

**Gen Singh reviews situation, DGMOs speak on hotline**

## Army chief directs Commanders to give effective response to Pak

**\*Strategy in place to counter BAT attacks**

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 7: Army chief Gen Bikram Singh was today reported to have called upon the Army Commanders to give effective response to any misadventure by Pakistan Army and militants on the Line of Control (LoC) and take all possible measures to prevent recurrence of Poonch like incidents in which five Army jawans were killed.

Gen Singh, who was scheduled to visit 93 Brigade Headquarters in Poonch to review the situation, had to cancel his visit to the border district in view of bad weather conditions. He returned to Akhnoor and was closeted with top Army Commanders at 10 Infantry Div in Akhnoor to review the situation arising out of the killings and steps required to beef up security on the LoC.

In another development, Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMOS) Maj Gen Asfaq Nadeem rang up his Indian counterpart Lt Gen

Vinod Bhatia and discussed yesterday's incident. Reliable sources told the Excelsior that the militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Jaish-

Sources said the Army chief held high level security review at Akhnoor along with Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Sanjiv Chachra, GOC 16 Corps Lt Gen



Army chief Gen Bikram Singh, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Sanjiv Chachra and GOC 16 Corps Lt Gen D S Hooda paying tributes to martyrs at Technical Airport in Jammu on Wednesday. (Another pic on page 4)

e-Mohammed (JeM), who were part of Pakistan's Border Action Team (BAT), had conducted advance recon of the area to observe movement of the Indian Army jawans before carrying out the attack in wee hours of yesterday's morning. Pakistan Army regulars had reportedly joined the BAT in the attack.

DS Hooda, 25 Infantry Div GOC Maj Gen VP Singh (headquartered at Rajouri), 93 Brigade Commander Brig Sunil Kumar Acharya (headquartered at Poonch) and 10 Brigade Commander Brig. Sanjay Thakran among others.

The Army chief, who landed (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**Fresh directions issued to Secys, Div Com, HoDs**

## Major embarrassment for Govt as Deptts fail to file replies in HC

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, Aug 7: Admonishing bureaucrats and Head of Departments of the State for their failure to file reply affidavits and compliance reports in respect of various Public Interest Litigations (PILs) before the High Court, the State Government today issued fresh instructions to avoid any delay in filing responses in the Court.

"Due to failure on part of Departments to file response before the High Court in various cases on time, adverse orders have been issued by the High Court on several occasions. In several cases, the High Court had sought personal appearance of senior functionaries of the Government including the Chief Secretary as well, which caused major embarrassment to the Government", sources asserted.

The fresh instructions had been issued in a circular no. 15-GAD of 2013 dated August 7, 2013 and copies of the same had been sent to all the Administrative Secretaries, Principal Secretaries of the Chief Minister and Governor,

Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir and all the Head of Departments, Managing Directors and Chief Executives of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSU).

Sources asserted, "Chief Justice High Court, M M Kumar had also expressed his displeasure over the failure of the State Government Department to submit reply affidavit and compliance report in various PILs".

Advocate General, M I Qadri had also discussed the issue in details with Chief Secretary, Iqbal Khandey and informed him that a number of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) were pending in High Court and the status/ compliance reports need to be filed by the Government Department.

"Most of the replies are submitted quite late and these aren't accepted by the High Court Registry. Failure of the Departments to file response in time leads to passing of adverse orders by the Courts", sources said.

The new GAD circular impressed upon all the Government functionaries to file reply affidavits and compliance

reports and Action Taken Reports (ATR) in respect of various PILs in time, well before the date of hearing. "The Law Officers of the concerned Department shall keep close liaisoning with the Office of the Advocate General to avoid any delay in filing responses in the High Court", says the circular.

"In case of failure of any Department to file response before the High Court on time, concerned Law Officer of the department shall be held responsible and action initiated against him in accordance with the rules", says the document.

Earlier, Advocate General, M I Qadri had also written a letter no. AGI 911 dated July 25, 2013 to the General Administration Department (GAD) airing his concern over failure of Government functionaries to file Replies/ Status/ Compliance Reports in various PILs on priority basis.

"The letter from Advocate General had touched upon three important points including delay in filing reply on priority basis, absence of Law Officials of

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**CCS to discuss killings today**

NEW DELHI, Aug 7:

Against the backdrop of huge uproar over the killing of five soldiers on the LoC, the Cabinet Committee on Security is expected to discuss the issue tomorrow.

The meeting is expected to be briefed by Defence Minister A K Antony about yesterday's incident in Poonch and the prevailing situation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said here.(PTI)

**Rail traffic disrupted for 2nd day**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 7: Rail traffic between Jammu and Udhampur remained suspended for the second consecutive day today after exit of a tunnel was damaged due to sudden landslides yesterday.

The mishap, yesterday, led to the damage of tracks between Rannagar and Manwal near Udhampur, forcing cancellation of train services.

According to Railway officials, the office of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur has been approached for help to ensure speedy removal of the boulders and garbage from the track even as three JCB machines have been pressed into service. Around one

(Contd on page 4 Col 4)

**Govt rules out 3rd party mediation**

NEW DELHI, Aug 7:

The Government today asserted that there was absolutely no scope for a third party role or mediation in the northern most State of the country as Parliament was rocked by the killings of five Indian soldiers on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a written reply to a question regarding Pakistan's requests to raise the J&K issue with countries like the United Kingdom and the US, Minister of State for External Affairs Preeten Kaur said in the Lok Sabha that under the Simla agreement, India and Pakistan had committed to address all issues including JK 'peacefully through bilateral dialogue'.

On Pakistan's effort to raise J&K issue before the international (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

**Young girl raped, murdered**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 7: A young girl appeared to have been raped and murdered and her body thrown into Niki Tawi river, which was recovered from Raipur this afternoon under the jurisdiction of Satwari police station.

The 18 to 19 years old girl has not been identified but she appeared to be non-local, police said.

Civilians observed the body floating in Niki Tawi river and informed police, which seized the body. SP South Rajeshwar Singh and SHO Satwari Inspector Hassan Kamaal rushed to the spot and called FSL, crime and photo experts, who examined the scene.

Police said the girl had multiple marks of injuries over the (Contd on page 4 Col 4)

**LoC flare up cause of concern: Mirwaiz**

SRINAGAR, Aug 7:

Chairman of moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today said the recent flare-up on the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan has the potential to harm the improving relations between the two countries.

"The killing of Indian or Pakistani soldiers during border tension has always remained a cause of concern. Hence, Kashmiris have repeatedly stressed upon both the nations to solve Kashmir issue to stop the wastage of lives on both sides of LoC," Mirwaiz said addressing a religious function here.

He said both countries should demilitarise the borders and ensure (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

**PMO officials meet moderate group leaders**

## Centre opens back channel talks with separatists

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 7: After a long time, the Government of India has opened back-door channels of talks with the separatists in the Kashmir Valley. Two top officials in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) were reported to have established secret contact with moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq recently.

Official sources told the Excelsior that two top officials of the PMO had met the separatists from moderate faction in summer capital of Srinagar to ascertain their views on the talks with the Government of India. The PMO officials met with separatists separately and secretly.

The PMO officials left Srinagar with some "positive signals".

According to sources, the

**Gujarat Petronet CMD to make presentation before CM after Aug 15**

## Legal issues in Haryana may delay extension of gas pipeline to J&K

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 7: The legal issues, which the Gujarat State Petronet Limited is facing in Haryana, may lead to delay in extension of gas pipeline to Jammu and Kashmir, and the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Petronet will be making detailed presentation about this as well as other important aspects before the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah after August 15.

"While Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have completed all the legal formalities required to facilitate the connectivity with the National Gas Grid by way of laying of gas pipelines, the Haryana has yet not sorted out

Government of India wanted to gauge the mood of moderate faction of separatists before sending them a formal invite for talks.

"The Government didn't want its invite to be rejected. So they wanted to be sure that the separatists would come forward for the talks. That was the purpose of the PMO officials' visit to Srinagar and meeting with the separatists," they said, adding the Centre was well aware of the mood of hard-line faction of Hurriyat Conference headed by Syed Ali Shah Geelani that it was not going to come forward for talks and that was why the back channel diplomacy was not taken to the doors of Geelani.

"Geelani was not going to meet the Centre's representatives for talks," they said, adding the Government of India has hopes on Mirwaiz faction

and were confident that it would come forward for talks with some normal pre-conditions.

Worthwhile to mention here that the Hurriyat Conference had held talks with then Deputy Prime Minister, Incharge Home, LK Advani during NDA regime. Since then, there had been no direct talks between the Centre and the separatists.

The Union Home Ministry had appointed three interlocutors—Dileep Padgaonkar, Prof Radha Kumar and MM Ansari for talks with representatives of Jammu and Kashmir after 2010 summer unrest. Though they had met a large section of people in all three regions of the State, the separatists had refused to meet them.

Recently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had said that some of the separatists were preparing for contesting the (Contd on page 4 Col 2)

**Political storm over Defence Minister A K Antony's statement on LoC killing paralysed Parliament today with an aggressive Opposition accusing him of giving a "clean chit" to Pakistan Army and demanding his apology.**

Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were repeatedly adjourned before being adjourned for the day at 3 pm without transacting any substantive business.

Antony, who has been under fire since yesterday for saying that "terrorists along with persons dressed in Pakistan Army uniform", maintained in the Rajya Sabha that his statement was based on "whatever information" he had.

He said he would get back to the House if he got more details about yesterday's incident in Poonch after the visit of Army Chief Gen Bikram Singh to Jammu today.

He asserted that there will be no compromise on defence and protection of integrity of the country.

BJP members, however, continued to target him and demanded apology from him for giving an "escape route" to Pakistan to deny involvement of its Army in the incident.

In the Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition Sushma Swaraj said Antony cannot give a "clean chit" to Pakistan Army to "please" that country.

She said Antony's statement had created "confusion" by trying to absolve the Pakistan Army in the attack and it was a

"serious situation".

"They (Pakistan Army) come to kill and our Defence Minister says Pakistan Army is not involved," she said amid chants of 'shame shame' from her party colleagues.

Earlier, raising the issue in both Houses, BJP members said the Defence Minister's statement in Parliament yesterday was contrary to the release of the Army prepared in Jammu.

**'Statement not changed at PMO's behest'**

NEW DELHI, Aug 7:

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tonight rubbished as "mischievous" the reports that a statement on the killing of five Indian soldiers on the LoC was changed at its behest.

"Such allegations being made are mischievous and have no basis," a PMO spokesman said.

He was reacting to reports that the statement was changed after being drafted by the Army.

While the Army statement issued in Jammu had said the attack in Poonch was carried out by Pakistan army's Border Action Team (BAT), a statement read out by Defence Minister A K Antony in Parliament said the assault was (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

They alleged that Antony got the version of the Army statement changed and questioned why the person of sincerity, honesty and integrity did so.

BJP had moved privilege motion in both the Houses. Speaker Meira Kumar told BJP leader Yashwant Sinha that his notice raising questions of privilege against the

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