

Brar, Gill cremated with State honours

From Ramesh Gupta

FARIDKOT, Dec 15 — Mr Arvind Singh Brar, SSP of Patiala, was cremated today with full State honours at his native village of Abal Khurana, 80 km from here. Col Amarjit Singh, his cousin, lit the pyre.

Before the pyre was lit, Mr P. H. Vaidyan, Chief Secretary, lay the wreath on the body of Mr Brar on behalf of the Government of Punjab. He was followed by the police chief, Mr J. F. Ribeiro, and other senior civil and police officials besides political leaders.

Contingents of the Punjab Police reversed arms to pay respects and sounded the last post.

Earlier the body was brought to the cremation ground in a procession led by a contingent of the police and the PAP band, which played the funeral march.

Hundreds of people from adjoining villages and other parts of the district joined the procession to pay tributes to the departed policeman.

Mr Brar was shot dead at Patiala along with the SSP (Headquarters).

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Col Amarjit Singh (back to the camera), cousin of Mr A. S. Brar, lights the pyre of the slain SSP at Abal Khurana on Tuesday.

6 hardcore terrorists shot Rangoon welcomes Rajiv

CHANDIGARH, Dec 15 (UNI) — Six hardcore terrorists were among eight persons killed in Punjab during the past 24 hours.

An Amritsar report said the police shot dead three terrorists in an encounter at Gharat village under Veraval police station.

Amritsar district police chief Mohammad Inhar Alam told newsmen that an "A" category terrorist, Swarnjit Singh, carrying a rifle of Rs 1.50 lakh on his head was among the three who were killed. He identified the other two terrorists as Surmukh Singh, alias Sema Mohinder Singh. They were "B" category terrorists.

Surmukh Singh was a "General" of the Bhindranwale Tigers Force, and was a close associate of Gurbachan Singh Manochahal.

Mr Inhar Alam said Swarnjit Singh was involved in the killing of Burney sworn in as HP Governor.

From Our Staff Correspondent

SHIMLA, Dec 15 — The Haryana Governor, Mr S.M.H. Burney, today sworn in as Governor of Himachal Pradesh at a simple but impressive ceremony at Raj Bhawan.

The Chief Justice of the H.P. High Court, Mr P.D. Desai, administered the oath of office and secrecy.

The Chief Minister, Mr Virbhadra Singh, several members of his Cabinet, the Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Mr S. D. Stokes, a large number of Congress (I) legislators and senior civil and police officers were present on the occasion.

Mr Burney will simultaneously act as Governor of both the States for about a month in the absence of the Himachal Governor, Mr K.K.S. Gandhi, who has proceeded on leave.

Mr Burney, who has been functioning as Governor of Haryana since June, 1984, had earlier remained Governor of Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura from August, 1981, to June, 1984.

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more than 50 persons, many of them in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. He was mainly responsible for the killing of many persons in indiscriminate shootout incidents at Greater Kailash, Chitranjan Park, South Extension and Gurgaon in the recent months in Delhi, the SSP said.

Swarnjit Singh has escaped from police custody at a Jalandhar court along with Sukha Singh and others.

Mr Alam said another killed terrorist, Surmukh Singh, alias Sema had recently joined the "Bhindranwale Tigers Force".

Surmukh Singh was responsible for the killing of four persons at Tera village and three persons at Verpal village.

The third terrorist Mohinder Singh was involved in the killing of five persons, including three persons at Kirrian village under Harkat police station in Amritsar district.

A report from Jalandhar said terrorist Surjit Singh was killed in an exchange of fire with a joint police and CRPF party at a dera at Barnala Kalan village, under Nawanshahr police station this morning.

LUDHIANA: Two hardcore terrorists, Fauji, alias Baghel Singh of the "Dashed South Commando Force" and Avtar Singh, alias Tarzi, were killed in an encounter with the police on Monday near Kila Balpur village. Their accomplice escaped.

MOGA: Two armed persons on Monday shot dead Singh, a granthi, at Lande village in Patiala city unit of the BIF and got killed.

PATIALA: A complete bandh was observed by members of all communities here on Tuesday in protest against the killing of the SSP, Mr Arvind Singh Brar, and the SP, Mr K.K.S. Gill, on the laws of the NIS yesterday.

It was later joined by the Hindu Suraksha Samiti. It was later joined by the Hindu Suraksha Samiti held a condolence meeting under the

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The Hindu Suraksha Samiti held a condolence meeting under the

Each of them carried a reward of Rs 30,000 on his head.

Mr Pandey said they were involved in the killing of nine persons at Nawanshahr.

They had also committed a robbery at a PSEB office.

The terrorists belonged to the Jashin Singh Lalli group.

According to the SSP, Mr A.P. Pandey, a police party going to the village saw three persons on a scooter. When signalled to stop by the police they started firing.

The police returned the fire killing two of them on the spot.

Two revolvers and a number of live and empty cartridges were recovered from them.

Mr Pandey said the two terrorists were wanted by the police in many cases of murder and dacoity. They were "plus B" category terrorists.

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HOSHARPUR: Mr Garib Singh (65) was shot dead by two terrorists in his house at Rampur Bhiron village in the district on Monday.

Mr Suresh Arora, SSP, said the terrorists went to Mr Garib Singh's house and talked to him. Then they opened fire killing Mr Garib Singh on the spot.

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Non-Cong (I) CMs conference Call to modify terms of finance panel

CALCUTTA, Dec 15 (UNI, PTI) — The seven non-Congress (I) Chief Ministers' conference here today denounced what it called the Centre's tendency to encroach upon the domain of the State administration.

The conference, convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, held that such an attitude would affect the Centre-State relationship and the country's unity.

The conference, which discussed Centre-State financial relations, was critical of the manner in which the terms of reference of the Ninth Finance Commission had been formulated.

This, in the words of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, "is a glaring example of the undermining of the letter and the spirit of the Constitution."

The conference disapproved of the "unilateral and pre-emptive manner in which the Centre had given the directive regarding the terms of reference of the Ninth Finance Commission."

This had been done "without consultation with the States, violating the neutral role of the commission as an arbiter between the Centre and the States, as envisaged in Article 286 of the Constitution," a resolution adopted at the conference said.

In the terms of reference, it said, the Central Government "has also blatantly shown one-sidedness with attempt to further centralise power."

The conference demanded immediate modification of the present terms of reference of the commission and constituted a working group with representation from each of the State Governments to propose alternative terms of reference within 15 days "which will reflect better needs of the common people of the States and the country as a whole."

By another resolution, the conference expressed the view that the members of the Bureau of interaction with the States was essential before finalisation of the terms of reference of the commission.

The conference disapproved the Prime Minister's decision to meet the District Magistrates/Collectors of all States in total "workshop" as a "show of force" and "a device to discuss 'various aspects of responsiveness in administration'."

The Indian Ambassador to Burma, Dr. P. P. Singh, was among those present at the airport to welcome him.

A young bejewelled girl, dressed in a traditional Burmese dress, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mr Gandhi.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Narain Singh, the Information Adviser to the Prime Minister, Mr H. Y. Sharada Prasad, the Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mrs Sarita Gandhi, the Foreign Secretary, Mr K. P. S. M. non, are accompanying Mr Gandhi.

The first such "workshop" was held at Sholap last week. "Such meetings of the Prime Minister with the district-level officers, held over the heads of the State," the Chief Ministers said in a resolution, "is yet another instance of the Centre's encroachment into the domain of the State administration and an attempt to exercise remote control over the officials in the service of the State Government."

The resolution said: "If the Prime Minister really wants to have an overview of the responsive administration — which itself is of doubtful value — the proper course would have been for him to request the Chief Ministers to arrange such meetings in their respective States."

The Chief Ministers jointly wrote a letter to the Prime Minister seeking a meeting with him to submit a memorandum demanding immediate modification of the present terms of reference of the Ninth Finance Commission.

He said the Centre had been trying to project the State in poor light as "either adversaries or supporters of the Government."

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The Chief Ministers would meet at Bangalore on January 9 at the invitation of the Karnataka Chief Minister to finalise the joint document. Mr Jyoti Basu told a joint Press conference in the evening.

Mr Basu said the Prime Minister had been requested to meet them between January 13 and 16.

Addressing the conference, Mr Basu said the Centre's tendency of centralisation of power even through terms and reference of the Finance Commission was yet another way of the general centralisation.

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Cold wave intensifies

CHANDIGARH, Dec 15 (UNI) — The cold wave today intensified its grip over the northern region with the temperature falling one to three degrees below normal at several places.

The higher reaches in the Ladakh region had another spell of snowfall this morning.

Amritsar recorded the lowest temperature of 2.3 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal, in Punjab followed by three degrees Celsius at Kapurthala, 5.2 degrees at Pathankot and 6.3 degrees each at Patiala and Haryana.

The experts have predicted mercury dipped to 5.3 degrees Celsius at Ambala, turning it the coldest place in Haryana. In Haryana the mercury touched six degrees Celsius.

In Himachal Pradesh Chamba recorded the lowest temperature of 2.1 degrees Celsius followed by Una 3.3 degrees.

The Kangra valley is in the grip of a severe cold wave following snowfall in the Dhauladhar Ranges.

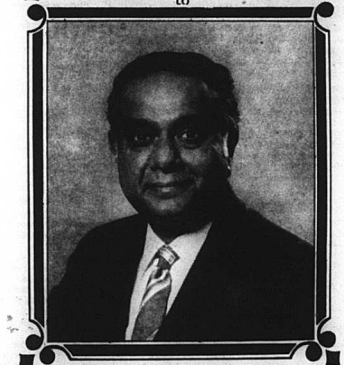
HP to release DA instalment

From Our Staff Correspondent

SHIMLA, Dec 15 — The State Government has decided to release an instalment of dearness allowance to its employees with effect from July 1, 1987. The orders are likely to be issued in a day or two.

According to official sources, the payment will be made on the Punjab pattern and the arrears will be deposited in the provident fund accounts of the employees.

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Winds take 46-run lead

BOMBAY, Dec 15 (PTI) — India led the West Indies surpass their own modest first innings total of 281 after at one stage they were set for a token lead on the fourth and penultimate day of the second Test here today.

At close the West Indies had taken a lead of 46 runs with one wicket still in hand as they took their Sunday evening's first innings total of 49 for no loss to 327 for nine in 82 overs on a day when, for the first time in the match, the full quota of overs could be bowled.

However, at lunch the West Indies were struggling against the biting spin of Ravu Shastri, on a turning track, having lost four of their top batsmen, including Viv Richards, with 153 runs on board.

Continued on page 12 col 3

Mr P. D. Desai, Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, administers the oath to Mr S.M.H. Burney as Governor at Shimla on Tuesday.

Karan Singh may head shrine board

From S. P. Sharma

JAMMU, Dec 15 — The Jammu and Kashmir Government is seriously thinking of restoring the Vaishnovei Shrine Board to Dr Karan Singh by making amendments to the Shri Mata Vaishnovei Act of 1986 through which the Government took over the shrine from the Dharanhar Trust on August 30 last year.

It is reliably learnt that the Government proposes to amend clause (A) of Section (5) of the Act to appoint Dr Karan Singh Chairman of the Board in place of the Governor.

The exercise to amend the Act is reportedly being carried out under orders of the Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, who has been influenced by Dr Karan Singh and his supporters in the Congress (I) in Delhi.

Of late Dr Abdullah has come closest to Dr Karan Singh. He has been trying to find a place for Dr Karan Singh in the Congress (I) which he deserted when Mrs Indira Gandhi's Government lost power after the Emergency.