POLICE 'RESCUES' MEN, WOMEN, ACCUSED OF BRAID CHOPPING

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SRINAGAR, Oct 13: Police said it rescued three persons who were taken as braid choppers by locals and thrashed after a fresh hair cutting incident in Boniyar, Uri town.

Police said they are questioning the suspects and investigation is in progress. Locals told media that during evening hours the braid of a woman was chopped off by unidentified miscreants and shortly after the incident a Sumo (JK05C-9395) vehicle was chased by agitated protesters. Three men on board entered into a school while the fourth one managed to escape from the spot.

"The locals caught hold of these three men and they were thrashed while the Sumo vehicle was damaged. The locals took them as braid choppers and thus manhandled them," said a local from Breniyal village where this incident occurred.

Police rushed to spot and managed to rescue the three men. This morning, according to reports as a Tavera vehicle (JK01M-6903) carrying the relatives of the alleged accused approached to police station, the locals attacked the vehicle and caused damage to it.

Police rushed to spot and fired tear-smoke shells to disperse the mob. When the mob continued to pelt stones, security forces fired some shots in air.

Station House Officer Police Station Boniyar, Faisal Ahmed Khan while confirming the incident said prima facie it seems the trio who are currently in lock-up had arrived in the area as guests to a family. "We are still investigating the case," he added.

Meanwhile, three beggar women mistaken as braid choppers in Srinagar were also

rescued, police said.

The incident occurred at Bababemb area of downtown Srinagar. An official said that around noon, Police Post Banamohalla was informed of the “capturing” of three beggar women, including two unmarried girls and a lactating mother.

“Police rushed to the spot and took the ladies to the office of the SDPO Maharajgunj. All the three ladies were in tremendous fear and shock and were weeping bitterly,” he said.

On inquiring in the presence of some locals, who were already present in the office, the elder woman in the group broke into tears.

“She said that they were from Nagrota Jammu and her husband is a labourer,” said the official.

The woman said her husband was injured after some “miscreant boys” beat him up in Bemina after alleging him to be a braid-chopper.

She told the police that her baby was suffering from an ailment and was under treatment. “She was begging for procuring food for her family. The other two girls were with her. Their bags were searched for hair cutting tools but nothing could be found,” said the official while lauding the locals for “every possible co-operation”.

The women were identified as Razia, wife of Sharif Malik, resident of Nagrota, presently Tengpora; Rubeena, daughter of Mushtaq Malik, resident of Nagrota, at present Pampore and Muskaan, daughter of Mohammad Sidiq Malik, resident of Nagrota, at present Pampore.

Later, the women were let off after legal formalities, said the official.

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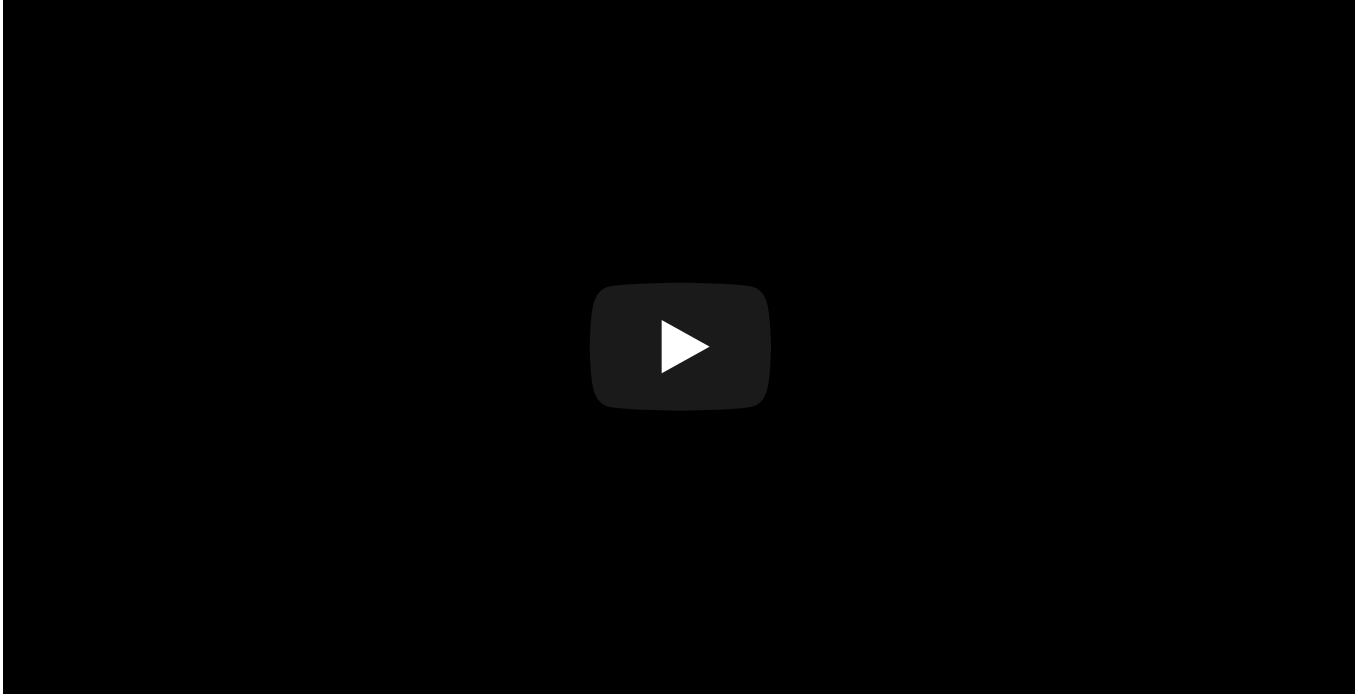

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