

Civilian areas targeted, narrow escape for many

Army jawan martyred, Lt among 4 injured in Pak shelling on LoC

Sanjeev Pargal



JAMMU, Apr 3: Pakistan army today again initiated unprovoked mortar shelling and firing in Krishna Ghati (KG) sector on the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district targeting forward defence posts in which an Army soldier was martyred and four others including a Lieutenant with just four months of service, were injured, a couple of them seriously.

The Indian side retaliated effectively and inflicted heavy damages on Pakistan side, the details of which were not available immediately.

Official reports said Pakistani troops violated ceasefire on the LoC in forward areas of Krishna Ghati sector at 7.15 am targeting forward posts of the Indian Army and civilian

areas with heavy 82mm and 81mm mortar shells and using automatic and semi-automatic weapons. The Indian side retaliated immediately and very effectively, leading to heavy exchanges that lasted about one and a half hour.

A total of five Army personnel were injured on the Indian side after being hit by splinters of mortar shells and firing. They were evacuated from the forward posts amidst ongoing shelling and firing by their colleagues and shifted to hospital. All of them were airlifted to Military Hospital, Udhampur, where one of the jawans attained martyrdom.

He has been identified as Sepoy Mustapure Shubam Suryakant, 20, a resident of village Konerwadi, Chatori in Parbhani district of Maharashtra. He is survived by his mother Sunita. He had two years of service in the Army.

"Sepoy Mustapure was a brave and sincere soldier. The nation will always remain indebted to him for his

supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," a Defence spokesman said.

Injured Army personnel have been identified as Lt Kallmpati Bhargava, 23, with just four months of service, Subedar Sakunday Sameer Kashi Nath, 37 with 17 years of service, Naib Subedar Mahliya Vikas Motilal, 43, with 23 years of service and

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Naik Dhmal Sandeep, 35 having 16 years of service. Body of the martyr jawan is being sent to his native town with full military honours.

Sources said the Indian Army undertook major retaliatory action against the Pakistani troops after latter violated ceasefire in Krishna Ghati sector and inflicted heavy damages on Pakistan side. The enemy troops were reported to have suffered casualties, both fatal and non-fatal, but their exact number couldn't be known immediately.

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Art 370 not a temporary provision: SC

NEW DELHI, Apr 3:

The Supreme Court today said that Article 370 of the Constitution which gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir is not a temporary provision.

The Apex Court said that in its earlier verdict of 2017 in the SARFAESI case, it has been already held that Article 370 was "not a temporary provision".

"The issue concerned is covered by the judgement of this court in the 2017 SARFAESI matter, where we have held that despite the headline of Article 370, it is not a temporary provision," a bench of justices A K Goel and R F Nariman said.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre said that the matter be heard after some time as similar matters are pending before the court and are to be listed shortly.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan and advocate Shobh Alam appearing for the Jammu and Kashmir Government clarified that other matters which are pending before the Apex Court relates to Article 35 A of the Constitution and not Article 370

as submitted by the ASG.

Dhavan said that those matter cannot be heard along with the present case, which only deals with Article 370.

The bench then adjourned the matter for hearing by three weeks on the insistence of the ASG.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by petitioner Kumari Vijayalakshmi Jha, against the Delhi High Court's April 11, 2017 order dismissing the plea seeking a declaration that Article 370 is temporary in nature.

The petitioner had claimed before the High Court that Article 370 was a temporary provision that had lapsed with the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in 1957.

The petition had said that the continuation of the temporary provision of Article 370 even after dissolution of Constituent Assembly of J&K, and that of J&K Constitution which has never got the assent of the President of India or Parliament or the Government of India, "amounts to fraud on the basic structure of our Constitution". (PTI)

Man abducted, killed by LeT; 3 family members hurt

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Apr 3: Police today recovered body of a youth, who was abducted by the militants last night before leaving his three family members injured at Hajin area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Body of Muntazir Ahmad son of Farooq Ahmad Parrey was found near a bund on the outskirts of Hajin area in Bandipora district.

Police said that during the investigation, it has come to notice that local militant Mohammad Saleem Parrey has played a major role in the killing of Muntazir.

"Five foreign terrorists affiliated with LeT, Abu Muslim, Hubaib, Khalid, Abu Hamza and Haider are also involved in the killing", the spokesman added.

"The body was taken into the

Injured youth succumbs, 2 held



A view of the damaged house where LeT militants barged in and abducted a family member in Hajin area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district. -Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

custody for conducting legal medico formalities including postmortem.

Earlier, police in a statement said that three members of a family received grievous

injuries in late night militant attack at Hajin.

"At about 10:10 pm, 4 militants who are believed to be affiliated with LeT, barged

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Tale of DDB Ramban's decisions

High on legislators' priority, least important for bureaucrats

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 3: Despite being warned of strict action for non-performance, the concerned Government departments have not paid serious attention towards the issues prioritized by the legislators during the District Development Board meeting of Ramban over one year back. Due to this, no discernible progress has been witnessed even on making available improved basic amenities to the people.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that while chairing District Development Board meeting of Ramban on March 4,

No discernible progress even on providing basic amenities

2017, Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Abdul Gani Kohli had told the officers of different departments in unambiguous term that stern action would be taken in case they failed to strictly and timely implement the decisions of the Board.

He had even asked them to conduct routine tours and inspections to monitor progress of various ongoing and proposed development works so that their benefit percolates to the people in a time bound manner.

However, the directions of the Chairman of the Ramban District Development Board have fallen on deaf ears and this can be gauged from the fact that no discernible progress has been made on almost all the issues prioritized by the legislators, sources said.

Quoting an example, they said that taking serious note of inordinate delay in construction of Degree College building at Banihal, the District Development Board had

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Paper leak: Class 11th exams postponed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: Following leakage of Physical Education question paper of Higher Secondary Part-I (Term I and II), session 2018 of Summer Zone, the J&K Board of School Education has ordered postponement of all the examinations of Class 11th, which were scheduled to be held on April 4.

According to JK BOSE chairperson Prof Veena Pandita, fresh date for the postponed examinations shall be notified later on. Even as reports were received regarding alleged leakage of Physical Education question paper, BOSE has decided to postpone all the Class 11th exams scheduled for tomorrow to avoid any confusion and apprehension.

Veena is BOSE chairperson

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: The Department of School Education today appointed Prof Veena Pandita as chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JK BOSE).

Prof Veena Pandita, who is Secretary JK BOSE, has been appointed as the chairperson for a period of two years from today.

A formal order for the appointment was issued today by the Department of School Education in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Act 1975 and in suppression of notification SRO 330, dated 09-08-2017.

CBSE not to conduct Class 10th re-exam

NEW DELHI, Apr 3:

The HRD Ministry today decided against conducting a re-examination of the CBSE Class 10 mathematics paper following reports of paper leak, with the board saying that class 10 was just an "internal segment" of school education system.

Education Secretary Anil Swarup had earlier in the day said, "Consequent to a preliminary evaluation of the impact of the reportedly leaked CBSE class 10 maths paper & keeping in mind the paramount interest of students, the CBSE has decided not to conduct a

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Deal with situation carefully, stick to SOP: CM to officials

Mehbooba holds high-level security review

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today called upon top brass of police to deal carefully with the situation in Kashmir especially during anti-militancy operations and street protests to avert civilian killings and collateral damage, which could disturb peace and, in turn, hit the tourist season. She reiterated her call for strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) during search and cordon operations and dealing with the protests.

The directions were issued by her at a high-level meeting of civil, police and Health

Department officials, which she chaired at her official residence in Srinagar this afternoon. The meeting lasted about two hours.

This was second security review taken by Mehbooba Mufti during last two days in the

wake of 20 killings in South Kashmir on Sunday including 13 militants, three Army soldiers and four civilians besides injuries to nearly 100 other civilians.

Four top police officers, present at the meeting, including Director General of Police (DGP) Dr Shesh Pal Vaid, Additional DG CID AG Mir, IGP Kashmir Swayam Prakash

Pani and DIG South Kashmir Amit Kumar gave detailed briefing to the Chief Minister on Sunday's twin operations, presence of militants and other aspects of the situation.

Chief Secretary BB Vyas, Principal Secretary (Home) RK Goyal, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Basar Khan, Director SKIMS Prof Javed Shah and other officials of the Health Department also attended the meeting and briefed the Chief Minister, who was in New Delhi on Saturday and Sunday to attend a programme of Kashmiri Pandits and had cancelled all engagements in Jammu to straightway fly to Srinagar from the Union capital.

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MHRD ranks JU, KU among top 100 Universities

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Apr 3: In a major achievement, University of Jammu and University of Kashmir have been listed among top 100 Universities in the country.

In the all India ranking for 2018, assessed by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Kashmir University has secured 47th position while the Jammu University has bagged 51st position.

Assessed by MHRD under National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Kashmir University has been granted 43.96 score while Jammu

University got 43.19 score, slightly less from KU even as both the universities have improved their tally from the last year ranking.

Last year, Jammu University's ranking under NIRF was 63rd while Kashmir University's ranking was 73rd.

Even as no other University in Jammu and Kashmir could secure a position under top 100 varsities of the country, the Engineering College of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has emerged on 94th rank among all the Engineering Institutes.

Getting 36.28 score, the SMVDU Engineering College performed better than even a

number of NITs across the country, ranked by MHRD this year under NIRF.

The ranking of Indian Universities and other educational institutions in 2018 under Institutional Ranking Framework was displayed today by the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development (HRD). About 4500 institutes had submitted their details for the ranking under NIRF.

Pertinent to mention that the National Institutional Ranking Framework was instituted by MHRD in 2015 and the first rankings were announced in 2016. NIRF outlines a methodology to

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

SC declines to stay SC/ST verdict

NEW DELHI, Apr 3:

The Supreme Court today said it will consider in detail the Centre's review petition against its March 20 judgement on the SC/ST Act but declined to keep in abeyance the directions passed by it to deal with the issues of arrest and sanction under the special law.

The Apex Court said people who are agitating may not have read the judgement properly and must have been misled by people with vested interests.

Several States were rocked by violence and clashes yesterday following a 'Bharat Bandh' call given by several SC/ST organisations protesting the top court's March 20 order, that has claimed eight lives.

"We have not diluted any provision of SC/ST Act but only

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After PAO, BEAMS for salaries also kept in abeyance

Fiscal reforms will continue: Bukhari

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 3: After keeping in abeyance the Pay and Accounts System (PAO), the Finance Department today also directed the treasuries to switch to old practice for payment of salaries instead of BEAMS (Budgetary Expenditure And Management System).

The PAO and BEAMS systems had been introduced by former Finance Minister Dr Haseeb Drabu, who was removed last month for alleged

controversial remarks on Kashmir situation.

An order issued today by Director General, Accounts and Treasuries, Finance Department, said the Department has received information that several technical issues related to software, incorrect codes, non availability of internet access at various treasuries has been causing difficulties in operation of salary and other related expenditure through BEAMS.

"In view of this, the treasury officers have been advised that salary and other expenditures be continue to be made as per the old practice till the difficulties are removed by the National Informatics Centre," the order said.

Immediately after taking over as Finance Minister, Syed

Altaf Bukhari had kept the PAO system in abeyance.

Meanwhile, sources said, payments worth crores continued to be held up due to alleged mismanagement in the system of treasuries, sources said.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Altaf Bukhari told the Excelsior that fiscal reforms will continue and BEAMS will be revived at the earliest possible after technical and other glitches, which have surfaced in the system, are removed.

"The fiscal reforms will continue. There is no going back on this (the reforms). We will also revive BEAMS at the earliest after overcoming the difficulties, which have been observed in its implementation," Bukhari said.

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