

## Shantmanu new Div Com, Bukhari Secy GAD, Mir Secy Law Major reshuffle in administration; 9 IAS officers among 18 transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: The State Cabinet, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, ordered transfers and postings of 18 officers including 9 IAS with immediate effect.

Sonal Kumar, Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi, has been transferred and posted as Chairperson, J&K Special Tribunal, vice Sarita Chouhan. K B Aggarwal, Principal Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Principal Resident Commissioner, New Delhi, vice Sonali Kumar.

Shantmanu, Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, has been transferred and posted as Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. Sarita Chouhan, Chairperson, J&K Special Tribunal, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, vice M A Bukhari.

M A Bukhari, Secretary,

Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, General Administration Department, vice Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad, who has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Higher Education Department, vice K B Aggarwal.

Saurabh Bhagat, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Reconstruction Agency, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, vice Shantmanu. Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Secretary, J&K Legislative Council, has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs. He will also hold the additional charge of the post of the Secretary, J&K Legislative Council, till further orders.

The post of the Secretary, J&K Accountancy Commission, held by Anita Koul, has been upgraded in status and responsibility to that of Secretary in the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, till it is held by her.

Mohammad Sayed Shah, Registrar, J&K State

Information Commission, has been transferred and posted as Director, Urdu Coordination Cell, Law Department, which post has been upgraded in status and responsibility to that of the Secretary in the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, till it is held by him.

Saugat Biswas, Additional Secretary, PHE, Irrigation & FC Department, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation. Shyam Vinod Meena, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, PHE, Irrigation & FC Department, vice Saugat Biswas.

Mohammad Javid Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Shopian has been transferred and posted as Director, Industries, Kashmir, relieving Tariq Ahmad Mir, Director, Command Area Development, Kashmir, of the additional charge of the post of the Director, Industries, Kashmir.

Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Director, Rural Sanitation, J&K, has been transferred

## Operation against militants on Gun battle in Handwara, 3 Army men injured

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 31: Three Army personnel were injured, one of them critically, in a fierce gun battle during an operation that has been launched three days ago in the Hafrooda forests of Handwara in district Kupwara.

Sources said that a search party of 21 Rashtriya Rifles of counter insurgency Kilo Force was fired upon in the Hafrooda forests of Handwara this evening leading to injuries to 3 Army personnel. One of them is critically injured and all of them have been removed to hospital for treatment.

Following the gun battle, more troops were rushed to the spot where the Army search party was fired upon. However, militants are hiding in the dense woods. Sources said that search is going on but it is not certain whether any militant was killed in the gun fight or not. "The searches of the encounter site in the morning will be conducted for the militants", sources added.

Superintendent of Police Handwara, Chowdhary Aslam told Excelsior that the security forces launched an operation in the Hafrooda forests after they

got information about the militant movement in the forest area on July 29. "Handwara police and 6 Rashtriya Rifles of Army launched an operation and on July 29 evening they established contact with the militants", he said.

"Heavy exchange of fire between militants and security forces in the evening of July 29 but in the morning on July 30 no militant was found in the area. The security forces recovered only some pouches and a rucksack", said SP Aslam.

Sources said that security forces spotted 5-6 militants at Baila in Hafrooda forests of Handwara in North Kashmir on July 29.

More troops including 32 RR, 6 RR and 9 Para commandos of Army joined the operation on July 30 after the militants escaped from the encounter site of July 29 at Baila.

The troops have been searching the entire forests area for the group of militants since July 30. The helicopters were also pressed into service to track the militant movement in the dense forests.

The rains and freak weather yesterday hampered the operation but the troops continued to search them despite freak weather.



A boy jumps into waters of the river Ganges to cool himself in Allahabad on Wednesday. (UNI)

## Petrol, diesel prices up

NEW DELHI, July 31:

Petrol price was today hiked by 70 paise per litre, the fifth increase in rates in two months, and diesel by 50 paise per litre on firming international oil prices.

The increase in rates, which will be effective midnight tonight, are excluding local sales tax or VAT. The actual hike will be higher and will vary from city to city.

## Srinivas inducted as Jt Secy GoI

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: The Government of India today empanelled 43 IPS officers of 1990 batch as Joint Secretary or equivalent rank. They included Dr B Srinivas, an IPS officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre, presently posted as IGP CID J&K.

Dr Srinivas is lone IPS officer of 1990 batch in the State. The IPS officers up to 1989 batch have already been inducted in the rank of Joint Secretary, Government of India.

## Life imprisonment to woman

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Additional Sessions Judge Udhampur, M K Sharma today awarded life-imprisonment to Birmla Devi of Nambal, Ramnagar for committing murder of her husband Babu Ram by strangulating him on September 25, 2007 in connivance with her paramour Suram Chand.

After hearing Advocate Anil Vijay Kumar for the accused persons whereas APP Tariq Mujahid Mughal for the State, Additional Sessions Judge observed, "the prosecution has succeeded in proving that the accused Birmla Devi strangled her husband Babu Ram to death with a dupatta and tried to imitate the death as suicide by suspending the dead body from a tree near her house".

"The accused Birmla Devi is therefore convicted for the commission of offence under Section 302 RPC whereas guilt against

## BSF foils another infiltration bid 3 major outfits making joint bids to sneak-in

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 31: Even as the Border Security Force (BSF) foiled another infiltration attempt along the International Border (IB) in Akhnoor sector, intelligence inputs revealed that the militants of three major outfits Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) have joined hands for making combined efforts to intrude into this side from the Line of Control (LoC).

The new strategy of the militants has come to the fore after the reported visit of LeT and Jamat-ul-Dawa chief Hafiz Sayeed to the areas along the LoC last week, official sources told the Excelsior.

They said it has been observed that the militants of three major outfits have been camping together in the launching pads across the LoC, which have been located near the

Pakistan Army camps. Earlier, the militants of all these outfits used to camp separately at different launching pads. They also used to make infiltration attempts in separate groups.

"The new strategy of the militants might have been aimed at pushing the infiltrators into this side of the LoC, which they have not been able to do during past quite sometime now," sources revealed.

However, they said, security forces were not worried about this new development.

"We are concerned about thwarting infiltration attempts. It hardly matters whether the militants of LeT or HM make separate bid to gain entry into this side or collectively. They will be killed or captured if they intruded into the Indian side," they added.

Confirming the visit of Hafiz Sayeed in the areas bordering LoC in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week, sources said he appeared to

have visited launching pads and other buildings, where the militants have been accommodated, and was instrumental in devising a strategy among the different militant outfits for making collective efforts of infiltration.

Hafiz Sayeed is said to have distributed some cash among the militants of different groups to make them follow his strategy of joint infiltration and making more efforts of intrusions.

Sources said the militants could intensify their efforts of infiltration into the Indian territory from twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri after the visit of Hafiz Sayeed to the LoC.

It may be mentioned here that during past few days, the militants have made a series of infiltration attempts on the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch sector but troops have successfully thwarted them.

Meanwhile, the BSF opened firing after observing suspicious

## Bandh in Sunderbani, Rajouri, Poonch Tension defused as Govt accepts demand of protesters

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, July 31: People held strong protest demonstrations along with body of Ravi Kant, killed in stoning incident in Srinagar, at Sunderbani town today while Rajouri, Nowshera, Kalakote and

Salani bridge, Muradpur, Jawahar Nagar, Bathuni and Dangri today. They shouted slogans and burnt the effigies of the Government demanding registration of murder case against the people responsible for killing of innocent pilgrim from Sunderbani.

There was no movement of traffic on the road in the district headquarters. In Nowshera and Kalakote also there was complete bandh. The public held protests and also blocked road.

The protesting youth had a minor tiff with the local SHO at Nowshera and the situation became tense but it was defused with the intervention of

Ravi Kant Sharma, son of Durga Dass, resident of Ward No. 2, Sunderbani, reached his home town via Mughal road from SKIMS, Soura in Srinagar at around 12 midnight. A large number of people had already gathered at the main chowk on highway and sitting on dharna. They kept the dead body of the deceased on the road and continued their protest. The road blockade was going on at the site since 2 pm on Tuesday.

The irate youth burnt old tyres on the road throughout the night and even during the day and raised barricades to disrupt vehicular traffic. Earlier, local people of Rajouri assembled at Salani bridge and paid floral tributes to the victim at around 10.15 pm last night when the police vehicle carrying body reached there. The people had been waiting there on the road side.

IGP Jammu, Rajesh Kumar told the Excelsior that situation in the major towns of Rajouri and Poonch was under control. There was no violence at all but the tension aroused after death of the deceased, offered job to one member of the family and 10 marla residential plot at Sunderbani.

The schools, colleges and even the banks remained closed and the attendance in many offices remained thin in all the major towns of these two districts. It was all community bandh and the shops and business establishments remained closed throughout the day in protest against the death of Shri Amarnath pilgrim in stone pelted incident at Awantipura in Srinagar on July 21.

In Rajouri town, the people staged protest demonstrations at

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## Given 15 days, committee fails to suggest measures in 4 months No law in J&K to regulate sale of acid, other corrosive substances

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 31: Unbelievable it may sound but it is a fact that militancy affected Jammu and Kashmir does not have any law to regulate the sale of acids and other corrosive substances and a high-level committee, which was constituted to suggest measures in this regard within a period of 15 days, has not come up with the suggestions even after the lapse of four months.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that during the pendency of a writ petition in the Supreme Court filed by a

Delhi-based acid attack victim and keeping in view the directions pouring in from the Apex Court in the case, State Government vide Order No.526 dated March 28, 2013, constituted a committee to examine the legal aspects and suggest measures for effective regulation of the sale of acid in the State.

The committee comprising of Administrative Secretaries of Home, Industries and Commerce, Health and Medical Education, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and School Education Departments was directed to submit its report within a period of 15 days.

However, the committee

has not come up with suggestions for effective regulation of acid in the State despite the lapse of four months, sources regretted, adding though the committee had some meetings but it has failed to arrive at any conclusion, official sources told EXCELSIOR.

Stating that Health and Medical Education Department has a greater role to play in preparing suggestions for regulation of sale of acid and corrosive substances, sources said, "unless this department gives the technical advice on the definition of acid the committee cannot frame its suggestions and presently the response from the Health and Medical Education Department in this regard is awaited".

Disclosing that presently sale of acid and other corrosive substances was going on without any check in the absence of any law, sources said, "though State Government has made the acid attack an offence in the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Laws Amendment Bill, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly during the Budget Session of 2013, yet it has ignored the sales aspect".

Unlike Centre and several States, Jammu and Kashmir does not even have the Poison

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INSIDE	WEATHER
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