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NORTH ASI shoots wife before killing himself in Jalandhar

Chandigarh: A 45-year-old Assistant Sub-Inspector of the Punjab Police allegedly shot dead his wife before killing himself with his service revolver over a domestic dispute in Jalandhar district on Tuesday, an official said. The ASI, Gurbaksh Singh, was posted in Jalandhar and lived in Rama Mandi area where

the incident took place, SHO Ramamandi Dakoha, Sewa Singh said. Preliminary investigations revealed differences between the couple over settling abroad, he said. Vandana (41) wanted her husband, Gurbaksh Singh, to settle in Canada along with the family but he was unwilling, the SHO added. **PTI**



Patna Women's College students during an awareness march on the eve of 'World Sparrow Day', in Patna. PTI

EAST Woman Maoist killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh

Rajnandgaon: A woman Maoist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Rajnandgaon district on Tuesday, police said. The encounter took place in a forest around Gatapar police station area bordering Madhya Pradesh, when a joint team of security forces from MP and Chhattisgarh was carrying

out an anti-Maoist operation, a senior police official told PTI. After the gun-battle, body of the woman Maoist and an automatic weapon were recovered from the spot, he added. Further details are awaited. Since last few days, police have intensified anti-Maoist operations in view of Lok Sabha elections. **PTI**

WEST Clerk booked for Rs 6 lakh school fee fraud in Thane

Thane: A 32-year-old woman clerk of a school in Thane district was booked for allegedly misappropriating students' fee to the tune of nearly Rs 6 lakh, police said on Tuesday. According to a complaint filed by the private school's management, the accused, a resident of Dombivli town, allegedly deleted receipts from the institution's ac-

counting software of fee collected by her from 61 students between January and December 2018, a police spokesperson said. Based on the complaint, the police on Monday booked the accused under IPC Sections 408 (criminal breach of trust), 420, (cheating) and 468 (forgery), the official said. No arrests has been made so far. **PTI**

SOUTH Court rejects bail plea of 3 Kashmiri students

Bengaluru: A civil and sessions court on Tuesday rejected a bail plea filed by three Kashmiri students arrested on February 16 for posting messages on social media against the Indian Army in the wake of the Pulwama terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on February 14. The court re-

jected the plea on the grounds that the posts were "intended to cause damage to the integrity of India". The three students were arrested last month after a complaint was lodged against them in connection with a brawl in the hostel over the anti-Army social media posts. **ENS**

Students call off protest at Patiala law university after govt steps in

DIVYA GOYAL
PATIALA, MARCH 19

SIX DAYS after protests erupted at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL) in Patiala against the administration, students on Tuesday called off demonstrations after Vice-Chancellor Paramjit Singh Jaswal accepted all their demands.

Jaswal's announcement came hours after Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda met students to discuss issues that included better hostel timings and library access for girls till 1 am, the constitution of a high-level inquiry committee against university officials, constitution a democratic students' body and revoking an order to suspend six students on March 14 for protesting poor quality of food in the hostel mess.

Students on Tuesday also filed a complaint with the National Commission for Women against alleged "sexist" remarks and "moral policing" by university officials. In the 22-page complaint to the NCW, students have listed at least 40 "crass" remarks made by the university's chief administrative officer Captain (retired) SP Singh against women on campus and similar statements by Vice-Chancellor Paramjit Singh Jaswal and other administration officials including hostel wardens.

In a separate complaint to Chancellor and Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court Justice Krishna Murari on March 16, university officials



Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda interacts with protesting students in Patiala on Tuesday. Harmeet Sodhi

have also used such remarks to target not just the girls but boys as well.

While Nanda claimed that "the five student representatives have given us in writing that they will withdraw their complaints" against university authorities after the agreement was reached, the girl students said that their complaint against Singh submitted to NCW will continue to stand and the protest has been called off only after authorities assured an enquiry against him.

"We called off the stir only after assurance of an independent enquiry against SP Singh and our complaint against him to NCW still stands," said one of the girls, who asked not to be named in print.

As per the written agreement provided to students, "The suspension of six students stands revoked unconditionally and the enquiry into the conduct of Captain SP Singh shall be conducted by the way of an independent enquiry by a judicial officer nominated by Chancellor, RGNUL, Punjab. Effective forthwith Captain SP Singh is being sent on compulsory leave till the conclusion of the enquiry. He will not be allowed access to the university premises. The enquiry shall be concluded within 3 months."

Meanwhile, Singh, who also remained superintendent of jails at Patiala and Amritsar, said he was only concerned about the girls' safety.

Nation will not forget sacrifice of those killed in Pulwama: Doval

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, MARCH 19

NATIONAL SECURITY Adviser Ajit Doval said on Tuesday the country "has not forgotten and will never forget" the sacrifice of the 40 CRPF personnel killed in Pulwama terror attack on February 14, adding that the nation's leadership is "capable" and has the "courage" to combat terrorists and "those who help terrorists". Speaking at the 80th Raising Day of CRPF in Gurgaon, Doval said, "At the very beginning, I would like to pay tribute to those forty brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in Pulwama, in a very deplorable incident, this force and this country had to sacrifice so many lives. The country has not forgotten and will never forget this."

"What we should do, what should be our path, what should be our goal, what kind of process should we adopt, what should be its time, this country's leadership is capable and has the courage to determine this. Whether it is terrorists or those who help terrorists, we will combat this, and every problem, every challenge, every difficulty, we have the courage and the intention to tackle it," he said. In his speech, the NSA also commended the CRPF for its "high morale", saying that this meant that the "future of the country is safe". He described "diversity" and "credibil-



NSA Ajit Doval at the 80th CRPF Raising Day at Gurgaon on Tuesday. Prem Nath Pandey

ity" as the two factors that set the CRPF apart from other forces.

"This is the only Force that has so much diversity, whether it is static duty, VIP security, commando rights, the area of terrorism, the issue of insurgency in the jungles of the Northeast... any issue where India has had to tackle problems of internal security, the CRPF has made a contribution," the NSA said.

He added, "Your second specialty is your credibility. Any meeting where we talk, we say which force should be sent, how many battalions should be moved where, we say CRPF should be sent, it is a very credible force, we can depend on it entirely. Your ability, your bravery, your patriotism, your professionalism, you

discipline, your leadership, your command and control."

"A big trap of credibility is that it takes a lot of time to build it but even one day is enough to ruin it. To make sure it does not get ruined, keep moving forward, keep improving the past performance," he added.

Doval also asked CRPF to "constantly" enhance its professionalism, training, physical capabilities and quick response skills. "World history is replete with examples when weak internal security mechanisms led to loss of independence, constitutional crises and collapse of governments. After World War II, out of the 37 nations that faced such crisis, 28 suffered it because of internal security problems," he said.

"Girls and boys are biologically different. Girls are more vulnerable...you can't work hard to become a boy if you are a girl... I am just concerned for their security. When it comes to safety and security, girls are more vulnerable. Ladka aur ladki mein farak to hai na (There is a difference between girls and boys). If girls roam out till 2 am, everyone gets worried".

Vice-chancellor Jaswal, meanwhile, said that whatever complaints "students filed against us," they will withdraw them. "There were no allegations against me personally," he added.

The protests began on March 13 when students banged empty plates on the table after maggots were allegedly found in rice, dal and vegetables in the hostel mess. The next day, the university suspended six boys, who were also asked to leave the hostel, triggering more protests across the campus.

Speaking to The Indian Express, students said they were treated like "prisoners" and that riot police were deployed on campus.

A fifth-year law student said, "While on paper, the hostel timings for both boys and girls is 9 pm, it is not implemented that way. Boys can come even until 1 am and if we enter hostel at 9.01 pm, calls are made to parents saying your daughter was roaming out with someone. The library is open for students till 1 am but only boys can access it not girls as we have to be in the hostel by 9 pm," she said.

KARNATAKA

Two dead, dozen trapped in building collapse

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 19

TWO PERSONS were killed and more than a dozen were feared trapped when an under-construction multi-storey building collapsed in Dharwad region of north Karnataka on Tuesday.

The four-storey building collapsed around 3 pm, trapping several workers engaged at the construction site and causing the death of two workers, local authorities said.

"The prima facie cause for the collapse seems to be sub-standard construction. Around five people have been rescued and some more people appear to be trapped under the debris," said Santosh Adishettar, an assistant commissioner in Dharwad municipality.

Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy issued instructions to authorities to send rescue experts from Bengaluru on a special flight to carry out rescue work. "The rescue operation is on and five people have been rescued so far. I have asked the concerned officials to be at the location," he said. The opposition BJP alleged that the building belongs to the father-in-law of former Dharwad Congress legislator Vinay Kulkarni, who is tipped to contest the Lok Sabha polls from Dharwad constituency.

Pak woman who entered J&K with Kashmiri husband gets five years jail

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, MARCH 19

A 27-YEAR-OLD woman, who in 2012 allegedly accompanied her husband and their three minor children on his return to Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) under a scheme for the return and rehabilitation of former militants, was on Monday sentenced to five years' imprisonment and fined Rs 20,000.

In 2005, Sheraz Ahmed alias Shakir married Faiza Begum in PoK and the couple travelled to J&K with their three minor children in 2012 via Nepal. While Faiza - a Pakistani national - was booked under provisions of Foreigners Act and Passport Act, Sheraz was arrested under provisions of Unlawful Activities Act, Enemy Agents Ordinance, Conspiracy, and Egress and Internal Movement Control Ordinance (E&IMCO).

On Monday, Principal Sessions Judge, Jammu, Vinod Chatterji Koul sentenced Faiza to three years' imprisonment and fined Rs 10,000 for violating provisions of Section 14-A of the Foreigners (Amendment) Act, 2004, which says that no foreigner shall enter into, or remain in any protected area except under and in accordance with a permit issued by Central government or any officer authorised by it in this behalf.

She was sentenced with imprisonment for a further two years and fined Rs 10,000 more under provisions of the Passport Act for entering India without a valid passport, with the judge stating that the two sentences shall run concurrently.

According to the prosecution, DySP (Operation) Gool in 2012 received information that two militants, Ghulam Ali and Sheraz, have returned to India via Nepal after having undergone arms training in PoK. A police party in Jammu then arrested Ghulam, Sheraz, and Faiza.

On Monday, the judge sentenced Faiza but acquitted Sheraz and Ghulam Ali for want of evidence.

However, the case of Faiza was different, with the judge observing that she is a resident of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, and there is no dispute over it.

In 2010, the then Omar Abdullah government had announced a rehabilitation policy for Kashmiri militants who had crossed over to Pakistan between 1989-2009 for arms training, and who, after a change of heart, wanted to leave the gun and return home to lead a peaceful life. It identified four points for the return of those former militants - the Wagah border in Punjab, the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, and the Chakkani Da Bagh and Salamabad LoC crossing points in J&K's Poonch and Uri respectively.

2015 ROHTAK GANGRAPE-MURDER CASE

HC confirms death to 7, imposes Rs 50 lakh fine

SOFI AHSAN
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 19

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court Tuesday confirmed the death sentence awarded to seven convicts by a Rohtak court in 2015 for murder and gangrape of a 28-year-old Nepali woman and enhanced the fine imposed on them from Rs 50,000 each to Rs 50 lakh while observing that despite stern laws in place, the "deterrence in the matter of sentences including the death sentence is not satisfactory".

Delivering the verdict, the division bench of Justices AB Chaudhary and Surinder Gupta said that they were "shocked" and "aghast" at the "number and nature of injuries caused to the victim, who was mentally unwell" and had been brought to Rohtak from Nepal so she could be looked after by her relatives. The court termed it a "barbaric crime" and defined the acts of the perpetrators as "brutal and predatory".

"The 'animalism', torment, highest order of cruelty, rather 'tsunami' of cruelty, made thereafter is bound to petrify one and all," the bench said while recording the graphic nature of the crime committed by the convicts one by one. The woman was not only raped and killed but her private parts were attacked with bricks by the convicts.

The state had argued that the case was akin to that of the 2012 Delhi gang rape case wherein a 23-year-old physiotherapy intern was beaten, gang raped, and brutalised by six people. She died during treatment. The incident had shaken the collective conscience of the nation and was widely condemned, both in India and abroad.

Stating that imposition of a heavy fine would prove additional deterrence, the bench said that Rs 50 lakh cost on the seven convicts should be recovered from them by attaching and selling their immovable properties like plot, house, agricultural land.

"It is quite possible that one or more of the convict does not own or possess any immovable property. But then all these appellants/accused have been found, by us, to have committed the ghastly crime with a conspiracy jointly and individually," the bench said, adding that 50 per cent of the amount will go to the State of Haryana and remaining half to the sister of the victim.

The Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak district has been directed to identify the immovable properties of all the convicts and attach them within one month. The sale of the properties is to take place within two months from the date of attachment. A report on compliance is to be filed on or before July 4, according to the order.

AGUSTAWESTLAND CASE

Court asks DG Prison to take measures on Michel's jail stay

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

A DELHI court on Tuesday directed the DG Prison to take immediate remedial measures regarding AgustaWestland accused Christian Michel's lodgings in prison, stating that he had been "kept in total isolation and the same is not less than a solitary confinement".

Special Judge Arvind Kumar directed the DG Prison to file a compliance report within three days, and also asked him to provide Michel with "all facilities such as a library, books, magazines, canteen, sports etc as per the jail manual and as is being provided to any other/under-trial prisoner", the order read.

The judge also perused the

CCTV footage of the accused provided by the jail authorities and noted that "not even a single co-prisoner is allowed in the said block and not a single person is at a visible range".

The court also said that even though the security of the accused was of paramount consideration, he could not be kept in isolation or solitary confinement in the name of security.

"It is undisputed fact that solitary confinement can cause an array of mental disorder as well as provoke an already existing mental disorder in a prison causing more trauma. No doubts solitary confinement is permitted under certain circumstances, but there has not been a single complaint against the accused regarding his conduct," the order read.

The order also mentions the

statement of Shivananand, the Deputy Jail Superintendent, who told the court that sports facilities were not provided at the block.

After his extradition to India, Michel was sent to judicial custody on December 19 last year and kept in a barrack. He filed an application saying that he was kept in a general cell where more than 40 prisoners were accommodated and put forward uncomfortable questions, following which the jail authorities shifted Michel to cell number 2 of ward 7.

He later filed another application requesting that he be shifted to a high-security cell. As per court records, Michel was shifted to ward 6, which is a high-risk ward, and the jail authorities denied that he was lodged with Kashmiri or Pakistani inmates.

MIZORAM TO HAVE REGISTERS OF 'CITIZENS' AND 'NON-CITIZENS'

New Bill aims to detect illegal foreigners 'eating away' benefits

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, MARCH 19

THE MIZORAM Assembly unanimously passed a Bill on Monday which aims to create registers containing the names, details and photographs of every resident of the state, on a household basis, in an effort to detect illegal foreigners staying and "eating away" benefits of development schemes.

"It shall be the responsibility of every householder as well as every member of household in the state to furnish all such information, particulars and passport-size photographs of the members of the household as may be required by the registering authorities," reads the Mizoram Maintenance of

Household Registers Bill, 2019.

"Influx of foreigners into Mizoram through its porous borders has remained a serious concern for several decades. In many cases the benefit of development and welfare programmes are found eaten away to a large extent by such foreigners who clandestinely stayed back and got assimilated in the people of the state by taking advantage of the mistaken identity and of difficulties in detecting them," reads the 'statement of objects and reasons' by Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga attached with the Bill.

The CM said that the "large scale influx of foreigners and their malafide assimilation" with the permanent residents in the villages of Mizoram has led to an "abnormal increase in the pop-

ulation" and poses a law and order threat.

The Bill further states that once the information prescribed by the state government is received, the concerned registering authority will compile the details in two distinct registers - one for the citizen residents and another for non-citizen residents of a village/area/town.

Information furnished by individuals for the registers would be "verified and counter-signed by the president of the local branch of the state-level NGOs as may be designated by the state government from time to time". The Bill says that all government departments and police may use the household registers for administrative purposes, during implementation of development schemes and law enforcement.