unpunished.

In another case from 2001 of abduction, extrajudicial killing in a fake encounter two civilians namely Latief Ahmad Ganaie of Beerwah, Budgam and Bashir Ahmad Khan of Chant Mohalla, Bandipora were abducted and killed in a fake encounter. The personnel of 58 Gorkha Rifles of Indian Army are responsible for this crime and till now they have gone unpunished.

These cases testify to the fact that the Gurkha regiment, of whom 70% of soldiers are Nepali nationals, have committed gross human rights violations against people of Jammu and Kashmir. The appeal by the Left parties in Nepal is a further recognition of the fact that

the Nepal youth have been used by foreign armies, mainly by India as mercenaries in their war against people of Jammu and Kashmir.

➤ **BUDGAM POLICE DIRECTED TO COMPLY WITH COURT ORDERS**

May 16: Judicial magistrate Budgam directed the Budgam police to comply with court orders requiring them to record the statements of family members of killed civilian Abbas Ahmad Rather and file a compliance report on 26 May 2018. The mother and sister of Abbas Ahmad Rather are eyewitnesses. Despite repeated court orders, and the passage of more than a year, the police have chosen to disregard court orders and side with the accused armed forces personnel. The proceedings in the instant case serve as an illustration of the struggle for justice, and the state of absolute impunity, in Jammu and Kashmir.

On 9 April 2017, two civilians, Abbas Ahmad Rather (aged 22) and Faizan Ahmad Dar (aged 11), both resident of Hardu Dalwan, Chrar-i-Sharief, Budgam, were killed in armed forces firing at the same location, outside the Government Secondary School (used as a polling booth on that day). Police Station Chrar-i-Sharief filed FIR no. 21/2017 based on a report from Sub-Inspector Ajay Kumar Upadhyay (E Coy 18th Bn BSF) alleging attack on forces by a "violent mob". Contesting this version, fathers of both civilians killed approached the police and submitted that their sons were killed in unprovoked, targeted firing. Police refused to file a FIR with this version of events, and so they approached the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam, who directed, in separate orders, that while second FIR may not be registered, the police take into consideration the version of the family members of the killed civilians while carrying out investigations. On refusal of the police to record any statements, the father of Abbas Ahmad Rather again approached the court (Judicial Magistrate, Budgam) that directed the investigating officer (Ali Mohammad Dar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, SDPO, Chrar-i-Sharief) to appear in court. The investigating officer chose to disregard the direction for appearance and the court then, on 17 April, once again directed that the statements of the family members be recorded. Today, while initially arguing that recording of statements was the prerogative of the police, the prosecution officer stated that the statements would be recorded and sought time which was granted till 26 May.

➤ **APDP AND IAPL ON THE EVE OF INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DISAPPEARED-2018, REMEMBERS DISAPPEARED PERSONS OF J&K**

May 27: The last week of May every year is recognized internationally as the International Week of the Disappeared. This week provides an opportunity to remember the disappeared, and acknowledge the struggle of their families. It is also an occasion to recommit to the fundamental right not to be subjected to enforced disappearances, the right to know the truth and the right to justice and reparation. It is an occasion to continue to demand that governments sign, ratify and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and criminalize the practice of enforced disappearances.

Today on eve of the International Week of the Disappeared Association of Parents of Disappeared

Persons in association with Indian Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) underlines that Indian State continues to remain in denial of the ongoing international movement against enforced disappearances. Following the commission of widespread and systematic enforced disappearances of more than 8000 persons in Jammu and Kashmir, the government has chosen to protect itself and its own forces by disregarding the very existence of the crime itself. Concerning enforced disappearances, the government has not ensured an alternative independent investigative mechanism and has instead preferred to subject the victims to a system that continues to promote impunity. Moreover, despite repeated recommendations from the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) for a comprehensive forensic investigation into 7000+ unknown, unmarked and mass graves, found across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir, the government seems to be unwilling to initiate any such effective inquiry.

Despite a consistent campaign by the parents and relatives of disappeared persons, no action has been taken. The government has failed to investigate enforced disappearances, bring the perpetrators to justice and provide reparations to the families. The government so

Girls injured in army firing were at home when shot at

May 22: Villagers in DK Pora where four girls were injured in army firing said that two days before the army had come to the village and said that they would give an "Iftar (fast breaking) party" in the village, an offer that was refused outright by the villagers.

"On May 21 morning we went to the army's 33 RR camp at Imam Sahib and told them to not come to our village, because it may lead to violence. But they told us not to worry. They said that even if villagers pelted them with stones, they would not open fire," said Aijaz Ahmad Ganie, head of the village's Aukaf Committee.

Another member of the village Aukaf committee said that when the soldiers arrived with a container of food on Monday evening, villagers again told them to leave the village. "But they didn't listen to our pleas and one of them started shooting a video from the terrace of a newly-built house. This angered the people and they went to the mosque, where they used the loudspeaker to ask the soldiers to leave the village. Soon after the announcement, army soldiers opened indiscriminate firing in which four teenage girls were hit by bullets," he said.

Among the injured girls were the two daughters of Abdul Hameed Bhat. Shafiya Jan, 18, has a bullet injury in her right leg and Shakira Jan, 16, has bullet injury in the lower part of her back.

"They (soldiers) shot both of my daughters at the main entrance of our house. Both of my daughters were accompanying their mother to the cowshed. As soon as I stepped into the courtyard of my house, after returning from work, I found both my daughters lying on the ground in pool of blood. Another village girl, Shobiya Jan, was lying outside on the road. She had come to meet my daughter as they are friends and study in the same class," Abdul Hameed Bhat said.

Bhat's family members said they were not aware of the army's Iftar party. They said they saw the soldiers running through the streets, firing bullets.

A neighbour of Bhat, Manzoor Ahmad, said, "The world has now seen the 'sympathy' of the army

far has been disinclined to set up a Commission of Inquiry which has been a recurrent demand of APDP. Due to the continued denial, the families of disappeared particularly half widows and their children continues to suffer endlessly.

Since the Indian government and governments of J&K have ignored the plight of two hundred thousand relatives of the disappeared people, therefore it is the responsibility of Indian civil society as well as international community to intervene and hold the government of India, a claimant for permanent seat in the UN Security Council, accountable for more than 8000 enforced disappearances and existence of 7000 unknown, unmarked and mass graves in J&K.

APDP together with IAPL would like to call upon the government of India to act as per principles of law and justice, enquire into all the cases of enforced disappearances, ensure speedy justice to victims and prosecute the perpetrators of enforced disappearances. The association on the eve of the International week of disappeared once again pledges to continue its struggle and commemoration of the disappeared loved ones until the truth is revealed and justice delivered.

towards the people of Kashmir. Those army men tried to kill all of us and didn't even spare our daughters."

Bhat said that doctors at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar told him that the injuries of his daughters will take time to heal.

Another injured girl is Shobiya Qayoom, 18, daughter of Abdul Qayoom Hajam. She has a bullet injury in her right arm. "I live on the other side of the village and my daughter was at the home of her friend when the army indiscriminately fired on the girls. I later took her to hospital from where she was shifted to Srinagar," Abdul Qayoom said.

Aksa Jan, daughter of Muhammad Ayoub Magray, has a bullet injury on her back; the bullet has pierced through her ribs. "When we heard noise outside, she (Aksa) went out, but as soon she opened the main gate she was shot at by an army soldier," said the mother of Aksa.

She said that the army tried to kill her daughter. "They almost killed her but it was Allah's mercy that she is still alive. My daughter was observing the Ramazan fast and her only crime was that she opened the main entrance to see what was happening outside. She was not aware that there was army outside."

Aksa was lying on a bed at her home when this reporter visited her. "I am not able to move," she said, tears rolling down her face. "I have severe pain at the spot where the bullet hit my back."

All the four injured girls have been discharged from hospital. Both of Bhat's daughters were lying on the same bed at their home in DK Pora village.

Senior Superintendent of Police Shopian, Shailandra Kumar Mishra, told media that police had lodged a case and an investigation was on. "We are trying to get in touch with witnesses to ascertain what happened there," he said.

The army in their statement regarding the incident said, "Following the tradition and as part of goodwill gesture towards the Awaam during the holy month of Ramzan, the local Army Camp at Imam Sahib planned an Iftaar at DK Pura village on 21 May 18.

Necessary coordination was done with the village Maulvi, Masjid Committee Members, Sarpanch and other eminent persons of the village. Some of them had also later visited the Army Camp in the afternoon to finalise arrangements. At around 1930 hours, as the Iftaar was under progress, some miscreants from the village barged into the masjid and started shouting anti-national and pro-Pakistan slogans including on the loudspeaker. Very soon a large crowd instigated by the miscreants

primarily consisting of youth and a few women gathered outside the masjid and surrounded the Army troops present there for organising the Iftaar. The crowd resorted to heavy stone-pelting posing serious threat to the safety of the troops. The troops verbally cautioned the crowd, but when the stone-pelting further intensified, they took necessary preventive measures and moved out of the area.”

Sopore family alleges 10-yr-old hit in head by rubber bullet

May 20: Sopore: A family in Arampora area of Sopore has alleged that their 10-year-old boy was seriously injured in his head from a rubber bullet fired by paramilitary CRPF forces on Saturday evening. They said the boy, Rizwan Ahmad, is currently admitted to SKIMS Soura in Srinagar.

According to reports, during minor clashes at Arampora in Sopore on Saturday evening, paramilitary forces used rubber bullets to disperse the protestors. It was during then that Rizwan Ahmad Kaboo was hit by a rubber bullet in the head. He was immediately rushed to Sopore sub-district hospital, from where he was shifted to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment.

Father of Rizwan, Riyaz Ahmad Kaboo, told media that his son left home on Saturday for the Asr prayers at a nearby mosque. Riyaz said that when people came out from the mosque, a CRPF vehicle passed by. It was about 6pm, Riyaz said, when he heard a sound and moments later his son was lying on the road, bleeding profusely.

“We rushed him to Sopore hospital from where they shifted my son to Srinagar hospital. I was not able to accompany my injured son as I am a paralysis patient myself,” Riyaz said and broke into tears at SKIMS Soura, where he has come with the help of a couple of neighbours and his elder brother.

Waseem Ahmad, Rizwan’s elder brother, told media over phone that doctors have decided to perform a surgery on Rizwan and the family is arranging blood for him. He said that since Saturday night Rizwan was kept under observation because he was suffering from persistent vomiting, which now has stopped a little.

“Doctors here told us that his skull bone is fractured and he has lost a lot of blood. Some of the

blood has gone inside his brain. He is just a boy. What was his crime that they punished him so?” Waseem said.

When asked by this correspondent what was the cause of Rizwan’s injury, he replied that doctors told him that it was due to a rubber bullet. “Everyone in our locality knows that my brother was shot with a rubber bullet as everyone witnessed it while coming out from the mosque,” Waseem said.

The Block Medical Officer (BMO) of sub-district hospital Sopore, Dr Sami, told media that the injured kid was immediately shifted to Srinagar hospital after given first-aid. When asked the cause of injury, Dr Sami said it was most probably either a teargas shell or rubber bullet, as the boy’s skull was fractured.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS Soura Dr Farooq A Jan told media that the boy’s family said he had a firearm injury. He said he cannot comment whether it was actually a firearm injury or something else.

“We are examining him and the surgery is going on,” Dr Jan said on Sunday evening. “We will be able to tell you about the nature of the injury once the surgery is complete.”

The Sopore Police issued a statement regarding the injury. It said that that on Saturday evening a minor boy got injured at Arampora Sopore. “It has surfaced in some newsgroups that the minor namely Rizwan Ahmad Kaboo S/o Riyaz Ahmad Kaboo aged 9 yrs got head injury due to rubber bullet but now it has been confirmed that the minor had fallen from a height. He has not received this head injury due to any sort of firearm,” the statement said.

The police in their statement refuted the family’s claims and ruled out any type of firearm injury.

School bus pelted with stones in Shopian, kid grievously injured

May 02: An 8-year-old student of a private school was injured grievously after the school bus he was travelling in came under stone-pelting in Zavoora village in Shopian district.

The injured kid, a student of Class 2 at Rainbow International School, has been identified as Rehan Ahmad Gorski, son of Nooruddin Gorski, resident of Zampathri, Kellar, in Shopian district.

“He had a grievous injury to his head. We shifted him to SKIMS in Srinagar,” a doctor at Shopian District Hospital said.

He said that the kid had gone through a CT-Scan at SKIMS and the test had revealed that he had suffered Haematoma (clotting of blood in the head).

“He is stable and under treatment there,” the doctor said.

The incident took place at about 9:30 in the morning in Zavoora village. The bus was ferrying

students to their school in Deegam, Batpora, from adjoining villages when some persons pelted it with stones.

“One of the students was hurt when a stone came crashing through the glass pane,” principal of the school, Sajad Ahmad Khan, said. “He has been seriously injured and is under treatment.”

Sources said that the school administration closed the school for the day and sent the perturbed kids back home.

Senior Superintendent of Police Shopian Shailendra Mishra said that the multiple stones rained at the bus entered it, as the students had kept the glass panes open.

“The students ducked and fortunately most of them were saved. One of the students, however, has suffered a grievous injury and is being treated in Srinagar,” Mishra said.

Class 10 student badly beaten in Bandipora

May 08: The army late May 7 evening thrashed a local boy in Saderkote Bala village of Bandipora district for allegedly pelting stones on them.

The injured was identified as Javaid Ahmad Khan (15), a 10th class student at Higher Secondary School Safapora.

"He was badly beaten with gun-butts on his head by the soldiers of 13-RR who are camped at Saderkote Bala," said his brother Manzoor Ahmad Khan.

Javaid was later taken to Srinagar's SMHS Hospital where he was operated upon for serious head injuries.

An eyewitness said that the army soldiers repeatedly hit Javaid's head with AK-47 gun butts which resulted in severe injuries to the boy.

School topper blinded in one eye in Jamia Masjid pellet firing

Danish Ayub, 16, raised the hopes of his family in 2016 when he topped in his school in the Class 10 Board exams. Danish, too, felt more confident of pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor. That dream is now on the verge of darkness as he battles severe eye damage sustained in the pellet firing by government troops at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid this Friday.

Pellets hit Danish all over the face and pierced his left eye. Doctors at SMHS Hospital, where he is admitted, say he may not recover vision in the eye because the eyeball has been severely damaged.

"My eyes are hurting and I am unable to open my eyes and see anything," he spoke in a barely audible voice at Ward 8 of SMHS on Saturday. "I am worried about my studies. How will I fulfil my dreams now?"

"Perforation due to pellet injury in the retina and cornea has damaged his left eye badly," said the doctor treating him. "It's difficult to decide on the treatment as his eyes were hit with many pellets, leading to serious injuries. We may need more time to decide on his treatment plan," the doctor said.

According to his family, Danish was inside the Jamia Masjid premises when police fired at him from one of the main gates. "There was a peaceful rally outside the grand mosque when police and paramilitary used teargas shells and pellets to disperse the crowd. They closed the gates of the mosque and fired pellets inside," family members said.

Police said they fired because they came under intense stone-pelting during the protest.

Danish's mother, Shahnaza, said the family was shattered after doctors told them that Danish may not regain vision in his left eye.

"He was a topper at his school in Class 10 exams with 98 percent marks. He opted for medical and his dream is to become a doctor. That dream has been shattered by the cruel government forces," she said.

She said that Danish's treatment is costly and the family cannot afford it. "We are already facing a huge debt following a serious blaze some years ago that damaged our two-storey house completely," she said.

"His father is earning a meagre amount from selling fruits. It will not suffice to treat his serious injuries," she said.

The 40-year-old Shahnaza appealed to affluent people and NGOs to come forward to help. "We are clueless about how to finance his treatment as we have a huge family to support," she said.

Among the other injured admitted to SMHS is a youth, Basit Ahmad, who was hit by pellets in both his eyes. Another youth, Lateef Ahmad of Khanyar, was admitted in a critical condition following pellet injuries.

On Friday, SMHS Hospital admitted 34 injured persons among whom 12 had been hit by pellets in the eyes, according to the Medical Superintendent Dr Saleem Tak.

"Most of them have been discharged but some of them may need hospitalisation for multiple surgeries," Dr Tak said.

Govt initiates inquiry into use of force against shopkeeper in Sumbal

"The Inquiry Officer shall submit his report to the District Magistrate, Bandipora within a period of 15 days," he said.

May 11: The government initiated an inquiry into the use of force on a shopkeeper by forces on May 10 in Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

A spokesperson said the District Magistrate Bandipora, Khursheed Ahmad Sanai appointed Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Sumbal, Syed Naseer Ahmad as Inquiry Officer to examine the circumstances which led to the injury of Abdul Rashid Wani s/o Ali Mohammed Wani resident of Sumbal, Inderkoot in a protest incident at Sumbal on May10, 2018.

"The Inquiry Officer shall submit his report to the District Magistrate, Bandipora within a period of 15 days," he said.

Meanwhile, he said, Rashid has been provided financial assistance from Red Cross.

Earlier, the Bazaar Committee, Sumbal held a protest against the use of force on shopkeepers and vendors by forces and were demanding an enquiry of the incident.

On May 10, forces fired pellets on a shopkeeper Abdul Rasheed Wani (50) of Sumbal which resulted in severe damage to his eye, besides injuries in the face.

Ward 8 SMHS hospital becomes synonymous with 'blindness'

Treats 60 Pellet Victims With Eye Injuries In 9 Days

May 09: Ward 8 of the SMHS hospital has become synonym with the word blindness. In the past nine days,

as many as 60 pellet victims with eye injuries, mostly from south Kashmir, have been treated in the ward.

From 1st to 9th May, 115 people were injured by government forces in south Kashmir where five civilians and an equal number of militants were killed on Sunday including top Hizbul Mujahideen commander, Saddam Padder and a Kashmir University professor who had joined the militant rank couple of days ago.

As per the hospital figures, of the 115 injured, 74 have received pellets with 60 among them fired on their eyes.

"In the past 9 days we have received over 60 people who had eye injuries due to pellets," said a doctor on condition of anonymity.

KR reporter suffers fate of Shopian villagers: being forced by army to sit and be 'clicked'

May 31: The army has come up with a new "tease", the sort of harassment unique to the Indian army in Kashmir, in villages of Shopian: clicking the photos of people against their will and then uploading the photos on social media. This reporter himself experienced the humiliation, which, on being resisted, was met with abuse and menacing threat from the soldiers.

Kashmir Reader quoting local sources reported that this process is going on for a fortnight. They said that soldiers from different army camps come to villages and start clicking photographs of civilians, mostly youths, with mobile phone cameras. They said that if someone refuses to get clicked, he is abused or summoned to an army camp.

"They (army) do these things in village areas where they see a lesser number of young people at a particular place," said a villager from Trenz area of Shopian.

Another villager said that army soldiers forcibly ask people to sit in a row and then one or two soldiers sit beside them, for a photograph.

"These acts of the army make us scared. We don't know what they will do with the photos," said Muhammad Rafiq, a resident of Pargochi village.

Sikh youth outraged after army asks him to remove turban

May 30: In an embarrassment to the Indian Army, a Sikh student from Shopian district was asked by army to remove his turban at a check post at Bahibagh in south Kashmir's Kulgam district where the army camp of 34 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) is located.

Arangeet Singh, son of Ravinder Singh, resident of Bungham Shopian, levelled these allegations against the army on May 30 at Press Enclave Srinagar where he came to make his protest.

According to Arangeet, a Class 12 student at Government Boys' Higher Secondary School in Bungham Shopian, he was asked to "remove his turban" at an army check post at Bahibagh. "I was in Srinagar for the service of Gurudwara, collecting funds for the construction of the second floor of our Gurudwara. I went to different places in Srinagar to collect the money. When I was returning, there was a strike in Pulwama so we had to take the Bahibagh road to enter Shopian, where this army camp is located," said Arangeet.

"We were asked to get down from the vehicle at the Bahibagh camp check post and to show our identity cards. I showed them my tuition card and other documents of Gurudwara but they asked for my Adhaar card," he said.

Arangeet told the soldiers he had left his Adhaar card at home and assured them that he will be

The hospital data reveals that 18 people had bullet injuries and 11 had stone injuries. "Two persons were injured by the tear smoke shells and 10 others had been beaten up by the police."

A surgeon at the SMHS hospital, who has been treating the injured patients said, "Firing bullets on chest, neck, head and abdomen amply shows the intention of the government forces to kill."

A doctor said, "The injured civilians from Shopian who were brought to the hospital on Sunday had been fired above the groin, and when you have deep injuries above the groin only God can save you."

A group of young people from Trenz complained that there was no basis or justification for the army to be taking photos of civilians against their will. "Is there any provision in law under which we are being photographed by the army?" asked one of them, Farooq Ahmad.

A government teacher, requesting anonymity, said that his photo was uploaded on a Facebook page after it was clicked by army soldiers at a village in Pinjora area.

This reporter himself was made to sit in a row with other people for the soldiers to take photographs. When he tried to resist, one soldier threatened him, "*Tere ko charbi chadhi hai, utaar denge abhi* (You have put on too much fat, we will remove it in a moment)." They even snatched his identity card and mobile phone, which they returned after clicking photos of him.

When contacted, Srinagar-based army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said he will verify the facts first. "I will first verify the facts and then I will inform you accordingly," he said.

more careful in the future. An army man from a nearby bunker then signalled to his colleague to let them go.

Arangeet said that when they boarded the Sumo vehicle again, an army man came to him and asked why he was wearing a large-size turban.

"I was shocked when the army man asked me this question. I told him it was my religious obligation and a personal matter," said Arangeet. "The army man told me to remove the turban, which I refused to do."

Angered by the refusal, the army man asked him to get down from the vehicle, which he did, but the driver, knowing the "reputation" of the army camp, sensed trouble and intervened, Arangeet said.

"The driver pleaded before them and said that he knows me as a neighbour and that I usually wear a big turban. He talked to them for some time, which looked like apologising without any of his fault," Arangeet said.

Expressing his hurt at the army's behaviour, Arangeet said that he "respects the army" and they could have waited for more time if the army wanted to ascertain his identity properly.

"What they did was not right. It is a violation of my fundamental rights and an attack on my religious and Kashmiri identity. My religious sentiments are hurt," he said. "Since this incident I am very depressed and

cannot focus on anything. This incident will haunt me for the rest of my life.”

According to Arangeet, he went to the police station to lodge his complaint but he was made to go from one station to another, with the police citing reasons of “Jurisdiction”. Later, along with his community members, he went to complain to army officials.

A JCO from another camp, who also belonged to the Sikh community, apologized to Arangeet on behalf of those army personnel who were involved in this incident and members of his community were satisfied, but not Arangeet, he said.

“This doesn’t make sense: an army officer of my own faith from a different army camp who doesn’t even represent the guilty army men is apologising on their behalf. Those who are involved, they should apologise,” Arangeet argued.

6. Vandalism

The reports of vandalism that including alleged desecration of a militant’s grave by armed forces continued to pour in this month as well. Herein we are incorporated the reported incidents.

➤ **Forces ransack Dy SP’s house, officer terms action as vandalism**

May 3: A local police officer took to social networking site, Facebook, to condemn the police highhandedness in his native area.

Government forces on May 2 evening ransacked the house of Dy SP (Human Rights) Nisar Ahmed Bakshi for the eight time since 2008 in Anantnag, following a gunfight in Shopian.

The officer posted the photos of broken windows and windscreen smashed cars on his Facebook wall on Thursday morning.

DSP Bakshi called the forces action as “vandalism”.

Bakshi a native of Nai Basti locality on K P Road area of the main town Anantnag is currently posted as DSP Human Rights commission in Srinagar.

Bakshi posted nine photographs on his Facebook wall which show windows of his house damaged and windscreens of few cars and broken scooter and a bike.

He wrote: “Vandalism by security forces at K P Road Anantnag. Property worth lacs including windows and windowpanes of my residential house damaged. Houses/Vehicles and shops smashed and attacked by rods and rocks. This is for the 8th time since 2008 that my residential house has been damaged in such a way.”

Within an hour, his Facebook post garnered several shares while his friends commented in solidarity.

One of his Facebook friends, Abdul Rashid Dar, commented: “When the houses of police officers are damaged in such a way what should be the fate of other people.”

His brother, a prominent surgeon from south Kashmir, Dr Iftikhar Bakhshi, also commented on the post and wrote: “Beasts in uniform, as if they enjoy damaging public property. This is sheer hooliganism. No accountability at all. At least someone from the district administration should take cognizance of such incidents.

“I want strict punishment for those who were involved in this, so that incidents like these don’t happen again,” he said.

Some people who regularly travel by the camp said that the Bahibagh camp is always in news for reported “harassment and torture” of locals. “This 34 RR camp at Bahigam is infamous for harassing people. Only last month they tortured a youth who was going home after visiting his aunt. He was beaten so badly that he had to be taken to Srinagar for treatment,” a local said.

Later in the evening, when reports of this incident and videos of the youth went viral, Arangeet called the office of a media organization to say that the army had called him to the Bahibagh camp to “apologise” and “sort out the matter”.

Defence spokesperson Col Rajesh Kalia termed the allegations baseless saying, “no army soldier is involved” in the incident.

Mohalla committees should apprise the concerned SHO and other district admins so that there will be no such loss to the civilian property in future.”

“This is not the first time that forces damaged our property; it has been repeated several times in the past also. Last evening, even my father had shouted at these policemen that this house belonged to a DSP and they were for no reason breaking the glass panes but it did not deter them and in turn they caused more damage to the property,” said Dy SP Nisar Bakshi

Jammu Kashmir Police and SOG personnel on May 2 evening went on a rampage in K P Road and Khanabal areas of Anantnag district and damaged window panes of several houses and also thrashed people after clashes at Khanabal point as the encounter was on in Turkawangam area of Shopian district.

The policemen not only damaged the parked cars but also beat up commuters who were passing through Khanabal, said a local. They also forcibly took away four youth from Khanabal after damaging several houses. One of the cops, carrying a long stick, kept on shouting that he was the “real tiger” of the area and dared the residents to come out and “mess with him” while breaking the glass panes, the locals added.

Intense clashes were also reported, on May 2 evening, from Ganjiwara, Janglat Mandi and Achabal areas of main town Anantnag after a rumour spread that top militant commander of LeT, Zeenat Ul Islam and Saddam Padder were caught in a cordon in Shopian, along with their associates.

However, all the militants had managed to flee from the encounter spot after exchanging bullets with forces briefly.

A 17-year-old boy lost his life while 30 others sustained bullet and pellet injuries while trying to save the militants in Shopian.

➤ **Govt forces beat up Imam, smash vehicles, windows in Pampore**

May 08: Residents of Mir Mohalla Kadlabal in Pampore alleged that armed forces damaged the window panes of their residential houses by throwing stones and also beat up the local Imam. The injured Imam was taken to Sub District Hospital Pampore, locals told media. They said that earlier in the day, some youths pelted stones at a

CRPF party at Dhohi Mohalla Kadlabal and the CRPF fired tear smoke shells to disperse them.

➤ **Hizb militant's residence among 60 houses allegedly vandalized by Army in Shopian**

May 28: Army allegedly vandalized at least 60 residential houses in Sugan village of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

The alleged vandalization came after an IED blast injured three Army soldiers in the area.

Locals alleged that Army personnel barged into the village and started smashing whatever they find in their way.

Wakeel Ahmad, an orchard owner, asked why the army was targeting innocent civilians. "They have chopped the branches of a dozen trees in my orchard. They damaged fruits of several neighbouring orchards," he said, identifying the persons whose orchards were damaged as Abdul Ahad Shah, Muhammad Amin Ganie, Ghulam Nabi Ganie, Gul Muhammad Ganie, Bashir Ahmad Ganie, all residents of Sugan, and Abdul Salam, a resident of nearby Turkwangam.

Villagers said that army soldiers damaged everything that came their way. "It's a barbaric act and we will not bow before such activities. Our fight for independence will continue," a villager said.

Locals said that soldiers also barged into the house of an active militant, Zeenat-ul-Islam, and damaged the property inside, including washing machine, geyser, windowpanes, utensils and food items. Ghulam Hassan Shah, father of Zeenat, told media, "My son left home and took up arms three years ago. Either he will attack them or they will attack him, but why are we being targeted? They vandalised our house, stole the laptop of my younger son, Rs 22,000 from our locker, spoiled and threw away food items, and damaged everything inside our house."

On May 31, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti talked to GoC, IGP on troops 'highhandedness' in Shopian.

The Chief Minister has talked to senior Army and Police officers and directed them to stop the "excessive approach, as it will only provoke people instead of obtaining peace".

Rising Kashmir quoting its reliable sources reported that CM talked to Srinagar-based GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen AK Bhatt and told him that acts of vandalism by army men should stop as it further aggravates the situation.

"This is not how peace will be restored. Such acts of excessive use of force are uncalled for. Such acts should stop now. It won't help us to restore peace. What has happened in Sugan village should not have happened," Mehbooba told the GoC.

Sources privy to the development at Chief Minister's Secretariat said Mehbooba also directed the IGP Kashmir S P Pani to help in restoring peace.

"She told IGP that no "unwarranted acts" by police or army should be reported from anywhere," they said.

According to media sources, CM told the GoC and IGP that what has happened in Sugan village of Shopian only provokes people. "Is this how we will get peace in the region".

The locals of the village also staged a protest here and brought the incident to CM's notice.

Sources disclosed that Mehbooba has directed district administration Shopian to compensate the losses incurred by people including family of militant commander Zeenat-ul-Islam, whose houses were damaged by army men.

"The CM has also told the GoC that repeated incidents of harassments, excessive use of force and related such incident won't bring peace but would further deteriorate the situation," they said.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian had told media that Army comes under AFSPA and it stops him from taking any action against the force.

"They have powers. They can even come into District Magistrate's house and conduct searches. What can a district magistrate do? Otherwise I had issued orders to them not to venture out of barracks in this holy month," he had said.

The Sugan and its surrounded by villages of Heff, Shirmal, Chitragam, Moolu, Achan, Panjran, Aglar, Turkawangam, Dragad etc. are said to be militancy hotbed. Most of the militants active in Shopian belong to these villages.

➤ **Villagers allege Sameer Tiger's grave desecrated by forces**

May 30: Villagers in Drabgam Pulwama observed a shutdown on May 30 alleging that army soldiers vandalised the grave of slain militant commander Sameer Ahmad Bhat aka Sameer Tiger in the night.

Villages adjoining Drabgam also observed a shutdown and scores of youth took to streets to protest against the alleged desecration of the grave.

Resident of Drabgam said that on May 29 night, army soldiers came to the village at about 11pm and desecrated the headstone on the grave of Sameer Tiger.

"I noticed the movement of two armoured vehicle in the village during the evening," Shabir Ahmad, a resident of Drabgam, said, adding that the army vehicles remained in the village for some time.

The protesting villagers said that on Wednesday morning they found missing the headstone bearing the epithet for slain Sameer Tiger. Announcements were then made from mosque loudspeakers asking people to come out and protest against the desecration. Within no time, locals said, scores of youth had assembled at the chowk adjacent to the graveyard.

Villagers from Drabgam and adjoining villages later travelled to the district headquarters and held a sit-in protest before the office of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama on the Pulwama-Shopian highway.

The sit-in protest continued for some time due to which movement of traffic was affected on the highway.

A protesting youth said that the government should be asked if ever a grave of a soldier or policeman has been desecrated by militants or locals anywhere.

The protesting villagers demanded an assurance from authorities for preventing such incidents in future, and were adamant on seeing the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner, Ghulam Muhammad Dar, was not present in his office at the time. His staff assured the protesters that they could see him tomorrow in the afternoon.

After this assurance, the sit-in protest was called off.

Sameer Tiger was killed in an encounter with government forces on April 29 this year, along with his aide Aqib Ahmad of Rajpora. A civilian was also killed during that encounter.

Locals told media that this was not the first time the government forces had damaged the martyrs' graveyard.

"Two days after the killing of Sameer, army came to the village and vandalised graves of militants," said a resident of Drabgam who was part of the group of protesters who had come to the Pulwama DC's office.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Ghulam Muhammad Dar told media that he was in Srinagar and has told the villagers of Drabgam to come to his office by 10:30am on Thursday.

"We will listen to their complaints and if found genuine a proper investigation in this matter will be done," he said.

Defence spokesperson Col Rajesh Kalia termed the allegations baseless saying, "no army soldier is involved" in the incident.

➤ **Kakapora residents accuse army of attempting to torch militant's house**

May 31: Residents of Gundibagh village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district accused army men of attempting to set afire a militant's house in the village on May 30 night. The locals also released a video on social media about incident.

Villagers of Gundibagh told media that army men from Rashtriya Rifles camp at Kakapora, Pulwama appeared in the village during dead of night and attempted to set on fire house of JeM militant, Adil Ahmad Dar.

"My youngest brother, who was sleeping in a room, was woken by some disturbing noise emanating from outside the house. As he looked through the windowpanes, he noticed that kerosene oil was being sprayed on the windows and doors of the house," Rozy Jan, sister of Adil said.

70-year-old man killed in mine blast

May 31: A 70-year-old man was killed when he accidentally stepped over a landmine near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources told GNS that Imam Din, son of Kama of Solkah Bagial Dhara, was injured critically in the blast and was taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival.

Khanyar Massacre: Police say probe stalled as CRPF 'not cooperating'

May 8: Twenty seven years after government forces carried out a massacre at Khanyar here, police say the investigation got stalled because the accused Central Reserve Police Force didn't cooperate in the probe.

On May 8, 1991, the CRPF personnel opened fire on a procession at Khanyar carrying bodies of civilians killed in Dachigam and Saida Kadal earlier, killing 28 civilians including five women and an infant, besides injuring 52 people.

In a report submitted before the State Human Rights Commission, police said the identification of the accused persons by the eye-witnesses could not be

She said her brother came rushing to their room and informed the family members about the incident.

"We attempted to run out of the house and as we reached near the front door, they threw a burning sheaf of paddy hay into the corridor. My brothers received burn injuries, one in hand and another in leg," Rozy said.

The family members raised hue and cry. It alerted their neighbours, who rushed to the spot.

The villagers said that army men had spread sheaves of paddy hay around the house and set it on fire, causing damage to windows and doors of the house.

Rozy asked authorities to restrain army from harassing them.

"My brother is a militant and army is free to deal with him the way they would like but they should stop terrorising us," she said.

A cousin of Adil said army appeared in Gundibagh on May 30 morning in armoured vehicles and filmed the house.

They again appeared at around 12: 30 pm and attempted to set afire the house with all inmates sleeping inside.

The villagers asked authorities to expose those behind the incident and book them under relevant provisions of law.

A complete shutdown was observed today in Kakapora and adjoining villages against this incident. Villagers also staged a protest during the night and stray incidents of stone pelting were also reported from the area during the day.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama Mohammad Aslam Chaudhry told media that police has registered a case.

"Those found guilty will be punished as per law," he said.

However, a spokesperson of army termed the allegations as baseless.

"Army is not involved in any such incident," he said.

They said that the landmine exploded when he stepped over the device.

SSP Poonch Rajiv Panday, while confirming the incident said that the deceased was shepherding domestic animals when he stepped on the mine.

The landmines are laid along the LoC to prevent infiltration of militants from across the border, and sometimes these get carried away due to rains.

carried out by the investigating officers due to non-cooperation of the said CRPF battalion.

But the names of the accused persons with ranks has been mentioned in the report lodged by the said CRPF battalion for lodging FIR in the same instance and the said FIR - 42/1991 - has been closed as 'non-admitted' which is a primary evidence in the case against the accused persons.

Adding further, police states that at the time of the occurrence the IO has failed to seize the duty roster which is a lacuna in the case, however the same cannot be seized at this instant time after a long gap.

And the weapon of offence has not been seized in the case due to non-cooperation of the said battalion, on account of which the forensic /ballistic examination of the seized cartridges couldn't be done.

Police had also submitted a report before the SHRC earlier stating that it was yet to translate the case file in English and sent it to Home department for accord of government sanction.

In 2013, a petition was filed by chairperson International Forum for Justice and Human Rights in this connection. The Commission had sought a report from the DGP.

And after five years, the police submitted a report. The report states, "Report received from IGP Kashmir Zone Srinagar reveals that on 08-05-1991 case FIR NO. 41/1991 was registered in police station Khanyar regarding death of 21 persons and 54 injured persons in the shootout by 2nd Battalion CRPF personnel at Khanyar Srinagar."

Mob roughs up 5 Kashmiris in New Delhi

Victims alleged that they were targeted because they were Kashmiris

May 11: : Four Kashmiri girls were ruthlessly beaten by a mob in southeast Delhi's Sunlight Colony on May 10 evening, the beating captured on a video that also records the mob shouting, "Kashmiri terrorists go back". A Kashmiri young man was also beaten along with the girls.

The video of the incident was disseminated on social media by an Indian Express journalist. It shows a mob ruthlessly beating the Kashmiri girls while the Kashmiri young man is screaming for help.

About 30-40 people are seen in the video shouting "Kashmiri terrorists go back" while they beat up the Kashmiris girls with hockey sticks.

The report further states, "The investigation of the instant case was closed as challaned. Subsequently, the file was submitted to Home department for accord of government sanction, wherefrom the case file was returned with some observation/ queries which are being taken care of."

The Commission asked the chief prosecuting officer (CPO) to file the copy of final report which was sent to the Home secretary.

On these directions, the CPO submitted the final report, which states, "The investigation of case was closed as challaned. Subsequently, the file was submitted to Home department for accord of government sanction, wherefrom the case file was returned with some observation/ queries. The same were replied and the file was again submitted to Home department for accord of sanction."

The Kashmiri man who was beaten along with the girls said, "We were targeted because we were Kashmiris."

"My sisters were abused and beaten up," he told PTI. "I have a broken left hand and one of my guests who had come to visit us was also attacked. It was a planned attack and the accused were carrying hockey sticks."

Opposition leader Omar Abdullah has asked Home Minister Rajnath Singh to get the matter investigated urgently.

"@HMOIndia @rajnathsingh Please have this investigated urgently & bring the guilty to book," Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

Infamous Major Gogoi comes to Srinagar hotel with local girl, denied room, beaten

Army ordered a court of inquiry

May 23: Indian Army's Major Leetul Gogoi, who tied a civilian to the front of an army jeep and then drove it around Budgam villages all day on April 9 last year, was on May 23 denied accommodation in a Srinagar hotel after he arrived there with a Kashmiri girl. Major Gogoi arrived at Hotel Grand Mamta at about noon and straightway went to the check-in counter to get the room that he had already booked online for two guests for one night. The Army ordered a court of inquiry against Major Nitin Leetul Gogoi

The manager of the hotel told media that the front-office executive asked Gogoi to fill in the check-in form.

The manager said that when Gogoi was asked to hand over the identity proof of the persons who were supposed to stay in the room, it came to fore that the girl who was with him was a local.

"When he submitted the ID proof of the girl, the front-office executive came to know that the girl was a Kashmiri. He denied them entry into the hotel," the manager said.

When asked why they were denied entry, the front-office executive at the hotel said, "A local girl barely 16 or 17 years of age was with a non-local man in his mid-40s. I could sense that something was wrong, therefore I denied them entry."

The hotel staff said that the denial of the room enraged Gogoi. He started leaving the hotel along with the girl, but while doing so he started abusing the manager of the hotel, who reciprocated and it led to a heated exchange of words and later turned into a scuffle. Shopkeepers nearby the hotel told media that the hotel staff beat up Gogoi before the hotel management decided to hand him over to police.

In the meanwhile, Gogoi rang up somebody who immediately appeared in the parking lot of the hotel in an Alto car, the manager said. This man was identified as Sameer Ahmad Mala, an army soldier in the same unit as Gogoi's.

A resident of the area who witnessed the entire scene said that Sameer, after knowing that "his friend" Gogoi was denied entry and beaten, came out of his vehicle and started abusing the hotel staff. This further enraged the people present there and they served him a few punches, too.

Gogoi, by now, sensed that he was in trouble. He pleaded to the hotel manager to let them go. "We will not let you go till the police arrive here," the manager replied.

The manager rang the police, who reached the spot and briefly took Gogoi and Sameer under custody at Khanyar police station. Both of them were handed over to their unit after recording their statements. The

statement of the girl was also recorded, police said in a statement.

Local sources in Budgam said that Sameer Mala joined Indian Army in 2016 and is known to be very close to Major Gogoi. Both serve in the 53 Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army.

"Sameer regularly drives Gogoi in his vehicle to different parts of Budgam," a local resident told media. Although some local police sources in Budgam, where the girl belongs to, said that she is a minor, the Superintendent of Police North city Srinagar Sajad Shah told media that they had verified the age of the girl and she was not a minor. "She is not a minor, absolutely not," Shah said. The identity of the girl has not been revealed.

Shah said that the IGP (Inspector-General of Police) has started a probe into the incident and after investigating the details if something "unlawful" crops up, a case will be registered against the people involved.

Major Leetul Gogoi tied a civilian, Farooq Ahmad Dar, to the front of an army jeep and paraded him for several kilometers on the day of parliamentary by-elections for Srinagar constituency in April 2017.

Major Gogoi was recently honoured with the Indian Army chief's 'Commendation Card' for his "sustained efforts" in counterinsurgency operations. Sources said that Major Gogoi was given the award

during Army chief General Bipin Rawat's visit to Jammu and Kashmir last week.

The Army chief's 'Commendation Card' is considered a prestigious award and is given for distinguished services and devotion to duty.

On May 25, the Army ordered a court of inquiry against Major Nitin Leetul Gogoi, who was detained by police earlier this week + following an altercation when he was allegedly trying to enter a hotel with an 18-year-old woman, officials said.

The future course of action would be decided based on the findings of the probe, the officials said.

The decision to order a court of inquiry came shortly after Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat said in Pahalgam that exemplary punishment would be given to Gogoi + if he was found guilty of "any offence".

"If any officer of the Indian Army is found guilty of any offence, we will take strictest possible action," Rawat told reporters in Pahalgam, about 95 km from here, while on a visit to the Army Goodwill School.

"If Major Gogoi has done something wrong, I assure you that he will be awarded punishment at the earliest ... The punishment will set an example," the Army chief said.

Jammu and Kashmir police is already conducting an investigation into the May 23 incident when the major along with his driver and a young woman from Budgam were handed over to the police.

Cop caught on camera making obscene gestures to female students

May 15: A policeman was caught on camera making obscene gestures to the female students of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora, as the students were leaving home after day long protests at the university.

The video has since gone viral over social media, including social networking site Facebook and messaging application Whatsapp.

The 35-second video has caught the gun wielding policeman making vulgar gestures at the female students, sitting in University buses, while he also regulates the traffic.

The cop can be seen in the video making the same gesture twice at two different buses carrying female students.

Students at the IUST had been protesting throughout the day on Monday demanding release of a B.Tech student arrested by the police.

Police fired tear smoke shells into the campus to quell the protests, triggering violent clashes which continued throughout the day as adamant students refused to leave the campus unless the B.Tech student was released.

The B.Tech student-along with three other students arrested during Monday's protests-were released late evening putting an end to the protests.

The students left the university at about 7:45 PM Monday evening and that is when the video was shot by some unidentified person.

SSP Awantipora, Zahid Malik, had told media that the police were investigating the video.

He, however, did not attend calls made by this reporter on Tuesday to know the status of the "investigation".

In 2 months, schools closed on 32 days

May 8: The unfavourable situation has badly hit the functioning of educational institutions in Kashmir over the past two months. The institutions remained closed for 32 days since March 5.

The educational institutions were supposed to reopen after winter vacations on March 5, but the government ordered closure of schools and colleges for almost a week, fearing student protests against the killings by government forces.

Four civilians and two militants were killed by government forces in Pahnoo area of Shopian district on March 4 which triggered outrage in Kashmir, forcing the authorities to close down the schools to avoid protests by the students.

The authorities again ordered closure of higher secondary schools and colleges in most of the districts from April 2 and 7 for the same reason.

Class work was again suspended from April 17 to April 21 in higher secondary schools and colleges of Kashmir.

Amid the frequent closures, the government had started to prepare an academic calendar for schools with curtailment in holidays. However, there has been no official announcement so far.

From last year, the government's move to close schools and colleges is contrary to the stand taken by it during the 2016 unrest triggered by the killing of popular militant commander Burhan Wani on July 8 that year.

In 2016 when Kashmir was in the midst of mass uprising, the government was focused on keeping

the educational institutions open. However, this year the government is issuing frequent orders for closure of the campuses to avoid student protests.

With more student protests, the government on April 22 this year ordered closure of private tuition centres also.

The government again closed schools and colleges on May 7 and May 8 following the killing of five militants and equal number of civilians on May 06 in Shopian.

During these two months, the Kashmir University postponed its exams 14 times.

7. Official Statements

➤ **45 youth join militancy in 2018**

May 03: At least 45 youths from the Kashmir valley including an MBA and a PhD scholar have joined militancy this year till mid-April, according to officials, as the unusual surge in numbers take the establishment by surprise.

According to the top brass of the Police, troops and paramilitary forces in Jammu Kashmir, Shopian and Kulgam in south Kashmir have emerged as a major hub by respectively accounting for 12 and 9 of the 45 youth.

The other areas of south Kashmir which have witnessed youths taking to militancy are Anantnag (seven), Pulwama (four) and Awantipura (three).

Similarly, in north Kashmir, one youth from Handwara, two from Kupwara, one each from Bandipora and Sopore and one from Srinagar have disappeared in the recent past and are suspected to have joined militant organisations, they said.

In 2017, a total of 126 youth had picked up guns.

It was the highest number since 2010, according to a recent data presented in the state assembly and Parliament.

There has been a steady rise in the number of youth taking up arms in the Valley since 2014 onward as compared to 2011, 2012, and 2013.

In 2010, 54 youth had joined militancy while in 2011, the number came down to 23 and further dipped to 21 in 2012 and 6 in 2013.

In 2014, the number shot up to 53 and in 2015, it reached 66 before touching the highest mark of 88 in 2016, the data showed. PTI

➤ **Deal carefully with situation to avert civilian killings: MHA to forces**

May 08: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed forces to deal carefully with the situation in Kashmir, especially during anti-militancy operations and protests to avert civilian killings and collateral damage.

However sources told KNS that the MHA has made it clear to the security forces not to hesitate to take strict action against those who create law and order problem and pose threat to anti militancy operations.

One of the top officials of the MHA insisted not to be named told KNS that the top police and other security officials have been directed to ensure that the forces at the site of encounters and protests, handle the situation very carefully to avoid civilian casualties and collateral damage. "All security agencies have to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

The deferment in exams, according to an official in the KU, results in delayed declaration of results.

"Most of our exams are held at college level and when the authorities order closure of colleges we are not able to hold exams," the official said.

"When it piles up, it causes delay in sessions, delayed results and completion of degrees."

The official said class work would resume in the varsity from Wednesday and all the exams will be held as per schedule.

formulated for anti-militancy operations and dealing with protests," the MHA has directed.

Sources said that the MHA has been informed by the top brass of the security forces in JK that it was unprecedented situation in Shopian where thousands of people assembled at the encounter site and pelted stones on the security forces who had engaged a group of militants in an encounter.

Sources said that the MHA was concerned over the presence of civilians at the encounter sites despite being repeatedly asked not to do so.

However, sources said that the MHA was satisfied with number of killings of the militants by security forces and thwarting of infiltration attempts by the troops along the LoC.

Meanwhile sources told KNS that top officials of the MHA, dealing with security related issues of Jammu and Kashmir has received reports that some elements are regularly fuming trouble in parts of the valley. "After analyzing the reports the ministry has asked the security forces to identify them and take strict action," sources in the MHA informed.

Sources said that MHA was watching Kashmir situation very closely and have gathered all information of security situation prevailing in Valley from the officers of police, CRPF and other agencies.

Sources said that top security officers were asked to give their views on the ground situation, especially the security situation in Kashmir including counter-insurgency operations and infiltrations from across the border.

Sources said that after analyzing the information, the MHA believes that the role of some instigators could be the major reason for stone-pelting incidents occurring in a synchronized manner in the parts of the valley especially in south Kashmir.

Pertinent to mention here that at the insistence of the MHA, the state government had announced amnesty scheme on November 23, 2017, to bail out the first-time stone-pelters.

More than 3,650 youths had benefited from the initiative to lead a normal life showing Centre's resolve to scale down tough stand towards locals in tackling militancy

According to state government's statistics, over 9,000 juveniles were likely to be covered under this initiative

Meanwhile sources said that police has taken a cognizance of the stone pelting incidents especially one in Narbal area in which a tourist from Chennai was killed

and five others were injured. "We are identifying the people who are involved or are behind in regular stone pelting incidents," one of the top police officials said and added that after identification strict action under the law will be taken. (KNS)

➤ **Azadi not possible, you can't fight Army: Gen Rawat to Kashmiris**

May 10: Addressing the youth of Kashmir, who are taking up arms or resorting to protests, Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat has said that they cannot fight the Indian Army, and that "Azadi" could never be achieved by them.

In an interview to The Indian Express, the Army chief cautioned Kashmiri youth from getting carried away. "We will always fight those who seek Azadi, those who want to secede. It's not going to happen, never," the Army chief said.

The Army chief further said that the cycle of killing would continue in Kashmir as fresh recruitments are being done by militant groups. Calling such attempts futile, General Rawat said it did not matter as to how many militants were killed.

He said that the Army or Indian administration does not like any sort of killing, but would fight with full force if compelled to do so. Comparing the role of Indian Army to that of forces in countries like Syria and neighbouring Pakistan, General Rawat said that the forces in India haven't been brutal.

"Look at Syria and Pakistan. They use tanks and air power in similar situations. Our troops have been trying their level best to avoid any civilian casualty despite huge provocation...I know that the youth are angry. But attacking security forces, throwing stones at us isn't the way", he said.

He also questioned protests by locals during any operation by forces against militants. General Rawat said that if people do not want the militants to be killed, they should urge them to give up arms and surrender, adding that people were in fact inciting forces by resorting to actions like stone pelting.

8. Armed Forces Suicides

➤ **BSF trooper shoots himself dead**

May 6: A Border Security Force (BSF) personnel allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in a camp at Humhama adjacent to Srinagar Airport on May 6 night.

"Awdish Singh (35), a driver constable of 182 bn BSF last night shoots himself at BSF headquarters camp near Srinagar Airport at Humhama while he was on duty," a police officer told reporters.

Following the gunshot, the colleagues rushed towards the trooper and found him in a pool of blood, he said, adding that the BSM man was immediately taken to nearby hospital where from he was referred to SMHS later, the officer said.

➤ **Kashmiri militants 'our children' but 'misguided': Army commander**

May 18: The Kashmiri youth who have taken to militancy are "our children" but "misguided" and the Ramzan ceasefire announced by the government is an opportunity to bring them back into the mainstream, a top Army official said in Pune.

"It is unfortunate that some youth are joining militancy but the government has now declared a unilateral ceasefire during the holy month of Ramzan," said Lt General Satish Dua, the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) who has earlier served as the Commander of Srinagar-based 15 Corps.

The Government of India (GoI), on May 16, had announced that forces would not launch any operation in the state during the Ramadan but they reserved the right to retaliate if attacked.

Dua said the ceasefire period can be used by the civil society, government organisations, NGOs and "elders to engage with their children" to bring them back into the mainstream.

"These youth (militants) are our children but they are misguided. We are hopeful of positive results during this one month window," he said while talking to media persons on the sidelines of the valedictory function of flagship courses at the Military Institute of Technology (MILIT).

Prior to his current assignment, Lt Gen Dua was the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of 15 Corps which is responsible for security of Kashmir valley and the Line of Control (LoC).

Replying to a query on militants activities during the ceasefire, Lt Gen Dua said that in such a scenario where militants open fire at the forces, the latter had the right to retaliate in self-defence.

"During the ceasefire, we (armed forces) will not initiate any activity. But while doing this (retaliating), they (security forces) will take all precautions. That mechanism is already being built," he clarified.

However, the critically wounded trooper Awdish Singh, a resident of Utter Pradesh succumbed later, the officer said.

It could not be immediately known why the trooper took this extreme step, he said.

➤ **Army man shoots himself dead in north Kashmir**

May 10: An army man committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Kunzar area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Sources said that a soldier of 2 RR, posted at Kunzar, shot himself while on duty in the wee hours. He was rushed to a military hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

