

# Tension in Kathua as land mafia threaten villagers

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Aug 1: An explosive situation has been created which may flare up violence any time creating law and order problem for the District Administration as some land mafia-men are threatening villagers who offered their land for the local University campus on the outskirts of the town. Majority of the land allotted to these villages in lieu of nearly 300 kanal of University land has already been grabbed by some land mafia-men and others having some political connections. The villagers and farmers who sacrificed and offered their land for the campus are now being victimized and feeling helpless as the mafia men in league with some top officials and businessmen from Jammu are exerting pressure on the District Administration not to hand over the possession of the land. A possible violence was averted on Wednesday and even today when villagers and some hired men from the mafia group reached the spot. The villagers tried to plough their fields and had come with tractors and even JCB. But on the directions of the District Administration, Tehsildar and SHO Kathua along with force reached the spot and averted the violence. The villagers have now

warned that if the District Administration failed to provide them possession of the allotted land, they will go and occupy their land in the campus.

MLA Kathua Charanjit Singh when contacted said that villagers gave their lands for the good cause of the area. Some outsiders from Jammu in connivance with some revenue officials grabbed land in the outskirts of the town.

and around Janglote, few years back. They also produced affidavits that they were original owners of the said land. But later, on the basis of complaints, inquiry was held and these people got exposed. The documents prepared and affidavits were found fictitious. Case was investigated by Crime Branch and two tehsildars, a Naib Tehsildar, Girdawar and two Patwaris were dismissed for wrong mutations and allotment of

land giving undue favour to some businessmen from Jammu.

He said Tehsildar Territorial Kathua Jatinder Mishra decided the case and did mutations in favour of the villagers (allotees) on July 16 and the land was also handed over to some families when they went for ploughing, but they were stopped by local Administration. He alleged that District Administration was indirectly supporting the mafia men.

Mr Mishra when contacted claimed that he had decided the case on July 16 and on July 18 had handed over the land. But on July 27, the opposite parties brought stay from Tribunal and the work had to be stopped. He claimed that most of the families have been handed over the land and hardly 15-16 are yet to be accommodated on nearly 110 kanal of disputed land.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Jatinder Kumar Singh when contacted said there was no political pressure on him. "There was only pressure from the tribunal (Court) and we have to go by the directive. The court has directed to main status as was there before June 13, 2013. Nearly 50 odd families had to be rehabilitated in four villages and the process is going on. There is legal battle between the two sides and we have to comply with the court orders," the DC maintained.

# Mufti seeks decisive mandate to resolve all contentious issues

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 1: Seeking decisive mandate of the people to solve all contentious issues, People's Democratic Party (PDP) patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said the PDP has

issue by involving all stake holders", Mufti promised and added that his party has potential to engage main-stream parties as well as other groups, who are outside the mainstream, to evolve a wide-range consensus on the solution of this problem.



PDP patron Mufti Mohd Sayeed addressing a public meeting at Udhampur on Thursday.

created a new space within the democratic system for the resolution of Kashmir issue.

"Having emerged as a strong regional force, PDP will have a crucial role to play in the new democratic discourse to the resolution of vexed Kashmir problem", Mufti said while addressing a public meeting organised here today in connection with the foundation day celebrations of the party.

"Give us a decisive mandate and we will solve the Kashmir

While quoting promises made by his party, Mufti said, "PDP being conscious of its public responsibility seeks to re-dedicate itself to redeeming the situation. Restoration of the dignity, honour and safety of the lives of our men, women and children is our foremost concern".

"Kashmir has emerged as a source of tension and immense political, social and economic problems for entire South Asia. It will be our endeavour to change the complexion of Kashmir by making it as bridge between India and Pakistan for solving all bilateral issues", he said, adding, PDP with the support of the people will take fresh initiatives to set a new agenda of peace and prosperity in this region.

Terming the coming Assembly elections as historic opportunity to change destiny of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti said that with the over-whelming support of the

masses, PDP would, with fresh resolve and renewed determination, carry forward its mission of resolving Kashmir problem and to provide good governance of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"After 2002 elections, PDP had proved how to carry forward, simultaneously, the agenda of peace and reconciliation along with the good governance", he said and reminded the gathering that PDP had set an example of governance by bringing transparency and accountability in the administration.

While stating that PDP is a force of integration to cement relations of all regions and sub-regions of the State, Mufti said that time has come for reconciling the State's divergent opinions in a democratic spirit to resolve its political and economic problems.

"Inter and intra-State issues and issue of equal opportunities for all regions, communities and sub-regions can be resolved if the problem is approached with an open mind and with will to move ahead," he said and added that the PDP's road map offers a comprehensive solution to all the three dimensions of the problem. "It not only outlines the contours of the State's political empowerment, but also lays a roadmap for its economic emancipation," he said.

Asserting that PDP has roadmap to solve Kashmir problem, Mufti said that Kashmir issue cannot be put on the backburner and, in the changed scenario, the voice of people of J&K can provide the most valuable input to the efforts at bringing peace to the South Asian region. "It is my dream is remove the wall of hatred between India and Pakistan and to make Jammu and Kashmir as an Island of peace in this region", he said and asserted that PDP was committed to fight for justice and rule of law in Jammu and Kashmir.

# Governor, CM greet people on Jumat-ul-Vida

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: N. N. Vohra, Governor, has conveyed his warm greetings to the people on the occasion of Jumat-ul-Vida and expressed the hope that this auspicious occasion would be a harbinger of communal harmony, peace, progress and prosperity in the State.

In his message of greetings, the Governor prayed for the well-being and happiness of the people of the State.

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah in his message on the eve of Jumat-ul-Vida has highlighted the significance of the day for Muslims observing fast and controlling human instincts to please Allah and seek his forgiveness and blessings.

Omar said that Jumat-ul-Vida is the occasion of expressing gratitude to Almighty for his unabated munificence, blessings and benevolence showered on the mankind. "This is the day for the fast observing people to thank Allah for giving them courage and determination to conquer thirst, hunger, anger, emotion and repulse influences of evils, and be kind to all showing special attention to the needy and poor", he said, adding that the day is for observing special prayers for peace and prosperity for entire humanity.

The Chief Minister prayed for peace and prosperity of the State and the country and well-being of the people and wished Jumat-ul-Vida to be harbinger of peace in the world.

# Rs 4 crore worth banned medicinal herb seized, 6 arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, Aug 1: Six persons were arrested and a banned rare medicinal herb Naag Shatri worth Rs 4 crore was recovered from their possession by a team of Forest Department today.

The alert sleuths of Forest Department led by Divisional Forest Officer Mazoor Hussain Gargoo conducted a raid at Dewali area in Bhaderwah belt and intercepted a Punjab-bound truck bearing registration number HP 12C-4131.

During the search, the team

recovered 13 quintals of banned rare medicinal herb Naag Shatri packed in 32 gunny bags.

"We have seized huge quantity of rare medicinal herb Naag Shatri and six persons, all from Himachal Pradesh, have been held and a case was registered under the Forest Act," DFO Manzoor Hussain, said.

Earlier on July 28, Jammu and Kashmir Excise and Taxation Department had seized Rs 3 crore Naag Shatri from Lakhampur Inter-State Toll Plaza in Kathua district.

# SVO submits latest status report in POL double drawl case HC summons record of Trial Court

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 1: High Court today summoned the record of the Court of Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu in File No.138/M which had been disposed off by the Trial Court on July 22, 2013 granting four months time to the State Vigilance Organization for concluding the preliminary enquiry into the much publicized alleged double drawl of POL by the vehicles attached with the Deputy Chief Minister.

The record was summoned by Justice Virender Singh after hearing Advocate S S Ahmed appearing for the petitioner and DyAG Z S Watali for the State.

Meanwhile, as per the directions of the High Court, SSP Vigilance filed status report mentioning that during the course of verification conducted so far reports/Photostat copies of record were obtained from Additional Secretary to DyCM, State Motor Garages, Municipal Corporation Jammu, Senior Superintendent of Police, Security Jammu, Chairman Lakes and Water Ways Development Authority, Jammu Development Authority, Municipal Corporation Srinagar, Directorate of Local Bodies Jammu/Srinagar and Srinagar Development Authority.

# One pilgrim dies, 6 hurt in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Aug 1: A Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrim was killed while six others injured when their Tata mobile vehicle collided with a 'Tralla' in Tapyal area of Samba last night.

A police spokesman said that the incident took place during mid-night when the vehicle bearing registration No. MH28B/458 was on way to Katra. Near Tapyal ( Ghagwal), it collided with a Tralla No. TB03T/9665. Seven persons in the Tata Mobile were injured and rushed to Samba Hospital. One of them was declared as dead.

The deceased was later identified as Govinda Ashok Tappa, son of Ashok Tappa, resident of Gandhi Chowk, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Six other injured were later referred to GMC Hospital, Jammu.

# Forest guard shoots self to death

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Aug 1: A forest guard committed suicide by using licensed gun at his residence at Ward No. 1, in Seora area of Rajouri town this afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Ghulam Sayed (32), son of retired DFO, Shamsher Ahmed, resident of Shahdara Sharief and presently residing in Ward No. 1, Rajouri. Police said the victim fired with .12 bore gun on self and was critically injured this afternoon. He was rushed to district hospital where doctors declared him as dead. The police registered a case and started investigation. The immediate cause behind the incident could not be known.

Some family feud is believed to be the reason behind the incident.

According to the status report, in respect of vehicle No. JK02AE-7477 (Tata Safari), which was allotted to Deputy Chief Minister by the State Motor Garages in the month of January 2009, a total of 12242 litres of POL was issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department till November 2012. However, Jammu Municipal Corporation has also issued 865 litres of POL to this vehicle at many intervals. The perusal of log book reveals that a total of 11048.7 litres of POL had been issued in favour of this vehicle. However, the name of the department/organization as well as quantity issued by each is not mentioned/bifurcated in the log book. It is yet to be verified that from which source the remaining quantity of 3694 litres of POL was drawn.

As far as Ambassador car bearing number JK02H-1998 (attached with DyCM as staff car from December 2009 to July 2010 and used by Officer on Special Duty with DyCM) is concerned, the status report said, the perusal of log book of the vehicle from December 2009 to June 2010 reveals that during the period the vehicle had consumed 82.0 litres of fuel. The

Directorate of Local Bodies Jammu and LAWDA reported that their department has not issued fuel in favour of the vehicle. However, the drivers of the vehicle deployed by the State Motor Garages during the period stated that LAWDA issued the fuel to the vehicle whereas cost of fuel consumed by vehicle at Jammu was borne by Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Jammu.

The Ambassador car bearing number JK02U-8598, which remained attached with the Additional Secretary to DyCM from March 2009 to April 2011, was issued 6083 litres of POL in favour of this vehicle.

According to the status report, a Maruti Car-800 registered in the name of Summit Dasgotra, son of Jagdish Dasgotra, a resident of Mera Mandrian, Akhnoor was issued 40 litres of POL on the written request of OSD to DyCM.

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