



**JAMMU KASHMIR COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY (JKCCS)**

**The**

# **INFORMATIVE MISSIVE**

 **VOL - 250**

**A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY JAMMU  
KASHMIR COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

**JULY | 2018**

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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# **The Informative Missive**

*July 2018 Issue*

*Volume: 250*



**Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society**

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## **1. Editorial**

### **WHAT AFTER THE UN REPORT?**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report on Jammu and Kashmir lost its focus due to the assassination of the editor of Rising Kashmir, who besides being a journalist was active on the Track 2 diplomacy between India and Pakistan. His mysterious killing at a highly secured press enclave sent shockwaves throughout the valley, particularly among the journalist fraternity. JKCCS contributed submissions and data to the OHCHR report, but missed an opportunity to dispel the public perception about UN and international human rights institutions, which sections of people in Kashmir have accused of being partial and indifferent to their plight. Ideally we could have engaged the civil society at district level in Kashmir by virtue of debate and discussions and particularly laid an emphasis on the recommendations of the report. Unfortunately, the report in Kashmir didn't receive much attention and there was no debate on it except usual welcome statements from politicians and elite sections of the society. In India some civil society groups, who have a pro-Kashmir position, hailed the report and criticized the response of the government and corporate media houses, which have assailed the report. Some active people on social media contested the government's version. Though people in valley generally appreciated the report but very few amongst the elite appear to have gone through the report. There was no in-depth discussion on the content and follow up of the report. The editor belongs to the legal community had observed that except a handful, hardly any lawyer had read the 49-page report.

The government of India dismissed the report as 'fallacious, motivated and tendentious' and leveled personal allegations against the authors like the Human Rights Commissioner and said he 'has personal prejudice' and denied it as the report of the world body. The UN Secretary General had to back the Human Rights Commissioner's report after Indian government's criticism of it.

The worst malicious campaign against the Commissioner was made by the Indian hawkish media claiming it is a 'nefarious conspiracy, Pakistan authored report' and one Indian news channel for days debated on a photograph of the High Commissioner with some human rights activists from Pakistan and calling it is as a clear proof of ISI's involvement with the High Commissioner. In response, the office of the HC had to clarify that individuals often ask to be photographed with High Commissioner. It further refuted the claim that a Canadian based Imam of Pakistani descent had influenced the report and had personal correspondence with High Commissioner. The UN Commissioner for Human Rights Office made a statement in July denying that any Pakistani coalition of activists and stated that the first ever Kashmir report have been sourced from Indian official reports and some reputed civil society organizations from Kashmir. The UN Secretary General again backed the Human Rights Commissioner.

The challenge for the civil society groups working in Kashmir or outside Kashmir now is what comes after the report and highlighting the human rights abuses taking place here. In our opinion, the UN report is vindication of the civil society that the domestic institutions in Kashmir and in India have failed to safeguard and provide justice to the victims. And through this report which will be taken note of by the member countries of the UN and the international institutions hitherto having lackadaisical concern on the institutional repression on Kashmir.

Palestinian people successfully initiated the BDS (Boycott, Divestments, Sanctions) campaign a year after International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion went against Israeli settlement in Palestine. Palestinian activists in US educational institutions used to push the BDS movement and since 2005, the BDS movement is gaining huge worldwide momentum just like South African Anti-Apartheid Movement. The BDS Movement is considered a strategic threat to Israel.

The UN report on Kashmir may not reach that level but in international institutions, particularly in the academic community in Europe and U.S, it will surely ignite some attention and concern about Kashmir which hitherto was missing. Since the report is not a final one and further reports on Kashmir are hopefully likely to continue. Therefore, further engagement is to be continued with the UN and the institutions where the report is likely to be discussed and debated.

## **2. Chronology of Incidents**

**July 01:** Militants fired at a group of police and CRPF in Dalipora village of Pulwama district but no damaged was caused. While the family of slain militant, army claimed a non-local, killed on June 29 in encounter in Trehgam forest area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district claimed the deceased was its son Mudasir son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat of Old Barzulla Srinagar. The family claimed Mudasir in December 2016 has left his home for some work. He stayed in touch with family members on phone, but from January his phone continued to be switched off. The family then registered a missing report in Sadder police station.

**July 02:** Militants attacked an army camp in Bounra village of Pulwama district. A police official said that militants fired a grenade at the army camp of 55 RR in Bounra village around 6:20 pm. No casualties were reported, he said.

**July 03:** Unidentified persons on Tuesday afternoon tried to snatch the weapon of a constable of B/35Bn Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) at Humhama chowk in Budgam district after throwing chilli powder at him. However, the constable resisted and raised an alarm, which foiled yet another weapon snatching bid in recent weeks in Budgam district.

**July 04:** No incident of violence reported.

**July 05:** Militants abducted a policeman from his native village in Shopian district on late July 5 evening. A police official said that two to three militants abducted a policeman near his residence in Vehil village of Shopian around 9: 30 pm.

**July 06:** A policeman, who was kidnapped by suspected militants in south Kashmir's Shopian district on July 5 night, was found dead with multiple bullet wounds in neighbouring Kulgam. Constable Javed Ahmad Dar was on leave and visiting his native village Vehil. He was kidnapped when he went out to buy medicines. In another incident, Unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen shot at the Imam of a mosque in Parigam village in Pulwama district on Friday morning. Locals said that the Imam leads prayers at the Hanifa mosque and has been living in the village for many years. The injured Imam has been identified as Mohammad Ashraf Thoker, a resident of Gur Bijbehara, Anantnag. In Tral, suspected militants in the afternoon hurled a grenade at the residence of senior National Conference leader Mohammad Ashraf Bhat. Bhat is the son of former MLA Tral, Mohammad Subhan Bhat. Late in the evening, militants attacked with a UBGL grenade a joint camp of paramilitary CRPF's 182 Bn and army's 55 RR in Tahab area of Pulwama district. While an army soldier who was injured critically after he shoots himself with his service rifle in Cherkote area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday, succumbed late in the evening. "Rifleman, Ranjeet Singh of 28 RR shoots himself at an army camp in Cherkote while he was on duty," official sources told GNS, adding that the soldier suffered serious injuries in the incident. Following the gunshot, the colleagues rushed towards the soldier and found him in a pool of blood, they said, adding that the soldier was immediately taken to military hospital Drugmulla.

**July 07:** Three civilian including a girl were killed and many others injured by the army soldiers in Havoora village in Kulgam district. The names of the slain are: 13-year-old Andleeb Jan, daughter of Ali Muhammad; 22-year-old Irshad Ahmad Lone, son of Abdul Majeed; and 19-year-old Shakir Ahmad Khanday, son of Muhammad Hussain Khanday, all residents of Havoora village in Qaimoh

area of Kulgam. The army opened fire on the protesters who were protesting against alleged highhandedness.

**July 08:** All parts of Kashmir Valley and Muslim-majority areas in Jammu observed a shutdown to mark the second death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, whose killing two years ago sparked a massive public uprising in Kashmir. The authorities had also suspended mobile internet services and slowed down the speed of broadband connections in south Kashmir and Srinagar and Budgam districts. The on-going Amarnath Yatra was also suspended for the day. In Shopian district, locals said that the army has been frisking civilians on the streets and noting down their names and phone numbers. Locals said that the army later calls on these numbers to seek information about what was said in Friday addresses at mosques by clerics and Islamic preachers. In the north Kashmir districts of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora, the situation was the same. Reports of some clashes came from Tral and from Meminder and Gagren areas of Shopian district. Locals said that several people were injured in the clashes with government forces and they were treated locally.

**July 09:** A Pakistani militant was claimed to be killed by the army in Magam area of Handwara. Handwara Senior Superintendent of Police Gulam Jeelani said that a search operation for other militants is continuing in the forested area.

“One Pakistani militant has been killed so far and the search operation is still continuing,” Jeelani said. While the body of a young man who lived in Heff village in Shopian district was found lying in a paddy field near Arwani petrol pump in Rakh-Moman village of Kulgam district. The slain was identified as Tariq Ahmad Mohand, son of Ghulam Hassan Mohand, resident of Heff village, Shopian. Meanwhile, militants fired a grenade towards 180 bn CRPF camp in main town Tral in Pulwama district, which exploded with a bang. The grenade, according to police, missed the intended target and exploded in the premises of the CRPF camp, without causing any loss of life or damage to property. In another attack, militants lobbed a grenade towards CRPF men at Batagund Tral area. Sources said the CRPF men fired some rounds in air after the grenade explosion.

**July 10:** A Class 9 student Tamsheel Ahmad Khan, 16, son of Khurshid Ahmad Khan of Vehil Chatwatan died by a bullet wound to his head and at least 135 civilians were injured, seven by bullets and 128 by pellets – many in their eyes – as government forces opened fire at people during an “encounter” taking place in a dense locality in Kundalan village of Shopian district. Two houses were destroyed during the military operation that ended with the killing of two militants of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), one of them a recent recruit from a Shopian village and the other said to be a Pakistani. The deceased militants were identified as Sameer Ahmad Sheikh son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh R/o Ayend Rawalpora area of Shopian and Babar of Pakistan. A junior commissioned officer (JCO) of the army and a jawan (soldier) were injured during the fierce gun battle that began in the pre-dawn hours. While a man was critically injured in a landmine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in the frontier Uri sector of this north Kashmir district, officials told media. Abdul Hamid Lone of Rachawali village of Nambala was seriously wounded when he stepped over a landmine near Rustum Post in Uri sector this morning, officials said. The injured man was removed to the Sub District hospital Uri for treatment. However, the doctors referred him to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment. While an injured youth Ubaid son of Manzoor Ahmad Lone of Nadhial, Baramulla succumbed to his injuries two weeks after he was shot at by the BSF soldiers.

**July 11:** Sepoy Mukul Meena, a commando of the Indian Army, was killed and two other troops were injured in a gunfight with militants in Kandi area of Kupwara. While a youth was killed in army firing in Trehgam village of Kupwara district.

The slain was identified as Khalid Ahmad Malik, son of Abdul Gafar Malik of Bun Pora Trehgam. In another incident, a boy was killed and four children suffered grave injuries when some explosive device they were toying with went off on in Memandar village of Shopian district. All the injured were immediately rushed to District Hospital Shopian, where Saliq Iqbal, 9, son of Muhammad Iqbal Malik, succumbed to his injuries, the official said.

**July 12:** Army claimed it killed one unidentified militant in an, on-going, encounter in Kandi area of Kupwara.

**July 13:** Two personnel of the CRPF, among them an ASI, were killed after militants opened fire at a deployment of the paramilitary force here in Achabal area of Anantnag district. Two other CRPF personnel and a civilian were injured in the firing. While government authorities imposed restrictions



and detained resistance leaders while the people of Kashmir observed a complete shutdown to mark Martyrs' Day, the date when 22 Kashmiri Muslims were killed by forces of the Hindu Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir in 1931. Strict restrictions on public movement were imposed across Kashmir and particularly around the Naqshband Sahib shrine in downtown Srinagar where the 22 martyrs of 1931 are buried. In Kupwara, a day after the funeral of Khalid Ahmad Malik who was killed in army firing, clashes erupted in Trehgam area of Kupwara on Friday afternoon after a large number of people from the youth's village took to the streets and held protests against his killing. Meanwhile, police defused a grenade at a village in Tral where three Jaish militants were killed by government forces last month. Two militants whose bodies were exhumed on July 12 more than a month after they were buried near line of control in Tanghdar area of northern Kashmir's Kupwara district as 'unidentified'. The district administration granted the permission for exhumation of the bodies after their DNA samples matched with their kin. The bodies were handed over their respective families late last night. Army had on June 6 claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by killing three "unidentified militants" in Machhil sector. Soon, the families of two deceased— 15-year-old Zahid Rashid Bhat son of Abdul Rashid Bhat of Brehihard-Katipora village of Yaripora area in Kulgam district, and 25-year Nisar Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Rasool Bhat of Krad village of Shangus area in Anantnag district— claimed them.

**July 14:** A trooper was injured when he was reportedly shot by a Pakistani sniper along LOC in Rajouri district

**July 15:** Clashes between armed forces and civilian protesters took place during CASO in Arihal area of Pulwama district.

**July 16:** A policeman was killed and another critically injured after militants targeted the vehicle of a National Conference (NC) leader in Pulwama district. Ghulam Mohiuddin, Pulwama district president of NC, has escaped unhurt but militants took away rifles of the policemen protecting him. The slain policeman has been identified as Mudassir Ahmad and the injured one as Nisar Ahmad. While an unidentified militant was killed and two soldiers were injured in an encounter with militants in Safawali Gali forests of Kupwara in Kashmir, the Army said.

**July 17:** A soldier allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in a camp near the Line of Control (LoC) Jammu, the police said. Rifleman Ranbir Singh (28) was on guard duty at Hamirpur Nawan Military Garrison in Khour area of Akhnoor sector when he shot himself in the forehead yesterday, causing his instant death, a police official said. While the students held a protest in Kupwara against the killing of a youth in alleged Army firing. The slain youth Khalid Gaffar (22) was killed in alleged army firing last week. Students of Government Degree College (GDC) Kupwara gathered inside the campus and raised 'Azadi' slogans.

**July 18:** Army troops on the intervening night of July 17 and 18 night allegedly "terrorised" people of Mashwara village in Shopian district, breaking into their homes late at night and assaulting them, ransacking their household goods, smashing their vehicles and motorbikes. The attack, according to villagers, began at about 11:30pm. Among the dozen persons injured are a retired police officer and a Class X student, villagers said.

**July 19:** An unidentified Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militant was killed during an encounter with armed forces in Batapora village of Magam area in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. While militants fired at a party of government forces near Sopore bypass in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

**July 20:** Army resorted to aerial firing after one of their vehicles reportedly was pelted with stones in Zainapor, Shopian.

**July 21:** The bullet-ridden body of policeman was found from Mutalhama village in Kulgam. The cop was abducted by suspected militants. While militants fire at CRPF deployment along Kanabal-Pahalgam road at Bumzoo village in Mattan, Anantnag in south Kashmir. Nobody was injured in the attack. In Kupawara a gunfight broke out between militants and armed forces in Balthedyan. In Bandipora district, four CASOs in conducted.

**July 22:** Three militants were killed in an overnight gunfight at Wani Mohalla locality in Khudwani area of Kulgam district.

The slain militants were identified as Muawiya, a Pakistani militant, Suhail Ahmad Dar of Redwani Bala and Mudasir alias Rehan of Shalipora Katrasoo area, both from Kulgam district. While a Pakistani intruder, believed to be a guide of militants, was shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF)



personnel along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, a spokesperson of the border guarding force said. BSF troops, guarding the IB in Hiranagar sector, observed a man intruding into Indian territory around 0700 hours and challenge him, the spokesperson said. An Army soldier was on Sunday injured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, police said. Sepoy Shade Suraj Arun was part of a patrolling party when he accidentally stepped over the landmine in Sawajian sector, causing the explosion, a police official said. Suspected militants reportedly attacked the house of a Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. A group of three militants fired at the house of BJP leader Gulzar Ahmad Nengroo at Prichoo, Pulwama this evening, SSP Pulwama Mohammad Aslam Choudry told media.

**July 23:** Forces fired pellet guns and tear smoke shells at civilian protestors, leaving at least 25 youths injured, one of them critically, during a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in Khodweni area of Kulgam district. While armed forces launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) at Harmain village of Shopian after “intelligence inputs” about presence of militants in the village.

**July 24:** A paramilitary trooper of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was killed and another injured in a militant attack at Batamaloo, Srinagar. While a 10-year-old boy was critically injured when an unexploded shell went off near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said. Ashiq Hussain was injured when he reportedly started fiddling with some unexploded ammunition in Shahpur sector, a defence spokesperson said.

**July 25:** Two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were killed in an encounter with forces at Lal Chowk area of Anantnag district in south Kashmir. The deceased militants were identified as Bilal Ahmad Dar alias Bin Yamin Dar son of Mohammad Yousuf Dar of Sofi Mohalla Khudwani Kulgam and Abid Hussain Bhat son of Wali Bhat of Doda. While a grenade was hurled at CRPF bunker guarding the post office in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district.

**July 26:** A non-local militant was killed in an encounter with armed forces in Sadal in Magam, Handwara area of north Kashmir. While five paramilitary CRPF personnel were injured after a hand grenade hurled by suspected militants exploded near them in Bijbehara town of Anantnag district. In another incident, a paramilitary CRPF trooper was injured critically after he shot himself with his service rifle in Zakura area of Srinagar outskirts. “Rifleman, Gaynesh of 28 bn CRPF shot himself inside the camp at Panchayat Bhawan, Zakura while he was on duty,” official sources said, adding that the trooper suffered serious bullet wound in his chest.

**July 27:** Two persons were injured after unknown gunmen opened fire on them while forcibly attempting to make their way into a Jammu and Kashmir Bank branch in Kulgam on Friday for looting cash. The injured have been identified as civilian Ashiq Hussain of Mohanpora village and bank guard Mohammad Ashraf Pinjwa of Shangus, Anantnag. While a huge contingent of government forces cordoned off Srinagar’s Lal Chowk and carried out searches of commercial establishments and frisked commuters. Vehicles parked along Residency Road were also searched, and many commuters complained their mobile phones were also checked. While a non-local labourer was killed and six others wounded when a mortar shell exploded in a field close to International Border (IB) in Arnia sector of Jammu province. Police said seven labourers were working in a field of a local in border village Treva of Jabowal in Arnia, hardly half a km away from the border. One of the labourers found an unexploded mortar shell in the field and fiddled with it. The mortar shell exploded with a big bang causing on-spot death of a labourer and injuries to six others. The deceased was identified as Bittu son of Dathal Mandal of Police officials suspect that the unexploded mortar shell would have been fired by Pakistani troops during cross-border firing.

**July 28:** Seven CRPF soldiers were injured in a grenade explosion in Awantipora area of Pulwama district. In Sopore suspected militants fired at an army camp in outskirt of Sopore while an army soldier was injured in cross border firing in Keri sector of Jammu. The militants released the abducted cop after his mother made an appeal.

**July 29:** A paramilitary CRPF personal was shot at and killed by militants-inside his house in Pulwama district of South Kashmir. The slain was on a vacation. The killed CRPF man has been identified as Naseer Ahmad Rather, a resident of Naira village in South Kashmir’s Pulwama district. While panic gripped at Kadlabal area in Pampore town of south Kashmir’s Pulwama district when CRPF fired gunshots in air after observing some suspicious movement. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers fired several warning shots after observing some suspicious movement along the banks of river Jhelum at Laterbal locality of Kadlabal, Pampore, witnesses told media.

**July 30:** At least three CRPF men sustained minor splinter injuries in a grenade explosion in main town Anantnag. The injured were in a stable condition and were being treated at Anantnag district hospital.

**July 31:** An Army jawan was injured in a land mine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. During patrolling, the jawan stepped on the mine, resulting in the blast in Laam belt of the Noushera sector yesterday. He was injured and later admitted to a hospital, the officials said. While Suspected militants on Tuesday evening lobbed a grenade on the 44 RR Chilipora army camp situated on the Shopian-Litter road. The grenade exploded but did not cause any damage or injury. However, the attack was followed by aerial firing by army soldiers, which created panic in the area. In Pampore, Pulwama, armed forces launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Pampore town of Pulwama district. Locals told media that Army's 50 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and SOG personnel cordoned off Khanday Mohalla and Astan Mohalla, Namlabal areas of Pampore town at 7.30 pm and conducted door to door search operation and lifted the cordon at 10:00 pm.

### **3. Killings in July 2018**

In the month of July 2018, at least **31 killings** took place which included **9 civilians, 12 militants and 10 armed forces**. The day to day break up of killings is given in the table below.

**Table of Killings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Armed Forces</b>	<b>Militants</b>	<b>Civilians</b>
<b>July 01</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 02</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 03</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 04</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 05</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 06</b>	2	-	-
<b>July 07</b>	-	-	3
<b>July 08</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 09</b>	-	1	1
<b>July 10</b>	-	2	2
<b>July 11</b>	1	-	2
<b>July 12</b>	-	1	-
<b>July 13</b>	2	-	-
<b>July 14</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 15</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 16</b>	1	1	-
<b>July 17</b>	1	-	-
<b>July 18</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 19</b>	-	1	-
<b>July 20</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 21</b>	1	-	-
<b>July 22</b>	-	3	-
<b>July 23</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 24</b>	1	-	-
<b>July 25</b>	-	2	-
<b>July 26</b>	-	1	-
<b>July 27</b>	-	-	1
<b>July 28</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 29</b>	1	-	-
<b>July 30</b>	-	-	-
<b>July 31</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total killings in July 2018: 31 killings</b>			

## 4. Human Rights Stories

### **Hawoora residents blamed army for killing three civilians in a well-crafted plan**

On July 7, three civilians including a minor girl were killed by the armed forces, people alleged in a well-prepared plan. It appears to the villagers of Hawoora, Kulgam and the families of the victims as in army was executing a script. There were conflicting versions how the killings took place. The army has maintained that they were attacked by a mob and fired upon by “terrorists” from within the crowd. “Controlled firing was used to disperse the mob, resulting in unfortunate loss of human lives,” the army statement said. The army’s claim was rejected by the locals blaming forces for killing people with clear intent. There were also allegations of torture and ransacking by the army. The victim families have no idea whether the FIR was lodged in the incident or not.

The slain civilians were identified as, a class seventh student, Andleeb Jan, 12, d/o Ali Muhammad, Irshad Ahmad Lone, 22, son of Abdul Majeed and Shakir Ahmad Khanday, 19,

son of Muhammad Hussain Khanday all resident of Hawoora, Qaimoh, Kulgam.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited Hawoora village of Kulgam district to collect the incident details and managed to talk to two of the victim families besides locals, while the family of Shakir was away. There was atmosphere of mourning all over the Hawoora village. The civilian killings had shattered the locals, who sounds pessimist over the continuous cycle of killing, as they see no end to this at least in near future. One can witness uneasy calm and palpable fearful faces.



**Victims of Hawoora**

On July 7, around 9 am, army from Frisal camp in a truck and gypsy and some army men on foot passed through the village Hawoora.

While stating about the situation in which his daughter was killed Ali Mohammad said, “On July 7 an army contingent, which has passed through Hawoora village in the morning, from Frisal camp in a truck and Gypsy, and some on foot were returning back to their camp. The area was calm. Suddenly when the contingent reached close to Government High School Hawoora make their way inside the school on the pretext that a stone was thrown over them.”

The locals at Kulgam said no stone was thrown on the army; instead, the army were carrying stone in their truck. The locals accused the army of creating a

chaotic scene to kill people and they reiterate “no stone was hurled towards the army”. They just make up a story to create alibi. However, the army, as reported in the media,

claimed the forces fire as they were came under heavy stone pelting. Thereafter, the army entered into the High School and beat students and teachers. A teacher from Khudwani village was beaten so ruthlessly that he was hospitalised later.

Ali Mohammad said, “As the people of the village heard cries from the school, they came out of their houses and hurled stones over the army. In retaliation army fired bullets and killed three people and injured one severely.”

The first person they (forces) targeted was Shakir Ahmad. Shakir was in a local graveyard busy in

**“She was not a stone pelter. Not agitating on the road. She was too young to understand the political developments happening in the valley.”**

Ali Mohammad Andleeb’s father was in a state of shock looking for words to describe the killing of his daughter Andleeb. “She was not a stone pelter. Not agitating on the road. She was too young to understand the political developments happening in the valley,” with these words Ali Mohammad broke down.

After a momentary pause, Ali continued, “I lost my daughter having dreams, dreams of achieving something significant in her life. She was very good at studies. Her killing devastated me. She doesn’t deserve to get killed at this age. She was out there only to offer water to an injured youth, a human trait”

cutting grass and grazing his cattle. The graveyard is just nearby his house. When he heard the cries he too went to enquire what has happened. As the army started firing he was the first to fell to the army bullet. He was hit on right side of his belly. Second person fell to army bullets was Irshad Ahmad, a labourer in a band saw mill, near the school. He too had come out of his mill after hearing the cries emanating from the school and received a bullet in his belly. Both the killings had happened within three minutes time.

The people of village were not allowed to pick the injured, lying on the road, to move them to the hospital, as the army were showering bullets on spotting civilians getting close to the injured. When Irshad's brother tried to approach him, he was fired in his legs. Then some women muster courage came out to pick Shakir.

Among the women was a 12-year-old girl, Andleep Ali, a neighbour of Shakir. "Andleep came out with a glass of water for injured Shakir. As soon as she went close to Shakir, a soldier fired a bullet in Andleep's right thigh. Then the women without caring for their safety managed to take Shakir and Andleep into a house," stated Ali Mohammad while struggling to hold back his tears.

When the people tried to take the injured to the hospital, the army, according to Ali Mohammad and locals, blocked people from doing so for 20 minutes, as they were firing continuously. It is only after army left, the injured were taken to the hospital.

"Soon the army left, we took Andleep to Public Health Centre Frisal. Till we reached the health centre, Andleep has lost enough blood declining her survival chances with every passing second. The delay caused in shifting her to the hospital worsening her conditions and the doctors on examining her declared her dead. Had she been reached the hospital on time she might have survived," stated Ali Mohammad while relating how his daughter dies.

Shakir and Irshad were also declared brought dead at the same Health Centre.

During the time Shakir and Andleep were taken to the hospital army had entered into their houses. At Andleep's house they broke the refrigerator, heater, television and the wardrobe was broke open. Andleep's school uniform was torn apart by the soldiers and the whole house was ransacked.

At Shakir's house, where his ailing grandfather and three aunts were present, the armed forces forced their entry. When the forces started ransacking the house, the women when objected to it were beaten to pulp and even one of them was dragged by her hair.

From Andleep's house some distance away was the home of Irshad Ahmad Lone, a twenty-five-year-old, band-saw mill worker. Irshad's elder brother Rayees was at home. Rayees was dumbfounded looking for words how to starts his statement about his brother's killing. For him repeating the incident is painful but understanding the importance of it he asked the research ask questions.

"A news spread that a stone was hurled on an army vehicle near Government High School Hawoora. On verifying, people said, it was the army itself who hurled a stone. Witnesses said the army was carrying stone and kerosene in their truck and it seems they were carrying it with a purpose. The chaotic scene, people said, army created itself to make their entry into the school," stated Rayees.

Zahid Ahmad Lone, Irshad's brother was waiting for the bus when the armed forces entered the school. Zahid was heading towards Anantnag where he works at a medical shop *Al Kausar*. He has also witnessed army carrying stones and kerosene in their truck. Zahid was injured in army firing.



**Zahid recuperating at his house**

As soon as the chaotic scene was orchestrated, the army entered the school and beat students and teachers of the school. A teacher Shabir Ahmad Sofi was beaten severely that he was hospitalised later on. Few days later, when Shabir approached police station Kulgam to file FIR but he was told by the *munshi* (clerk) that

the officer responsible for the incident had been transferred so there is no need to file the FIR.

"On hearing the cries from the school the people of the village came out of their houses and local places to check the situation. On seeing the army beating the minor students and teachers the people of the village hurled stones over the army. The army in retaliation fired over the people and shot three people dead and injured one severely. Among the three was my brother Irshad Ahmad Lone" stated Rayees while divulging on the circumstances in which his brother was killed.

Rayees further stated, "Irshad works at a band saw mill near the High School. When he heard cries he too rushed towards the school. The army shot him in his belly and continues the firing and did not allow anyone to take him to the hospital. On seeing his brother felling to army bullet, his brother Zahid approached him and tried to pick him but the army shot at him in his left leg. The army firing forced the villagers to run for their safety. The two brothers were lying on road losing blood profusely."

Besides these two brothers, two other civilians Andleep and Shakir were shot outside their houses. Both of them also died as the army did not allowed the people to take them to the hospital.

"Army didn't stop after shooting Zahid. Irked by his effort to help his injured brother, they (soldiers) went close to him pumped three more bullets in his right leg and then trampled his legs. Then dragged him along the road by holding the belt of his pent and threw him into the drain flowing alongside the road. For more than twenty minutes they (brothers) were lying on the road and only after the army left both brothers were taken to the Frisal Primary Health Centre," stated Rayees while relating the incident details.

While leaving the village army set the grass heaps on fire after pouring kerosene over it. "Irshad was declared brought dead by the doctors and Zahid was referred to Qaimoh Sub district Hospital. From there he was referred to Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla, Srinagar and is still admitted there. Both of his legs have damaged and he could not stand or walk on his legs," relates Rayees.



While ferrying Irshad's body for last rites in an ambulance, the forces at Mushipora village stopped the vehicle and detained the three boys assisting the body.

"The four boys Idrees Ahmad, Umar Shafi, Aakash Nazir of Hawoorra village and Murtaza of Mushipora village who were bringing Irshad's body home were detained by the forces. While Aakash was allowed to go and the other three were taken to the Frisal army camp and tortured there. They were in detention for three days," stated Rayees.

On July 9, Rayees Ahmad Lone along with his cousin Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone and Shakir's uncle Abdul Majeed Khanday visited police station Kulgam to file the FIR. The *munshi* Abdul Majeed there told them the FIR cannot be filed against the army men because of AFSPA. He has also said that there is Supreme Court order barring filing of FIR against the army.

On 17<sup>th</sup> of July, 2018, the father of Andleep and Shakir were summoned to the police post Wanpoo. The *munshi* there took their statements but did not give them the copy of FIR. The families don't even know if the FIR has been filed or not.

#### **Police and army versions:**

### **9<sup>th</sup> class student shot in head dies *en route* to hospital**

On July 10, Tamsheel Ahmad Khan travelled some four kilometres to reach an encounter site at Kundalwan village of Shopian district in south Kashmir. A student of class 9<sup>th</sup> Tamsheel son of Khursheed of Vehil, Shopian left his home without intimating his family about his visit to the encounter site. That day Tamsheel was not the only boy who had thronged the encounter site. Youth from different villages also reached the encounter site. From last over two years, the encounter sites have magnetic effect on the youth who travelled a distance to help out trapped militant in armed forces cordons operations. The state is also finding hard to keep the people away from the encounter sites thus scores of youth get killed. Most of the encounter sites killings were controversial, as people accused forces of targeting youth with the intent



A police spokesperson said that the army was pelted with stones by some "miscreants" and "consequently, army tried to disperse the miscreants and in the process five individuals sustained injuries."

"The injured were evacuated to a nearby hospital but three of them succumbed. The other two are stated to be stable," the spokesperson said.

He said that police have started investigation in this matter.

Army spokesperson Rajesh Kalia said that the army had exercised maximum restraint while tackling a "menacing crowd of 400-500 persons."

"An area domination party came under heavy stone-pelting. The army men kept cautioning them. But at one point, petrol bombs were thrown at the army men while some terrorists also fired at the column," Kalia said.

He said that the army resorted to "controlled firing", which resulted in "unfortunate loss of human lives."

"The matter is being investigated," Kalia said.

himself to Khursheed, he showed his eagerness to share the details of his son's killing.

"On July 10, a news spread that an encounter erupted between armed forces and militants at Kundalwan, Shopian. We have no idea about Tamsheel had also gone to the encounter site. It was around 12 noon when he had left him home without informing anybody," stated Khursheed while starting his conversation.

Tamsheel had travelled around 4 kilometres to reach the site. Khursheed, a carpenter, was busy at his work place having no inkling about his son's presence at the encounter site. "It was 12:30 pm when my phone rang up. It was Gulzar, my neighbour, calling. Gulzar gave me shock of my life telling Tamsheel was shot near encounter site," stated Khursheed

**"If the forces really want to control the mob they could have easily shot in their legs. However, they chose to kill my son"**

to kill and not to disband them by using non-lethal means. The same day, Tamsheel was fired upon by the forces, engaged in operation, leaving the boy seriously injured. The bullet was fired on his forehead. He was ferried to the hospital but died before reaching there. Pertinently, Tamsheel was fired after the encounter was over and when the youth were assembled to take the dead militants for funerals.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited Tamsheel's house to gather the details of the incident in which the teenager was killed. There was a pin drop silence giving the impression as in nobody present inside. But that was not the case; there were inmates' insides all in state of shock. Tamsheel's disgruntled father Khursheed Ahmad was sitting in a room silently and one can easily hear the ticking sound of the wall clock. As the visiting researcher introduced

while talking about how he was informed about his son's injury near the encounter site.

Khursheed immediately left his work place and moved to his home praying that his son would not have got seriously injured. On reaching his home he saw a scattered gathering of villagers around his house. The gathering unnerved him while he was praying silently for the welfare of his son. As he gets closer to the gathering with lot of optimism, suddenly his world turned upside down when he was told Tamsheel was taken to the hospital, as he was fatally injured. Before he could come to terms with the situation, in a short while, youth in procession arrived at his home carrying his son's body.

"When I see youth carrying the lifeless body of my son I was shocked and speechless. Not knowing how to deal with this catastrophe," stated Khursheed.

In the encounter, two militants affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammad were killed.

Soon the encounter ended at 12:00 noon, people gathered around the encounter site wanted to retrieve the dead militants for last rites. When they were blocked by the forces present there, the youth resorted to protest and some of them hurled stones. The forces fired teargas canisters, pellets and bullets to disband the people. In the process many persons were injured. Tamsheel was hit by a bullet on his forehead injuring him fatally. Some of the youth present there took him to Sub District Hospital Shopian. As his conditions were deteriorating, he was referred to SKIMS Hospital at Srinagar. Before reaching there he died *en route*.

“He was not pelting stones but was only watching the protest from a distance. If the forces really

want to control the mob they could have easily shot in their legs. However, they chose to kill my son. The injuries on his head say it all,” stated Khursheed while mourning the loss of his minor child.

Couple of weeks later, Khursheed visited police station Shopian to obtain Tamsheel’s death certificate. Khursheed didn’t ask for the copy of FIR, if any. On July 30<sup>th</sup> Khursheed was summoned to Shopian Police station and his statement was recorded.

Tamsheel’s killing had devastated his family. “His killing has broken my back. I don’t know what will happen to me in future. I don’t know how I am going to live with this pain,” stated Khursheed while concluding his statement.

## A mysterious explosion leaves one kid dead, three other severely injured

### One of the injured kid’s hand amputated

On July 11, an explosion occurred in a compound of a house in Sheikh Mohalla, Memender, Shopian and as the dust was yet to settle five persons including four minors were lying on the ground injured critically. They were crying in pain. The explosion drew the attention of the people who rushed to the house of Mohammad Iqbal Dar. It was a horrible scene for them. Small children lying scattered on the ground badly injured with blood on the ground making it look more gruesome. Nobody has any idea as to how the explosion took place. Were it someone who threw it (explosion) from the outside or whether the explosion was lying somewhere in the compound where the kids were playing.

One of the injured Saliq Iqbal, 7, a class Ist student lost his life. The other injured were getting treatment in the hospital were identified as Arsalaan Aslam –aged 8- and Tahir Khursheed- 14-, Razia while Saliq’s mother Ruksana had superficial injuries. There were no investigation by the police, not even a visit was paid to the spot to ascertain the reason of the explosion.



Shared by Saliq’s family

work half-way and rushed to his house. There he saw his son’s motionless body draped in a blanket.

On July 11, 2018, Saliq Iqbal along with cousins Arsalaan Aslam and Razia were playing in the compound of their house. Saliq’s mother Ruksana was also in the compound just 5 feet away from the playing kids. Meanwhile, Saliq’s another cousin Tahir Khursheed came out of the house holding a Samsung mobile in his hand. He was to show it to them. The house of Mohammad Iqbal and his brother in-law share a common compound. All the kids sat on a one-foot high plinth and started watching some video. Ruksana was watching all this. Suddenly, an explosion occurred. The playing kids were on the ground injured and crying. Ruksana also received a splinter on right side of her body.

While the three kids were crying, Saliq was lying motionless. He was perhaps died immediately. The blast drew people from neighbourhood. The injured Ruksana took her son and Razia, her niece, in her lap and took them to the hospital with the help of his neighbour,

Suddenly, an explosion occurred. The playing kids were on the ground injured and crying.

Some of the media groups reported that the incident took place as a littered explosive went off. However, the locals and the families of the victims said they have no idea how the explosion occurred. People recall at least in last over ten years or so there were no encounter or any militant movement in the area that make them suspicious of any littered explosive device.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited Saliq’s family to collect details of the incident. Saliq’s father Mohammad Iqbal Dar, a labourer, was present at his house shocked over the death of his son. On July 11, Iqbal was in Srinagar in connection of his work. He was called and informed by his wife about the incident while she was taking two of the injured to the hospital.

#### Mohammad Iqbal Dar made the following statement:

On that fateful day, Iqbal was busy working in Srinagar when he got a phone call from his wife Ruksana. The news came as a shock to him. He left the

who took them in his car. The two other kids were also brought to the District Hospital Shopian by the locals.

Saliq was declared brought dead while Tahir, Razia and Arsalaan were referred to SMHS hospital at Srinagar. Ruksana’s injuries were superficial so she was treated at District Hospital itself.

Tahir’s had injury in his right arm while Razia had multiple splinter in her belly and thighs. They were further referred to Bone and Joints Hospital Srinagar. Arsalaan who was retained in SMHS hospital had serious eye injuries posing danger to his eyesight.

Tahir’s right arm injury was so grave leaving no option to the doctors but to amputate it.

Ruksana has no idea how the explosion took place. She had not seen any person throwing it from outside nor there was garbage pile or anything where the explosive substance could have been hidden. The explosion was so intense that it caused cracks in the nearby houses and broke the window panes. Pertinently,

in last over a decade there was no encounter in the area where from the kids can fetch any explosive and place it in the house.

The family sees no reason of the attack on it. There was no political history or any current political or social affiliation of any member of the family.

Police only visited the injured at SMHS hospital and didn't visited the scene of the incident. It

### 22-year-old man shot dead

**July 11:** Armed forces shot dead a twenty-two-year-old Khalid Gaffar Malik in Trehgam area of Kupwara district during clashes between protesters and armed forces. The killing triggered protests forcing the government to order a probe.

Khalid Gaffar Malik, 22, left his home located in north Kashmir Trehgam area of Kupwara district, he told his family members that he is leaving to fetch milk from the house of their neighbor.

The sun was about to set in his village and the sky had turned red.

Silence ruled the streets as the Trehgam town observed complete shutdown.

Soon the calmness prevailing over the village broke with the rattle of gunfire.

"It was a routine day," Khalid's younger brother Talib Gaffer Malik told The Kashmir Press.

"Nothing was abnormal except the shutdown which was observed in the village following the call by the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) against the civilian killings".

He said that there were no day long clashes in their area, but the roads, lanes and by-lanes were deserted.

At around 6:00 pm, Talib said shops opened in the town and people were busy in buying vegetables, milk and other daily shopping items.

"At that very moment, the army convoy from the nearby army cantonment appeared near the market as they had to pass through it," he said.

"We believe they thought youth might stone them. So the trucks leading the convoy resorted to violence beforehand".

Talib said dozens of youths were thrashed besides the shops were also vandalized by the forces in the main market of Trehgam.

"The barber was about to shave my face when the army resorted to firing. We pulled the shutter down and hid ourselves inside the shop," he said.

"For a while I thought the encounter had broken out".

After half an hour, Talib received a call from a friend.

"Where are you Talib? he said told me in a broken voice," Talib said quoting his friend.

"I replied; I am inside the barber shop".

### Student injured in BSF firing dies in hospital

**July 10:** A student injured critically in firing by the BSF troopers here last month, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Srinagar.

17-year-old Ubaid Manzoor Lone of Nadihal village of Rafiabad breathed his last at the Srinagar

appears police does not want to conduct investigation in the mater. After ten days Mohammad Iqbal Dar was summoned to Police Station Shopian. He went there along with his father-in-law Abdul Gani Sheikh. The police recorded his statement and the copy of FIR was given to them, when asked for.

Police has forwarded the case to District Commissioner's office for compensation.

"Before I could say something, he said my brother had received bullet injury in the army firing".

The moment he heard, Talib said he became restless and somehow managed to reach the local hospital.

"But I could not save my brother," he said.

"The bullets have made a hole in his neck".

After taking a pause, Talib continued "it was a cold blooded murder".

"There is no justification for his killing," he said.

Another eyewitness said that Khalid was about to venture inside the lawn of his neighbour's house where he had gone to fetch

milk when the army officer shot him.

"He fell down in a pool of blood. We rushed to the spot and took him to a nearby hospital. He was then referred to district hospital Kupwara. But when we reached there, he was already dead," eyewitness said.

Khalid was the middle one among the five siblings.

His two brothers work with the Indian Reserve Police force while one has recently been recruited in the Jammu and Kashmir police.

Being single at his home, Khalid was studying in class 12 and was also running a general store.

Srinagar based army spokesman, Col Rajesh Kalia told Greater Kashmir "we are looking into the matter."

Soon after the incident, massive protests broke out in the area. Hundreds of people from adjoining areas rushed towards the slain youth's home and staged protests.

Police has registered an FIR against the army under section 307 RPC (attempt to murder). A police official said the FIR 46/ 2018 has been lodged under sections 147, 148, 323, 306, 307, RPC at police station Trehgam.

On July 12, government orders inquiring into the circumstances leading to the death of a young man in Trehgam. The district magistrate Khalid Jehangir appointed Additional District Commissioner of Handwara Muzaffar Hussain as the inquiry officer and asked him to complete the probe within a month.



Khalid Gaffar Malik



Ubaid, an 11th standard student of Nadihal Baramulla, had been motionless for the past two weeks and not opened his eyes since he had been admitted at SKIMS but reacted to his sister's presence and breathed his last as if he was waiting to see her one last time.

Ubaid, an 11th standard student was hit by a bullet on right thigh allegedly fired by paramilitary BSF on June 25 near Chakloo road when he was returning home from school.

One of the Ubaid's cousins, Waseem Ahmad Lone was also shot dead by the armed forces near the same spot post militant commander Burhan Wani's killing and protests in 2016.

The family of the slain youth said that on June 25, Ubaid put on his uniform and left home for Government Higher Secondary School.

"I gave him Rs 6000 for a new uniform and personal need but he returned the money and told me to keep it," Lone said. "After an hour, I got a call that Ubaid was hit by a bullet."

According to eyewitnesses, some youth had hurled stones at the government forces before the incident while Ubaid was returning home and was not participating in hurling stones.

"He had boarded off a passenger vehicle and was accompanied with two youth as they were walking back home when Ubaid was shot," Lone said.

After initial treatment at District Hospital Baramulla, Ubaid was taken to SMHS hospital where he suffered excessive blood loss.

"We arranged over 30 pints of blood when we were at SMHS as the blood was oozing out to such an extent that my foot drenched in a pool of blood near Ubaid's bed inside the theater," Ubaid's cousin, Suhail Ahmad told media.

On the same day, the critically injured youth was referred to Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla where from he was referred to SKIMS in a critical condition where doctors again asked the family to arrange eight more pints of blood.

"The doctors at SKIMS told us that Ubaid was not critical and referred him back to SMHS hospital in the evening where his heart stopped functioning late in the evening as blood loss continued," Ahmad said.

The next day, June 26, the 19-year-old youth was referred to SKIMS again after suffering excessive blood loss.

After 17 days of battling for his life inside the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at SKIMS, Ubaid breathed his last Tuesday morning.

Thousands of people including women and children participated in the funeral prayers of Ubaid at the Government High School Ground Nadihal and his body was laid to rest at the local 'Martyrs Graveyard' amid sobs and tears.

Locals remember Ubaid as a humble and friendly guy who is survived by three brothers, a sister and parents.

### Tortured Student says mental scars will remain there

On July 7, 2018, seventeen-year-old, Idrees Ahmad Lone along with two other boys Umar Shafi, and Murtaza were detained by armed forces while ferrying the body of Irshad Ahmad Lone killed by armed forces in Hawoora, Kulgam early in the day. The trio were straight away taken to Frisal army camp where they were tortured by the forces for the day.

Earlier in the day, at around 11 am, three civilians including a minor girl were killed by the armed forces when the clashes erupted against the forces intrusion into a local school, where they allegedly beat up students and a teacher.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* talked to Idrees Ahmad son of Mohammad Akbar Lone, a resident of Havoora village studying in 12<sup>th</sup> class at his home.

"We have taken Irshad Ahmad injured in army firing to the district hospital. There he was declared dead by the doctors. We took an ambulance to take Irshad's body to his home for last rites. When we reached Mishipora an army contingent deployed there stopped the ambulance and asked us to come down. We obliged. They detained three of us apparently for helping the victims while the fourth Akash Nazir was allowed to proceed with the body," stated Idrees while talking about his arrest.

Immediately, the trio were pushed into a parked military truck and taken to Frisal army camp. On way to the camp, the boys were continuously beaten by the soldiers on board.

"At the camp, we were taken in a room where seven boys were already detained. In a while, as many as twenty soldiers entered the room and started beating us. Two soldiers beat each boy. The soldiers used wooden sticks and iron rods to torture us besides slapping and kicking," stated Idrees while sharing the torture details he and other boys were subjected to.

After sometime they were taken out in the open ground of the camp. "We all the ten boys were made fully naked and cotton was put into our mouths. Then two boys were beaten at one time by the soldiers. We were made to lie facedown while two soldiers hold our arms and two our legs. Then two more personnel get engaged in beating us. The beating continues in rounds for over two hours", stated Idrees while explaining the methods applies to torture him and other boys.

Thereafter, they were made to stand against the wall of the camp without having any cloth on their bodies. "While they made us to stand against wall, the soldiers then hurled stones at us, showering abuses *"aise hi pathar maarte ho saalo, haraam zado* (this is how you throw stones bastards)"

stand against wall, the soldiers then hurled stones at us, showering abuses *"aise hi pathar maarte ho saalo, haraam zado* (this is how you throw stones bastards). After that we were again laid down on the ground and then the army men trampled over our wounds. Most of the boys felt unconscious by the torture so did I. Then we were taken back to the same room. When we tried to stand on our legs nobody of us could do that," stated Idrees while showing the injuries on his body.

They were not given any food or water in the camp. "At 9:30 pm, army brought battery and wire to

further torture us. While they were preparing themselves to inflict more torture on us, suddenly a police party from Frisal police post arrived in the camp and took us away to their post," stated Idress while talking about how police intervention saved them from more torture.

The boys were first taken to police post Frisal where they were kept for two days. On the third day they were taken to Wanpoo police post and the following day they were set free.

### **Tortured body of man found in paddy field**

**July 09:** Bearing torture marks, the body of a young man who lived in Heff village in Shopian district was found lying in a paddy field near Arwani petrol pump in Rakh-Moman village of Kulgam district.

Identified to be of Tariq Ahmad Mohand, son of Ghulam Hassan Mohand, resident of Heff village, the body was found by locals of Rakh-Moman village who informed the police.

A resident of Heff village who knew the deceased told media that Tariq was 24, a carpenter by profession, and the cousin of slain militant Bilal Ahmad Mohand who was killed in May this year at Badigam village in Kulgam along with four of his associates including Hizb commander Sadam Padder, also a resident of Heff village.

Immediately, after his release Idrees was taken to the hospital. Idress said, "There were multiple torture injuries over my body and medical intervention seemed unavoidable. The doctors advised me rest and put me on medication and ointment. Despite the treatment, there was less relief from pain. It seems the wounds will take some time to heal while the mental scars may remain there for long time. It was not only physical injuries but humiliation."

"He was married some eight months ago and was missing since Sunday evening," the Heff resident said.

Medical Superintendent of sub-district hospital Shopian, Dr Zahoor Ahmad, told Kashmir Reader that a post-mortem was being conducted on the body. "We cannot yet say whether there were bullet or knife marks on his body," he said.

A doctor who was conducting the post-mortem told Kashmir Reader that there were no bullet wounds but torture and knife injuries on the body.

A police officer said that the body has been handed over to the family and an investigation started by police.

### **UN Secretary General backs Zeid's call for international investigation into human rights abuses in Kashmir, calls it 'voice of the UN'**

**July 12:** Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General backed the Human Rights High Commissioner, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein's call for an international investigation into the violation of human rights in Kashmir.

Saying that the call represented the 'voice of the UN' at a news conference, Guterres named his own report on children in armed conflict in Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. He repudiated the India's assertions, who had called it as 'overstepping his mandate' by saying that both reports covered the realm of "the general mandate of human rights instruments".

"As you can imagine all the action of the Human Rights High Commissioner is an action that represents the voice of the UN in relation to that issue," he stated at the conference.

In a response to an inquiry that pointed out the contradiction of the reports towards India's stand on Kashmir being its integral part, Antonio said that there was a 'distinction between political matters and human rights'.

"One thing is the definition of mechanisms for a political solution of a situation in a country and the other thing is the general mandate of human rights instruments in relation to human rights everywhere," he said.

"What the Human Rights Commissioner did was the use of its own competencies and capacities as it does in all other parts of the world to report on what he considers to be relevant human rights violations," he added.

He said the same principles applied to India's saying that the situation in the three Indian states mentioned in Guterres's report did not meet "a definition of armed conflict or of threat to maintenance of international peace and security."

"The report is a report about situations in which the rights of children have been put into question," he said.

Earlier, Antonio Gueterres had released a report in June accusing Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen in Kashmir and Naxalites in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand of using children.

The report had blamed the Indian government for the injuries and killing of the children "in the context of operations of national security forces against armed groups."

He claimed on a series of 'unverified reports' that the children were being used as informants and spies.

This development arrives after the UN published a 49 page report citing human rights violations by armed forces in Kashmir. India responded by calling the report 'fallacious, tendentious and motivated'.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said the report was "overtly prejudiced" and sought to build a "false narrative".

New Delhi had also lodged a strong protest on the use of terminology in the report, saying that the body had departed from internationally accepted terminology.

## **5. JKCCS/APDP Press Statements**

➤ **JK SHRC DIRECTS SSP SHRC POLICE WING TO CONSIDER ENQUIRY IN ENFORCED**

**DISAPPEARANCES IN BARAMULLA, BANDIPORA AND BANIHAL**

**July 12:** For twenty-four years, the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) and its individual members and volunteers have been campaigning against the phenomenon of enforced or involuntary disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir, wherein more than 8000 people have disappeared since 1989. Today, JK SHRC passed a crucial order directing Senior Superintendent of Police of the SHRC police wing to hold an enquiry, if necessary, into 132 cases of disappearance in Banihal Tehsil (Ramban district, Jammu division) and 507 cases of disappearance in Baramulla and Bandipora districts (Kashmir division) and file a report within three months

Today's SHRC order follows a sustained struggle by APDP.

On 10 December 2011, APDP submitted a complaint of 132 cases of disappearance (by State, non-State and unknown) actors from different villages of Banihal tehsil, Ramban district. By communication dated 2 May 2017, the police and civil administration in their reply admitted that 112 persons out of 132 persons were indeed "missing", but contested the other cases. On 27 February 2018, APDP filed its rejoinder.

On 10 December 2011, APDP submitted a separate complaint of 507 cases of disappearance (by State, non-State and unknown) actors from different villages of Baramulla (369 cases) and Bandipora (138 cases) districts. By separate communications the police and civil administration in their reply admitted that 186 persons out of 507 persons were indeed "missing", but contested the other cases. On 3 July 2018, APDP filed its rejoinder.

Today's order serves as an important milestone in the on-going struggle of APDP to know the truth about the disappeared and to ensure justice for each and every person subject to enforced disappearance. Recently the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in its 14 June report noted the continued refusal of India to ratify the Convention against enforced disappearances and observed that "Impunity for enforced or involuntary disappearances in Kashmir continues as there has been little movement towards credibly investigating complaints, including into alleged sites of mass graves in the Kashmir Valley and Jammu region".

It is in this context of absolute refusal of the Indian State to acknowledge the phenomenon of enforced disappearance, that today's order must be seen. The SHRC police enquiry is an opportunity for the families of the disappeared to place on record the truth of their loved ones, the circumstances of their disappearance and the refusal of the State to find the disappeared and ensure justice.

The struggle of the families of disappeared and APDP has ensured that the truth has not been covered up or forgotten. APDP will continue to highlight the issue of disappearances and at every step contest attempts by the State to cover up the truth.

➤ **APDP Seeks Greater Focus and Extensive monitoring of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights & UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID) In Kashmir**

**July 28:** The number of enforced disappearance in Jammu and Kashmir is alarming and more than many countries in Asia. As per rights groups Nepal has around 900 disappeared persons, Pakistan has 1532, Bangladesh

has 329, Philippines has 1166, Indonesia 1270, Thailand 293, Timor-Leste has 428 etc. while as more than 8000 persons have been subjected to enforced or involuntary disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir, which is higher than most of the Asian countries. Despite less number of disappearance cases many countries have constituted enquiry commissions to investigate into the cases and have initiated certain processes for providing justice and reparations to the victims, but on the contrary the Indian state continues to be in denial for investigating the crime of enforced disappearances and establishing a commission of enquiry despite recurrent appeals from APDP from more than two decades. Despite recommendations by government's State Human Rights Commission [in 2011 and 2017] and various international institutions like UN OHCHR & European Parliament, the Indian government maintains its reluctance to conduct comprehensive forensic investigations including DNA testing into more than 7000 unmarked and mass graves.

The countries even with less number of disappearances have allowed United Nations Working Group on Enforced or involuntary Disappearance (UNWGEID) to visit these countries and gave them access to monitor the situation of enforced disappearances. While as the government of India continues its reluctance for giving access to UNWGEID for monitoring situation of disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir. Even the Indian government barred operations of many international humanitarian organizations like International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), etc. by restricting their mandate from unraveling truth behind distressing situation of human rights particularly enforced disappearances in Kashmir.

Besides giving access to UNWGEID for country visits, the countries like Nepal, Sri-lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Turkey, etc. have allowed other international bodies and processes to look into the crimes against humanity including the crime of enforced disappearances. Unlike Indian state these countries to some extent have allowed investigations as well as enquiries for initiating the process of justice. While, in Kashmir the victim families feel exhausted as the government along with its judiciary has largely failed to provide any remedies and to act against the crime of enforced disappearances due to prevalence of continued impunity to armed forces.

Despite bragging the claim of world's largest democracy Indian state has failed to extend respect to international human rights and humanitarian laws by not allowing access to truth and justice in Jammu and Kashmir. India signed the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced or Involuntary against disappearance in 2007, but till date there is no development towards its ratification. Whenever many Asian countries like Japan, Philippines and Sri-Lanka have already ratified the International Convention against Disappearances. Even the Indian government is yet to legislate against the crime of enforced disappearances.

In light of the recent first ever human rights report on Kashmir by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), APDP appeals international institutions to intervene for a comprehensive fact finding on the issue of enforced disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir. The association

calls upon UN OHCHR and Working Group on Enforced Disappearance (UNWGEID) to conduct specific extensive in-depth monitoring of the phenomenon of enforced disappearances in Kashmir for consistent periodical update to the global community. Further, the international community must urge Indian state to ratify International Convention against Disappearances and constitute a process of justice, which will ensure that the

government and its institutions adhere to a rule of law-based approach for impartial investigation into all the cases of enforced disappearances, bringing the perpetrators to justice through criminal trials and provide truth, justice and reparations to thousands of agonized and distressed families of disappeared persons in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Caught in gunfight, traumatised youth attempts suicide**

**“The government forces sent us 14 times into the house to videograph positions of militants and snatch weapons from them”**

**July 03:** Devastated after being stranded for hours between militants and government forces during a gunfight, a 12th standard student attempted suicide.

Murtaza Bashir, 20, son of Bashir Ahmad Wani, a student of Government Boys Higher Secondary School Pulwama, has been traumatised so much by the horror of the Pulwama gunfight he found himself caught in a five days back that he tried to end his life.

“The nightmares keep me awake all night after I had a close shave with death,” Murtaza told media.

A dejected Murtaza says as soon as he goes to sleep, images of the Friday’s gunfight start coming to him and he suddenly wakes up.

Recalling the fateful day of 29 June when he was preparing for ablution, Murtaza says he called his friend, Tariq Ahmad to pick him for the Masjid in a vehicle as it was raining.

He says he rushed out the washroom without taking ablution after being disturbed by the commotion at home.

Murtaza says looking out the balcony, he saw three pheran-clad youth and at first mistook them for thieves.

He says one among them displayed his weapon to signal they were militants chased by the Army.

“Stay calm, they instructed and took us – my mother, my sister, my friend and me to a room on the second storey,” Murtaza says adding the militants did not let them out.

He says they wanted the family to stay with them till evening and kept saying that once darkness fall, they would escape and then they would be free to leave.

However, the government forces, who had cordoned the house, had different plans.

Murtaza says they started firing and shelling at the house.

“The bullets left big holes in the walls of the room we were in and I forgot everything, my mother, my

sister and my friend and the only thing on my mind was an inevitable death,” he says.

Murtaza says the government forces fired teargas shells which filled the room with smoke giving them a chance to run out the house.

However, the worst was yet to come.

He says the government forces did not let him and his friend out of cordon.

“They sent us into the house 14 times to videograph positions of militants through mobile phone camera,” Murtaza says. “Everytime I was forced to go inside the house my legs trembled and body shivered.”

He says he was horrified when he saw a militant in a pool of blood taking his last breath.

“Blood was oozing out his mouth and nose, and it was a terrifying scene that traumatised me,” Murtaza says.

On another turn, he says, he was asked to collect weapons from other two militants, who were assumed dead.

Murtaza says as he knelt to pick a weapon from the chest of a militant, the militant caught hold of his wrist firmly, which sent shivers down his spine.

The militants warned them not to enter the house again.

“Soon after this incident we begged the government forces not to compel us to enter into our house, which was less of a house than a mound of rubble by then, but they didn’t listen to our pleas,” he said. “However, when the government forces again asked us to enter the house, we made a plan to escape the horror.”

“We positioned ourselves beneath a partially-damaged slab and started shaking it firmly so that it would fall on us and both us die,” Murtaza said. “We thought committing suicide is the only option to escape the horror.”

### **Imam injured after shot at**

**July 06:** A 45-year-old man was injured after shot at by unknown gunmen in Pulwama district of south Kashmir on Friday morning.

Reports said that the unidentified gunmen fired upon Molvi Mohd Ashraf Thoker at Parigam.

Ashraf, a resident of Bijbehara, received multiple bullets in both the legs and was taken to nearby hospital where from he was referred to Srinagar hospital for specialized treatment.

Ashraf according to reports is an Imam of a local Hanfia masjid in Parigam village.

SSP Pulwama Mohammad Aslam Choudary confirmed the incident and said that the Molvi sustained injuries in legs.

“Investigations into the incident has been launched to nab the assailants,” he said. (GNS)

## **6. Atrocities by Armed Forces**

*People continue to accused the armed forces of vandalizing the public property be it house, orchards or*

*vehicle. This month’s incidents further establish that the forces were involved in damaging the property.*



➤ **Villagers fed up of army's atrocities, wish to live somewhere else**

**July 02:** Constant harassment by soldiers of a new army garrison established in Shopian district has made residents of Kundalan village decide that they will go to the Deputy Commissioner's office to request that they be granted land somewhere else to settle.

Residents of Kundalan village said that army soldiers again assaulted civilians and vandalised property. They said that such acts of the army are not new for them, as they are subjected to assault, vandalism and summoning of youth to army camps every other day since the establishment of an army garrison at Nagisharan, a kilometre away from Kundalan.

"They barged into the village in the middle of night and started damaging private property including windowpanes, windows and doors," a villager, requesting anonymity because of fear of reprisal, said.

Villagers said that those who resisted the army were beaten to pulp. One villager, Zahoor Ahmad Dar, was beaten severely by the army soldiers and had to be taken to the sub-district hospital, from where he was referred to SMHS Srinagar, locals said.

The village Numberdar, Ghulam Hassan Dar, said that he told villagers to register an FIR against the army but villagers were too scared to do so. "Police called me on phone and asked what happened in the village. Police told me that they have registered a case in this regard," Dar said.

He added that tomorrow they will go to the Deputy Commissioner's office and ask him to shift the villagers to some other place, away from the army. "We don't want to live here anymore because we don't have the strength to face the assaults of the government forces daily," Dar said.

Srinagar-based army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia told media that the villagers' allegations were "baseless".

"These claims of the locals are baseless. None of our soldiers was involved in any kind of manhandling or ransacking in the village," Kalia said.

➤ **Govt. forces set handcarts of vendors ablaze**

**July 11:** Police and paramilitary forces Wednesday set the handcarts of five vendors of Soura ablaze along with their merchandise and cash boxes, locals and eyewitnesses said.

They said youth were engaging Police and paramilitary forces in stone-throwing ding-dong battle in front of the maternity hospital and when the government forces tried to catch hold of the stone-throwing youth, they ran away.

Locals and eyewitnesses said failing to catch the stone-throwing youth, the government forces took vented their anger on the roadside vendors selling fruit and other merchandise.

"This is probably for the first time in my life that I have seen brutality of the government forces in such a crude form," said Ghulam Ahmad Mir of Buchpora, who was passing by the area. "They set the handcarts of five vendors ablaze along with merchandise and cashboxes."

Niyaz Ahmad Dar of Nowshera, who had gone to visit his ailing relative admitted at SKIMS, Soura, said the government forces lost their cool as the youth continued to throw stones at them.

"It was nothing but the government forces taking out their frustration on the poor roadside vendors while failing to deal with the stone-throwing youth," he said.

SHO Soura, Shahnawaz Ahmad was not available for his comment as his father had passed away. SDPO Soura, Ramiz Rashid told Rising Kashmir that concerned SP was authorized to comment on the issue. Superintendent of Police (SP) Hazratbal, Amod Ashok termed the allegations against the government forces as wrong.

"This is wrong. The miscreants had petrol bombs to harm the police forces. Usually, at the time of forces' withdrawal, miscreants lob petrol bombs. We didn't find it appropriate to go upto the maternity hospital and stayed at a distance. Usually, they are angry against the cart vendors since they remain open during shutdown. As the miscreants didn't hit any target, they damaged the carts of the vendors in frustration," he said. Nagpure said, "We have eyewitnesses, who are convinced, against them. We have registered a case and the persons involved will be booked under relevant sections of the law."

Police also issued a statement regarding the burning of handcarts of the roadside vendors at Soura.

The Police statement said in Anchar-Soura, miscreants set ablaze few carts of vendors and also damaged some tree guards and road dividers.

"In spite of today's *hartal* call given by separatists, some fruit vendors were conducting their normal business near the Maternity Hospital Soura and traffic was partially plying," the Police statement said. "However, infuriated by this, some miscreants assembled near Sabzi Mandi Soura and started throwing stones at vehicles plying on the roads."

Police said keeping in view the rush of patients near the hospital, Police and paramilitary forces deployed there exercised maximum restraint and avoided the confrontation with the stone throwers.

"This infuriated and frustrated the mob of miscreants and they tried hard to engage security forces and escalate the situation," the Police statement said. "Finally, during evening hours at the time of withdrawal of security forces, the miscreants to seek the attention of security forces and engage them set ablaze a few fruit carts which they dragged on road and damaged some tree guards and road dividers."

Police said, however, the miscreants were dispersed with minimum force and in this regard a case under FIR No 80 under relevant provisions of law had been registered at Police Station Soura and investigations taken up.

➤ **Army raids Shopian village at night, 3 injured referred to SMHS**

Residents complain to police, army spokesperson rubbishes allegations

**July 18:** Army troops on Tuesday night allegedly "terrorised" people of Mashwara village in Shopian district, breaking into their homes late at night and assaulting them, ransacking their household goods, smashing their vehicles and motorbikes. The attack, according to villagers, began at about 11:30pm. Among the dozen persons injured are a retired police officer and a Class X student, villagers said.

Mashwara village is situated along the Keller-Pulwama road. On July 18, morning, villagers blocked

the road in protest and demanded action against the army troops who assaulted civilians and damaged their property.

Muhammad Ayoub Shah, son of the village Numberdar, said that he, too, was beaten savagely by the army. "It was a bizarre event for us. We begged them to at least tell us what was our crime, but they kept beating more and more people and damaged our property," he said.

Villagers identified the civilians who sustained injuries due to the army assault as Rayees Ahmad Shah, Gowhar Ahmad Shah, Altaf Hussain Shah, Showkat Ahmad Shah, Parvaiz Ahmad Shah, Amir Hussain and Muhammad Ayoub Shah. According to the villagers, all the injured were taken to Rajpora Hospital for treatment.

Medical Officer Pulwama, Dr Jaffar Akhoun, told media that nine injured persons were brought to

Rajpora Hospital who were allegedly beaten by government forces. "Three persons among the nine were referred to SMHS Srinagar for advanced treatment," he said.

Srinagar-based army spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia said that all the allegations levelled by villagers were baseless. "None of our soliders was involved in any kind of manhandling or damaging of property in the village," he said.

A senior police officer from Shopian told Kashmir Reader that a delegation of villagers from Mashwara met him today in his office and the police were investigating their complaint.

When asked if police had registered an FIR over the complaint, he refused to comment.

### **Cops in civvies allegedly try to kill Budgam tailor**

**July 16:** A policeman was beaten up by angry people while three of his associates managed to escape after they allegedly made an attempt to kill a tailor in Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Reyaz Ahmad Beigh son of Abdullah Beigh, a tailor by profession, was returning home from his shop when four police personnel in civvies intercepted him.

"The police personnel began questioning him which was followed by the verbal brawl," a neighbour of Reyaz and eyewitness told Kashmir Reader.

When the situation turned violent, he alleged the policemen caught hold on him and tried to lynch him by his scissor.

Locals said that the tailor raised alarm and people came out of their homes and caught hold of one of the cops identified as Constable Mohammad Jabbar Khan. Khan was beaten up by locals while his three associates managed to escape.

Announcements were also made on loudspeakers and people came out and started protesting against the incident.

SSP Budgam Tejinder Singh told media that the details of the incident were being collected.

### **J&K Govt. wants Centre to approach US in Shujaat murder probe**

**July 24:** For the first time in decades J&K government has requested New Delhi to invoke Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) in the investigation of assassination of senior journalist Shujaat Bukhari.

In the efforts to fast-track the investigation the government wishes to approach the United States of America under MLAT, seeking assistance "for collection of evidence from social sites" serviced from that country.

The veteran journalist, who was the editor-in-chief of English-language daily Rising Kashmir, was killed by gunmen outside his office on June 14 while boarding his vehicle for home.

An official in the home department of J&K government revealed a letter about the issue was forwarded to joint secretary (J&K) ministry of home affairs (MHA), Government of India.

The official, who is privy to the contents of the letter, said it stresses on taking up the issue of investigations into the killing of Shujaat Bukhari.

"The request to shoot the letter to MHA has been made by the J&K police keeping in view the MLAT," the official said.

The letter, according to the source reads, "You (MHA) kindly take up the issue with the Central Authority of United States of America for collection of

evidence required from social sites having services in USA."

The request for collection of evidence from the USA has been made in the case FIR number 51/2018 US 302 RPC, 7/27 A Act, 16, 18,20, ULA Act of police station Kothibagh, Srinagar (Shujaat Bukhari's assassination).

Inspector general of police Kashmir range, Swayam Prakash Pani confirmed "during the course of investigations, MLAT has been processed."

A police official said investigators were also working on ensuring to get non-bailable warrants issued against all the accused.

On June 28, police while claiming to have achieved a breakthrough in Shujaat's murder stated that their hectic fortnight-long investigation had traced the conspiracy to a Pakistan-based Kashmiri blogger Sajad Gul whose arrest will be sought through Interpol by managing a Red Corner Notice.

The IGP Kashmir had stated three Kashmir-based Laskhar-e-Toiba operatives along with a Pakistani militant Naveed Jatt, who escaped the police custody in February this year, executed the plan that was conceived in Pakistan.

## **7. Gags on Media**

*Media continues to be on receiving end in Kashmir. Curbing the media has become a routine in Kashmir in recent years. People associated with media faces forces wrath while covering the conflict related developments.*

*Last month's killing of veteran journalist Sujaat Bukhari has already disturbed the media fraternity who feel highly vulnerable. This month stories of media curbing continue to pour in. Herein we incorporate it in chronological order:*

➤ **NIA summons accredited Kashmiri journalist**

**July 13:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) issued a summons to Srinagar-based journalist Aquib Javaid Hakim, asking him to appear before the Superintendent of the agency at Lodhi Road in New Delhi. For three days the journalist was set free after being grilled for carrying his professional duties.

Aquib has been asked to attend for questioning in a case RC-172018/NIA/DLI dated 27 April 2018 under sections 120B, 121, 121A, 124A, 153A, 153B and 505 of IPC and sections 18, 20, 38 and 39 of UA (P) Act 1967.

Aquib is an accredited journalist and works with Srinagar-based daily newspaper Kashmir Observer. He also works as a freelance journalist for various national publications.

The summons to Aquib has also drawn flak from various journalist associations who termed it as “harassment of local journalists”.

Last year, the federal investigation agency had summoned freelance journalist Kamran Yousuf to the agency’s headquarters in New Delhi. Later, Yousuf was detained in the high-security Tihar jail for more than six months.

The Kashmir Working Journalists Association condemned the summons to Aquib and termed it as harassment of journalists who were performing their professional duties.

A spokesperson of the association said that the summons was an attack on freedom of press and the federal agency should stop criminalising Kashmir-based reporters.

Another journalist association, Kashmir Journalists Association, termed the NIA summons as intimidation.

➤ **Kashmir cable operators asked to stop airing 30 channels**

**Permitting or not permitting telecast of any TV not within purview of State Government**

**July 18:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has asked cable television operators in Srinagar, the state’s summer capital, to stop airing 30 channels broadcasting programmes based on news and religion. It said the move was necessary for the “maintenance of peace and tranquillity” in the region. Most of the channels are based in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

“It has become necessary and expedient in the larger interest of public and maintenance of peace and tranquility to prohibit you from transmitting non-permitted TV channels (which are not permitted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India),” Srinagar’s additional district magistrate said in an order passed on July 12 in response to a communication from the state’s home department. HT has a copy of the order.

The magistrate issued notices to cable networks SEN Digital Network and K9, quoting the department as saying that they were telecasting “unpermitted or banned” private satellite channels within the jurisdiction of the district.

A cable TV operator said on condition of anonymity that his network had been asked to close around 30 channels including Geo, ARY, QTV, Hadi TV, Karbala, Paigam, Peace TV Urdu, Noor, Sehar,

Madani, Saudi Quran, Saudi Sunah and many other religious channels.

J&K has been under Governor’s Rule since June 20 following the resignation of chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who quit after her People’s Democratic Party-led government lost the support of its alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The cable networks have been warned of action if they don’t comply with the order.

“...In exercise of powers conferred by section 19 of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, you are hereby directed to immediately stop telecasting/transmitting non permitted TV channels/banned private satellite channels within period of three days for which a notarized affidavit be furnished to this office, failing which action as contemplating under the provisions of the act will be taken against you,” the order read.

Cable network operators have called an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the order on their business. The cable operator quoted above questioned the logic of the order, wondering “how religious channels posed a threat to peace in Kashmir”

“The government’s order to close dozens of Pakistani channels including Islamic channels is not only undemocratic but autocratic. They are akin to putting curbs on the effectiveness of media,” moderate separatist leader and chief cleric of Jamia Majid, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, said in a Twitter post.

This is not the first time that cable operators have been asked to refrain from running news or religious channels.

In May 2017, when Mehbooba Mufti was in power, the state home department had asked all deputy commissioners to take action against the transmission of 34 TV channels, including those from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, citing their potential to “incite violence and create law and order situation”.

During the 2010 summer unrest, the government, then led by Omar Abdullah, banned local cable channels from airing news and current affairs programmes in Kashmir.

**July 21:** The Government made it clear that the issue of permitting or not permitting telecast of any TV channel is not within the purview of the State Government and the state has no role in it.

“The powers to permit or not permit telecast of any TV channel are vested with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and not with the State Government,” a spokesman of the state’s Home Department said while responding to the news reports emanating in a section of the media in this regard.

He said any TV channel operating within the ambit of the law should approach the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to obtain the necessary permission. “If any TV channels feel that they do not promote any illegal activity, they are entitled to obtain necessary permission from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,” he said adding that the circular instructions regarding non-permission of telecast of certain TV channels are not new.

“The decision in this regard was initially taken in May, 2017 and the original instructions to all District Magistrates were issued on 06-05-2017 whereby the District Magistrates were instructed to take this action



against Cable TV Operators transmitting non-permitted channels,” the spokesman said adding that the communication issued on 02-07-2018 is only a repetition and reiteration of the earlier instructions in this regard.

He said the Home Department issued a repeat circular on 02-07-2018 addressed to all District Magistrates asking them to take action according to legal provisions wherever it is found that certain TV channels which are not permitted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India are being transmitted. The communication has a list of such non-permitted TV channels annexed to it, he said.

The spokesman further clarified that the issue of permitted and non-permitted TV channels is not within the domain of the State Government but entirely with the Government of India. “These permissions are given by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting according to provisions in law,” he said and added that the list of permitted TV Channels is available on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

➤ **MEA issues ‘advisory’ prohibiting foreign journalists from reporting from ‘restricted’ areas including Kashmir**

**Jul 22:** In a move that is reminiscent of a brief period during the early days of the Kashmir insurgency in 1990 when the Indian government made it impossible for foreign journalists to report from the valley, the Ministry of External Affairs has written to all foreign correspondents stationed in India that they will have to apply in writing for permission to travel anywhere in Jammu and Kashmir.

A report published by The Wire said that Off the record, MEA sources insist the diktat is merely reiteration of long-standing policy governing the entry of foreign reporters to “restricted and protected areas”, and that there is no bar on reporting trips to the state. MEA sources say the Ministry of Home Affairs has always treated the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir as a restricted area, even if in practice, this was enforced only for the strip along the Line of Control – visits to which required prior clearance for a visit.

The report said that while sources deny coming up with a “new” rule, they do acknowledge that the government is now serious about enforcement.

Since the tightening of official policy, The Wire is aware of at least one instance of the government failing expeditiously to grant a reporter permission to visit the state, thus effectively voiding the intended story, the report said

In letters sent out to foreign news organisations based in Delhi on May 22, 2018, the MEA’s external publicity division said it was addressing the “important issue” of foreign journalists travelling to circumscribed areas “without official clearance”.

“It has come to the notice of the Ministry of External Affairs that some foreign journalists based in India, while discharging their journalistic activities or for tourism purposes, have travelled to places which come under restricted/protected areas that require prior permission/special permit,” said the MEA letter.

“Travel to these protected/restricted areas without prior approval/special permission may cause unnecessary access related issues resulting in inconvenience for the journalist,” it added.

The letter also gave the URL of the Bureau of Immigration’s webpage which listed out the protected

and restricted areas. The protected areas includes “parts” of Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh were in protected areas, while the whole state of Sikkim and Nagaland falls within this category.

The restricted areas are the entire Andaman and Nicobar islands and parts of Sikkim.

The letter further said that MEA as “happy to help” with facilitating access, adding that advance information “in requisite format” before the planned visit would help in arranging special permit from “relevant agencies”. The format to apply for special permit was also attached with the letter.

“You are requested to bring above information to the notice of foreign journalists working in your bureau and request them to abide by these,” it said.

Though the URL refers to unspecified “parts of Jammu and Kashmir”, foreign correspondents who have made enquiries with the MEA have been told the whole of the state is now off-limit for visits without permission.

This was confirmed to The Wire by sources who shared a copy of a December 13, 2016 MEA email, which simply says “It may kindly be noted that prior approval of Government of India is required to visit the following states/areas in India” and then includes “Jammu and Kashmir” in the list without limiting it to any “parts” or “restricted areas”.

“Should you wish to visit any of the above mentioned places, you should apply for Special Permit in the prescribed format and submit it to XPD Division for its processing”.

In April 1990, months after the insurgency in Kashmir broke out and was widely covered by the foreign press, the Central government expelled all foreign reporters from the state. One month later, however, the ban was lifted.

Since then, foreign correspondents have had unhindered access to the Valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir. A former Indian diplomat, who asked not to be identified, told The Wire that India’s open door policy had helped make the case internationally that the country had nothing to hide.

➤ **Police thrash photojournalist, break his camera**

**July 23:** Farooq Shah, a photojournalist working with a local daily, was allegedly beaten up by policemen, along with several other women, near Barzullah Bridge in Srinagar. Farooq was covering a protest demonstration as part of his professional duties when he was beaten up.

Shah has sustained injuries in one of his fingers and his camera was damaged in the incident.

Locals of Barzullah had called for a protest demonstration to demand the body of a militant who was killed by government forces early this month in district Kupwara.

The Kashmir Press Photographers Association (KPPA) condemned the assault by police on Farooq Shah and the damaging of his equipment.

The statement said that Shah was only performing his professional duties while covering the protest at Barzulla. “Seeing Shah capturing a video, the policeman turned and not only roughed him up but also broke his camera to erase the footage,” read the KPPA statement.

“This was a highly condemnable action of the Jammu and Kashmir Police but such incidents would not

stop the photojournalist community from performing their duties with professionalism,” the statement said.

➤ **Journalists question police after assailants smash windshields of cars at Press Enclave**

**July 26:** Unknown persons have damaged three cars parked inside the Press Enclave in the heart of Srinagar city last night.

The incident, which has come barely six weeks after the assassination of senior journalist and Rising Kashmir chief editor Shujaat Bukhari at the Press Enclave, has instilled fear among journalists who reside or work from the Press Enclave.

Bukhari was leaving his office in Press Enclave when he was shot dead along with his security guards on June 14.

The rear windshields of three cars, including an SUV belonging to former BBC North India Correspondent Altaf Hussain, were smashed during last night.

Hussain told reporters that the windshields of cars were broken and the assailant (s) made their way inside his car and searched the glove compartment. “Nothing has been stolen from the car but the documents were searched,” he said, while demanding answers from the police.

**Youth’s mother accuses Police of pushing another son to militancy**

**July 17:** A mother of a youth, detained since May 19, accused Police of harassing her elder son to take up arms. “Just like my younger son was harassed years ago and eventually forced to join militant ranks, Police is now harassing my elder son too and pushing him to the wall,” Kulsum, the mother of Zaheer Ahmad Lone of Inder village says.

Accusing Police of having harassed her younger son, Nisar Ahmad, who was put behind bars for three long years, she said, “He was forced to pick up the gun and killed in a gunfight in Bellov village of Pulwama in 2003.”

“I do not want to lose my second son too, and appeal authorities to have mercy at me and release Zahoor,” Kulsum said.

Police believes Zahoor, father of two school-going kids and the main bread earner of the family, of having developed links with militants after his brother was killed and blamed him for working as an Over Ground Worker (OGW) for some slain militants.

Police also accuses him of distributing militant posters and instigating youth.

However, the family members refute the allegations as baseless.

“Police is framing our son in these cases,” Zahoor’s mother and his father Abdul Gani Lone said.

The poor family of Zahoor from Inder village of south Kashmir’s Pulwama district has been shattered by frequent detention of their only son under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

“This is the second time in last two years that my son has been detained under the PSA,” Lone said. “Last year he was detained at Kathua Jail for 8 months before the court quashed his detention order under the PSA.”

Lone, who has a fractured arm, is suffering from varicose veins of lower legs, a condition in which

“Who did it we don’t know. But one thing is significant. Only six weeks before prominent journalist Shujaat Bukhari Sahab was killed in Press Enclave. Security was beefed up at Press Enclave after his killing. We were told that a vehicle of flying squad of the police would guard the colony from 8pm to 8 am next morning. Either all this happened in their presence or they were not present here. It is a major security breach. We need answers,” he said.

Hussain said that his colleagues are also worried about their safety after this incident. “I have been getting phone calls from my colleagues. They are all worried. Breaking windshield and managing entry inside the cars would have taken at least half an hour for the assailants. During this time, they could have done anything,” he said.

He said the incident gives an impression that the press enclave isn’t safe anymore.

“There was no security here. We were told security has been beefed up after the killing of Shujaat Bukhari. This incident happened after his (Shujaat) killing. It is a big question and we need an answer,” he demanded.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Imtiyaz Ismail Parrey told media that they have taken cognizance of the incident. “We are investigating the case,” he said.

veins become enlarged, overfilled with blood causing swelling in legs which become painful and may lead to ulceration.

Lone, who worked as an orderly in the Jammu Kashmir Cooperative Society, was disengaged and reinstated only recently on the directions of the court after 17 years.

As long as Zahoor was a free man, the Lone family lived a decent life.

Zaheer set up a shop in Lassipora village and was earning sufficient amount to manage his house but after his frequent detentions the family is living a miserable life.

Lone’s monthly wages are the only source of income for the family, who own no land except their courtyard on which they grow vegetables.

“The wages fall short to meet daily requirements of my family,” the broken father said, who is struggling to pay electricity bill of his son’s shop as well as his single-story modest house.

“The electricity bills are mounting with each passing month,” the family members said.

Zaheer’s wife, Rozy Jan said since her husband was arrested she had been unable to pay school fees of her daughter, who studies in 10th standard and son, who is a 4th standard student.

“The frequent detention of their father has affected them mentally as well,” she said. “My daughter is showing signs of psychiatric illness as she confines herself to a room and doesn’t talk as she used to do.”

She said her kids insist on meeting their father, a desire she could fulfill only after taking a loan from her uncle.

“They again insist to see their father but I can’t arrange that as I have no money to take them to Kathua,” she said.

### **Kashmiri female fine arts student alleges harassment in Jammu college**

**July 31:** When entire India is holding debates on lynching and hate against a community, a Kashmiri girl at Government Fine Arts Academy in TalabTillo is facing harassment allegedly from three teachers who accuse her of being “anti-national, supporter of militants, and ‘stone-pelters”.

“Instead of holding classes to teach their fine arts students, some of the teachers show their regional bias and hate towards a Kashmir student.”

A group of students approached Rising Kashmir and conveyed their “ordeal” they face in the classes rooms.

A Jammu based student, wishing not be quoted, told Rising Kashmir that “We remember when Sunjwan Brigade was attacked by the militants, next day that particular teacher came to the class room and showed a video to the female Kashmiri student while accusing her of being behind the attack.”

The girl told media that she was told by her teachers why she was studying in Jammu.

“They told me to return back to Kashmir.”

As these incidents and taunts have become a routine, she said.

“All my class fellows came in my support. They do support me due to which I am safe otherwise, the teachers have turned no stone unturned to create difficult atmosphere for me, because I am from Kashmir,” she said.

That particular teacher showed me Sunjwan attack video, very next day in the class room, she said.

She quoted the teacher having told her: “I heard you were behind the Sunjwan attack. We have heard you take Rs 500 for stone throwing.”

Senior Instructor in Government Fine Arts Academy, Rakesh Sharma, told Rising Kashmir that “There is no harassment to the Kashmiri female student by the staff members. If she has any complaint, she should have approached the concerned class teacher. She is leveling false allegations.”

Meanwhile speaking to media a group of students alleged that 15 students of first, second and third year in the four year fine art degree course have been failed by the college and they are not ready to re-check the papers citing some rules.

With regard to the issues of failed students, Rakesh Sharma said: “The total number of failed student is 7 or 8 not 15. We have 150 students in Fine Arts Academy. It is not deliberate. They have failed in the subjects because of their poor performance in examination and the papers are being checked by the external teachers who come from outside the State.”

“We have shown them (to failed students) papers and the cheating slips were attached with papers. Some students have written songs,” said Sharma.

### **13 teachers detained in Kashmir for allegedly ‘glorifying’ militancy**

**July 16:** The Jammu and Kashmir police recently detained 13 teachers of a private school in north Kashmir’s Baramulla town for allegedly glorifying militancy and motivating students to become future militants, according to officials with knowledge of the case.

Eleven teachers were released after stern warning and intervention from senior citizens.

Last week, a video on social media showed how dozens of students of a private school in uniforms appeared to be ‘acting as militants’, said a police official linked to investigations in the case. The video was similar to those regularly released by militants to ‘showcase their achievements’ and lure the youth toward militancy, he said on condition of anonymity. The video was shot when the students were on a school excursion, the officer added.

In the video that has gone viral on social media, the students are being apparently encouraged by some teachers to perform and act as militants while other boys are playing songs eulogising the death of militants. The songs have been previously used by militants in propaganda videos, the police official said.

In another video, two students can be seen posing with sticks as if they were guns. Though these are

only mock-ups, another police official said the videos could easily “brainwash” young boys and drive them to militancy.

The police took serious note of the incident and detained all the teachers of the school after the video emerged. Chief education officer, Baramulla, Abdul Ahad Gania said he will get the matter investigated. “We are investigating the case and stern action will be taken against the school.” The school management, however, refused to comment on the matter.

“This shows how some teachers with vested interests whose mandate is to turn young boys into disciplined students and good citizens are encouraging them to take up guns,” said a police officer investigating the case in Baramulla.

A police officer said, who did not wish to be named, said the parents of the children in the video wanted the administration to intervene.

He said that two teachers are still in custody, as the police have recovered objectionable material from them. One of these teachers could have made the videos, he said.

Senior superintendent of police, Baramulla, Intiyaz Hussain refused to comment on the matter. “We will brief the media shortly,” he said.

### **PSA detainees can now be jailed outside Jammu and Kashmir**

**July 30:** Jammu & Kashmir government has done away with a legal provision that prohibited it from lodging state subject residents detained under Public Safety Act in jails outside the state, to make way for sending them to prisons far away from their families.

The State Administrative Council (SAC) has cleared a proposal to delete a provision in the PSA that

barred authorities from lodging J&K residents in outside state jails.

In its 3rd meeting held on July 11, the SAC recommended deletion of the proviso to Section 10 of the J&K Public Safety Act, described by rights watchdog Amnesty International as a revolving door “lawless law”.

“Provided that the detainees who are permanent residents of the state shall not be lodged in jails outside

the state,” reads the proviso which was deleted by the SAC. The amendment has come into force from July 13 after receiving assent from Raj Bhavan.

Repeated attempts to seek J&K government’s comment about necessity were not successful.

Principal secretary Home department Raj Kumar Goyal was approached thrice over phone for his comments, but each time he said that he was busy.

The PSA is a law that allows detention without trial for a minimum of three months which can be further extended to six months and one year subsequently.

In the past 26 years, thousands of civilians and militants have been incarcerated under the controversial law.

The SAC approved the Bill entitled “The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety (Amendment) Bill, 2018”, contemplating massive up-gradation of

infrastructure, particularly for improving the living conditions of the jail inmates.

“In this context, reference was made to a Public Interest Litigation, pending before the Supreme Court of India regarding inhuman conditions in 1382 prisons and relating to various reformatory measures for Prisons,” a government statement issued on July 11 said.

It further states that the Apex Court has, from time to time, passed several directions to the Union and the State Governments vis-à-vis the overcrowding of prisons, inadequacy of staff and poor living conditions for the inmates.

Taking note of the directions passed by the Supreme Court, the government statement said the SAC emphasised the need for massive up-gradation of jails at Jammu, Udhampur, Anantnag, Kupwara and Central Jail Srinagar

### **1990-Mashali Mohalla killings | 9 civilians were murdered by BSF troopers: SHRC Says JK has written to GoI for prosecution of accused men**

**July 21:** Nine civilians who were killed in a firing incident in 1990 in downtown here were "murdered" by BSF troopers, State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) said in its judgment. In support of its verdict the Commission said J&K government has written to Center for prosecution of accused troopers.

“The J&K police have stated that nine persons were killed in indiscriminate firing by the BSF but their particulars have not been maintained....since the police have filed a charge-sheet it can be assumed that state is of the view that nine persons were murdered,” reads the SHRC judgment that was delivered by Commission chairperson Justice (ret'd) Bilal Nazki.

The matter stands disposed of with a direction to the government to finalise the matter related to relief under various rules within a period of six weeks, reads the judgment.

On 6 August 1990, the nine civilians, according to the case in the Commission, were shot dead by troopers of 75 battalion of BSF at Mashali Mohalla in old city.

The then IG BSF EN Rammohan had said that he was “ashamed of the incident”. An FIR (57/1990 U/S 302, 436, 406 RPC 3/27 A) stands registered in the case in police station Nowhatta.

The state government had written to government of India on 15 May 2018 seeking sanction of prosecution against accused security personnel for the murders, said the judgment which was delivered on the application filed by a human rights activist. The BSF had ordered a Court of Inquiry into the killings following which JK Sharma, then additional deputy inspector general commandant of the battalion, along with his three colleagues including deputy (commandant) RP Bhukal, head constable Gajjan Singh and constable Uttam Singh were initially suspended from service. But subsequently they were given “routine postings”.

As per data, the court of inquiry had charged Sharma with “omission of effective command and control over his troops which led to uncontrolled firing which led to the death of civilians”.

### **Police submits SOPs before SHRC**

**July 26:** The JK Police has submitted a copy of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) followed by government forces in the state before State Human Rights Commission.

The report states that the objective of the SOP is to provide guidelines and precautions to be observed while using options of less lethal weapons for dispersal of unlawful assembly in J&K state with minimum possible damage.

#### **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

First stage to disperse any unlawful assembly should be done through persuasion, mediation, negotiation and warning.

Water cannons should be used which have minimum potential to cause injury.

Use of tear smoke shells/PAVA/Oleoresin, at a distance of 50 mtrs from protesters.

Lathi charge

Use rubber bullets and they also should not be aimed at protesters.

Pump action gun/pellet gun can be used fitted with a deflector using only No.9 cartridge at the distance of 50 metres and beyond. It should not be fired at close range which can prove fatal.

Final option should be usage of live ammunitions but should not be aimed at protesters.

## **8. Militarization**

### **After 25 years, forces vacate SKIMS building**

**July 27:** Government forces on Friday started vacating the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura premises where they had set up a bunker in a building 25 years ago.

The huge bunker was located outside the hospital’s medical emergency department. The forces had established it in the 1990s, and since then it remained

under their control, much to the annoyance of patients and attendants. After the Border Security Force (BSF) was shifted from Srinagar, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) took over the building. Currently, the building was occupied by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).



CRPF spokesperson Sanjay Sharma confirmed to media that the bunker would be vacated by the SSB.

“The SSB has started the process of vacating the SKIMS premises. It will take some time for the vacating process to be complete,” he said.

The removal of the bunker is an immense relief for employees at SKIMS as well as for the public.

## **9. Armed Forces Suicide**

### ➤ **Injured army man succumbs**

**July 6:** An army soldier who was injured critically after he shoots himself with his service rifle in Cherkote area of north Kashmir’s Kupwara district, succumbed late in the evening.

“Rifleman, Ranjeet Singh of 28 RR shoots himself at an army camp in Cherkote while he was on duty,” official sources told GNS, adding that the soldier suffered serious injuries in the incident.

Following the gunshot, the colleagues rushed towards the soldier and found him in a pool of blood, they said, adding that the soldier was immediately taken to military hospital Drugmulla.

Singh, who has suffered a serious bullet wound in his abdomen, succumbed late this evening, they said.

### **A report by judges’ committee concludes prisons in JK too crowded**

**July 21:** The Judges’ Committee report has confirmed to the High Court that the two jails in Jammu and Kashmir—Central Jail Srinagar and District Jail Rajouri—are too crowded to accommodate more prisoners in their facilities.

Nearly all the Principal District Judges have submitted reports following the directions of the High Court in two clubbed Public Interest litigations—one treated by it as PIL following the Supreme Court directions and the other filed by Kashmir Bar Association seeking better jail conditions in Jammu and Kashmir.

A report submitted by Principal District Judge Srinagar in High Court reveals that 396 inmates are currently lodged in Central Jail Srinagar against its intake capacity of 364. The prisoners include convicts and under trials, reveal the report.

As per the report four prisoners convicted in militancy related cases besides other 23 inmates including a female pensioner who have been convicted to undergo rigorous imprisonment stand lodged in the Jail.

Six convicts lodged in the prison facilities are from Nepal while there are other 14 convicts including a female prisoner who have been convicted and awarded simple imprisonment. Moreover 31 under trial inmates besides one from Pakistan administrated Kashmir and two from Pakistan who have been booked in militancy related cases are lodged in the jail. The report divulges that there are 299 under-trials including 18 females in the jail.

While two under-trials, one from the Netherlands and the other from Bangladesh have been

## **10. Official Statements**

### ➤ **‘Education in shatters causes stone-pelting in Kashmir’**

A SKIMS official said that the building was meant for an animal house but was later turned into a camp during the peak of armed militancy in the region. “The building was under construction during the peak of militancy and the BSF personnel barged in to occupy the premises,” he said.

A police officer also confirmed the incident and said that investigations into the incident have been launched.

### ➤ **Army man shoots self in Jammu**

**July 17:** A soldier allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in a camp near the Line of Control (LoC) Jammu, the police said.

Rifleman Ranbir Singh (28) was on guard duty at Hamirpur Nawan Military Garrison in Khour area of Akhnoor sector when he shot himself in the forehead yesterday, causing his instant death, a police official said.

The body of the deceased, who hailed from Punjab, was handed over to his unit after completion of medical and legal formalities.

lodged in the jail in non-militancy cases, two detainees, one from Bangladesh and another from Saudi Arabia, are also lodged in the jail in militancy related cases. Besides these, there are other prisoners and detainees lodged in the jail.

In his report Principal District Judge Rajouri has said that in district jail Rajouri there are 182 inmates, 40 more than the capacity of the jail. The prisoners include 4 convicts who have been awarded simple imprisonment under common law, one under trial in militancy related case, 176 inmates, including 17 females under trials under common law and one detainee under common law.

The report further reveals that 70 inmates of district jail Poonch have been shifted to district Jail Rajouri in April this year following the orders of director general prisons as the building of district jail poonch was declared unsafe.

Meanwhile the division bench comprising of acting chief justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur directed its registry to make within a week copies of the inspection reports available to the counsels representing parties in the case.

In 2017, the High Court had registered directions of Supreme Court delivered in case titled Re-human conditions in 1382 prisons as suo moto public interest litigation and issued directions to Government of India as well as Jammu and Kashmir government.

The apex court had pointed out that “Custodial violence could, sometimes, lead to the death of its victim who is in a terribly disadvantaged and vulnerable condition.

**July 03:** Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat said that decades of militancy has shattered the education

system in Jammu and Kashmir and this is one of factors behind stone-pelting protests in the state.

The Army chief was interacting with students from Chhattisgarh who were on a trip to Delhi. One of them asked him why there were frequent stone-pelting incidents in the Kashmir Valley.

Gen Rawat replied that Kashmiris were being fed with misinformation that India was anti-Muslim and those who eat beef were being killed.

“They try to shield terrorists. They pelt stones as it is easily available. (Stone-) pelting is not (something) new. Unemployment is a factor for this, but it is not unique to Kashmir. There is unemployment in other parts of the country as well. Youngsters there don’t pelt stones. “Education there (Kashmir) is shattered. Most of the schooling is done through madarassas, which cannot get you good jobs.”

He said the Army had two ways of dealing with the situation.

“The harsh way or the other way is to make them understand that what they are doing is wrong. We bring some of the people from there to Delhi to show we don’t have Army on every corner here as Delhi is peaceful. If Kashmir is also peaceful, the Army will be taken away from there.”

➤ **In 18 months, 106 civilians killed at encounter sites**

**July 10:** Police records suggest at least 106 civilians died in forces' firing near encounter sites since January 2017.

Security authorities are working on a joint strategy that would help forces avoid civilian deaths while dealing with protesters near encounter sites, DGP Shesh Pal Ved told media. He, however, did not share the details but insisted that the protests near encounter sites and the ensuing civilian deaths were a cause for concern. In the latest such incident in Shopian district a youth, Tamsheel Ahmed was killed in forces firing and more than 50 persons were injured when protestors tried to march toward the house where militants were hiding. Two Jaish-e-Muhammad militants were also killed in the encounter.

According to official figures, 78 civilians were killed near encounter sites in 2017. As per the official figures, 42 civilians were killed in various militancy-related incidents since January 1, 2018, of whom 28 were killed in forces action during protestors bid to move closer to the encounter sites across Kashmir.

➤ UNHRC report on Kashmir 'baseless', says Nirmala Sitharaman

July 13: The UN human rights report on Jammu and Kashmir has ignored ground-level realities in the terror-ravaged state, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Rubbishing the report on alleged human rights violations by the security forces, the Minister said the UN had chosen to ignore the humanitarian assistance the Indian Army had been rendering to victims of terrorism in the state.

“The Indian Army has been exercising the highest restraint in dealing with terrorists, protesters in Jammu and Kashmir. It has set up schools, trained boys and girls for higher education, made youth from the state to travel to the rest of India.”

➤ **Civilian killings regrettable but unavoidable most of the time: Kumar**

**July 14:** Advisor to Governor N N Vohra on security matters, K Vijay Kumar said killing of civilians at the hands of government forces was regrettable but also unavoidable most of the time when people converge near the sites of frequent gun battles in Kashmir.

“When there is (a) gun battle and civilian enters, nobody knows with whose bullet he was killed or injured,” Kumar said in an exclusive interview to Greater Kashmir.

“People converge and merge then the killing is unavoidable.”

The former top cop said every effort was being made to restore peace and normalcy in Kashmir, and among top priorities of the Governor’s administration were development and avoiding collateral damage during gun fights with militants.

“Civilian killings are regrettable. We feel more pain. We want such incidents must not happen,” Kumar said.

➤ **Don’t pelt stones, stay away from gunfight sites: Army to youth**

**July 14:** A senior army commander appealed youth not to pelt stones on troops and stay away from areas, where operations are launched.

“I appeal youth and people of Kashmir that Indian army is your own army. Don't pelt stones on them and avoid roaming near encounter sites,” General Officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt General A K Bhat told reporters on sidelines of ‘Closing Ceremony of FTII Screen Acting Course’ organised at Thimaya Hall, Baramulla.

He said army doesn’t bear any grudge against Kashmiris. “They are our own people and it is our duty to safeguard them”.

The GoC claimed that troops have been directed to exercise total restraint while dealing with any situation. “Our men fire only when there is threat to life or property.”

“Our main motive is to eliminate militancy through kinetic operations,” he said.

Stating that overall situation in north Kashmir is congenial; Lt Gen Bhat said there was less militant recruitment in north Kashmir as compared to south Kashmir.

➤ **739 killed in 30 months in JK: GoI ‘100 militants, 43 forces personnel, 16 civilians killed this year’**

**July 18:** A total of 739 persons were killed in the past two and a half years in Jammu Kashmir, Government of India said Wednesday.

Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said in the Rajya Sabha that of the 739 persons killed, 463 were militants, 205 government forces personnel and 71 civilians.

A total of 256 incidents of violence took places in just six months of 2018, Ahir told Rajya Sabha.

“One hundred militants, 43 forces personnel and 16 civilians have been killed in the 256 incidents of violence in the State till July 8 this year,” MoS Home revealed in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The reply states 342 and 322 incidents of violence were reported in 2017 and 2016.

Last year 213 militants, 80 government forces personnel and 40 civilians were killed while 150 militants, 82 government forces personnel and 15 civilians were killed in 2016 in the State.

“As per the reports, two youth from other states of the country have been found involved in stone pelting in J&K and in this regard, two FIRs have been registered in 2018,” Ahir said in reply to a question.

Meanwhile, MoS Home, in an another reply stated that government has sanctioned construction of 14,460 bunkers, to mitigate the hardships being faced by people living on International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC).

Further, exgratia cash relief of Rs 5 lakh is given to next of kin (NoK) in case of death or to the victim of more than 50 percent disability, Ahir said.

➤ **Civilian killings, stone-throwing up in Guv rule: MHA**

**July 22:** Civilian killings at the hands of government forces and incidents of stone-throwing increased while militant violence came down in Jammu Kashmir ever since the State has been placed under the Governor’s rule, official data shows.

According to the data compiled by the Home Ministry, during the one month of Governor’s rule, as many as seven civilians were killed in operations carried out by the government forces compared to the four civilian deaths during the one month of suspension of operations.

Similarly, during the Governor’s rule, 95 cases of stone throwing incidents were reported while during the one month of ceasefire, 90 such incidents were reported.

However, there has been a decrease in attacks carried out by militants since June 16 to July 15 in comparison to the month of Ramadan when the suspension of operations was in force.

While the suspension of operations was announced for a month with the beginning of Ramadan on May 16, Governor’s rule was imposed in Jammu Kashmir on June 20 after the BJP withdrew support to the Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition government in the state.

As many as 47 militancy incidents took place in past one month, but the number of such incidents during the suspension of operations in previous month was 80, half of which were grenade throwing and random firing.

Fourteen militants and five government forces personnel were killed during the Governor’s rule compared to 24 militants and 10 government forces personnel killed during the suspension of operations.

➤ **35 Army men killed in 9 militant attacks on Army camps since 2016**

**July 23:** At least 35 army men were killed in militant attacks on their installations in Jammu and Kashmir in past two and half years, Ministry of Defence said.

During the past nearly 30 months—from 2016 to 2018, 9 attacks were carried out by militants on army camps in the state, revealed Union Minister of State Defence, Subhash Bhamre in a written reply to Congress MP, Kumari Selja in Rajya Sabha.

In the nine militant attacks, 35 army men were killed and 40 others suffered injuries.

In these attacks, 15 militants and a civilian were killed and six civilians sustained injuries.

The data states 26 army men were killed and 25 others injured in five militant attacks on army camps in 2016 while three army men were killed and seven injured in a single militant attack on an army camp in 2017.

“This year, six army men were killed and eight others injured in three militant attacks on army camps in the state,” reveal the figures.

According to statistics, of 15 militants killed, 10 were killed in 2016, two in 2017 and three in 2018 while a civilian and six others were also injured in the attacks on army camps this year.

Bhamre said all militant attacks on army camps were investigated in detail.

“Prima facie it was found that these attacks were carried out by militant outfits,” he said.

Bhamre said the Government of India (GoI) had issued broad guidelines for security of “defence installations and in compliance with the said Guidelines, the defence forces have taken a number of actions including risk categorisation of military bases; appraisal and up gradation of intelligence gathering capabilities; strengthening and streamlining of the response mechanism; use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs); periodic security audit of all military installations etc.”

He said army also carries out an in-depth analysis of the militant attacks and security breaches that are identified with various incidents.

“Perimeter security projects of all three armed forces have been sanctioned by the Government,” Bhamre said.

➤ **338 incidents of ceasefire violation during Ramzan in JK: GoI**

**July 24:** A total of 338 incidents of ceasefire violation and cross-border firings were reported in Jammu and Kashmir during the month of Ramzan, GoI’s Minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said.

At least 14 security personnel and 11 civilians were killed in the cross-border firing from Pakistan in April and June, he told the Lok Sabha.

“During the month of Ramzan – from May 17 to June 16 – altogether 338 incidents of ceasefire violation and cross-border firings were reported in Jammu and Kashmir as against 139 during April 16 to May 16,” Ahir, the minister of state for home, said, replying to a written question.

GoI’s Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, responding to a separate question, said as many as 272 infiltrations were reported along the Indo-Myanmar border, 108 along the Indo-Pakistan border and just five along the Indo-Bangladesh border in 2015-17.

➤ **581 militants killed in JK since 2015: GoI 69 forces personnel die in ceasefire violations in over 3 yrs**

**July 25:** The forces have killed 581 militants since 2015 while 69 personnel died in ceasefire violations, Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre told the Lok Sabha.

“In 2015, 108 militants were killed by forces followed by 150 in 2016, 213 in 2017 and 110 in 2018 (up to July 22),” Bhamre said in a written response to a question in the Lower House.



He said 44 army men personnel and 25 BSF personnel were killed in ceasefire violations since 2015.

The LoC and the India-Pakistan border in J&K have been volatile. In May, the Director Generals of Military Operation (DGMO) of India and Pakistan agreed to restore peace along the LoC.

Bhamre said as per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) database on military expenditure, the military spending of China stood at USD 2,16,031.30 million and USD 2,28,230.70 million in 2016 and 2017 respectively. On the other hand, India spent USD 56,637.60 million and USD 63,923.70 million in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Replying to another question, he said there was 17,57,055.324 acres of defence land. Nearly 8,38,987.292 acres of land was acquired by the Defence Ministry after independence, he added.

➤ **NSG deployed in JK for strengthening security grid: GoI**

**July 25:** The commando force, NSG, has been deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for strengthening the existing security grid, Union Minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said.

The government has decided to deploy a task force of the National Security Guard (NSG) in the Kashmir Valley to strengthen the existing security grid and undertake capacity building training of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Armed Police Forces, he said in the Rajya Sabha.

In another written reply, the Minister of State for Home said during the Ramadan ceasefire, from May 17 to June 17, 2018, as many as 117 incidents of stone pelting were reported in Jammu and Kashmir as against 219 during in the period of April 15 to May 16, 2018.

➤ **'110 youth join militancy this year'**

**July 29:** Local youths joining militant groups in the Kashmir this year stood at 110 till July 15, with the worst militancy-hit district of Shopian in south Kashmir accounting for the maximum of 28 recruits, officials said.

The number of locals recruited was 126 last year and officials said they expected the figure to be higher this year.

Reports of missing people have come down after Governor's rule was imposed in the state last month, they said, but added that some youths continue to join militant ranks.

Security agency officials said highly volatile south Kashmir, comprising Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag and Kulgam districts, besides Awantipora, remained a region accounting for a higher number of youths joining militant groups, including the ISIS-Kashmir and the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, an outfit which claims support of the al-Qaida.

From these five areas, 91 youths joined various militant groups operating in the Valley, they said. The disappearance and subsequent joining of militant ranks by Ganderbal youth Rouf, who was in his fourth semester of a diploma course at a government polytechnic institute, was confirmed after his picture was seen on social media in military fatigues, the officials said.

If this trend continues, 2018 may end up as the worst year in terms of number of youths joining various militant groups, according to the officials. Last year, a total of 126 youths had picked up the gun. 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 youths taking up arms in the Valley since 2014 as compared to the period from 2010 to 2013 when the figures stood at 54, 23, 21 and 6 respectively.

In 2014, the number shot up to 53 and in 2015, it reached 66 while in 2016, the figure was 88, the data showed.

This year, youths who joined militancy included Junaid Ashraf Sehrai, 26, an MBA degree holder from Kashmir University, and son of Mohammed Ashraf Sehrai, who took over as chairman of the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat from Syed Ali Shah Geelani. The list also included 26-year-old PhD scholar Mannan Bashir Wani, hailing from Kupwara, the officials said. Wani was studying in Aligarh Muslim University.

➤ **This year 41 forces killed, 907 injured in militancy, stone-pelting incidents in Kashmir**

**July 30:** As many as 41 government forces including 20 policemen were killed and 907 others injured in militancy-related and stone-pelting incidents in Kashmir valley this year, officials said.

Giving details, the officials said 39 government forces including 17 army personnel, 20 policemen and two CRPF personnel were killed and 96 others injured in militancy-related incidents in first six months of this year.

Of these, 28 army personnel, 31 CRPF personnel and 37 policemen were injured in militancy-related incidents, they said.

In stone-pelting incidents, two CRPF personnel were killed and 811 others injured during the same period, the officials said.

Of these, 592 policemen and 219 CRPF personnel were injured in 734 incidents of stone-pelting in the valley, they said.

According to the officials, 32 civilians were killed and 117 others injured in militancy-related and stone-pelting incidents.

Twenty-five civilians were killed and 54 others injured in militancy-related incidents while seven civilians were killed and 63 others injured in law and order incidents, they added.

➤ **More forces' personnel killed in border violence this year than in past 3**

**July 30:** The Government of India said that more government forces' personnel have been killed in ceasefire violations (CVs) along the Indo-Pakistan border this year than in the past three years.

The information was revealed in response to a question by Members of Parliament Dr T Subbarami Reddy and Shrimati Ambika Soni. Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr Subhash Bhamre tabled the government response in the Rajya Sabha.

As per the information, till July 23 this year, 942 CVs along the border took place, as against 860, 228 and 152 CVs in 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

The information said that 28 government forces' personnel and 8 civilians were killed till July 23 this year in CVs, the highest in the past three years. In 2017, 19 forces' personnel and 12 civilians were killed; in 2016, 12 forces' personnel and 13 civilians were killed; and in 2015, 10 civilians and 16 forces' personnel were killed in CVs.

➤ **87 youth joined militant ranks till July in Kashmir: Ahir**

**July 31:** Eighty seven youth from Jammu and Kashmir have joined militant ranks till July 20, with 12 of them joining after the Governor's rule was imposed in the state, GoI's Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir told Parliament.

Replying to a question, Ahir informed the Lok Sabha that the 87 youths belong to four south Kashmir districts – Anantnag (14), Pulwama (35), Shopian (23) and Kulgam (15).

“After the imposition of Governor's rule on June 20 in Jammu and Kashmir, 12 youths were reported to have disappeared and later on joined militancy,” the minister said.

