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**Nazim Rashid tortured
to death in Custody**

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LANDMARK JUDGEMENT

The landmark judgement by Supreme Court of India banning the SPO and “*Salwa Judam*” a civilian vigilante group is being welcomed by the human rights organizations in India. The petition was filed by a leading civil society activist Dr. Nandini Sunder, professor of Sociology at Delhi School of Economics, Dr. Ramachandra Guha, a well-known historian, environmentalist and columnist and EAS Sharma former secretary of India and former commissioner the Tribal Welfare.

In the PIL they had questioned the recruitment of SPOs and tribals as “*Salwa Judam*” to counter the naxal groups operating in the state of Chhattisgarh. Previously, the High Court had passed orders to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to verify the serious allegations made by the petitioners by constituting a committee for investigation. The report was submitted, and finally the court passed the judgement which could be a good piece of a literature.

In the Judgement, the rationale has been discussed behind the people or dispossessed sections resorting to violence, besides the affects of the dark side of globalization. The judgement has assailed the indifference of the government that there is a linkage of violence to socio-economic circumstances, endemic inequalities and a corrupt social and state order that preys on such inequalities and even ignoring the reports made by the Planning Commission of India, which had reasoned the deprivation of the tribal, finally culminating into the violence. The judgement has observed the true cause of the problem lies in the neoliberal economical ideology and has assailed that a section of privileged minority are benefitted by the globalization, privatization, liberalization and i.e. while as the vast majority particularly the tribal is suffering from political injustice, social injustice and economical injustice, thus, have resorted to violence. Taking strong note about the death of SPOs (173) to the strength of SPO 3,000 to 4,000 is of much higher order comparing the 538 police and CRPF personnel have been killed out of total strength of 40 BN of regular security force in operations against Maoist in Chhattisgarh between 2004-2011.

The Apex Court observed that SPO are undertrained and rejected the contention of Chhattisgarh Govt. that arms are being provided to them for self-defence and the recruitment made by the govt. is for employing those tribal youth, who volunteer for such responsibilities. Further, the Apex Court have observed that it is violative of Article 14 and Article 21, as SPOs are expect to perform all the duties of police officers or members of regular force while making them more vulnerable and are paid only an “honorarium”, temporary appointment raises serious concerns and arming tribals invite more retaliation from the Maoist and making them as sitting ducks. Moreover, the Apex Court directed the govt. to cease and desist from using SPOs in any manner or form in any activities, directly or indirectly, aimed at controlling, countering, mitigating, otherwise, eliminating Maoist / Naxalite activities in the Chhattisgarh, further directing the govt. to recall all fire arms issued to the SPOs whether current or former. Also, the court, directing the Govt. of Chhattisgarh to take all appropriate measures to prevent the operations of “*Salwa Judam*” and Koya Commandos. Finally, the judgement has struck down the recruitment of the civilians as SPOs under the Chhattisgarh Police Act on different grounds that and has disapproved recruitment of the people in “*Salwa Judam*” that it is an exploitation of the youth who are underpaid and used as cannon fodders and distribution of guns amongst illiterate youth, amongst the poor to control the disaffection in such segments of the population would tantamount to sowing of suicide pills.

Jammu and Kashmir has the highest number of SPOs. As per the figures available there are 30,000 SPOs recruited by the state besides over 4,000 VDC members like “*Salwa Judam*” or Koya Commandos. The VDC recruitment comprised of members of minority communities, that too from the Jammu province, to counter-militancy under the similar circumstances. These civilian vigilante groups have not only created wedge between the two communities in Jammu but these groups have perpetrated all sorts of excesses on the name of countering militancy. They are involved in large-scale extortions, killing of non-combatants and harassment. The criminalization and lumpenization of these elements have caused more grievous concerns than the SPOs or the “*Salwa Judam*” groups in Chhattisgarh. At least, in the case of Chhattisgarh some respectable people have taken up the matter to the Highest Court of the country.

One can understand why Indian civil society groups have not taken up the similar issue of J&K state, where it has been pioneered to the Supreme Court of India and has succeeded in getting the favourable order from the Apex court of India, which has given reason behind the violence. In the backdrop of this judgement, the statement made by Chief Minister of J&K that “this judgement is not applicable to the state of J&K” is interesting. Whether civil society or judicial activism in India, there have always been selective approach to the Kashmir related matters. We appreciate both Indian civil society groups for its activism and the Supreme Court for laying down very powerful reasoning behind the exploitative practice of the government.

Herein, we want to register our concern that whether the Supreme Court of India, which is the one of the most powerful judiciary in the world in any practicing democracy and have powers of judicial review, could have similarly taken same reasons and the moral position in the similar Kashmir related matters. Keeping in view the past conduct or record, both civil society in India and Judiciary have not shown courage to take a strong moral position on Kashmir related issues. We have bitter experiences of Massoda Parveena’s case or Maqbool Bhat’s case filed before the Apex Court. The courts have not shown grace in these issues, thereby, further confounding the view that Kashmir is “**different or special**” and as classical quote of founder of modern India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru goes “*that morality can wait as far Kashmir is concerned*”. Contrary to Chhattisgarh, the exploitation of the people in this state where crimes against humanity is a day to day affair and the Indian mainstream media and even civil society has provided moral impunity to the forces and this grave situation is continuing for more than 20 years and still there is no light at the end of the tunnel. So this judgement has raised two facts that Kashmir is different both for the govt. institutions and civil society of India. Second that the remedies lies elsewhere by externalizing the issues, which will exposes the contradictions of state and civil society of India. It is our problem, and we have to endeavour to find out the solutions. We sympathize with the leading civil society actors of India who are doing commendable job while highlighting the issues of downtrodden people, but feel awful when they express their concern about people of Kashmir during their visits here or in seminars in Gandhi Peace Foundation, Indian International Centre or in Habitat Centre.

YOUTH TORTURED IN CUSTODY DIES

Twenty-year-old, Nazim Rashid Shalla, a shopkeeper, son Abdul Rashid of Nageen Bagh-B, Alamdhar Mohalla, Krankshivan, Sopore, district Baramulla was allegedly tortured to death in Special Operations Group (SOG) custody on July 31. Nazim was arrested from his shop by a joint group of SOG and army personnel a day before his killing.

The killing enraged entire Sopore residents. It took no-time for people to get assembled to protest the alleged custodial killing. The demonstrators raised anti-police and pro-freedom slogans and demanded the guilty SOG men be punished. The protesters also made a demand for transferring of SHO P/S Sopore Gazanfar alias Chul Bul Pandey, who according to locals "is on terror spree".

A killing case was registered in police station Sopore vide FIR No. 202/2011 US 302 RPC against the three SOG cops identified as, Head Constable Janak Raj (Belt No. 708/AP 7th), two-selection grade Constables Nisar Ahmad (203/Sopore) and Mohammad Abass (243/Sopore). The government ordered an enquiry and appointed DC Baramulla to enquire into the custodial killing.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited the Krankshivan area of Sopore to document the incident and talked to victim's father.

Nazim's father Abdul Rashid Shalla, a retired police inspector stated, "On July 30 at about 2:30 pm a joint party of SOG and army came to my son's shop, situated just outside my house. The army people headed by a Major were from Industrial Estate Camp, Sopore. The army Major had told my son to accompany them but my son told them that he would inform me. Nazim came inside and told me that army and SOG wants him to accompany them for some questioning. I went out and asked army Major what for he needs Nazim. He replied that he has to talk to my son for sometime and promised his release shortly. The Major also assured me not to worry about Nazim, as he would drop him back at his shop. I then told my son to go with them."

Shalla further said, "Two hours later, I received a phone call from the same army Major. He told me that he talked to Nazim and found him innocent. He further said that SOG Sopore took him for further questioning and he is in touch with them and would get my son released soon. Then again at about 8 pm I received a call from SOG Sopore. They told me to talk to Nazim. When he was given phone, he told me to get all the Lapoo SIM Cards and cell phones from his shop to the SOG camp at town hall Sopore. While talking to me the SOG personnel snatched phone from him and told me that if I want my son alive, I must get all the phones to their camp. I collected all the recharging cell phones from the shop and rushed to the SOG camp. On reaching there, the SOG personnel did not allow me to

FATHER OF THREE MINOR DAUGHTER SHOT DEAD

On July 24, unidentified gunmen shot dead Mohsin Ahmad Wani, 27, son of Manzoor Ahmad Wani of Jalal Abaad at Kralteeng Sopore. The deceased, a scrap dealer, was outside his rented house when he was fired and killed by the gunmen.

According to the victim family, Mohsin was neither a militant nor a police informer. They attributed his

enter. They snatched cell phones from me at the gate and ordered me to return back home. It was late hours nobody was there I returned home. Then at about 9:30 pm I received another phone call from them. They handed over phone to Nazim. In stumbling voice Nazim told me 'Daddy please get some medicine for me, I have a severe pain as they people tortured me badly'. After he said this, the SOG personnel snatched phone from him and dropped the call. I tried to call back but the phone was switched off. Then I again ran to the SOG camp at about 10pm. After lot of efforts I managed to enter into the town hall camp. As soon as I entered inside, I found my son down on the floor in the DSP's official Chamber, which is straight to main gate. Few SOG personnel were beating him and he was almost in unconscious state. When the SOG cops saw me they stopped beating him for a while and threw me out of the camp. I beseeched a lot for his release but they turned a deaf ear to my pleas. I then went back to home."

Rashid further said, "Next day morning, I approached office of Superintendent Police (SP) Sopore for my son's release. Neither SP nor any other official was there. The cops told me to wait for the officers. While I was waiting I received a phone call from a journalist who told me that Nazim has died in SOG custody and his body is lying in Sub-district hospital Sopore. This was shocking for me. I rushed to the hospital where I found his dead body. A team of medical experts in front of Sub-district Magistrate Baramulla conducted his autopsy and recorded video evidence of his torture marks. There were visible torture marks all over his body and none of his body parts was left un-tortured. It is dreadful when I saw small holes into his body. It seemed that they had injected hot iron sticks into his body parts. He was brutally tortured."

According to Abdul Rashid the government ordered an enquiry into the matter and constituted a special investigation team (SIT) headed by DSP Rasik to investigate the custodial death of his son. But Rashid does not believe that there will be any fair play in the investigation because the administration has not attached the guilty army officer who actually picked up his son from his shop and assured his release.

"So far police has not produced Challan before Chief Judicial Magistrate Sopore on the pretext that the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) yet to submit its report.

Police said that they have arrested the three accused cops who have been sent to the central jail Srinagar and the investigation is under process. Police also stated that Nazim was arrested concerning the investigation into the killing of Mohammad Ashraf of MET Road, who was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen few days before Nazim's arrest.

killing to his participation in mass protests 2010 and his inclination towards pro-freedom Tehrik-e-Huriyat party.

However, police station Sopore registered an FIR and assured family of investigation into Mohsin's killing. The family has no hope on the police assurance, as according to them police has never investigated killings of this nature from last many years.

A researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited the native village of the deceased and talked to his family members about his killing.

Mohsin's mother Hajra stated, "On the fateful evening of July 24 at about 7:45 pm Mohsin had brought ice-cream for his three daughters. After serving it to them he went out for a stroll. He was resting on the Kralteung Bund busy talking with some of his neighborhood friends. In the meantime, four unidentified masked gunmen appeared on the road. The gunmen forced the youth to run away while Mohsin was held. The youth who were talking to Mohsin can't do anything and fled for their safety. The gunmen first snatched Mohsin's cell phone and then enquired about something from him. He had beseeched for his release and had pleaded innocence. Turning a deaf ear to his pleas, the gunmen had fired three bullets in the right side of his chest, one in his right arm and one in his right ankle. The bullets had pierced through his chest leaving a grave wound."

Hajra lamented, "Some locals had witnessed the merciless murder of my son. After receiving bullets he fell flat on the ground with blood oozing out of his wounds. His body was carried by locals to the sub-district hospital Sopore where doctors declared him brought dead. In fact he had died on the spot."

Mohsin has three minor daughters who had no idea what had happened to their father. They keep asking for their father and the family is struggling how to dawn upon them the harsh reality. "Why don't the gunmen at least show some sympathy towards his daughters? What

JKCCS WELCOMES SUPREME COURT ORDER FOR DISBANDING SPOS

On July 8, Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), welcomes the recent judgment delivered by the Supreme Court of India in which it has struck down as 'unconstitutional' the practice of arming local tribal youth of Chattisgarh as Special Police Officers (SPOs) in order to fight the Maoists. It has asked the Chhattisgarh state government to:

- Immediately stop using SPOs,
- Recall all firearms distributed to them,
- Desist from funding the recruitment of any other vigilante groups,
- Ensure the filing of FIRs into criminal activities committed by them, and
- Offer protection to those who need

The recent Supreme Court judgment is a clear guidance, binding all the states in India for not using the unconstitutional methods for dealing with political or armed dissent.

Chief Minister, Mr. Omar Abdullah while responding to the Supreme Court judgment on Special Police Officers (SPOs) in Naxal-hit areas said that the judgment is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir as the SPOs in the state were part of the regular police force. Mr. Abdullah has conveniently chosen to forget the genesis of these forces.

The judgment is more relevant to the Jammu and Kashmir state where the idea of privatization of human rights violations was conceptualized and crystallized. In

crime they had done, did they deserve orphanhood at this tender age? There is no effort from the police to reach to the culprits. Police did not even bother to visit the spot of incident," Hajra questioned.

According to the locals, police did not even visit the place of incident. They had visited the hospital where they completed some formalities and except did nothing. The locals were wary about the role of police, as why did not they visit Kralteung area in order to collect the details from the eyewitnesses. However, police registered a case regarding the killing but no investigation was conducted.

"We know that he was not killed by militant because soon after his killing United Jihad Council and all pro-freedom groups condemned his killing. We perceive that his photograph published in the book "Wullar Ke Kinaray" by Syed Ali Shah Geelani became the cause of his killing. In the said photograph my son has handled the mike during a public address to Syed Ali Shah Geelani at Sopore. He was a great fan of Geelani and due to this reason some paid agents might have killed him", revealed Hajra.

She mourned, "I fail to understand why police did not take any action concerning the killing of my son. Mohsin's elder daughter Hadika, 5, is continuously sick and depressed after her father's killing. Nobody from administration took any step for justice to my son's family. How would my daughter-in-law Abida sustain in future? My son was a sole bread earner in the family. Who will now earn for these orphan girls."

early 90's the government used the services of known human rights violators or people with the history of violence. Massive human rights abuses have taken place at the hands of counter insurgent groups like Ikhwan ul Muslimoon, Muslim Mujahideen, and the Village Defence Committees who were later integrated or accommodated in regular forces like Territorial Army and the Special Police Officers. It is no secret for people of Jammu and Kashmir that persons with criminal past and present have been recruited consciously for the posts of SPOs.

The Chief Minister's statement tantamounts to questioning the article 141 of the Indian constitution, which makes binding the Supreme Court judgments on all the states.

JKCCS urges the government of Jammu and Kashmir to implement this Supreme Court order and disband all the armed groups patronized by the state. SPOs, VDCs, Territorial Army units, other small groups and individuals who have let loose a reign of terror in the state and are responsible for heinous crimes should be immediately disbanded; all their firearms recalled; and the government should ensure that FIRs are filled into criminal activities committed by these persons.

If the state fails to implement the *arbiter dicta* of the judgment, JKCCS will file the writ application in the court for the implementation of the Supreme Court judgment in Jammu and Kashmir.

ADPD RELEASED REPORT ON HALF WIDOW, HALF WIFE?

On July 28, The Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) released report *"Half Widow, Half Wife? Responding to Gendered Violence in Kashmir."* It examines the situation of women in Indian-administered Kashmir whose husbands have 'disappeared,' but not yet been declared deceased. Members of APDP who are themselves 'half widows' released this report at SK Municipal Park, Srinagar during a monthly sit-in.

"I suppose I have this determination and fearlessness because of anger. My husband was a civilian and even though I keep going to court, it seems like an environment exists where this just goes on. We hope this report will be able to tell our story," one APDP member and half widow said in explaining the importance of this report.

The report draws on the experiences of half widows to capture an often unseen and pernicious face of insecurity in Kashmir. It identifies how this population provides an immediate opportunity for meaningful engagement. It finally makes recommendations to law and policy makers as well as to local, national, and international actors for concrete steps to ameliorate the lives of half widows and the people of Kashmir.

With a commitment to capturing the voices and agency of the women themselves, the 48-page report provides a gender analysis of situation of 'half widows' as well as of the larger security situation in Kashmir. It explains that "besides violence inflicted directly on women's bodies, women also bear the ramifications of the general—typically male on male—violence in the Valley. Such effects on women also constitute gendered violence. Although the direct violence is disproportionately inflicted on males because they are perceived or imagined as threatening, females suffer indirectly, as reflected in the experiences of half widows."

The report makes several key findings about the population of half widows, based on extensive individual and group interviews as well as data from APDP surveys and archives. There are, at a minimum, 1,500 half widows in Jammu and Kashmir. As wives of men disappeared, half widows face various economic, social, and emotional insecurities. These various insecurities are compounded rather than addressed by the legal and administrative remedies currently available to half widows. Further, children of half widows are often particularly traumatized, showing extreme resentment and loneliness, and are vulnerable to impoverishment and exploitation. While most

ARMY MEN 'ABDUCT, RAPE' KULGAM WOMAN

POLICE CONSTITUTES SIT; MOS HOME SAYS GUILTY WILL BE PUNISHED

On July 21, a young woman came up with an allegation that two army men of "abduction and rape" in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Police has registered a case, formed SIT to investigate the case while MoS Home Nasir Aslam Wani has assured that guilty persons will be punished. Two days of shutdown and protests against the alleged incident was observed. The case took an interesting turn, when the husband and mother-in-law of Ruqaya claimed before police that she suffered from mental illness and was at her home on the day she claimed she was sexually abused.

Official sources said a young woman (name withheld) hailing from Gujjardara-Manzgam in Kulgam district alleged that she was abducted by some army

half widows show immense strength and resilience—acting as the sole breadwinners for their families and overcoming massive trauma—they continue to be deprived of the assistance and justice they deserve.

The report makes immediate and short term recommendations for law and policy changes to address the various forms of gendered violence—direct violence against women and indirect violence due to violence against men in their community—in order to bring lasting security to Kashmir.

In the immediate-term (1 year), it asks the government to create a streamlined system for compensation for half widows; convene a special bench of the High Court to expedite their cases; and immediately pass special legislation on enforced disappearances, keeping with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, which the Indian government has signed and must ratify.

In the short-term (2-3 yrs.), it demands that security laws that provide legal immunity to the armed forces must be amended and disappearances cases in general must be resolved and families told the whereabouts of their loved ones, dead or alive.

It also strongly recommends that civil society—local, Indian, and international—recognize the issues faced by half widows and advocate the government for meaningful change as well as itself fund initiatives such as health care programs and income-generating projects that take a rights-based approach to directly aid half widows and their children.

This report illustrates how the vulnerable population of half widows stands as a constant reminder—for not only their children and communities but for Kashmiris in general—of unresolved investigations, unattended needs, and continued suffering. As displayed by the summers of 2008, 2009, and 2010, unaddressed needs and lack of space for civil society can result in vicious cycles of violence. The report asserts that the population of half widows provides an immediate and meaningful opportunity for positive change and engagement in Indian-administered Kashmir. The Indian government, the Jammu and Kashmir government, and local, Indian, and international civil society must not squander this opportunity for change. Half widows and their children demand and deserve immediate action.

personnel from Kheranbal Behak on July 19 and gang-raped. She said that she was released on the night of July 21 by the army men.

Reports said that huge contingents of police and para-military CRPF men were deployed at Manzgam to put restrictions on the movement of the people.

The woman, according to her family members, left her residence on July 19 early morning for ablution. "However, she did not return. After three days, the woman returned and alleged that she was abducted and gang raped by army men," they said.

Police has registered FIR No 66/2011 under section 376 at Police Station Damhaal Hanjipora.

After coming to know about the incident, senior police officers rushed to the concerned police station in Kulgam and recorded her statement.

DIG South Kashmir Range, Shafqat Watali said the woman recorded her statement before police and alleged that she was raped by two Army men. "We have recorded her statement and her medical examination will be conducted," he said.

He said case of rape and abduction has been filed in the concerned police station.

DIG said they have also talked to General Officer

three days do not allow any outsider to visit the victims' family," reports said.

A cameraman of a local daily said he was forced to return by the policemen deployed outside the house of the woman. "Amid restrictions I somehow managed to reach Gojardar, the native village of the woman to take photographs of the victim and her family but the policemen deployed outside their house did not allow me to get in," he said.

He added that the cops deployed there told him that they have strict directions from the top not to allow any

- At about 1 pm, Rukaya accompanied by her brother-in-law reported that on July 19 (Tuesday), at about 7 in the evening, when she was returning from a nearby spring to her home, two persons in security force uniform appeared in her way. Both were carrying weapons and forced her to accompany them to Jungle. The duo kept her in a dhok and raped her. They were talking to her in Gojri and left her this morning. She reached her home and informed her brother in law-Shah Wali Bhat about the whole incident.
- The statement of the family members of Ruqaya, 32, are contrary to her claim that she was picked up by two men in uniform on July 19 and allegedly gangraped for two days before being let off on July 21.
- Amina Bi, mother-in-law of the alleged victim, said her daughter-in-law went missing on the morning of July 20 and not evening of July 19.

Commanding Victor Force and he assured full cooperation from Army's side in the probe. Reports said a team of senior army officials was deputed by GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen S A Hasnian to the area to ascertain the facts.

A police spokesman in a statement issued in the evening said, "At about 1 pm, Rukaya accompanied by her brother-in-law reported that on July 19 (Tuesday), at about 7 in the evening, when she was returning from a nearby spring to her home, two persons in security force uniform appeared in her way. Both were carrying weapons and forced her to accompany them to Jungle. The duo kept her in a dhok and raped her. They were talking to her in Gojri and left her this morning. She reached her home and informed her brother in law-Shah Wali Bhat about the whole incident".

He said Police Station Damhal Hanjipora have registered a case. "A Special Investigation Team has been formed to investigate the matter," he said.

The residents accused the authorities of caging them for demanding justice. "The authorities are muzzling the voices of the people for justice with the military might. It is the total anarchy," said another resident of Manzgam, Khursheed Ahmad. Meanwhile, sources said that the police have registered cases against more than a dozen youth of the area for allegedly taking part in the violent protests and torching the official vehicle of the local Tehsildar. "After registering the cases police during the nocturnal raids picked up at least six youth but released them only hours after being picked up," sources said.

On July 24, house Ruqaya has been put under siege by the authorities to prevent the media persons from talking to the victim and her family members.

Reports said that a large number of policemen have been deployed in Gujardar, the habitation where the victim is hailing from.

"The policemen deployed not only around the house of the victim but also in the entire locality for last

outsider particularly mediemen to enter the house of the woman.

July 24, the parade of army personnel to identify the alleged accused who raped and abducted a woman in south Kashmir was postponed, even as Marxist leader Brinda Karat demanded suspension of a policeman for releasing a video of the victim while she was giving her statement. "The identification parade of army personnel deployed in (Manzgam area) would be held at the appropriate time. The investigations are still in the preliminary stage," a police officer told IANS news agency. He said a special investigation team (SIT) of police formed to probe the incident had collected circumstantial evidence from the spot where the 30-year-old married tribal woman was allegedly raped by two army personnel.

"Vaginal swabs and other necessary samples of the victim have been sent for forensic examination and we are expecting the report July 25," the officer added.

Police sources say that senior army officials had been requested to ensure that none of their personnel -- on counter insurgency duties in the area -- leave before participating in the identification parade. Senior police officers refused to confirm media reports that say the victim's husband and mother-in-law had told the probe team that she was suffering from mental illness and had been on treatment.

The officers also did not confirm the report that the family had told the investigators that victim had not been missing from home for two days. The victim has alleged that she was abducted for two days.

While the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated on July 24 that "a lot of progress" has been made in the investigations into an alleged rape of a woman in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

"I don't make running commentary on investigations. We have made progress (in probe) to large extent. Once the investigation will be over, you will be

briefed," Omar told reporters after inaugurating Gurez Festival at Dawar, Gurez.

Without naming anyone, Omar said some mainstream leaders are trying to provoke people.

"On first day people assembled there (in Manzgam) but nobody pelted stones or torched a vehicle. When they visited next day, they tried to deteriorate the situation," he said, without naming who "they" were.

On July 28, The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has detained a man on charges of instigating a woman to put the blame on Army.

A senior police official said a man identified as Ghulam Hassan was detained on July 27 after it emerged that he had instigated 32-year-old Ruqaya Bano to blame the Army.

"We are trying to ascertain the motives of the man for instigating the woman but so far there is nothing to

MOLESTATION

➤ POLICEMAN MOLESTS GIRL

Jul 11: A policeman allegedly molested a girl today at Hayan Kangan in Ganderbal district.

According to locals, an eighth class girl was molested by her neighbour, Zahoor Ahmad Rather son of Abdul Rashid Rather. The accused was recently recruited in police and is currently under training at Police Training School (PTS) Manigam Ganderbal.

"The girl was all alone in her house when Zahoor barged in, trying to molest her," Abdul Gafar, a local resident, said.

"She raised hue and cry, attracting attention of the neighbours who intervened on time," he said, adding that the accused managed to escape.

The locality has demanded punishment to the accused.

"We want that he shall be arrested and given stern punishment," a local panch said.

Police has registered a case, FIR No. 92/2011 under section 366, 511 RPC.

➤ MOLESTATION ATTEMPT TRIGGERS PROTEST

3 LOCALS INJURED; CASE REGISTERED AGAINST CRPF

July 13: Three persons were injured, one of them seriously when CRPF personnel resorted to cane-charging on local tent owners, who were protesting alleged attempt to molest some women pilgrims outside the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir, official sources said.

Police has registered a case against the CRPF personnel.

"At around 11.00 pm some CRPF personnel started making rounds of a tent where a group of women pilgrims were putting up. They then started hurling lewd remarks towards the women and tried to force their entry inside the tent. The women pilgrims, however, raised an alarm at which the owners of the tent rushed to the spot and objected to the CRPF behaviour," eyewitnesses said.

They said that later the other tent owners also rushed to the spot and entered into an altercation with the CRPF personnel.

"As the tent owners started protesting against the alleged attempt to molest the women pilgrims by the forces

suggest that he might be linked to any separatist outfit," the officer said on condition of anonymity.

"On the day she had disappeared, she had quarreled with her husband and left home. After wandering overnight, she met Ghulam Hassan while on her way back to home who asked her to blame army," the officer said.

The rape controversy had taken a new turn when the husband and mother-in-law of Ruqaya claimed before police that she suffered from mental illness and was at her home on the day she claimed she was sexually abused.

The statement of the family members of Ruqaya, 32, are contrary to her claim that she was picked up by two men in uniform on July 19 and allegedly gangraped for two days before being let off on July 21.

In her statement to the SIT, Amina Bi, mother-in-law of the alleged victim, said her daughter-in-law went missing on the morning of July 20 and not evening of July 19.

personnel, the CRPF men resorted to intense baton-charge injuring three tent owners," eyewitnesses said.

One of the injured identified as Zahid Haji S/O Late Asadullah Haji, aged 26 of Aishmuqam whose condition is stated to be critical was airlifted in a chopper to SKIMS, Srinagar for treatment.

The other injured were identified as Gulzar Ahmad and Farooq Ahmad, both from Aayinoo, Aishmuqam.

The tent owners alleged that the troopers pounced on them and thrashed them ruthlessly with batons and gun-butts when they objected to their raunchy behaviour.

The tent-owners complained that if such despicable incidents keep on happening and if the guilty are not punished the tourists will think twice before visiting this place.

When contacted, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Anantnag, Ramesh Kumar Jalla said,

"We have received a complaint from the women pilgrims that while they were putting up in the tented accommodation near the cave shrine, some CRPF men misbehaved with them." He said the CRPF men later entered into altercation with some locals, who had objected to their behaviour resulting into minor injuries to few.

He said that a case has been registered against the CRPF men and the investigations have been taken up.

Chief Executive Officer of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) R K Goyal while confirming the incident said senior officials have rushed to the spot to investigate the matter.

"We are aware of the allegations and these are being investigated," Goyal said.

Meanwhile, Public Relations Officer, Prabhakar Tripathi said, "A group of pilgrims approached a CRPF inspector and informed him that tent owners were misbehaving with them. The inspector approached a local police picket and apprised them about the matter. Police and CRPF men reached the spot following which locals staged a protest. CRPF men resorted to mild cane charge to disperse the mob in which three person sustained injuries."

The PRO denied that CRPF men had molested any woman pilgrim

➤ ARMY MAN ARRESTED FOR MOLESTATION BID

PROTESTS IN PATTAN; POLICE REGISTERS FIR

July 25: Just days after a Kulgam woman claimed of being abducted and raped by two Army personnel, a girl from North Kashmir's Baramulla district Monday alleged molestation attempt by an army man.

According to the girl student (name withheld) of Yatipora village in Pattan area of Baramulla district, she was on her way to school (Govt High School, Wanigam) at around 9:30 a.m. when an Army man followed her and caught her by neck near Wangiam village. "He caught me by my neck and tried to push me down. However, fortunately a passenger vehicle came by and all the passengers came rushing down and saved me from his clutches," the girl told media persons.

She said the trooper was from a nearby camp. "The passengers gave the army man a sound beating, but then his colleagues from the camp came out and tried to chase away the passengers."

Identified as Desmukh, the accused trooper was later on detained by police and taken for questioning to Sub-Divisional Police Office (SDPO).

Based on the statement of the girl student, police lodged an FIR No. 61 of 2011. "The Army man has been arrested and he is still in police custody and an FIR under Section 341 (wrongful restraint) and 354 (molestation) of RPC has been registered," Superintendent of Police (Baramulla), Haseeb Mughal told media.

According to a statement issued by police, the accused trooper actually belongs to 2RR and is presently undergoing Battle Field Nursing Assistant Course at 319-Field Hospital Wanigam.

Meanwhile, the incident triggered protests in the area as hundreds of men, women and school children came on roads demanding action against the Army personal.

"There was some protest by the locals at Wanigam and even at Haiderbaigh, Pattan. The highway was blocked by the protestors for 10-15 minutes. On the assurance of senior Police officers, the crowd was pacified and traffic was restored," police spokesman said.

"Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Bashir Ahmed Bhat and District SP Baramulla visited the spot and Wanigam village and assured people of strict legal action against the culprit."

The investigation has been taken up and statement of girl and few other witnesses have been recorded.

"The girl was taken to Judicial Magistrate (Sub-Judge) Pattan and her statement under Section 164 CrPC was recorded. The accused has been legally arrested and is under Police custody," the spokesman said.

"GOC Kilo Force, DIG NKR, DC Baramulla, SP Baramulla, Off Commander 10 sector RR, CO 29RR, CO 2RR and some residents of the area held a meeting at SDPO Office Pattan and decided that besides legal action, departmental

action would also be taken against the accused by the Army within the shortest possible time frame."

The incident has evoked anger among the locals. "Such incidents will develop fear psychosis among girl students in the area who have to walk a good distance through fields and orchards to reach the school. Stern action should be taken against the army man," a local resident told media.

On July 28, a local court transferred the case of alleged molestation attempt by a soldier in north Kashmir to the army court for court - martial.

Police produced a challan in the court of Judicial Magistrate (sub-judge) Pattan against a soldier in the molestation case. Following which Army filed a petition stating that the case should be transferred to the Army court for the court-martial.

"The challan sheet is delivered to Commanding Officer of 2RR along with the accused sepoy Deshmukh for trial in the court - martial, with the directions that the result of the proceedings be communicated to this court," sub-judge Pattan, Mehmood Ahmad Chaudary ordered.

The Court had recorded the statement of the girl student under section 164RPC. The victim had alleged that she was intercepted by a soldier 2RR, presently under going battle field nursing assisting training at 319-field hospital Wanigam Pattan on July 25, when she was on way to her school and tried to allegedly molest her.

"The investigation by the Army Court of Inquiry into the incident of alleged molestation has been completed. On July 28 Police after due investigation filed the challan in the Hon'ble Court. The Judicial Magistrate, Pattan reposing full faith in Army's legal system and institution of justice, fair play and transparency, handed over the case to Army under the provisions of section 549 of RPC and Army Act Section 125, for further trial. The Army on its part is committed to speedy justice and action against the accused, if found guilty," Army's Srinagar based spokesman said in a statement.

➤ **PSO DETAINED FOR OBSCENE REMARKS**

July 26: A Personal Security Officer (PSO) of a senior minister was arrested by the police after he was found passing obscene remarks on a girl.

Police sources said the PSO was detained after the cops found him passing obscene remarks on a girl at botanical garden Cheshmashahi. The PSO was identified as Kuldeep Raj of IRP 4 battalion. He belongs to Akhnoor area of Jammu.

The accused happens to be a PSO of deputy chief minister Tara Chand.

The girl was from south Kashmir's Tral area.

Police has filed an FIR under section 294 CRPC at Nishat police station and started investigations. The accused was later released on bail.

EXPLOSIONS

➤ **SOUTH KASHMIR EXPLOSION KILLS 2**

On July 10, two boys died and a youth was injured when a grenade exploded at Rathsuna village Tral in Pulwama district, locals said. The locals alleged that the grenade was spotted and picked up by the boys, mistook it as a toy, at Mominabad Ratusna, where two militants were killed by troopers in an encounter. However, police on claimed that

the grenade was given to one of the boys by an unidentified person.

"On July 10, Adil Yusuf, 19, and Obaid Yusuf, 9, picked up a round shaped object near Mominabad Ratusna, where two militants were killed in a gunfight with forces last month. They started fiddling with the object and it went off

killing both the boys on the spot. A pedestrian Mehrajuddin also sustained injuries," locals said.

They said blast created panic in the entire area following which huge contingents of police and army reached the spot and cordoned off the village. "It seems police and army had not sensitized the site after the gunfight," they alleged.

On July 13, police claimed that the investigation carried out into death of two boys has found that the blast was caused by a Chinese grenade.

"The grenade was handed over to Obaid in a nearby field by some unknown person. During the investigation, it has come to fore that at that time, Obaid was alone at his residence and received two guests Adil Yousuf Teli and Mehrajdin son of Abdul Gani both residents of Rutsuna," a police spokesman said.

He said it was Adil, who had sent Obaid to collect some item from the near-by field.

➤ **TWO PERSONS DIES WHILE FIDDLING AN EXPLOSIVE**

July 22: Two persons identified as Ashfaq Ahmad Khan, 21 years, and Babar Khan, 20 years, both residents of Markote-Dangiwach, died while fiddling with an explosive object in the forest area of Behak Nardargi falling under the jurisdiction of police station Dangiwach, Sopore, police said. The incident happened this afternoon. Police said no encounter has taken place at the place of the incident earlier. Police has registered a case and further investigations are on.

➤ **LITTERED SHELL INJURES 6 IN PULWAMA**

July 13: Six civilians were wounded when a shell went off while locals were clearing the rubble of a house damaged in a gun-battle in Rajpora area of Pulwama district of South Kashmir.

A police official told media that six civilians were injured when locals were clearing the rubble of a damaged house in Bon Hajan area of Rajpura where two militants were killed and an Army officer injured in a gunfight.

UNEXPLODED SHELLS

SOP ON CARDS TO PREVENT CASUALTIES

July 20: Minister of State for Home Nasir Aslam Wani convened a high-level meeting to discuss drafting and updating of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to avoid loss of life in the explosion of undetected IEDs due to non-clearance of debris at encounter sites.

Principal Secretary, Home, B. R. Sharma, Director General of Police, Kuldeep Khoda, Special DGP CRPF, ADG BSF and GoC, Victor Force, attended the meeting.

"The meeting discussed measures to be taken to rule out possibility of loss of life and injury to human life as

POLICE HAS EVIDENCE OF SOPORE GIRL'S MILITANT LINKS: DGP

July 20: DGP Kuldip Khoda claimed police has "concrete evidences" against the Sopore girl for her involvement in militancy related activities.

Quratul-Ain of Jalalabad, Sopore, whose marriage was scheduled to be held on July 24, was arrested by police on July 10 for her alleged involvement in IED blast in the apple town.

"The court extended her police remand yesterday after police produced some concrete evidences of her involvement in militancy related incidents. Investigations

"According to Mehrajdin (the only witness), Obaid after collecting the said item was holding it firmly in his right hand. Mehrajdin further disclosed that it was a small item, with a small ring suspending. As Obaid approached the main door of the house, Adil went nearer to him. The duo stood together for few minutes and were pulling something. During this process, an explosion took place, causing death of Obaid and Adil and injuries to Mehrajdin," he said.

He further said on the basis of investigation, circumstances and the splinters found on Mehrajdin's body, it was prima facie established that the duo died due to an explosion of Chinese grenade.

"Such type of grenades are only available with the militant outfits and have been recovered from them and from many encounter sites in the past," added the police spokesman.

"As some persons were unloading the debris from a tipper nearby, an explosive device went off injuring them as well as some pedestrians," he said. All the injured were rushed to hospital for treatment. "We had already sanitized the house few days back and had told the locals to keep away from the encounter site till we sanitize it again," Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama, Amit Kumar, told media.

The injured were identified as Farooq Ahmad Hajam son of Muhammad Akbar resident of Muran Pulwama; Asif Ganaie son of Muhammad Abdullah, Muzamil Mir son of Abdul Majeed, Bilal Ahmad Dar son of Muhammad Shaban, Faizan Ahmed Mir son of Ghulam Muhammad and Amir Hassan Wagay son of Abdul Gani, residents of Hanjan Rajpora.

"Four of them were referred to Srinagar. Three of them are stable and the condition of Farooq Ahmad Hajam, who is being operated upon, is critical," doctors said.

a result of explosion of unexploded grenades and shells at the encounter site lying in the debris," the official spokesman said.

Issuing instructions for drafting of Standard Operating Procedure, the Minister asked all concerned District Magistrates and SSPs to sensitize people about not venturing into any post-encounter site unless the debris is fully cleared.

"Several other decisions to prevent loss of life and property in such incidents were also taken during the meeting," the spokesman said.

are going on and law will take its own course," Khoda told media persons on sidelines of investiture ceremony at Armed Police Complex at Zewan.

Asked if police would look into the case on humanitarian ground as the girl is scheduled to get married on July 24, he said, "I don't want to get into those details. The investigating agencies are looking into the case and collecting necessary details and evidences of her involvement in militancy activities".

Khoda said that courts and law are there to pronounce judgment into cases as justice should be delivered to everybody.

Stating that forces are doing commendable job on militancy front, he said, "After killing of five top Lashkar militants in Lolab recently, the troops are working to wipe out militancy completely from the State".

MP GOVERNMENT BLOCKADE OF KASHMIRI STUDENTS DRAWS FLAK

DISGRACEFUL, SAYS OMAR

July 1: The "vitriolic" campaign by the rightwing Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarati Parishad (ABVP) against the Kashmiri youth studying in Madhya Pradesh has triggered resentment across the board here.

A group of affected students told media that the Madhya Pradesh government has passed strict instructions to the colleges and universities to restrict the number of Kashmiri students this year. "The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has succumbed to the pressure by ABVP to keep the students from the Valley away from the government-run educational institutions in the state," the students said.

"The MP government is dissuading the educational institutions in the state from admitting Valley students fearing wrath of saffron activists. Earlier Kashmiris would get admission easily, now only few students are allowed despite seats lying vacant in the government run educational institutions. They (authorities) are saying that there are strict directions from the government to implement 80:20 ratio of students from MP and other states," said a student Nazir Ahmed (name changed) who hails from Baramulla district.

According to them, admission process in MP colleges has been made cumbersome, with verification from both the Jammu and Kashmir and MP government sought by the educational institutions for Kashmiris.

AFTER DISCRIMINATION, KASHMIRIS HARASSED BY MP POLICE

July 5: With the recent blame game between the Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government over quota of valley students in different colleges of state, the reports of harassment of Kashmir students have started to pour in.

The students studying in various colleges of MP have reported to their parents that MP police was harassing them without any provocation. The students have added that they are either called or taken to police station and were being questioned.

Abdul Rashid of south Kashmir's Pulwama district said that his son told him over the phone that MP police contingent had come to their makeshift residence in the evening two days ago. "They snatched their identity cards and ordered them to report in the nearby police station in the morning. My son along with three other classmates went to police and they were questioned there for one and a half hour," Rashid said. "I am much worried about my son and am thinking of getting my son back halfway of his completion of masters in Botany," he added.

Rashid said his son told him that the MP police was also conducting nocturnal raids at the makeshift residences of Kashmiri students. "He told me that police at times

"Our job is to restore peace and weed out militancy completely. We will continue to work in that direction," Khoda said.

He said concerted efforts are being made from across LoC to push militants into Kashmir to create disturbances.

"However, troops are on high alert and doing commendable job by preventing militants from sneaking into the State," he added.

Harassment of Kashmiri students started last year, when the Hindi media started venomous propaganda against the Kashmiri students in Bhopal.

"First the media came out with stories that students get verification by bribing the police. This was not the end and news reports like involvement of Kashmiri students studying in Bhopal in stone-pelting were also published in the local media in MP," said a student Fayaz Ahmed.

Following the malicious media onslaught, the ABVP activists staged protests in the campus of Hamidia College forcing the MP government to constitute a committee to fix the number of students for admission from MP to those from other states.

At the same time, it had announced that documents of the students from other states particularly, JK would be thoroughly scrutinized and their background would be checked by the police.

The move has triggered widespread resentment in the Valley with the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah calling it disgraceful.

"Disgraceful: Hindutva groups campaign to keep Kashmiri students out of Madhya Pradesh", Omar said in a tweet on micro-blogging website Twitter.

catches hold of Kashmiri students outside the colleges, checks their identity cards and questions them," he added.

Similar happenings have been reported by Fayaz Ahmad to his Pattan- Baramulla family. "My brother said that the police was harassing them from last some days," Adil Ahmad, brother of Fayaz said and expressed grave concern over the harassment of Kashmir students in MP. "Our government must take up the issue with the concerned government," Adil said but added that they are unable to understand the reason behind the harassment of Kashmir students. "First the MP government suggested to lower down the quota for Kashmiri students and now our boys are being harassed. We are unable to understand the situation," Adil said.

On December 23, last year, Qaiser Ahmed Dar, a Kashmiri student who had gone to MP to register himself as a Ph D student at Sagar University, was found into the custody of the Bhopal anti-terrorist squad (ATS) and was released after 9 days. He was only released after IG Kashmir intervened.

Recently, the MP government found itself embroiled in the controversy after being accused of trying to keep Kashmiri students out of higher educational institutions in the State.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed concern over discrimination against Kashmiri students in MP state government notified changes in the guidelines of admission to higher education institutions in the State.

Abdullah expressed disappointment over the issue. "Disgraceful: Hindutva groups campaign to keep Kashmiri students out of M.P," he stated on the social networking site Twitter.

2010 KILLINGS

COI EXPECTED TO SUBMIT FINAL REPORT THIS MONTH

CRPF HAS SUBMITTED RESPONSE & WE HOPE STAY WILL BE LIFTED: SECY

July 04: The Commission of Inquiry (CoI) appointed by Government to probe killing of 17 youth allegedly in police and paramilitary troopers firing between June 11 to July 19, 2010 is all set to submit its final report this month.

The two member Commission comprising Justice (Retd) Syed Bashiruddin Ahmad and member Justice (Retd) Y P Nargotra was appointed on July 27 last year after recommendations of All Party Meeting (APM) convened by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

After over a delay of eight months, the CoI has now completed its report in "all respects" as CRPF, which

had approached the High Court with a writ petition against the Commission early February this year, has now submitted its response to the panel.

"We don't have anything pending now. We are now expecting that the stay will be vacated. Earlier, the CRPF had approached the High Court demanding records and on court directions we provided records to them. Now we have even received the response from CRPF", Secretary to the Commission, Tariq Banday told media.

PASSPORT TRIBULATION

➤ DON'T LINK RELATIVES' ADVERSE REPORT TO PASSPORT REJECTION: HC

'GRANT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO 2 STUDENTS'

July 4: High Court has directed the State Government to issue passports in favour of two students who want to pursue higher studies abroad saying the grounds for rejection of travel documents should not be linked to the adverse report of their relative.

"In the event where the relative of the petitioner has got adverse report, this shall not be ground of rejection or refusal of passport in favour of the petitioner", the Court order revealed.

Pronouncing the order in case of Muhammad Zuhaib Ronga who required a passport for pursuing higher studies abroad, the Court held that the petitioner should get the passport within seven days.

"The passport officer shall take necessary steps for issuance of passport in favour of the petitioner within a week", the Court said.

Vacation Court of Justice Hakim Imtiyaz also directed the Inspector General of CID to take up the matter personally to find out the present status of police report and furnish the same to the passport officer by July, 15.

Counsel for the petitioner, Mir Shafqat argued before the Court that his petitioner was currently pursuing Master of Business Administration at Oxford University affiliated with Bangalore University and wanted to go abroad for higher studies, but was facing difficulty in getting the passport.

The counsel informed the Court that his petitioner was allegedly denied the passport on the grounds that his uncle was involved in subversive activities.

In a similar case, passport was also allegedly denied to Muhammad Manan, cousin of Zuhaib who also wanted to pursue higher studies abroad.

Manan's counsel pleaded in the Court that denying a passport to his petitioner would adversely affect his career. Pertinently, there are thousands of applicants whose passports have been put on hold by the Government agencies on the grounds that their relatives were allegedly involved in subversive activities.

➤ 30,000 PASSPORTS ISSUED IN 6-MONTHS

MILITANTS' KIN NOT DENIED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: DGP

July 5: The government has issued passports to 30,000 people in the first six months of this year, official sources said. "About 50,000 people applied for passport in the first six months of this year. Out of these, 30000 cases have already been disposed off," official sources said. They said 55000 passport cases were issued in 2010. "60000 passport cases were disposed off in 2007 and 2008," they said.

However, they said 750 cases of 2007 and 350 cases of 2008 are pending in passport office for different reasons including security clearance.

People have been complaining that although procedures for issue of passports have been eased but the relatives of militants are denied travel documents.

However, Director General Police, Kuldeep Khoda said nobody has been denied passport. "Police's job is to verify the antecedents of a person and if he/she isn't involved in any anti-national activity, government has no problem in issuing a passport to him," he said.

Denying the allegations that relatives of militants are being denied passports, he said "There are clear instructions from the government not to stop passport verification to anybody whose relative was a militant. If anybody has any grievance he/she can contact the concerned SP".

➤ ANANTNAG YOUTH DENIED PASSPORT FOR BEING BROTHER OF SURRENDERED MILITANT

July 19: Notwithstanding the claims of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah that he has directed Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to facilitate grant of passports, the authorities continue to deny the same to a youth in Anantnag town for his sin of being the brother of a surrendered militant.

Even the chief minister's personal intervention into the matter has failed to bear any fruit. A post graduate youth, Abdul Nisar Nasti of Anantnag has been running from pillar to post since 2008 to get a passport issued in his favour but the authorities continue to deny him the same only for his being the surrendered militants relative.

"In 1998 when my brother was an active militant I applied for the passport which I was issued. When the same was about to expire in March 2008 I went to Indian embassy

in Riyad to get it renewed but the officials there told me re-apply, saying that the Jammu and Kashmir passports are not renewed but re-issued," Nasti said.

He said that the officials at the Indian embassy there however gave him a proper receipt and advised him to apply for the fresh pass port under the number of the receipt. "I returned to Kashmir and re-applied for the pass port on 24 March 2008 but the authorities here refused to accept my application and other documents supposed to be submitted for the grant of passport asked me submit a fresh form," said Nasti.

In June 2009, Nasti said, he again applied for the pass port and submitted all the documents which he was supposed to besides fulfilling other formalities. "I applied the same way as asked by the authorities here but even then they are not issuing me the passport, citing the reasons that my brother was a militant," alleged Nasti.

Questioning the wisdom of the authorities, Nasti said, when my brother was an active militant in 1998, I was

4000 KP FAMILIES WILLING TO RETURN

July 4: The government has received 4000 applications from migrant Kashmiri Pandit families for their return to the Valley.

"Nearly 4000 KP families have applied to return to the Valley. Government is serious in rehabilitating migrant KP families in Kashmir and has already announced a package for their return. They would be provided all the facilities under the package if they return," said Relief Commissioner, Vinod Koul.

He said any family, who returns under the package will have to surrender 'migrant status.' "They can't be

YOUTH BOOKED UNDER PSA

STRIKE, PROTESTS IN TOWN

July 6: Protests and shutdown continued in Pampore town on the second day on Wednesday against the detention of a local youth under Public Safety Act. The family of Bilal Ahmad Sofi told media that he was running from pillar to post for past one year to get the loan for purchasing a passenger vehicle.

"He couldn't study beyond class 9 due to financial constraints. After leaving studies he was lending helping hand to his father and brother who run a small bakery shop in the town," his mother Shamima Begum said. "He went to everybody including Social Welfare Minister to get the loan and it was sanctioned last month. Before he could go to the bank to receive first installment, police arrested him," she added.

According to the family, Station House Officer Pampore last Thursday asked Bilal to visit the police station every day. "He asked the police officer what is his crime and why should he visit police station everyday. This angered the SHO and he threatened of raiding our residence to arrest him," she said.

Shamima added that she along with her son staged protests against police harassment on the day for a few minutes.

But the police harassment did not end here and Bilal was directed by the SHO to visit police station, she added.

"He went to the police station for three consecutive days and told the SHO that he cannot come on Sunday as he

issued a passport without any hindrance but now when he gave up the arms the state authorities denied me the same.

"It seems that the state authorities are not happy with the decision of my brother to give up the arms and live a happy life with his family because they started punishing me only after he gave the arms up," Nasti said.

Refuting the claims of the chief minister that relatives of the militants will be issued the passport without any hindrances. "When chief minister a couple of months ago stated that nobody will be punished for the mistakes of others and the kin of militants will be granted passports, I made an plea to the chief minister through his grievance cell. In response to my plea the CM many a times asked the top CID officials to consider my case but they did not give pay any heed to his directions," Nisar alleged.

He said that due to the denial of the passport by the state authorities, he did not only lost the job in 'Riyad' but had to surrender many big offers from many countries including the one from 'Qattar'.

entitled for both and have to surrender migrant status. After their return they will be entitled for facilities under return package," he said.

Rejecting the allegations leveled by Kashmir Migrants and Rehabilitation Welfare Society President Ashok Raina that government wasn't serious in return of KPs, Koul said, "Most of the migrant families were not serious to return. Some migrants want to come to the Valley in summer months just to avoid heat of Jammu. Those who are serious to return are welcome".

is going to Pahalgam with his friends. On Monday he again went to police station, but did not return. We grew anxious. We went to police station to seek his whereabouts but police feigned ignorance. We were shocked to know that he has been booked under PSA," Shamima said.

Bilal's elder brother Gulzar Ahmed maintains that his brother was not involved in protests this year.

"We appeal Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to look into the matter and if anything adverse is proved against my brother during 2011 then any punishment is acceptable to us. The court has granted him bail in the cases lodged against him during last year's unrest," he said.

SHUTDOWN, PROTESTS CONTINUE:

Meanwhile, complete shutdown continued in the town for second consecutive day today against slapping of PSA on Bilal.

All the shops, business establishments remained closed in Drangbal and Namblabal localities of the town.

Scores of people including Bilal's mother staged protests on the highway demanding his release.

Police said a student, Muhammad Yaseen Rather of Sonawar got injured today at Drangbal Pampore when a stone hit him.

Superintendent of Police Awantipora, Irshad Ahmed, said Bilal has been booked under PSA for creating law and order problems.

“About 10 FIRs stand registered against him from last year. He was chronic stone pelted and had also staged

J&K GOVT DENIES RELIEF TO RAPE VICTIM

July 12: Eighteen years after a deaf and mute woman from Nagrimalpora village in Kupwara was allegedly raped by Armymen and four years after the State Human Rights Commission. Srinagar

Eighteen years after a deaf and mute woman from Nagrimalpora village in Kupwara was allegedly raped by Armymen and four years after the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) asked the J&K government to give her Rs 75,000 as relief and expedite the probe in the case, the state has said that “there is no rule governing a case where a rape victim can be compensated” and that compensation can be provided only in case of death, injury or property damages “if caused by subversive activities”.

The state has directed the Home department to make “concerned security formation to pay the amount of relief awarded” to the victim.

MILITARIZATION

➤ KATHUA FARMERS DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR LAND OCCUPIED BY SECURITY FORCES

July 4: Farmers living near the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua District have demanded compensation from the state government, after border officials acquired their lands on grounds of maintaining security.

Farmers of 32 villages in the district have been facing the issue for many years.

“Farmers have not received compensation for their lands, ditches, protection walls, border outposts and border tracks. We have been urging the government to give compensation, but nothing has happened. But today, the new Deputy Inspector General of Border Security Force, Virendra Singh, has come and we are going to have a meeting with him on these issues, mainly about the farmers' land being in the fenced area. Even if farmers have to cultivate there, the land must be leveled first,” said Bharat Bhushan, one of the farmers.

Meanwhile, security forces have maintained that the land has been acquired for security purposes.

Farmers have said that they are not even allowed to enter the area, which is situated on the zero line of the border.

These areas consist of a large population of wild animals as well.

“There are some villages where farmers have cultivated their land, but during the harvesting period, sometimes the situation worsens along the border area, since the farmers are restricted to enter the area. Farmers are very depressed about this situation, since their whole land has been brought under the fenced area,” said Ajeet Kumar, General Secretary, Border Welfare Committee, Hiranagar.

Deputy Inspector General of BSF, Virendra Singh, said he had a brief interaction with the farmers on a number of issues, including the pending compensation.

Singh added that regular interactions with these farmers would be a good way to resolve their problems and added he would try his best to make life easier for them.

“Since I am new in this area, it is my duty to meet all the civil administrators. I would meet them and try to resolve the problems of the farmers. I would make all the effort in this case,” said Singh.

➤ CRPF VACATE TOWN HALL BANDIPORA

July 16: Security forces vacated the Town Hall building in Bandipora in north Kashmir town after 16 years.

As the word about the forces vacating the building spread in the area this morning there was jubilation all around. People were seen congratulating each other.

“CRPF men started dismantling the camp. I thought they are renovating it. I was surprised to find building empty this morning” said a resident Rifat Anjum.

“This camp witnessed many grenade attacks since 1996. From 2008 to 2010 it had become the target of stone-pelting,” said Anjum Nissar.

“CRPF men vacating the camp is a big relief for us. It had become an irritant in the locality,” locals alleged. “We had also informed interlocutors about this infamous camp when they visited the district a few months ago.”

They said that the building was “forcibly occupied” by the personnel of Border Security Force (BSF) in 1996. “After BSF vacated the building CRPF men occupied it. We have been running from pillar to post for

protests on highway recently,” he said.

On May 26, 1993, Armymen stationed at Keigam camp, during a search operation at Nagrimalpora, allegedly raped Shahmali. Her brother Abdul Ahad Banday filed an FIR, but after the police failed to investigate the case, he approached the SHRC in 2002.

Banday says Shahmali was 18 years old “when this gruesome incident” happened. “She can't share her grief with anybody, not even a friend. She can't speak or hear anything,” he says.

In June 2007, the SHRC found the Armymen guilty of rape and asked the state to pay compensation to the victim. But the government has now declined compensation, saying the rules don't provide for rape victims.

CM Omar Abdullah, when contacted by media, said he was unaware of any such rule. “I will find out,” he said.

many years to get this building vacated. We are happy at last authorities fulfilled our long pending demand,” they added.

Locals said that Government should also evacuate forces from other residential areas.

➤ SHIKARGARH-TRAL ROAD REOPENED AFTER 2 DECADES

July 16: After its encroachment by CRPF in 1991, the Shikargarh-Tral road in south Kashmir's Pulwama district has been reopened for the movement of people after two decades.

It was a different day on Saturday for the villagers of Shikargarh, Pinglish, Rastona, Saimoh, Haffo and Reshipora as they walked on the road again which was once a lifeline for them.

The barricades, bunkers and the rolls of concertina wire, which restricted the movement, were no more visible. The CRPF men have retreated and are confined within four walls of their camp, allowing people to walk.

The residents of several villages told media that they heaved a sigh of relief with the reopening of the route after two decades.

“We were virtually cut off as we had to walk through another lengthy road to reach the town due to closure of this link. Before '90s, it was the main link to Tehsil, Court, Hospital and government offices for more than nine villages. The walk on alternate route was cumbersome as passengers had to disembark for frisking and checking on it. The practice of checking on that route was stopped only this year,” they said.

According to them, the movement of pedestrians and traffic on the stretch was halted with its encroachment by CRPF in 1991.

“Since then this road became out of bounds for us. After remaining under CRPF for initial two years, it was encroached upon by Border Security Force up to 1996. Then it was under Army from 1996 to 2006 and then again BSF encroached it for one year,” said a resident Nazir Ahmed, adding that from 2007 till date it was under CRPF.

Sources told media that following the public pressure for reopening of the road, the police took up the matter with CRPF.

Superintendent of Police Awantipora, Irshad Ahmed, said, “Police did lot of efforts for reopening of the road after people apprised us of difficulties faced by them by its closure.”

➤ TROOPERS WITHDRAWN FROM 500 BUILDINGS: RATHER

July 21: In last two years, troopers have vacated 500 government and private buildings, Minister for Finance, Abdul Rahim Rather Thursday said as the normalcy returns more such steps will be taken.

The minister, who was speaking at a seminar entitled on ‘Skill Employability’ and said security forces have evacuated five industrial units, 388 government properties and 215 private properties under the directions and personal monitoring of the chief minister, Omar Abdullah.

Rather said the government has constituted a State level high powered committee supervised by the chief minister aiming for alternative accommodation for the troopers.

"The committee aims to get more and more private and public premises evacuated from the troopers so that normal activities of people in these areas can be quickly restored."

Rather said the core aim of the policy is overall restoration of investment environment. "Restoring Shikargah area in Tral for unrestricted movement of the people after a gap of 20 years is a welcome step," said Rather, adding that government is committed to empower the recently elected Panchs and Sarpanchs.

POLICE TO RECOMMEND AMNESTY, REHABILITATION FOR FORMER MILITANTS

'MOVE TO PREVENT THEM FROM RECYCLING, INDULGING IN SOCIAL CRIMES'

July 17: Concerned over "recycling" and alleged involvement of former militants in social crimes, Jammu and Kashmir Police have decided to recommend the Government to grant them amnesty and ensure their rehabilitation at par with other citizens of the state.

Police estimates that there are 10,000- 15000 released militants presently in Kashmir. "Their rehabilitation is necessary because we also fear they might recycle in later stages," a senior police officer, wishing anonymity, said.

Police has already formed four groups in the Valley- each headed by a DIG rank officer- to collect details and give suggestions "to bring the former militants into mainstream."

A senior police official, privy to the meetings, said the move follows "involvement" of former militants in social crimes including killing of a contractor in Lal Chowk on June 6.

"For the past many days, the discussion on the subject within top police officers is on. Some inputs have been included in the recommendations for the rehabilitation policy," the official told to media.

Two days back, a meeting was called by the police in Srinagar where the top brass presented various views like the former militants should be granted opportunity of employment in government and private sectors or trained in self-employment.

The Finance Minister further said during the period of militancy the state economy has severely affected.

"Government of J&K has formulated a policy to go for a massive Skill employability by 2025 in which at least 25 lakh youth will be engaged."

Rather said the self employment institutes, ITI's and other vocational institutions have to play an important role in Skill development.

"The meeting discussed quantum of amnesty which can be provided to former militants. Some officers were of the opinion that there should be general amnesty by dropping all the cases," an official said.

However, sources said some officers were of the opinion to screen crimes which the former militants have allegedly committed. "These officers said amnesty should be provided to militants who are not wanted in heinous crimes like murder and kidnap. Some were also of the view that militants who have been acquitted by the Court should be considered for any rehabilitation policy."

Officials said the police top brass wants that amnesty should also provide an opportunity to former militants to enjoy free movement. "Amnesty should also include that militants should not have to present themselves before local police stations and army camps," they said.

Police has already set in motion the profiling of militants to look after their economic and education status.

"These suggestions along with inputs about rehabilitation from other groups would be consolidated. Then we will recommend Government to include these vital inputs for rehabilitation" said an official.

Pertinently Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on June 27 had said that the Government will formulate a rehabilitation policy for released militants in consultation with the Union Home Ministry.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

> 'DECISION ON AFSPA SOON'

HAVE GIVEN OUR VIEWS TO GOVT: LT GEN HASNAIN

July 11: Army said security situation over the next few months will decide the outcome of the consultative process with the Jammu and Kashmir government over revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

"We have given our views to the government (on AFSPA). The consultative process is on and a sustained period of peace over the next few months will certainly be an important factor," General officer Commanding of the Army's 15 Corp Lt Gen S A Hasnain told reporters at Beerwah in central Kashmir's Budgam district, 35 km from here.

Following last year's summer unrest, two committees were set up by the state government to study the possibility of revoking the AFSPA from certain areas in the Jammu region and the Kashmir valley. The Corps Commanders of Jammu and the Valley are members of the committees formed to look into the issue.

The Army commander said there was an apprehension of a rise in infiltration by militants from across the Line of Control (LoC) over the next two months as large number of militant camps were still active on the other side. He said so far five infiltration attempts had been foiled on LoC this year and two militants were killed.

> NO INFILTRATION SINCE JAN: ARMY

'MILITANTS USING INTERNET, FACEBOOK'

July 16: Maintaining that multi-tier security setup is in place along Indo-Pak border, Army said there has been no successful infiltration attempt along Line of Control (LOC) since January this year.

"There is no successful attempt of infiltration (along LoC) on our side. None of infiltration has been successful since January this year," General Officer Commanding (GOC), 16 Corps, Lt Gen J P Nehra told reporters at the launch of a plantation drive at Nagrota, Jammu.

There were few attempts - four to five - which were foiled. They (militants) will not be successful, he said.

400 MILITANTS IN 42 CAMPS

GOC said over 400 militants are holed up in around 42 camps close to the LOC while 175 Hizb and LeT ultras are present in hinterland, with most of them being inactive.

"As per intelligence inputs, there are 42 camps, some of them are close to the Line of Control and 400-450 militants are in the camps. When and where they will attempt to infiltrate, they will be watched," Lt Gen J P Nehra said.

"The remaining militants operating in hinterland will be tracked down," he said.

Lt Gen Nehra said militants in Jammu and Kashmir have now started relying more on internet and social networking sites, besides manual communication.

"Militants are using internet, facebook in addition to manual communication, marking a change of trend. Mobile connectivity is being less used now. The reason being that mobiles are easily intercepted," he said.

> 10 PERCENT LOCAL MILITANTS HIGHLY MOTIVATED, IGP

July 17: Inspector General of Police (IGP) S M Sahai said that out of all active militants in the valley, 10 percent are locals and highly motivated.

"Though the number of active militants fluctuates, the number of local militants' active is 10 percent. They are highly motivated and did not agree to surrender," Sahai told media.

Different security agencies make different claims about the number of militants active across the valley, but a police investigation reveals that 325 militants are currently present across valley and 119 of them are active.

IGP said that the 10 percent are highly trained and they are only people who aid the foreign militants' active in valley.

"The Lolab encounter in which five militants, all Pakistanis, were killed, was significant development," Sahai said adding that in future the rest have to face the same fate. "They too will get killed," the senior police officer said.

IGP put the number of militants active in valley at around 300. "The number fluctuates. Most of them are Pakistanis," he said.

According to senior police officer Criminal Investigation Department (CID) wing of J&K has compiled the figures that shows majority of the militants are operating in north Kashmir. "Out of the total 325, there are 168 local militants and 134 foreign nationals while the identity of the rest is yet to be ascertained. A chunk of the foreign militants are associated with the Lashkar," the police officer said.

> JK GOVT TO BRING AMENDMENTS IN PSA

July 18: The Jammu and Kashmir government said it is working on a proposal to introduce amendments in the Public Safety Act (PSA), a law which is being widely criticised by human rights body. "We have a proposal in the Law department to carry out some amendments in the PSA and the Law Secretary and his secretariat is working on it," JK Law Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar told reporters in Srinagar.

> NO MINOR IN JAILS: MOH

'PEOPLE TELL US TO PLACE SEPARATISTS UNDER HOUSE ARREST'

July 20: The Minister of State for Home, Nasir Aslam Wani said no minor was in jail in the State.

"There is no truth in the reports that minors are in jails in the State. If anybody has any such information, let him/her come forward and tell us where the minor is in jail and we will take action," Wani told a local news gathering agency KNS.

He said 130 people were under detention at present. "There cases are being reviewed so that they can be released," he said.

Termining the house arrest of Hurriyat leaders on Fridays as compulsion of the government, MoS Home said, "We will not allow anybody

to disrupt peace in the Valley. We keep separatist leaders under house arrest as people ask us to do so."

Referring to infiltration, he said, "This year infiltration has come down drastically. J&K Police's role in maintaining law and order is appreciating as they have the best source network."

> OMAR PROMISES REVOCATION OF DRACONIAN LAWS DURING HIS TENURE

July 22: Promising to do away with the draconian laws during the term of the ruling coalition government, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah said that demilitarization process across the Valley has begun from Srinagar.

"All the laws, including Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) will be revoked by the end of the coalition term. The people will not have any complaints against us," Omar said, while talking to newsmen on the sidelines of a public rally in Koimoh village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

On demilitarization, he said that the process has already begun from the Capital City Srinagar.

> 4 HINDU MILITANTS KILLED IN 22 YRS OF TURMOIL: POLICE

July 31: Four militants from Hindu community have been killed during the two-decade-long militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police official said.

"So far four Hindu militant commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen - Uttam Singh alias Saifullah, Kuldeep Kumar alias Kamran, Subash Chander Shaan and Bipin Kumar - were killed in 22 years long militancy in Jammu and Kashmir," IGP of Jammu Zone Dilbagh Singh said.

He, however, rebutted claims of Hizbul Mujahideen that a large number of Hindus picked up guns due to ideological conviction.

"I did not see any ideological conviction in all these cases (Hindus boys joining militancy). I have gone through cases of 3 to 4 militants (Hindus) who have been killed. It is all absurd. Most of them forcibly picked up or were fascinated by power of gun," he said. Singh said, "If gun can fascinate Muslim boys, it can fascinate Hindu boys as well. When they lift guns, they feel empowered, and extortion and dictating people become part of their life."

He said Subash Chander Shaan alias Wasif, a deputy divisional commander of Hizbul, was killed on July 26 this year in Nawapachi belt in Kishtwar. Shaan joined militancy in 2000.

"Kuldeep Kumar, a deputy divisional commander of Hizbul, was killed in Bhaderwah belt of Doda district during an encounter on August 24, 2006. A resident of Kishtwar, Kumar was lured by power of gun in 1997 when he in Class 12," IGP said.

He said another HM commander Uttam Singh was killed in encounter in Gandoh in Doda district on August 20, 2005. "He joined militancy due to extreme poverty and love for guns," he said.

The official further said Bipin Kumar, one of the longest serving Hindu militant for HM, fell to the forces' bullets in November 2008 in Doda. "He was active since 1994 and joined militancy due to an affair with a girl," he said.

IGP said, on November 9, 2004, Hizb commander Manoj Kumar Manhas alias Ansari was one of the 47 militants who surrendered to the Army. "He was lured into militancy by another militant Baldev Singh, who is still absconding," he said.

He further said two other HM militants' couriers - Chattar Singh and Rashpal Singh - were arrested by police in Doda and Ramban districts in 2005 and 2008.

KILLINGS

DATE	TROOPERS	MILITANTS	CIVILIANS	OTHERS
July 01	-	-	-	-
July 02	-	-	-	-
July 03	-	-	-	-
July 04	-	-	-	-
July 05	-	-	-	-
July 06	1	1	-	-
July 07	-	-	-	-
July 08	-	-	-	-
July 09	-	2	-	-
July 10	-	-	2	-
July 11	-	-	-	-
July 12	-	-	-	-
July 13	1	-	-	-
July 14	-	-	-	-
July 15	1	5	-	-
July 16	-	-	-	-
July 17	-	-	-	-
July 18	-	-	-	-
July 19	-	-	-	-
July 20	-	-	-	-
July 21	-	-	-	-
July 22	-	2	2	-
July 23	-	-	-	-
July 24	-	-	1	-
July 25	-	-	-	-
July 26	-	1	-	-
July 27	1	-	-	-
July 28	-	-	1	-
July 29	-	-	-	-
July 30	-	1	-	-
July 31	3	-	1	-
IN TOTO	7	12	7	0

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

July 01: No incident of violence reported from any part of J&K state.

July 02: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 03: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 04: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 05: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 06: At least nine policemen were injured in the coordinated twin blasts triggered by militants near a police station in north Kashmir's Sopore town. In another incident army claimed it had killed a militant in Keran sector while trying to infiltrate into this side while a police inspector Shabir Ahmad, injured in a militant attack on June 29 in Bemina succumbed to his injuries.

July 07: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 08: An encounter between militants and forces started at Bon Hajin village of Rajpora in Pulwama district.

July 09: Two JeM militants were killed and an army Major of 44 RR injured in a gun battle at Hanjin village in Rajpora, Pulwama. The slain militants as Javid Nengroo alias Umair of Hajan, Rajpora, and Ehsan Bhai alias Mammu and the injured Major as Major Dixit. For residential houses were damaged in the encounter.

July 10: Two boys died and a youth was injured when a grenade exploded at Tral, Pulwama. The deceased were identified as Adil Yusuf, 19, and Obaid Yusuf, 9.

July 11: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 12: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 13: Six civilians were wounded on Wednesday when a shell went off while locals were clearing the rubble of a house damaged in a gun-battle in Rajpora area of this South Kashmir district while a constable, who was among the nine police personnel injured in a powerful blast outside police station Sopore on July 6, succumbed to injuries at a hospital

July 14: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 15: Five Lashkar-e-Toiba militants and one soldier were killed and six soldiers including a Captain injured in a fierce gunfight in north Kashmir's Lolab area of Kupwara district. The army identified three of the deceased militants as Hamad, Umair and Saqib while the killed soldier was identified as Naik Sumair Singh.

July 16: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 17: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 18: A policeman was today injured when a group of unidentified gunmen opened fire at him outside his residence at Gutlibagh in Ganderbal district. The injured policeman was identified as Fareed Ahmad Khan, a policeman (Belt no. 546/Armed Police, 5thBatallion), son of Taj Mohammad Khan resident of Gutlibagh

July 19: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 20: Three persons were allegedly injured in police action during a Hurriyat Conference rally in Verinag township of south Kashmir. However, police denied of using any force on the gathering.

July 21: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 22: Police claimed to have killed two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants of foreign origin in north Kashmir's Handwara area in an encounter at Bakhi-Hakhar area of Handwara. Two persons identified as Ashfaq Ahmad Khan, 21 years, and Babar Khan, 20 years, both residents of Markote-Dangiwacha, died while fiddling with an explosive object in the forest area of Behak Nardargi falling under the jurisdiction of police station Dangiwacha, Sopore, police said. The incident happened this afternoon. Police said no encounter has taken place at the place of the incident earlier. Police has registered a case and further investigations are on.

July 23: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 24: Unknown gunmen shot dead a youth at Sopore town of Baramulla district. Identified as Mohsin, an employee in the Fruit Mandi at Sopore and resident of Kralteng, was shot in the head, abdomen and shoulder by the assailants. In another incident a Special Police Officer Khalid Ahmad escaped unhurt when unknown gunmen fired at him at Sumbal in Bandipora district.

July 25: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

July 26: Police and forces claimed that they killed a Hizbul Mujahideen commander in hilly Kistiwar district. The slain militant was identified as, Subash Kumar Shan alias Kamran alias Wasif son of Jewan Lal Shan of Razna, Palmar.

July 27: An army officer was killed and two army men were injured while foiling an infiltration bid in Machil Sector of frontier district of Kupwara. The deceased army officer was identified as Naib Subedar Amar Singh (Belt No 470388K).

July 28: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a youth in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. A police spokesman said bullet-ridden body of 28-year-old Mohammad Ashraf was recovered by police near Krankshivan colony, Sopore, Baramulla.

July 29: No incident of violence reported.

July 30: A militant, whose identity could not be ascertained, was killed in an encounter with forces in frontier district of Kupwara.

July 31: A youth died allegedly in police custody in North Kashmir's Sopore town, triggering protests and demonstrations in the area. The government has ordered a probe into the incident and suspended three policemen including Incharge of Police Component, Sopore and attached DySP Operations Sopore. The deceased has been identified as Nazim Rashid, 26, son of retired police officer Abdur Rashid Shalla of Alamdar Mohalla, Sopore was picked up by police for questioning on July 30. While three Army men were killed and two others injured in a fierce gun battle with a group of infiltrating militants near the Line of Control (LoC) in border district of Kupwara.

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