

Mehbooba's concern over killing

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Nov 18: Former Chief Minister and president People's Democratic Party (PDP) Mehbooba Mufti today termed the killing of a youth in Shopian as barbaric and bestial, stating that the people of the State in unison must save youngsters from such catastrophe.

While meeting the party functionaries from Wachi and Pulwama, Mehbooba said words aren't enough to condemn the killing of teenagers and that such acts of brutality have no place in Kashmir which in the entire world for centuries is known for its generosity and

SC dismisses plea of Kathua rape witness

NEW DELHI, Nov 18: The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea claiming that a key witness in the sensational Kathua gang rape-and-murder case was allegedly tortured in custody by the Jammu and

A bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and Deepak Gupta rejected the petition filed by a close relative of Talib Hussain, a key witness in the Kathua case, on the ground that the petitioner failed to appear before it despite the court's

8405 in fray for Phase-VI

JAMMU, Nov 18: As many as 8405 candidates are in the fray for 590 Sarpanch and 4546 Panch constituencies in Phase-VI of Panchayat elections, which are scheduled to be held on December 1.

While 1716 candidates would contest 590 Sarpanch segments, 6689 candidates would try their luck for 4546 Panch constituencies, official sources told the Excelsior.

Polling and counting of votes will be held on December 1. Polling will be held from 8 am to 2 pm while counting of votes will be taken up immediately after the voting is over.

According to sources, for

IAF moots joint planning with Army, Navy

NEW DELHI, Nov 18: Chief of Air Staff B S Dhanoa has strongly pitched for institutionalised structure for joint planning among the Indian Air Force, Navy and Army so that the country wins any war in future in the "shortest possible" time.

The IAF chief said all the three services will have to adopt a coherent approach to effectively deal with all possible security threats facing the country, asserting that his force strongly stands for "jointness". "No single service can win the war solely on its own inherent organic capabilities given the variety of threats which

Massive operations launched in Shopian
2 Al-Badr militants, CRPF jawan killed; 2 injured

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Nov 18: Security forces today killed two militants of Al-Badr outfit in South Kashmir's Shopian district while a paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was killed and two soldiers were injured in two separate militant attacks this evening in Pulwama district and massive operations have been launched against the militants responsible for the killing of two civilians and abduction of four others.

A joint team of Army's 1 RR, CRPF and SOG of Jammu and Kashmir Police Shopian cordoned off Rebban area of Zainapora in Shopian district this morning after specific information about presence of militants in the area.

As the security forces zeroed on to the suspected house, the hiding militants fired upon security forces triggering an encounter. Two militants were killed and their bodies have been

recovered along with one AK-47 and a pistol from the encounter site.



A hideout of the militants busted at Yarwan forests of Shopian on Sunday.

—Excelsior/Younis Khaliq

They have been identified as any", the police said.

Nawaz Ahmad Wagay son of A CRPF personnel was

Glulam Qadir, resident of Rebban, Zainapora and Yawar Wani son of Ali Mohammad Wani, resident of Batnoor Litter, Pulwama. Nawaz Ahmad of Rebban (MA Urdu Student) had joined militancy in June this year.

Police said that both the militants were involved in a series of attacks on security establishments and many other civilian atrocities in the area.

"Citizens are once again requested not to venture inside the encounter zone since such an area can prove dangerous due to stray explosive materials. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosives materials, if

And in Shopian, Police and Army in a joint operation busted a militant hideout in Yarwan forests today. Huge quantity of incriminating materials including edibles, stores and sustenance

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killed in a militant attack on CRPF camp near Railway Station Kakapora in South Kashmir's Pulwama tonight.

Militants fired on CRPF camp resulting in injuries to one jawan. The injured identified, Head Constable Chandrika Prasad was rushed to nearby hospital where he succumbed.

Sources said that the CRPF company had come only yesterday for election duty and were camping there.

Militants fired upon security forces during cordon and search operation in paddy fields between Laribal and Larve Kakapora in Pulwama district this evening. Two Army personnel were injured. The 50 RR of Army, Pulwama Police and CRPF had laid cordon in the area when they were fired upon by militants.

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J&K seeks return of 3 senior IPS officers from MHA

More to be recalled soon as 20 still on deputation

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Nov 18: The State Government has written to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs seeking return of three senior IPS officers, two of whom are posted in the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI), citing acute deficiency of IPS officers at various levels.

Twenty more IPS officers of Jammu and Kashmir cadre, excepting the three whose return has been sought by the State Government, are presently on deputation with the Central Government.

"After return of three IPS officers from the Centre, the State Government was likely to seek return of some more officers, who have either completed their deputation or were nearing completion of the deputation term. Some of them were likely to be recalled in the midst of

their deputation," official sources told the Excelsior.

An official letter written by the Home Department to the Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of the State Government has sought return of Deepak Kumar, who was presently posted in Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC), Ranchi, MK Sinha and Keshav Ram Chaurasia, both of whom were posted with the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI), New Delhi.

Deepak Kumar, an IPS officer of 1993 batch is in the rank of Additional Director General of Police in Jammu and Kashmir while MK Sinha, who is 1996 batch IPS officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre is in the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Keshav Ram Chaurasia, who belongs to 2003 batch is presently posted as SP Economic

Offence, CBI, New Delhi. However, he is in the rank of DIG in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kumar is on deputation with the Central Government since 16.5.2016 while Sinha is on the deputation since 3.10.2012. Chaurasia is with the Central Government since 7.6.2012.

"There is an acute deficiency of IPS officers at various levels in the State and therefore it has been decided by the competent authority (the State Government) to make a request to the Government of India for repatriation of some officers from the Central deputation," the Home Department order said hoping that the IPS officers will be relieved from the Central deputation enabling the State Government to fulfill functional requirements of the Police Department.

Sources indicated that the Ministry of Home Affairs was

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Governor's Admn frames Standard Operating Procedure
Now, Govt officials to pay delay compensation to MGNREGA workers out of their salaries

Mohinder Verma

Role of each stakeholder in wages' payment defined

JAMMU, Nov 18: With Governor's Administration framing Standard Operating Procedure on monitoring timely payment of wages to the workers engaged under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the officials of the Rural Development Department responsible for delay will have to pay 'delay compensation' out of their salaries. This mechanism has been made applicable with immediate effect so as to provide justice to the poor workers.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that ever since the implementation of MGNREGA in Jammu and Kashmir untimely wages remained the concern of majority of the workers and this issue figured in all the sessions

of State Legislative Assembly and every meeting of the Rural Development Department convened so far.

Though some instructions were issued from time to time for ensuring timely wages to the workers engaged under MGNREGA--- a Government of India scheme aimed at providing guaranteed wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, yet the issue largely remained unresolved much to the disappointment of the workers, they further said.

This was notwithstanding the fact that Section 3 of MGNREGA entitles the workers to receive their daily wages on weekly basis and in any case not

later than a fortnight from the date of closure of Muster Roll. In case the wages are not paid within the stipulated period of 15 days from the date of closure of Muster Roll, MGNREGA workers are entitled to receive payment of compensation for the delay.

Now, while taking serious note of this issue and to provide justice to the poor workers, the Governor's Administration has framed Standard Operating Procedure on monitoring of timely payment of wages and the same has been made applicable with immediate effect.

"To ensure timely payment of wages to MGNREGA workers, the timelines have been

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3 killed, 20 injured in grenade attack on religious congregation

AMRITSAR, Nov 18:

Three persons were killed and 20 injured in a grenade attack on a religious congregation here on city outskirts today, an incident which the police are treating as a "terrorist act".

The incident took place inside the Nirankari Bhavan at Adliwal village near Amritsar's Rajasansi, police said.

A religious congregation of the Nirankaris was being conducted inside the Bhavan at the time of the incident. The Sant Nirankari Mission is a spiritual



Injured of grenade attack in Amritsar being treated at a hospital on Sunday. (UNI)

organisation and the Bhavan here lies close to the international airport.

The grenade was lobbed by two persons who had come on a bike and had their faces covered.

The Director General of Police Suresh Arora, who along with senior police officers rushed to the spot, said the incident appears to be a "terrorist act".

He said that three people had died in the incident and 20 others were injured, two of them seriously.

Inspector General of Police S S Parmar, who visited the incident spot, told reporters that about 200 devotees including

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5 trains from Jammu remain cancelled, traffic restored on JRC-PTKC Section

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Nov 18: Even as train traffic was restored this evening following lifting of blockade by agitating farmers near Dasuya on Jalandhar-Pathankot Section, five trains from Jammu to different destinations remained cancelled today thus resulting into much inconvenience to the commuters for the second consecutive day.

Hemkund Express from Katra to Rishikesh, Uttar Sampark Kranti from Katra to Delhi, Shalimar Express from Jammu Tawi to Delhi, Pooja Express from Jammu to Old Delhi and AC Special from Udhampur to Old Delhi remained cancelled as these



Passengers waiting at Jammu Railway Station as 5 trains remain cancelled on Sunday.

trains had not reached their destinations here this morning. Due to cancellation of these trains, hundreds of commuters could not reach their destinations and either had to arrange for some other alternative for transportation or abandon their journey.

However, Shalimar Express

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Govt fails to deliver promises made to Panchayat Ghar land donors

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Nov 18: People who braved all the hostilities and helped Government to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system by donating their land for the construction of Panchayat Ghars across the Valley are dejected over Government's failure to deliver on their promises.

As per the Department of Rural Development, over the years at least 250 people donated land for the construction of Panchayat Ghars in their respective villages, where the elected Panchs and Sarpanchs would sit to discuss the local governance. The donors said they came forward to strengthen the "grass-roots democracy" and "to decentralize the administrative system".



A view of Panchayat Ghar at Mitrigam, Pulwama.

—Excelsior/Younis Khaliq

In 2003, Mohammad Maqbool Hajam, 43, a resident of Pahalgam, donated his prized one kanal of land for the construction of Panchayat Ghar in

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WEATHER

JAMMU: Partly cloudy

TEMPERATURE
Max: 26.4 Degree C
Min: 11.1 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 73.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 68.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 05.30 p.m.
Sunrise on Tuesday: 07.05 a.m.

SRINAGAR: Mainly dry

TEMPERATURE
Max: 14.0 Degree C
Min: 1.6 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 83.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 56.0 per cent

LEH: TEMPERATURE
Max: 8.0 Degree C
Min: -5.1 Degree C

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