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# *The Informative*



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The true story of a brutal kidnapping  
that marked the beginning of modern terrorism



# THE MEADOW

**KASHMIR 1995 –  
WHERE THE TERROR BEGAN**

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## PHOENIX OF AL FARAN

Investigative book “The Meadow: *Kashmir 1995 — Where the Terror Began*” by two foreign investigative journalists Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark bring into focus the enigma of six foreigners kidnapped in 1995 by Al Faran, a militant group. The kidnapping had electrified the world. For the first time Kashmir conflict got under global spotlight. The startling disclosure, about government’s role, made in the book has raised eyebrows of Kashmir watchers. People here and outside are taken aback. The Meadow was not the first investigative document by the authors. In past, the authors had earned praises for internationally acclaimed book “Deception”, an investigative book on how Pakistan acquired nuclear bomb. The Meadow laden with in-depth investigation is likely to trigger controversy about the abduction and disappearance of foreign backpackers while trekking in Pahalgam in 1995. Then the mystery had shrouded by government version that Al Faran had carried out the kidnappings, disappearance and killings of the visitors. The entire discourse has changed after the book hit the publication stands.

The authors on their Kashmir visits frequent the Editor’s office in mid 90s, when they were working for the Sunday Times and later joined The Guardian. The Editor has developed a close friendship with both the journalists. In the year 2010, after a long gap, the Editor received a surprising call from the authors, who had heard about the unmarked and nameless graves, widely covered in international media. The authors were interesting in writing a book on Kashmir.

During a meeting at a local restaurant in Srinagar a conversation between a co-author Adrian and the Editor was dominated by the 1995 abduction. The co-author shared some of his research work about the episode, a closed chapter then. He was fully convinced that the issue of foreigners disappearance is a mystery needed to be unfolded. Then he had already interviewed different police official involved in Al Faran case. The author was convinced by the interviews that the truth has not surfaced yet and the official version needs to be probed. The Editor was convinced, as western audiences are least concerned about thousands of Kashmir disappearances, so if the truth about 1995 episode will surface it will give fillip to our work. So it was opportunity to invite international attention towards the issues of enforced disappearances.

Treating it as our moral responsibility, we extended all our support to the co-author. During his research work in Pahalgam and other relevant places he was fully assisted. The main aim was the issue of disappearance can be taken note of, and in addition, the state’s *modos operandi* would get exposed. The authors’ professionalism was inspirational. During the research task, we learnt many a things about the investigative journalism and also the importance of this work. Adrian smartly used his book Deception, which had annoyed the Pakistani govt. and pleased Indian state, while collecting factual information from the then state officials after gaining their confidence. The Al Faran incident got internationally attention because of the hostages’ nationality, as they belong to US, Germany, UK and Norway. The govt. diplomats had resorted to deception in this matter.

With the eruption of conflict in 1990, we now have the huge tribe of journalists. Those journalists are reasonably paid than the journalists of yore, but most of them lack the spirit of investigative journalism, zeal and enthusiasm. There is no effort on the part of Kashmiri journalists to probe, in their own capacities, scores of massacres or enforced disappearances or any other form of rights violation. As of now, there is no attempt to investigate into the crimes committed by renegades or govt. backed militia. The renegades have indulged in heinous forms of crimes and are still roaming free. They have been rewarded and awarded by the state for what it called “rendering yeomen services”. There is no research on the lines of The Meadow, which can highlight the conspiracy behind the functioning of renegade militia.

There is no dearth of horrendous stories in Kashmir. In every district, there are stories and at many places more heinous than the Al Faran kidnapping. As of now, government and perpetrators seemed unworried and comfortable as no investigation on the patters of The Meadow has ever taken off. Mostly journalists are hooked with the past and opt not to cross the “official redline”.

There are lessons in The Meadow that how official narrative, taken almost the form of truth, got blasted. It also exposes how the state tailored the situation in its own favour to malign its neighbor Pakistan internationally and discredit Kashmir resistance movement.

What about the narratives in Kashmir? If professionally compiled would shock the conscience of the world. In the same year, in same district Anantnag three civilians were arrested and dismembered and their bodies were thrown in Ladder river. The incident got only once reported in the media. *The SHRC confirmed the custodial deaths, dismemberment of the bodies and identified the perpetrators.* Our failure in giving the heinous incidents proper attention had turned them into non-events. It took us three years to contact the disinterested families to highlight the case and seek re-investigation. There are hundreds of such incidents which, if professionally get investigated and documented would highlight the other issues as well, if not internationally but locally. Such documentation would unnerve the otherwise comfortable perpetrators. The job at hand is a challenge to any civilized society. If efforts are being made in this direction, it will serve as deterrent to unabated human rights violations. It is a process, and we hope that it will take time to attain the heights of investigative journalism. The duty lies on the local journalists, who have time and resources to do so, may be they have the limitations but any quality work finally get space in the media.

The Meadow has done a favour to the Kashmiris, as it was an effort to expose the state before the international community. The state chooses not to respond to the book officially, as it finds itself fully indicted. There has been general criticism on the social networking but without any basis. Even the authors were accused of Naxalite supporters and pro-secessionists.

JKCCS requested families living in Germany, Norway, UK and America to take up the legal recourse against Govt. of India and ask it to re-open the case. Even they can claim compensation from the governments for their tacit involvement into kidnapping and murder. Later without waiting for the response from the families IPTK filed a petition for re-investigation, calling of the enquiry report and identifying the grave sites of the captives, beginning with the identification of grave sites in the remote twin villages of Mati and Gawron. The SHRC while acting on IPTK petition also issued notices to P S Gill, then Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, and now a politician in Punjab and Ashkoor Wani then Superintendent of Police (SP) Anantnag, presently SSP Poonch in connection with DNA fudging in the case.

It is recommended, Kashmiris should read the book and praise the professional work done by Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark, who exposed a well-knit conspiracy behind the Al Faran kidnapping. Otherwise, the world outside and we have only the state narrative.

## GOVT-BACKED GUNMEN KILLED 4 FOREIGN TOURISTS IN 1995: BOOK

'A RENEGADE HAD BOUGHT WESTERN HOSTAGES FROM AL FARAN AND HELD THEM FOR MONTHS BEFORE SHOOTING THEM'

**April 3:** A new book written by foreign investigative journalists Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark has claimed that four foreign tourists abducted from Pahalgam in South Kashmir in 1995 were killed by a group of militants sponsored by Indian army.

A group of American and European tourists in Kashmir had been abducted by Al Faran in July 1995. Americans Don Hutchings and John Childs, Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro were abducted by Al Faran, an offshoot of the now defunct Harkat-ul-Mujahideen.

Of the six, John Childs escaped from the clutches of his abductors and managed to be rescued. Ostro was beheaded and his body was found later in August. However, no details about the fate of the rest were available and it is assumed that they were reportedly shot dead. No evidence to dispute or confirm the claim has ever been found.

According to Delhi-based newspaper Asian Age, investigative journalists Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark, who have written their new book, "The Meadow: Kashmir 1995 – Where the Terror Began," about the abduction, claim that the four Westerners were murdered by a group of Kashmiri militants who worked for the Indian Army.

The Western tourists had been abducted by Al Faran to force the Indian government to free 21 prisoners including Masood Azhar and Omar Sheikh, who were freed by the Indian government after the hijack of an Indian Airlines plane from Kathmandu in 1999.

After the murder of Ostro, Al Faran was ready to strike a monetary deal to free the hostages and might have been released for as little as £250,000. However, the authors claim that the deal was deliberately sabotaged.

"It appeared that there were some in the Indian establishment who did not want this never-ending bad news story of Pakistani cruelty and Kashmiri inhumanity to end, even when the perpetrators themselves were finished."

The book claims that a pro-government renegade, Alpha, or Azad Nabi, alias Ghulam Nabi Mir, who used to be based in Shalipora near Anantnag in Kashmir, had "bought" the four Western hostages from Al Faran and held them for months before shooting them.

Quoting the Kashmir police's crime branch squad, the two authors write that the investigators had been convinced that the Indian-controlled renegades had the control of four Westerners after Al Faran dropped them.

"The squad reported some of its thoughts to its seniors, using these kinds of words, 'Sikander's men handed

over Paul, Dirk, Keith and Don to Alpha's renegades in the third of fourth week of November, around the time when the final sightings dried up. Sikander has given up. Al Faran is finished. Embarrassingly, India controls the renegades."

The book also quotes a crime branch source, who worked alongside the police's Special Task Force in Kashmir and had been a scout for the Rashtriya Rifles about the fate of the four Westerners.

The hostages were brought to the isolated twin villages of Mati Gawran, near the Mardan Top Pass, and about five-hour drive from Anantnag, the source is quoted as saying. "The foreigners were hustled into a house by some STF boys and renegades. We gathered up the hostages and walked them out into the snow. There was only one end waiting for them, and we all knew it. No one could risk the hostages being released and complaining of collusion, having seen uniforms and STF jeeps, possibly hearing things too that they understood."

The four hostages were shot dead and buried in the frozen ground near a grove of trees behind the lower village on December 24, 1995, according to the source.

"We led them into the trees, a good, hard walk behind the lower village. I remember that the snow was heavy and deep. And there they were shot. I did not do it, but I saw it with my own eyes. Afterwards, village men were forced at gunpoint to dig a hole down through the frozen earth in which to bury the bodies."

Quoting a crime branch detective, the book claims that the Indian government had not wanted the hostage crisis to end.

"For Alpha, who had become unimpeachable, and a few rouge officers in the STF who by now were behaving like gangsters, and for a hardline clique of agents in Indian intelligence and the Army, all of whom had come to operate outside the norms and with absolutely no oversight, there had been no virtue in ending the hostage-taking at all," the anonymous officer is quoted as saying by the two authors.

"This was the harshest version of the Game that anyone could imagine. All the time New Delhi said, it was trying to crack Al Faran, a group within the intelligence and the STF was letting them dangle, happy to let the militants portray themselves as savage criminals."

### POLICE CONTESTS AUTHORS' CLAIMS

Director General of Police Kuldeep Khooda told media that nothing of that sort came to fore during investigation.

"We have not found anything like that during our investigation as claimed by the authors in their book," he said.

### AL-FARAN KIDNAPPING 1995

IPTK, APDP FILES JOINT PETITION IN SHRC

**April 6:** The International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-administered Kashmir [IPTK] and the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons [APDP], present before the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) the following submission:

1. In July 1995, during a trekking expedition, six persons were reportedly kidnapped by a group that referred to itself as "Al-Faran" [a front of the Harkat-ul-Ansar]. The six persons kidnapped were: John Childs [Simsbury, Connecticut, USA], Dirk Hasert [Bad Langensalza, Germany], Don Hutchings [Spokane, Washington State,

- USA], Keith Mangan [Teesside, Middlesbrough, England], Hans Christian Ostrø [Oslo, Norway], and Paul Wells [Blackburn, Lancashire, England].
2. Don Hutchings, Keith Mangan, Paul Wells, and John Childs were kidnapped on 4 July 1995.
  3. Following the incident, it has been ascertained, that government authorities made no attempts to dissuade foreign or local trekkers from visiting Pahalgam or adjoining areas.
  4. John Childs was able to escape on 8 July 1995.
  5. Dirk Hasert and Hans Christian Ostrø were kidnapped on 8 July 1995.
  6. First Information Reports [FIR numbers 66/1995 and 67/1995] were filed at the Pahalgam Police Station.
  7. The victims, it has been ascertained, were kidnapped by Javid Ahmed Bhat [alias "Sikander"], Abdul Hamid al-Turki [alias "the Turk"], Nabeel Ghazni, Abu Khalifa, and others.
  8. The kidnapers demanded the release of 21 persons including Maulana Masood Azhar, Sajjad Shahid Khan [alias "the Afghani"], and Nasrullah Mansoor Langrial [alias "Darwesh"].
  9. Hans Christian Ostro's dead body was found on 13 August 1995 in the Shael Dar forest, in the north-east of Anantnag District.
  10. Inspector General Rajinder Tikoo, the Crime Branch Chief, and negotiator with "Al Faran", reached a deal, for the release of the victims, with the person negotiating on behalf of "Al Faran" [who referred to himself as "Jehangir"] on 17 September 1995 for one crore rupees. But, by 18 September 1995, the news leaked to the media, due to which the deal fell through.
  11. On 4 December 1995, the Rashtriya Rifles carried out an operation close to Dabran village, Anantnag District, where three foreign insurgents: Nabeel Ghazni, Abu Khalifa, and Abdul Hamid al-Turki [alias "the Turk"] were killed and two local militants were captured.
  12. Javid Ahmed Bhat [alias "Sikander"] died on 17 February 1996 in a bomb blast that was claimed as accidental by the army.
  13. On 3 June 1996, based on information that the four kidnapped persons had been shot dead on 13 December 1995 at Magam, a search for the bodies of the victims was conducted at Magam. The bodies were not found.
  14. In October 1996, then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah informed the family members of the kidnapped persons that met with him that there were "certain things" he was unable to state on record, but, that in ten days they would be offered proof that the kidnapped persons were alive.
  15. In November 1997, Bob Wells, the father of Paul Wells [one of the kidnapped], met with the Inspector General of Kashmir Zone, Paramdeep Singh Gill. Bob Wells was informed that the dead body of Paul Wells had been found as a result of investigations conducted by a special team led by the Inspector General of Kashmir Zone, Paramdeep Singh Gill, and the Superintendent of Police of Anantnag, Ashkoor Wani. In January 2000,

- Inspector General Gill, stated that scientists at two credible Indian laboratories had concluded that the DNA they tested belonged to Paul Wells. Based on this, Inspector General Gill claimed that the force was now entitled to claim the two million dollar reward from the US Department of Justice and two more rewards of ten lakh rupees each from the US State Department and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Three months later, based on independent DNA tests, the British Foreign Office stated that the dead body was not that of Paul Wells. The British Foreign Office suggested that what had been tested in the Indian laboratories might have been the reference sample provided by the Wells family, against which the remains were supposed to have been matched. Whether the two had been switched or accidentally mixed, no one could say.
16. The fate of the four kidnapped persons has not been conclusively ascertained to date.
  17. The family members of the victims of the July 1995 kidnapping have spent close to seventeen years with the anguish of not knowing the fate of their disappeared family members.
  18. On 29 March 2012, a book titled "The Meadow, Kashmir 1995 - Where the terror began", published by the Harper Press, by authors Adrian Levy and Cathy Scott-Clark, was released in the United Kingdom. This book provides the missing information, based on extensive analysis of a Crime Branch investigation that had been carried out on the kidnappings. This book states that the four persons kidnapped had been killed in the remote twin villages of Mati and Gawran, an approximately five hour drive from Anantnag town, on 24 December 1995. Specifically, and as reported by the *Asian Age* on 3 April 2012, and *Greater Kashmir* and *Rising Kashmir* on 4 April 2012 [Annexure I], the four hostages were shot and buried "a good, hard walk behind the lower village." Further, the book states the following:
    - A Western female trekker had approached the Rashtriya Rifles camp at Chandanwari, Pahalgam, to say she had witnessed the kidnapping of Dirk Hasert. Instead of assisting her, a Rashtriya Rifles Major sexually assaulted her. Senior officers had been sent into the mountains to silence her and investigate the Major.
    - The Crime Branch team investigating the case was provided with surveillance images of the victims while they had been hostage. These images were provided to them by the Indian Research and Analysis Wing [RAW]. The Crime Branch team sent an urgent report on this information to their superiors. The intelligence services and the army, while in possession of this information, took no action. Throughout this time, the families of the kidnapped persons were being informed that there was no information on the location of the kidnapped persons. Subsequently, on numerous occasions, false information on sightings of the kidnapped persons was provided to the public and families of the kidnapped persons.

- Ghulam Nabi Mir [alias "Alpha"], a militiaman connected to state agencies, from Shelipora, Anantnag District, had signed a secret ceasefire agreement with Javid Ahmed Bhat [alias "Sikander," the main abductor] prior to the kidnappings, and was told by his STF, and army and intelligence handlers to pass on weapons and explosives to Javid Ahmed Bhat [alias "Sikander"] and his partners. This was part of a larger plan that used Javid Ahmed Bhat [alias "Sikander"] and his partners against the Hizbul Mujahideen. This was the reason why the pro-government militiamen in the area, who had knowledge of the whereabouts of the kidnappers and the hostages, had not intervened. The police STF, backed by a faction within the Indian Intelligence Agencies, and with the knowledge of counter-insurgency specialists of the Rashtriya Rifles had known about the deal from the very beginning, and in fact, the

- The Crime Branch investigations were closed without being presented before a competent court.
- The authorities, who had knowledge at various times of the location of the kidnapped persons, and ultimately of their burial site, did not intervene for political reasons.

19. The disclosures in the recently released book, based on Crime Branch investigations, strongly suggest that the officials of the army and government were deliberately misleading the investigations into the kidnapping and withholding information. More importantly, it appears that a criminal network had been formed with the abductors through the unlawfully supported government militiamen. The killings of the abductors on 4 December 1995 and 17 February 1996 suggest an attempt to cover up the truth behind the kidnappings. The revelations suggest the involvement of the

#### SHRC ISSUES NOTICE TO DGP, DC, OTHERS

**April 17:** The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) issued notice to Director General of Police (DGP), Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Crime Branch and Deputy Commissioner Anantnag to submit all relevant records regarding the 1995 kidnapping case of four foreigners from Pahalgam tourist resort.

The notice was issued on a petition filed by the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice (IPTK) seeking directions to the government to make public the findings of investigation into the kidnapping of four foreigners in Pahalgam area in 1995.

The commission directed them to present the record on the next hearing on May 28.

The SHRC, in particular directed IGP Crime Branch to present all investigation reports and other records related to the case.

A recently released book, "The Meadow: Kashmir 1995 -- Where the Terror Began" claimed that India prolonged the abduction crisis to damage Pakistan's reputation and hired different militants to take hostages before they were killed. It alleged that army-sponsored militants killed the abducted foreign tourists.

Meanwhile, a separate notice was issued to P S Gill, then Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, and now a politician in Punjab and Ashkoor Wani then Superintendent of Police (SP) Anantnag, presently SSP Poonch in connection with DNA fudging case. They have been directed to submit their objections by the hearing date.

In July 1995, during a trekking expedition, six people were reportedly kidnapped by a group that referred to itself as 'Al-Faran', a front of the Harkat-ul-Ansar. They were identified as John Childs (Simsbury, Connecticut, US), Dirk Hasert (Bad Langensalza, Germany), Don Hutchings (Spokane, Washington State, US), Keith Mangan (Teesside, Middlesbrough, England), Hans Christian Ostrx (Oslo, Norway) and Paul Wells (Blackburn, Lancashire, England). However, John Childs was able to escape on July 8, 1995.

The kidnappers demanded the release of 21 people including Maulana Masood Azhar, Sajjad Shahid Khan alias Afghani, and Nasrullah Mansoor Langrial alias Darwesh. Hans Christian Ostro's body was found on August 13, 1995 in the Shael Dar forest, in Anantnag district.

idea for such a ceasefire agreement had come from the security forces.

- On 1 December 1995 the hostages were handed over by "Al Faran" to Ghulam Nabi Mir [alias "Alpha"] for four lakh rupees.
- The 4 December 1995 operation, where three of the kidnappers were killed and two captured, was an ambush that was set up by Ghulam Nabi Mir [alias "Alpha"] calling Abdul Hamid al-Turki [alias "the Turk"] for a meeting.
- The four kidnapped persons were killed in the remote twin villages of Mati and Gawran [and specifically, behind the lower village], about a five hour drive from Anantnag town, on 24 December 1995. Their bodies were buried in a hole.
- The death of Javid Ahmed Bhat [alias "Sikander"] on 17 February 1996, while alleged to be an accident was in fact a planned operation set up by soldiers and Ghulam Nabi Mir [alias "Alpha"].

Government of India in the unconstitutional and illicit practice of collaborating with private militias like the *ikhwan*, Village Defence Committees [VDC's], and other sub-state groups.

20. Based on the research highlighted in the book by Levy and Scott-Clark, it appears that the four kidnapped persons were killed and buried collectively in a mass grave.

21. On 5 April 2012, the response to a Right to Information [RTI] application filed regarding Crime Branch investigations on this case states that two FIR's [66/1995 and 67/1995] were filed at the Pahalgam Police Station and that the investigations were transferred to the Crime Branch for further investigations. On 2 July 2004, after finalizing the investigations and closing the two cases as untraced, the Crime Branch dispatched the case files of the investigations to the Pahalgam Police Station for submission of the final report in the cases before the Court. The cases appear to have been closed,

surprisingly *nine* years after the kidnappings, despite the reported Crime Branch findings on the case, as detailed above.

22. On 19 October 2011, the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission [SHRC], after having taken suo-moto cognizance based inter-alia on newspaper reports, passed its final order on the issue of nameless and unmarked graves in Jammu and Kashmir. The SHRC ordered identification of graves and bodies buried [including by the use of all modern scientific techniques and methods] and prosecutions for crimes committed in relation to these graves and bodies buried.

#### **APPEAL:**

As a part of the ongoing work on the issue of nameless and unmarked graves in Jammu and Kashmir, we request that the case of the four kidnapped persons be considered by the SHRC. Specifically, we request that:

- The Crime Branch investigations and findings pertaining to the July 1995 kidnapping be made public.
- It be ascertained whether a final report was submitted in this case before a competent court, and if not, by whose order such submissions were withheld, and action be initiated against those responsible for suppressing the investigations.
- Investigations be ordered into why after the first kidnappings on 5 July 1995, state authorities made no attempt to dissuade foreign and local trekkers from visiting Pahalgam or adjoining areas, which resulted in the subsequent kidnapping on 8 July 1995.
- Investigations be launched against the then Inspector General of Kashmir Zone, Paramdeep Singh Gill, and the then Superintendent of Police of Anantnag, Ashkooor Wani, to inquire into their role

in the manipulation of the DNA tests of Paul Wells, with the apparent objective of making a claim to the award monies, and for their role in a possible cover up, as the mishandling and manipulation of evidence appears to be a pattern in Jammu and Kashmir.

- Investigations be ordered to ascertain under whose orders Ghulam Nabi Mir [alias "Alpha"] operated during the events referred to above, and order prosecutions against any such person or persons identified.
- Investigations be ordered into the operations of 4 December 1995 and 17 February 1996 that appear to be extrajudicial executions.
- Investigations be ordered to identify the grave sites and bodies of the four kidnapped persons, beginning with the site identified by the Crime Branch investigations as per the above mentioned book, at the remote twin villages of Mati and Gawran, and that to assist in these investigations, relevant forensic examinations of the Mati and Gawran area be carried out.
- Comprehensive investigations be ordered into the kidnappings and associated events and killings, and prosecutions launched against all those responsible, including at the highest levels of the army, police, and government, for the crimes committed.
- An inquiry be conducted as to why no action was taken on various points noted above, despite the authorities having knowledge of the location of the hostages, and then subsequently the burial site of the hostages, to ascertain the level of institutional culpability.

#### **WAITING FOR ACTION TAKEN REPORT: SHRC**

COMMISSION SETS APRIL 17 DEADLINE FOR GOVT

**Apr 2:** State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) said it is still waiting for Action Taken Report (ATR) from the government into the recommendations on surfacing of unmarked graves in the Valley last year. The Commission said if the government fails to respond by April 17, it will order an independent probe into the grave issue.

Sources in the Commission said that that they have not received any communication from the police about any fresh list of unmarked graves in the valley and that might be in transition.

Secretary SHRC, Tariq Ahmad Banday told media that their office is waiting for ATR into the recommendations made by the Commission. "We have not even received the ATR into the recommendations made by the Commission," he said. "Soon after the expose of unmarked graves the Commission had made certain recommendations and asked the government to take action." About the submitting of fresh list of unmarked graves to SHRC by police, the official said that they have not received any such report. "Yet that has not reached our office and that might be in transition," he said.

After the expose of mass graves, a division bench of the SHRC comprising Chairman suggested that all means like DNA profiling be used to identify the bodies buried in 38 places in Kashmir. The bench made six recommendations to address the issue and linked it to cases of disappearances in the State.

It said that; "The dead bodies in unmarked graves shall be identified by all available means and techniques like DNA profile, physical description, dental examination, distinctive medical characteristics, finger prints, carbon dating, forensic pathology as may be applicable."

Secretary SHRC further disclosed that in case the government fails to submit report about unmarked graves in Rajouri and Poonch till April 17, the rights body might constitute a team for an independent inquiry.

The commission has asked the government to carry out investigations about the unmarked graves in Rajouri and Poonch. This was followed by SHRC only after a rejoinder was submitted by Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) and the International People Tribunal for Human Rights and Justice in Kashmir (IPTK).

APDP and IPTK has said that there are around 2,717 graves in 90 graveyards of Poonch and 1,127 graves in 118 graveyards in Rajouri.

"The double bench of the Commission has fixed April 17 deadline for the Government. In case government

### **SOURA YOUTH'S 'TORTURE TO DEATH': 22 MONTHS ON, NO FIR REGISTERED**

#### **FATHER READY FOR EXHUMATION OF HIS LONE SON TO NAB CULPRITS**

**Apr 2:** Pledging to continue his struggle for justice even if it takes his life, Abdul Qayoom Bhat who lost his lone son in August 2010 allegedly after being ruthlessly tortured in Soura police station said he is ready for exhumation of his son if the culprits are booked.

Ironically, over twenty months have passed since his 17-year-old son Umar Bhat breathed his last at Shere-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) where he was kept on a ventilator; the police is yet to register FIR in the matter.

Two days ago, when the prosecution sought further time to file the status report before a city court Srinagar, the helpless father grabbed attention of almost all litigants outside the court where he could not control his choked pain and shrieked in memory of his loved son.

After some time, Qayoom's most melancholy voice sobbed: "I know I am helpless, but even if it takes my life, I will not backtrack or compromise on my son's murder. I am ready for every kind of sacrifice but I want the murderers of my son to face gallows," he said.

According to Qayoom, the police is trying to shield the culprits involved in his son's "torture to killing".

"I believe in judiciary but I want that it should act swiftly so that justice is done. I have three daughters and Umar was my only son. I have witnessed the pain inflicted on my son when he was going through his last days. I begged before the SHO Police station Soura to allow me to take my son to hospital, as he was yelling in pain, after going through severe torture. My son had told me in police station itself where he was detained that five to six people had trampled his ribs under their boots. And he was continuously bleeding through his mouth but the police didn't allow me to take him to hospital," Qayoom told Kashmir Times while tears rolling on his face.

According to advocate Shabir Ahmad Bhat, the counsel for Qayoom, the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Srinagar on March 31, granted time to the prosecution to file a fresh status report in the matter.

"In our petition we have sought registration of FIR and setting up of a Special Investigation Team of Police to probe the matter. However, the prosecution is yet to file its final report in its proceedings in the incident," advocate Bhat told media.

Interestingly, on July 27, 2011, the then CJM Srinagar had taken a strong exception to the delay and police functioning into the incident. Yashpal Bourney, the then CJM Srinagar had had ordered SSP Srinagar to personally supervise the probe and appoint a deputy superintendent of police who will investigate the circumstances which led to death of Umar Bhat.

"The facts from the file reveal a sordid picture of how irresponsibly and irrationally state police is

failed to submit report, the body might order any independent inquiry for investigations," Tariq Ahmad Bandy said.

functioning," the CJM Srinagar Yashpal Bourney, had remarked while directing the SSP Srinagar to complete the probe within 15 days and file a detailed report by the next date of hearing which was then fixed on August 16, 2011.

The father of Umar had complained before the police, that his son was still struggling for life and was on life support system at SKIMS.

In his compliant Qayoom, had said that his son was taken in custody on August 20, 2010 at 3 pm and beaten up severely in custody by police personnel in police station Soura and then left on August 21 evening at about 7 pm. He had further alleged that his son had suffered damage to some vital organs because of being beaten and had to be hospitalized on August 23 because of severe internal pain.

According to Bhat, his son was released on bail in August 21, at 7 pm and he was admitted at SKIMS on August 23, where he was kept on ventilator for two days and he breathed his last in SKIMS on August 25.

However, the Court while quoting police report has said that on August 20, then SHO police station Soura Abdul Majid Malik along with escort team had lifted three boys during patrolling on the allegations that they had been forcing shopkeepers at Sabzi Mandi Soura to close their shops. Police had admitted of arresting three youth including Umar in its report filed before the court saying: "When they did not respond to his appeals to shun their activities for avoiding breach of peace, the trio were booked under sections 107, 151 Cr. P.C and produced before the executive magistrate concerned on August 25, 2010 in good state of health."

According to the Court it has been further reported by the police that all of the three were released on bail in the open court. "On the same day police had received information from their sources that Umar Qayoom has expired and there were rumours in the area that he was tortured by cops. This led to initiation of proceedings under section 174 Cr.P.C which has not been concluded till date, the police reports reads further, as quoted by the Court.

Concluding the merit of the case, the court had found that the enquiry was being conducted by same officer against whom there were serious allegations of torturing the deceased while in his custody.

"The SSP should have taken note of all these facts and entrusted the enquiry to some other police officer, in order to guard the accusations being biased, interested and unfair conduct. It is the duty of the investigating agency to ensure that investigation is conducted in just, free and fair manner with promptitude," the court order of July 27, 2011 reads.

The court had further said that the enquiry officer has maintained a total silence about the complaint filed by

the father of the deceased at the earliest and has not taken the trouble to contact and examine the doctors who attended the deceased with regard to the injuries external, internal observed by them during the course of treatment and also to collect the record to that effect.

*Pertinently, in its death summary report, the doctors of the SKIMS who treated Umar have reported: "17-year-old Bhat Umar son of Abdul Qayoom resident of*

*Soura was admitted on 23-8-2010 in A/E with chief complaint of vomiting of blood subsequent to allegedly beaten by cops four days ago. X-ray chest was showing bilateral diffuse infiltrates. CT scan chest was showing massive intrapulmonary hemorrhage. Both lungs were replaced with hemorrhage in view of severe hypoxia patient was shifted to Special Intensive Care Unit for effective ventilation."*

## **HC TRANSFERS CASE TO JAMMU**

### **BADERWAH KILLINGS**

**April 19:** In a major development, Jammu and Kashmir High Court Thursday transferred the petition seeking re-opening of 1996 Baderwah fake encounter case from Srinagar to Jammu, where it has been listed for consideration before a single bench on April 20.

While announcing his decision, acting Chief Justice Verinder Singh in his orders observed that since both the petitioners and the accused hail from Jammu province, transfer of the petition to Jammu wing of HC will be advantageous for all the concerned.

In the petition filed by widows of fake encounter victims, it had been prayed that HC direct for re-opening of the triple murder case, conduct of fresh investigation to identify the actual accused and the involvement of Director General of Police, Kuldeep Khoda in the killings.

The case has assumed importance since the petitioner families have questioned the role of incumbent DGP.

Earlier on December 08, 2011, Justice Hasnain Masoodi, who was seized of the matter had delayed decision on whether to admit or reject the petition seeking re-opening of the case after Muhammad Ashraf, the main accused in the case suddenly surfaced and sought shifting of the case to Jammu.

The bench had decided that it will wait for Chief Justice's decision on the plea filed by Ashraf.

Subsequently, in his decision delivered today, acting Chief Justice directed the petition be transferred to Jammu wing of HC and be posted before Justice Masoodi on April 20 for consideration.

"Mr. Sethi (counsel for the accused) submits that the petition is part heard with Honourable Justice Masoodi and the contention is reiterated by Mr. Qadri (Advocate General). He further submits that Justice Masoodi is holding the court at Jammu wing this week," the transfer order of acting Chief Justice reads.

"The FIR is registered in Jammu (province). The accused and the petitioner are also residents of the places falling within Jammu province thereby transfer of case to Jammu Wing of HC is to the advantage of all the concerned," Justice Verinder observed.

"I show all the restraints from commenting upon the merits of the case, leaving the petitioners to raise all issues before the Court concerned, which is seized of the matter."

Ashraf, who is the main accused in the Baderwah triple murder case, was untraceable till he filed the transfer application before the Court of Chief Justice.

The investigation conducted by a Superintendent of Police (SP) Crime, Bachan Singh Choudhary had blamed Ashraf for executing three civilians - Fazal Muhammad Dar, his son Fareed Ahmad Dar and their neighbour Mohammad Hussain Dar in 1996.

The petition seeking re-opening and reinvestigation of the case involving the killing of three persons killed in cold blood in Baderwah in 1996 was filed by their families on September 23, 2011 before Srinagar Wing of High Court through their lawyer Advocate Parvez Imroz.

## **INQUIRY INDICTS KUPWARA JAIL AUTHORITIES**

### **PSA DETAINEE'S DEATH**

**Apr 27:** The inquiry ordered by the government to look into the reasons which led to the death of a 25-year old youth lodged in sub jail Kupwara has blamed the jail authorities for his death.

Sajad Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Nabi Dar, of Sangrampora Sopore, who was booked under Public Safety Act for his alleged involvement in a militancy related case, was shifted to SKIMS Srinagar on March 22 by Kupwara jail authorities after he complained of pain in the head. Sajad, a contractual employee of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), died two hours after he was admitted in the SKIMS.

The doctors at SKIMS control room that day had said, Sajad was admitted by the police in causality ward of the institute at 10.30 am on March 22 and he died at 12.30 pm on the same day. Doctors said he was admitted in the hospital with symptoms of "Aplitic- us".

Soon after Sajad's death his family members had alleged that he died due to the negligence of jail authorities. "He used to complain about the health problems especially the severe pain in his head. He developed ailment in head due to police torture in custody," family members had alleged.

"Sajad was admitted in Sub District Hospital Kupwara, a week after he reported to jail authorities about severe pain in the head. Had he been provided the medical aid on appropriate time he may have survived," family had claimed.

Sajad's death had sparked protests in north Kashmir's Sopore town and people observed a complete shutdown for three consecutive days to mourn his death. Protests and shutdown forced the government to order an inquiry and Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Kupwara was appointed as the inquiry officer. He was asked to submit the report within 15 days to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara.

"We have submitted the report to Divisional Commissioner and only the inquiry officer is aware about its content," said officials at Deputy Commissioner Office Kupwara.

A senior officer at Divisional Commissioner's office in Srinagar said that they have received the inquiry report. "The inquiry officer has indicted the jail authorities for negligence. Negligence on their part resulted into Sajad's death," the officer said.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) prisons Naveen Agarwal said that the jail officials indicted by the inquiry commission would be taken to task. "Let the report

reaches to me. Action will be taken against the people who have been indicted," the ADGP said.

## PASSPORT

### ➤ HC DIRECTS AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE SHORT-TERM PASSPORTS

**April 02:** High Court directed passport authorities to issue a short-term passport to an aged couple from South Kashmir for performing Hajj after they have been denied the same by the authorities since 2009 "without citing any reasons." The Court also directed Chairman State Hajj Committee to entertain the application forms of the aged petitioners.

The direction of Single judge bench of Justice Muzaffar Hussain attar came following a writ petition by Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, 61 and his 53 year old wife Shareefa Bano, hailing from village Okay of Kulgam District in South Kashmir.

In the petition file by Bhat, a retired Govt. headmaster and his wife through their counsel B.A. Tak, it has been submitted that they have been applying for the passport before respondent No.02, that is Passport Officer Srinagar continuously since 2009.

"Since 2009, the petitioners have been approaching the respondent No. 2 for issuance of the passport only for hajj purpose. In this regard, even the concerned agencies have conducted the verification and checked the antecedents of the petitioners", counsel Tak submitted in the petition, adding that despite finding nothing adverse against the petitioners, the respondents till date have not issued passports to the couple for the Hajj purpose.

"Being keen to perform Hajj pilgrimage to Holy Mecca, the aged couple have fulfilled all requisite formalities as has been required to go for Hajj Pilgrimage, but as on date they have not received their passports", the counsel submitted, adding that this has now compelled the couple to approach this court with the petition.

In their prayers, the petitioners submitted that Court may be pleased to direct Passport Authorities to issue the passport to the couple besides commanding State hajj Committee to entertain the application forms of the petitioners for the hajj without passports in meantime.

After going through the petition and the submissions of the counsel High Court directed the passport authorities to issue the passports to the aged couple for hajj purpose. "While disposing off the petition, Justice Muzaffar Hussain attar directed respondent no.2 to issue short-term passports to my clients within a week for performing Hajj pilgrimage", Counsel B.A. Tak told media. Besides, the Court also directed Chairman State Hajj Committee to entertain hajj application forms of the couple, he added.

### ➤ SHORT VALIDITY PASSPORT FOR HAJJ PILGRIMS

**New Delhi, Apr 14:** People who want to go on Hajj but lack proper travel documents can now breathe easy as they will have the facility of a speedy short validity passport.

## SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES UNDER POLICE SCANNER, 16 YOUTH DETAINED

**April 13:** Fearing that social networking users might organize and stir pro-Azadi sentiment ahead of approaching summer, the police is closely monitoring Facebook and other social networking sites and picked up 16 youth on charges of using the online platform to "instigate masses" and whip "anti-national" sentiment.

A top police official, pleading anonymity, said online monitoring was carried out by the cyber cell based at Cargo headquarters, Haft Chinar. "Police have acquired sophisticated IP (Internet Protocol) tools to trace the people uploading objectionable content on Facebook and other social networking sites," he said.

He said by using the new technology, police traced out some youth, who were using social networking sites especially Facebook for "unacceptable activities".

"Ministry of External Affairs has issued instructions to all Regional Passport Officers in the country to issue a short validity passport to Hajj pilgrims pending receipt of police verification report," the Ministry spokesman said today.

He said that in order to enable prospective Hajj pilgrims to obtain passport, the Hajj Committee has decided to extend the last date for submission of Hajj application forms from April 16 to April 25.

More than 1, 70,000 pilgrims from India would be performing Hajj this year.

### ➤ 'OVER17 THOUSAND PASSPORTS ISSUED IN 3 MONTHS'

**April 18:** Clearing the doubts, passport authorities on Tuesday hinted to issue passports to the relatives of militants thus enabling them to undertake the Hajj pilgrimage.

"We will be reviewing the matter on case to case basis but definitely there will a very liberal policy for hajj 2012," Regional Passport Officer Firdous Ahmad told media, adding that the Srinagar passport office had issued a record 17, 878 passports in the first three months of the current year.

"We have also issued almost 7,000 passports since 20th march 2012." Claimed passport officer. Assuring the issuance of passports on fast track basis, Passport officer said that the entire system would go online very soon which will enable applicants to access the details frequently.

Meanwhile hinting of restricting the Tatkal facility to only a few cases, Passport officer said, that the facility would not be available randomly anymore. "Such facility cannot be offered to everyone. We need to put a check on it." Maintained Firdous. He added that his office had received almost 1,000 applications for the issuance of short term passports from those who were denied the same due to pending CID verification. "There were thousands of applications pending for want of CID clearance and now with the intervention of foreign ministry, we will be issuing a short term passport to those who had been denied the facility for certain reasons," told Firdous. Regarding the issuance of passport to MLA Langeth Er. Rashid, Regional passport Officer said that following the court direction the MLA would be issued passport very soon. "There is no verification pending from CID and MLA would be issued passport after some formalities."

Meanwhile Minister of state for home, Nasir Aslam Wani told KNS, "We are committed to bring relief to the people of the state and we would like to enable more and more people to perform Hajj." He added that there were clear instructions from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah that the CID verifications should be done on fast track basis so that people could feel relief.

"We detected pro-separatist slogans written by some groups. There were also anti-India remarks and inflammatory speeches written on social networking sites. They were organizing political protests and asking people to join them," the official said.

He said during the investigations, police detained 16 youth. "13 among them were from different places in Srinagar while two belonged to Sopore area in North Kashmir," he said adding

Sources said 28 other persons have also been identified, who are using online medium to spread "separatist messages".

"All the 16 persons picked up by police were questioned and later released. Some of them remained under police custody for two or three days. Four youth are still under custody for questioning purpose," a police official said.

He said police have registered an FIR of 132/2011 under 66 IT act and ULA (P) act against these Facebook users at Police Station Shergari and further investigations are going on.

He said few youth would be booked soon.

Earlier, in 2010, police had filed an FIR No 88 in 2010 at police station Shergari under same sections and detained some people. "We had detained three members of Aalaw page and some others, who were running Frontline Kashmir," the police official said.

Police said the motive behind internet monitoring was to stop the repeat of 2010 like "unrest" in the Valley.

"We feel that this medium might be used to organize and instigate people for resorting to anti-national activities ahead of summer. The separatist activities are lying low these days. We have

inputs that certain people would use online medium for whipping up the sentiments of people," sources said.

SSP Srinagar Ashiq Bukhari confirmed that police picked up some youth for questioning. "They were indulged in 'propaganda' and 'anti-national activities' mainly on Facebook," he said.

"Many among the detained youth were students. We questioned and counseled them. Later, we released them. We have registered FIR in Shergari police station in this connection and further investigations are going on," he said.

Bukhari said the social networking sites especially Facebook had large following and was the most effective online medium.

Police sources said there are estimated 2000 pages containing 'anti-India' content available on the net.

## TALE OF TWO KASHMIR BOYS

**April 6:** A football freak, a wannabe singer and a conflict that engulfed their dreams. Two families from two different parts of Kashmir, share same fate and same annihilation.

Yawar Ibrahim (16) of Maisuma Srinagar was just 13 years old when he last time kicked a football.

A tear gas canister hit his head on June 30 while he was on way to buy butter from a neighboring shop.

"The tragic day, teargas splinters and dreams remain itched in his mind and expressions," father Ibrahim Bhat said as he spoke about the painful treatment his son went through for a month.

"Yawar will remain paralyzed for life from one side of his body. Doctors also said, he would lose the ability to speak."

Ibrahim Bhat is a mechanic by profession. Bhat said he used to spend Rs 1500 each week for the treatment of his son.

"It was a colossal amount for a family like us. I sold my mechanic shop along with the goods. I also sold other property."

Yawar's fathers, now works as as a mechanic on a pavement at Batamaloo.

Gulshan Begum, Yawar's mother said she sold her gold items and his sister's trousseau just to treat him.

Now the family plans to take Yawar to Delhi for specialized treatment. "But we have no money. The doctors told me that at least one lakh fifty thousand rupees are needed to go for further treatment," Begum said. "So far no help has arrived".

In north of Kashmir, Amir Kabir (19) appeared silently conversing with the God. I constantly watched his lip sync, as if waiting for a saint to profess, as he moved his right thumb over the prayer beads.

Amir did not turn towards us for a while and we kept watching in the cold room where a silence of desolation loomed large. His mother, Jahanara Begum, entered the room, breaking the silence that was by now becoming suffocating.

He looked in the direction of the voice as she spoke. Moments later, I greeted him and he moved his head towards me. I said: "How are you Amir?"

"I am fine, Alhamdulillah," he replied, and then went on to add, instantly, "Things for me have changed forever. The new year would be just another year of darkness and agony for me".

As he greeted us, he kept groping as if in dark. We shook his warm hands and moved closer to him. I could see his eyes almost submerged in the sockets. They lacked any activity. There were no tears. He had lost his vision during the civil unrest in 2010. Amir, a resident of Kashmir's northern Baramulla town, was injured on September 18, 2010, when his mother asked him to accompany her to a local hospital.

"When we came out of the hospital my mother gave me the doctor's prescription to fetch medicine. As I moved away from the gate, I saw the batches of youth raising pro-freedom slogans nearby. The moment I preceded further, the police and CRPF fired pellets on the youth to disperse them. Dozens of them hit me as well. I fell unconscious," he said with his hands moving in all directions. After initial treatment at the local hospital he was shifted to SKIMS.

The doctors at the medical facility diagnosed him with a bilateral injury with open globe damage in left eye and vitreous Hemorrhage in right eye. He was later referred for specialized treatment to All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi, but thus far the efforts to restore his vision have failed.

The family now faces a real challenge as it is extremely difficult to bear the medical expenses. They have to ferry him to the top most hospitals of Delhi and other places of India. But, as Amir could not travel by road, he had to be always air flown. The family does not own a house. They have hired the three rooms there. Amir's father, Abdul Kabir, is a street vendor selling clothes and had come to Baramulla from a nearby village.

Kabir said, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had pledged that government would bear the medical expenses, but so far nothing has been paid. He believed that although the gesture will not bring back his son's vision, but it would at least bail the family out of the debts they were in while spending his treatment.

The family also said that no single Hurriyat or separatist leader came even to console, leave aside any sort of monetary help from any of them.

"We have been left alone," Kabir said. "I want to take him to Chennai hospital, but I have no money. I heard he can be cured there."

## SHRC

### ➤ UDHAMPUR JAIL OVERCROWDED WITH DETAINEES: SHRC

'PRISONERS IN DISTT JAILS CONCERNED OVER DELAY IN DISPOSAL OF THEIR CASES'

**April 9:** Disclosing that Udhampur jail is overcrowded with detainees, State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has stated that prisoners lodged in two district jails in Jammu province are concerned over delay in disposal of their cases.

"The bulk of prisoners lodged in district jail Kathua and Udhampur have voiced their concern over failure of jail authorities to produce them before the court on time. The jail authorities and

security agencies have failed provide them transportation facilities and security personnel to accompany them to the courts, where they are facing trial," SHRC report 2010-11 disclosed.

SHRC's chairman Justice (Retd) Syed Bashir-ud-Din had visited district jails and the commission compiled report on his visit.

The report says that unjustifiable and avoidable time is consumed in trial and in recording evidences, violating the very fundamental right of the prisoners for speedy trial.

"Some of the detainees disclosed that they were in jails since years because their cases were pending," the report said

adding either they are not being taken to courts or not produced before judges for disposal of their cases.

It pointed out that prisoner's fundamental right of speedy trial of cases is violated for one reason or other.

SHRC report said superintendent Kathua jail attributed the delay in disposing of cases of prisoners to non-availability of transportation and security personnel. "The transportation and security men to transport detainees to courts have to be provided by respective District Police Lines, where the trial courts are located," it said.

It disclosed that Udhampur district jail is over crowded with prisoners. "The jail has 335 inmates against the capacity of 250 inmates," it said.

Of the 335 inmates, SHRC report states that 12 are convicts, 250 are under trials including 49 under trial militants. It also houses a foreign national (under trial).

"Owing to overcrowding, the prisoners are facing health related problems. With the onset of summer, these problems are bound to aggravate. Besides, the jail authorities are also facing problems - indiscipline on part of prisoners and management of the inmates," it said.

Giving a clean chit to Kathua jail as far as overcrowding is concerned, SHRC report said, "118 prisoners are lodged in the jail as against the capacity of 300 inmates".

"Of the 118 jail inmates, 90 are under trials, 24 detainees and four are convicts. There are also four female inmates in the jail," it said.

SHRC's report said there is no hospital in Kathua jail. "The jail superintendent Dinesh Sharma informed that medical officer from District Hospital Kathua visits the jail once in a fortnight to examine the ailing inmates".

It said although a barrack was to be used as hospital block but there is only one pharmacist and a nursing orderly in the block with few medicines as first aid box. "No laboratory facility is available in the jail," it stated.

It said some of prisoners told the commission that if any detainee falls ill during odd hours, no medical aid is provided to

### SC NOTICE TO GOVT.'S ON PLEA FOR PROBE INTO ALL FAKE ENCOUNTERS

**Apr 13:** The Supreme Court sought the stands of the Centre and all state governments on a plea for independent probe into all cases of alleged killings by police in staged shootouts in past 10 years in the country.

A bench comprising justice Aftab Alam and justice Ranjana Prakash Desai sought replies of the Union and the state governments, issuing them notices on a petition filed by the Gujarat government, which sought court's direction to deal with all cases of fake encounters in a uniform manner.

The Gujarat government alleged that some vested interest groups are selectively targetting its police force over the encounter killings.

The petition said the Gujarat government is seeking "an appropriate direction from this court to deal with all cases of fake encounters in the country in an uniform manner which would ensure that while human rights are protected, police force of terrorism-prone Gujarat is not left demoralised on the ground that some vested interest groups are selectively targetting the police force of only one state."

The petition sought a direction to all state governments and Union Territories to evolve and formulate a uniform nationwide policy providing for an independent agency like "monitoring authority / special task force" created by the Gujarat government to probe into all cases of alleged fake encounters.

It said such a step is necessary so as to ensure that on one hand extra-judicial killings under the garb of fake encounters would stop, and the honest police officers, discharging their duties against terrorist organisations / organised criminals too are not left

him. "Besides, the detainees are also not hospitalized because of non availability of vehicle or security men to transport them to hospitals".

SHRC report said although 10-bed hospital functions in Udhampur jail but no doctor is permanently posted in the jail hospital. "The jail hospital is under staff."

It said effective arrangements should be put in place to overcome the situation.

### > SHRC DIRECTS DGP, DC KUPWARA TO FILE

#### RESPONSE

#### DISAPPEARANCE CASE

**Apr 15:** State Human Rights Commission has directed the Director General Police and Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara to file their response in disappearance case of a Pulwama youth, Abdul Rashid Wani till April 25, 2012.

The SHRC issued the order in response to a petition filed by Chairman International Forum for Justice, Muhammad Ahsan Untoo and Chairman Human Rights Forum JK, Abdul Rouf Khan, seeking the registration of FIR into the disappearance of Abdul Rashid Wani son of Abdul Gani Wani of Rahmoo in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, who disappeared in 1990.

The respondents in the case are the State of J&K, through Commissioner Secretary Home, Director General of Police, J&K, Inspector General CID, Headquarters, SSP Pulwama and Station House Officer Rajpora

The petition had appealed the commission to direct respondents to file FIR in the case and start the through probe in the disappearance.

"The state is under obligation to protect the rights of individual and it has to make every possible endeavor to investigate the disappearance of the person," it said.

The petition also alleged the respondents refuse to lodge FIR. "In case they lodge any FIR, the authorities label these disappeared persons as militants without any investigation," it added.

demoralised and working under the threat of possibility of motivated allegations against them.

The monitoring authority should further be directed to place its probe report before the apex court, the petition said.

In its plea, the Gujarat government had said the apex court need to undertake an exercise to examine the factual scenario in the entire country including Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir where persons in uniform are battling against militancy in most adverse circumstances, so as to avoid any different treatment to one particular state in which the number of encounter deaths are minimum.

The Gujarat government provided a detailed data about the terrorist-prone areas in the country and said terrorism has already taken a toll on lives of approximately 72,000 civilians and 12,000 security personnel.

The bench, which is seized of other petitions relating to the fake encounters between 2002-06 in Gujarat, had given liberty to the state government to file a separate petition on the issue when it had complained that only the Narendra Modi government is being singled out for encounter killings.

The apex court has already appointed its former judge Justice H S Bedi as the chairman of a monitoring authority constituted by the Gujarat government to look into 22 cases of killing in fake encounters.

The apex court had ordered probe into the killings, allegedly in staged shootouts, on two petitions filed by veteran journalist B G Verghese and film lyricist Javed Akhtar in which they

had said there was a pattern in the encounter killings in which only

people of particular community were targeted.

## MILITARIZATION

### ➤ 1495 KANALS OF LAND TO COME UNDER BORDER

**April 4:** The government said 1495 kanals of land would fall under fencing along with Indo-Pakistan International border in tehsil Bishnah of this winter capital.

In a written reply to a question raised by MLA Ashwani Sharma seeking details of the Agricultural land acquired by the Border Security Force (BSF) for fencing in border areas of Jammu division and particularly in reference to Bishnah constituency and the compensation paid to the land owners, the government said, "The details of the agricultural land acquired by the BSF for fencing in border areas of Jammu is yet to be finalized by the Deputy Commissioner."

The government said the revenue documents of the land, which have come under fencing are being prepared.

"In respect of tehsil Bishnah, about 1495 kanals of land falling in 14 villages is expected to come under fencing," government replied.

It was further replied that the process regarding preparation and authentication of revenue papers is afoot and the compensation would be paid after issuance of final awards as per the alignment given by the BSF authorities.

### ➤ '1867 BUILDINGS UNDER FORCES OCCUPATION'

**Apr 9:** At least 1,867 buildings are under occupation of the forces in the State. "1,867 buildings are under occupation of the forces in the State. Of these 1,561 are private houses and 306 are government buildings," officials said in Jammu.

They said the government has chalked out a comprehensive programme to shift these forces and in the last eight years, 1,342 buildings have been vacated.

"Steps are also being taken to reduce the presence of security forces, particularly in urban areas," they said.

They said the government has built 357 barracks and 156 rooms in the past three years to relocate the forces from various government and private buildings.

"The infrastructures have been developed at 53 locations across the state to help in relocation of the forces from places like educational institutes, government and private establishments," they said.

The officials said three battalions have also been de-inducted from the Valley and 39 security bunkers have been removed from public places in Srinagar.

### ➤ WE WANT TO HAVE A BUNKER-FREE CITY: NASIR 'LACK OF ALTERNATE SPACE FOR CRPF MEN MAY SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS'

**April 03:** They have served as symbols of armed conflict for the last two decades, but this may be their last year. The bunkers in the volatile areas of Srinagar city are finally set to be removed this year.

As per the officials, 24 roadside bunkers are being removed from the city, the process beginning with the removal of the picket at Babdemb area on April 3.

However, while the government has claimed to make Srinagar a bunker-free city, sources within CRPF have hinted of

delay in the process, maintaining that the removal of bunkers will take time since the government is slow in arranging alternative space for the paramilitary personnel.

The major bunkers likely to be removed include the Palladium Cinema and Budshah Bridge pickets in Lal Chowk area.

The local residents, shopkeepers, hotel owners and drivers have been demanding removal of the palladium bunker arguing that it gives a look of a 'war-zone' to an otherwise supposedly commercial centre of the city besides scaring away tourists, customers and even casual pedestrians.

The bunker at Reka Chowk in the volatile Batamaloo locality is also proposed to be removed. Shielded by coiled wires and net mesh, the bunker has often remained in the eye of stone pelting. It also has been a target of grenade attacks.

There is also a proposal to remove bunkers from Soura, Saidapora and Eidgah localities. Particularly, the bunkers located at Soura and Saidpura have encroached on the pavements. At Saidapora, the check posts and wires have blocked the road partially.

Bunkers will also be removed from other sensitive areas of old city including Aali Kadal, Fateh Kadal and Nawakadal. These bunkers have also acted as trouble spots, particularly during protests.

Pertinently, most of these structures were set up in 1990s with the primary role to contain militancy.

CRPF spokesman, Sudhir Kumar said there is a proposal of removing 23 more bunkers after a bunker was removed at Babademb.

Kumar said the removal would be a "constant process and would take its own time".

According to an official, there are 368 bunkers in Srinagar after 39 of them were removed in a phased manner over the course of one year. These include live bunkers (permanent structures), make-shift bunkers, and mobile bunkers.

A CRPF official, wishing anonymity, said there was so far no alternative arrangement for CRPF troopers who would be relieved from the bunkers.

"At least 12 CRPF men would be relieved from one single bunker duty so the state government has to arrange space for them," the official said. "But it's not happening on a rapid pace. So the removal would take some time".

However, Minister of State, Nasir Aslam Wani said they are providing alternative arrangements for CRPF personnel who would be relieved from bunker duties.

"We are removing more bunkers from city this year other than those which have been identified," Wani said. "We want to make Srinagar a bunker-free city".

CRPF has been assisting the state police in maintenance of law and order in Srinagar and other towns of the valley. There are 60 battalions of CRPF stationed in Kashmir with most of them posted in Srinagar.

## 4 KASHMIRI STUDENTS FEAR FOR THEIR LIFE

**April 22:** A Kashmiri student of Barkatullah University has claimed that he and his three colleagues face a threat to their life after filing of a police complaint against a head of the department and some students of the university.

Mohd Yousuf Parra, a post-graduate commerce student, alleged that the chief warden of Jawahar Lal boys' hostel in BU has threatened to kill me if I don't withdraw my complaints against the HoD and some students."

According to Yousuf, Dr SK Khateek, who is head of the commerce department of the University Teaching Department, is unhappy with him over his filing of two complaints.

"I lodged a complaint with the VC about my and three other Kashmiri students' ragging. There was another complaint against the HoD about his poor semester marks without any proper reason," Yousuf said.

"I am scared. I came here with some aspirations and now people here are calling me 'terrorist'. I don't know what will happen next day," Yousuf said in somewhat an anxious manner.

He added the situation became serious when he made a complaint against Dr Khateek to the university authorities on March 29, earlier this year.

Yousuf said after the complaint, the vice-chancellor's office gave a letter to the chief warden seeking explanation.

Yousuf then lodged a complaint with the Bagh Sewania police station on April 20 wherein he had stated that Dr Khateek has been threatening him.

"He has threatened me with dire consequences if I keep pursuing the complaint. I am also being threatened by unknown persons," Yousuf stated in the complaint.

### **BSF MAN BEATEN, STRIPPED, ARRESTED FOR EYE TEASING**

**Apr 10:** A BSF constable was arrested from the lower court, Srinagar on charges of eye-teasing, not before he was badly roughed up and stripped by the public.

According to the witnesses, Jagan Nath of the 113 Battalion BSF was caught hold of by the public when he was allegedly spotted eye-teasing at the forest lane near city centre Lal Chowk.

He, they said, was roughed up and stripped by the public after which he managed to escape and seek refuge in the lower court premises. The public, chasing the constable, locked the gate of the court till police arrived at the spot and took him into custody, the witnesses said, adding that the "angry crowd" also raised slogans against the forces.

"We arrested him from the court premises and registered a case of eye teasing under RPC section 294 against him," the SHO Maisuma police station, Asif Iqbal, told media.

Iqbal informed that the constable was not posted at Srinagar "but he had come to lower court for some work."

The SHO admitted that the constable "was beaten" and "stripped" by the public.

### **YOUTH DIES IN MYSTERIOUS BLAST**

**Apr 15:** A teenage boy died in a mysterious explosion in Tangdhar, Kupwara in north Kashmir, officials said.

They said Akhlaq Ahmad Lone, 15, son of Fateh Muhammad Lone was killed in an explosion at Haji Nard village of this frontier area this morning.

"Explosion was so powerful that windowpanes of some of the houses were damaged.

#### **> CRPF MAN ENDS LIFE**

**April 10:** An Indian Central Reserve Police Force, head constable committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at Kursoo Rajbagh in Srinagar.

The deceased has been identified as Megha Ram of 73 battalion A-Coy, posted at Kursoo, Rajbagh.

#### **> ARMY SOLDIER KILLS SELF**

**April 17:** An Army man committed suicide by shooting with his service rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, police said.

Identified as Ashok Bipla, a soldier of 27 Madras regiment, shot himself dead at Malti Post on LoC in Poonch, they said.

Army has ordered an inquiry into the incident, police said, adding that the reason behind the soldier taking the extreme step is not known.

#### **> COP COMMITS SUICIDE, ANOTHER HURT IN ACCIDENTAL FIRING**

**Apr 26:** A policeman committed suicide in South Kashmir while another was injured when a pump action gun went off accidentally

#### **> GOVT TO WITHDRAW 407 FIRS: MOS HOME**

**Apr 2:** The government said 407 FIRs have been selected for withdrawal under an amnesty policy for stone-pelters announced by the government last year.

"As per the amnesty (to stone-pelters involved in 2010 summer unrest) announced by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

The chief warden, Dr Khateek, denied allegations. "I do not have any idea about it. There is no problem in my hostel," Khateek claimed.

On complaints by Yousuf, chief warden said, "He was not happy after his poor result in third semester. We have topper students from Kashmir. There has been no issue," Khateek said.

In three hostels of Barkatullah University --Jawahar Lal, Munshi Premchand and Sanjay Gandhi-there are 200 students in each hostel. In all, 30 Kashmiri students live in these hostels.

"When we arrived at the lower court no one even told us what had happened. Then we enquired and found that he was engaged in eye teasing," he said.

The constable was lodged in Maisuma police station when the reports.

The BSF PRO, Rakesh Negi, however, expressed ignorance about the incident, saying "the battalion 113 is posted quite far away from Srinagar. We do not have any information about the incident."

In November last year, two paramilitary CRPF men were arrested on the charges of harassing a woman in the old city Srinagar. The locals had alleged that the CRPF men in civvies were following a woman in Karfali Mohalla Habbakadal, subsequently trying to force their way into her house.

Earlier in last July, a case was registered against CRPF at South Kashmir for trying to molest a group of women on Amarnath pilgrimage. The pilgrims were rescued by the locals who were in turn roughed up by the paramilitary personnel.

Soon after the explosion, the resident rushed to spot and found Lone in pool of blood. He was rushed to hospital; however he succumbed to his injuries on way," locals said.

Police said that a case has been registered and investigations are on.

### **SUICIDES**

during a joint training session with CRPF in Zainakote area of the city.

A police spokesman said Constable Waseem Raja, posted as operator with 11th Battalion India Reserve Police at Khanabal in Anantnag district, consumed some poisonous substance at his place of posting.

He said Raja was shifted to SKIMS hospital Soura here for treatment but died this morning.

The spokesman further said Constable Farooq Ahmad of District Police Lines Srinagar was injured in the head due to accidental fire of Pump Action gun during its demonstration at a joint training session in Zainakote in Srinagar.

He said the injured policeman was rushed to hospital for treatment. "The training session was held at the Battalion Headquarters of 44 Bn CRPF camp at Zainkote," he said.

Pump action guns are one of the many non-lethal weapons procured by the government to control mobs during the 2010 summer unrest in Valley.

### **OFFICIAL STATEMENTS**

last year, 407 FIRs have been identified for withdrawal", Minister of State for Home Nasir Aslam Wani told reporters outside the Assembly complex Jammu.

The minister said first there is a need to present a challan (case record) in the court as per the legal requirement. "It is the process of withdrawal of FIRs (against stone-pelters). Till March 28,

when the Chief Minister had made a statement in the House during the grants of his Home Department, 283 FIRs had been challaned (case records presented in courts) under this process for the withdrawal", he said.

Wani said other cases have also been put on fast track. "We wanted to speed up the process so that those identified get honourable exit in these cases and face no problems in future".

"The 15 cases which were reported in the media to have been challaned in the court and pointed out by the PDP Chief are part of the same process. If there is case of any minor involved in such cases, he will have to go through the same process," he said.

**> 58,784 PASSPORTS ISSUED DURING 2011: MINISTER**  
**April 04:** Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Parliamentary Affairs Ali Mohammad Sagar on behalf of Home Minister informed the House that total number of 84928 applications has been received by the Passport Office during 2011 out of which, 58784 cases have been cleared.

Replying in question by Murtaza Ahmed Khan, the Minister said that 26144 cases are under process for various reasons like non-receipt of reports from different field agencies for different clarifications. He said the passports are being issued as per the policy guidelines issued by the government.

He said the passport applicants of close relatives of militants can also be considered for performing Haj after clearance of CID. He said female passport applicants whose father, husband, son have been reported to be involved in militancy shall be considered for clearance for performing Haj. However, full clearance can also be considered on case to case basis subject to the conditions they have no adverse report from concerned quarters.

**> MORE THAN 40,000 KILLED IN JK IN OVER 2 DECADES: GOI**

**'GOVT ENCOURAGED POLICIES TO MAINSTREAM JK YOUTH'**  
**Apr 5:** Stating that 40,000 people were killed in Jammu and Kashmir after outbreak of militancy in the State, the Home Ministry's annual report disclosed that Government of India (GoI) has encouraged policies to mainstream the youth of State and discourage them from joining militancy.

According to the annual report of the Home Ministry for 2011-12, level of infiltration from across the borders and the resultant militant activities in the Valley showed significant decline in 2011. "Since outbreak of militancy, more than 40,000 people have lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir of which 13,846 were civilians and 4,807 were security personnel," it said.

It said Jammu and Kashmir has been affected by militant and secessionist violence, sponsored and supported from across the border for almost two decades.

"The levels of militant violence and encounters in the hinterlands of Jammu and Kashmir are inextricably linked to the levels of successful infiltration from across the border and there were 3,805 infiltration attempts in the border state since 2004 to 2011," it said.

**> SECURITY SCENE IN J&K STABLE: DEFENCE MINISTRY**

**April 9:** The Defence Ministry said the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir was "stable" but had the potential of "deteriorating" at a very short notice.

In its annual report released on April 9, the ministry said the need of the hour was to consolidate the gains in the improved situation.

"The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has been stable in 2011 with an overall reduction in violence. However, it has the potential to deteriorate at short notice," the ministry said in its report.

**> AFSPA, A FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT: ARMY CHIEF**  
**April 16:** Army Chief General V K Singh said controversial AFSPA was a functional requirement for the armed forces in certain areas.

"Everyone knows what our view is on this subject. It is based on functional requirement and how the Army is supposed to be in a particular area," Gen Singh told reporters in Delhi when asked to comment on demands for lifting AFSPA from parts of J and K.

Meanwhile, GoC of Srinagar-based 15 corps Lt Gen Hasnain said Army's stand on revocation of AFSPA from parts of J and K was clear and needed no further elucidation.

"We have already spoken about AFSPA. There is no change in our stance," Hasnain told reporters in Srinagar.

**> HUMAN RIGHTS NEED TO BE RESPECTED: CM**

**April 16:** The chief minister said the state government is committed to policy of zero tolerance vis-a-vis the infringement of human rights.

"I must caution that the progressive improvement in the security situation should not lead us to complacency. We have to continue to maintain constant vigil and alertness and ensure, at the same time, that the fundamental rights and civil liberties granted to our citizens by the constitution are scrupulously maintained and respected."

**> NEED TO ENHANCE SPO HONORARIUM: CM**

**April 16:** Underscoring the need for enhancing honorarium of Special Police Officials (SPOs), the chief minister said SPOs have been playing an important role in assisting the Police in fighting militancy in the State. "An SPO is being paid an honorarium of Rs. 3000 per month. Keeping in view their contribution there is a need to enhance their honorarium so as to boost their morale and motivate them for better delivery," Omar said.

**> POLICE GEARS UP FOR GREATER ROLE IN SECURITY AFFAIRS OF JK: DGP**

- Requisition for IRP battalions sent to New Delhi
- 81370 cops assisted by 58 battalions of CRPF
- 150 militants active in Valley
- Less lethal tear gas shells introduced
- 42 bunkers removed from Srinagar

**April 12:** With significant improvement in the overall situation, Jammu and Kashmir police is preparing for a greater role in looking after the security affairs of the state.

To begin with, the state police has put forth a long-term proposal of creating 50 battalions of Indian Reserve Police Force (IRP) before New Delhi, which would help it to play an active role in the security affairs of the state.

"We have requested for creation 5 battalions of IRP on immediate basis. We have already raised 5 Bn of IRP who are playing their role in maintaining law and order in the state," Director General of Police, Kuldeep Khoda told media.

"The required battalions would be raised in a phased manner to meet the challenges as they arise."

He said police now is taking a lead role in fighting insurgency and maintaining law and order in the state.

Currently, 81370 police personnel are stationed in J&K. In Kashmir, they are assisted by CRPF with its 58 Battalions, each having an estimated 1200 personnel.

Similarly, there are estimated 32000 men of Rashtriya Rifles in North and South Kashmir who are exclusively meant for fighting insurgency in the hinterland.

Khoda said there were approximately 150 militants in the valley with most of them active in north Kashmir. "Like we have Sopore where there are many active militants still present."

The militancy related incidents showed a considerable decline in year 2011.

As per the police, seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir are militancy free. Thirteen districts have recorded single digit militancy related incidents while the number of such incidents in four districts is in double digits.

While speaking on the bunker removal process in Srinagar, Khoda said so far 42 bunkers have been removed.

"We are in the process of removal of bunkers. Police also reviews the security and CRPF deployment is being made as per the requirement."

Asked as to when will J&K police take charge of security affairs in Srinagar, Khoda said special training has been imparted to some battalions of police. He said they have also conducted joint exercises with CRPF for effective maintenance of law and order in the state.

"We have brought special protective gears and are using non-lethal weapons to prevent any causality during law and order problems," he said.

**TEAR GAS SHELLS TURN 'LESS LETHAL'**

Khoda said they have also procured new "less lethal" tear gas shells.

"We have removed the metallic shell and covered its nose with a plastic cover. There is also air-padding in its tip which has rendered it harmless in case if it hits somebody."

**> NOBODY ARRESTED FOR USING FACEBOOK: SAHAI**

Army seminar on Kashmiri pride

'OVER 20,000 released militants responsible for trouble'

**April 27:** Dispelling the notion that Facebook users in Valley were under threat from police, Inspector General of Police Kashmir zone S M Sahai said no one was arrested for this charge.

He, however, asserted that "freedom" to the extent of inciting violence will not be tolerated.

Speaking at a two-day seminar, "Enhancing Jammu and Kashmir's Pride" organized by Army's 15 Corps Srinagar, Sahai said there was complete freedom for every citizen, whatever he or she wants to express. "But we will not tolerate the freedom that would incite violence," he clarified.

Referring to 'objectionable material' being posted on social networking sites, he said, "It is nothing un-usual as there is a group of people, who draw selective interpretations of history and religion, the way it suits them".

Sahai said released militants are responsible for keeping the sentiment alive. "There are over 20,000 released militants and they do it to justify the violence, which they have used in past," he said.

In 2010 unrest, we picked up 5400 people but detained only 315 who were directly responsible for organizing the protests".

He admitted that in 2010, police was not trained to handle the situation. "There was a system failure and this time the response is different. We are well equipped and trained now to avoid casualties," he adding that if the protest is violent, how can one expect police or CRPF man, who is attacked, should not defend himself.

DATE	TROOPERS	MILITANTS	CIVILIANS	OTHERS
April01	-	-	-	-
April02	-	-	-	-
April03	-	-	-	-
April04	-	-	-	-
April05	-	5	-	-
April06	-	-	-	-
April07	-	-	-	-
April08	-	-	-	-
April09	1	-	-	-
April10	1	-	-	-
April11	-	-	-	-
April12	-	-	-	-
April13	-	-	-	-
April14	-	-	-	-
April15	-	-	1	-
April16	-	-	-	-
April17	1	-	-	-
April18	-	-	-	-
April19	-	-	-	-
April20	1	-	-	-
April21	-	-	-	-
April22	-	-	-	-
April23	1	-	-	-
April24	-	-	-	-
April25	-	-	-	-
April26	1	-	-	-
April27	-	-	-	-
April28	-	-	-	-
April29	-	-	-	-
April 30	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>In Toto</b>	<b>12</b>	

**CHRONOLOGY OF INCIDENTS**

**April 1:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.

**April 2:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.

**April 3:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.

**April 4:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.

**April 5:** Five militants have been killed in an encounter between militants and troopers in a forest area near Zachaldara village of Handwara. Identity and group affiliation of the deceased militants could not be ascertained.

**April 6:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 7:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 8:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 9:** An army man was killed in a grenade blast in Chati Bakri forward post in Rajouri district of Jammu province. The deceased was identified as Hardev Singh of Sikh Regiment.  
**April 10:** An Indian Central Reserve Police Force, head constable committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at Kursoo Rajbagh in Srinagar.  
**April 11:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 12:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 13:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 14:** A father-son duo was injured in a grenade explosion in central Kashmir's Budgam district, police said. Unknown persons hurled a grenade near Ompura Railway Station injuring Ghulam Ahmad Wani and his son Imran. The injured were shifted to district hospital Budgam for treatment.  
**April 15:** A teenage boy died in a mysterious explosion in Tangdhar, Kupwara in north Kashmir, officials said. The deceased was identified as Akhlaq Ahmad Lone, 15, son of Fateh Muhammad Lone was killed in an explosion at Haji Nard village of this frontier area this morning  
**April 16:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 17:** An Army soldier Ashok Bipla of 27 Madras regiment, shot himself dead at Malti Post on LoC in Poonch  
**April 18:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 19:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 20:** Jammu & Kashmir police assistant sub inspector was shot dead by suspected militants in Srinagar's Darish Kadal area. The deceased policeman had been identified as Sukhpal Singh.  
**April 21:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 22:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 23:** A Special Police Officer (SPO) was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Doda district. Police said body of SPO Naresh Kumar was found in Bargi Nallah in Gandoh belt of Doda.  
**April 24:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 25:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 26:** A policeman committed suicide in South Kashmir while another was injured when a pump action gun went off accidentally during a joint training session with CRPF in Zainakote area of the city.  
**April 27:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 28:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 29:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.  
**April 30:** No incident of conflict related violence reported from any part of the state.

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# PUBLIC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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