

**Soni sets 2 months time-frame for Govt on 73rd amendment provisions**

## Cong anticipates early Assembly polls, to contest all 87 seats; targets win in 50

**\*Cong Ministers get new terminology of 'constituency specific'**

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 31: The Congress is all set to go it alone in the next Assembly elections in the State by putting up candidates on all 87 seats and setting a target of 50 seats to win, six more than the simple majority required in the Lower House to form the Government on its own. The party has identified the districts, where it was placed in a good position and where it required to work very hard to meet the challenge of "two regional parties of Kashmir" and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The indications to this effect were clearly given by a top party leader and a strong contender for the post of Chief Ministership in the Congress during one day convention of the PCC (I) held here today. The Congress might not project any party leader as the Chief Minister. A senior leader told the convention that he had seen Congress losing elections in the States where it had projected Chief Ministers before the polls and winning where it went without projecting anyone as the CM.

"Many leaders start pulling the legs of candidate projected as the Chief Minister," he said.



—Excelsior/Rakesh  
AICC(I) general secretary Ambika Soni, Union Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and PCC(I) chief Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz addressing a press conference in Jammu on Saturday.

All India Congress (I) Committee general secretary, Incharge Jammu and Kashmir, Ambika Soni has, meanwhile, set two months time frame for Omar Abdullah led National Conference-Congress coalition Government for amendment in the State Panchayati Raj Act and implement important provisions of 73rd amendment of the Constitution of India in it.

Taking strong exception to induction of Congress leader Sheikh Ashfaq Jabbar into the National Conference in Ganderbal, the Assembly segment held by the Chief Minister, Mr Soni while speaking to reporters after the convention called upon

In her press conference, over worst ever economic crisis faced by the country at present, the Congress was yet to take any decision on pre-poll alliance in the State. "We have cross border terrorism and barter-interacted with leaders of Jammu today. In next 10 days, we will meet the leaders of Congress Kashmir and then elicit opinion of Leh and Kargil before taking any decision," she added.

Categorically ruling out early Lok Sabha elections, Mr Singh, who was on a day's which were due in April-May visit to city of temples said this 2014, a senior Congress leader while addressing the Party is said to have asked the party activists here at K K Resorts and at cadre to prepare for early a press conference later. While making a scathing State, which, according to him, attack on Manmohan Singh led could be held in the next few months. He reportedly said that on all fronts. Whether it is eco-the National Conference was nomic front, international security preparing for early Assembly or foreign policy of the country, UPA is a total failure, he added.

The close door convention He equated the economic crisis faced by the nation with that of was barred for the media. Only 1990-91 crisis when country had to invited party leaders including mortgage the gold. Ministers, legislators, former Ministers, former legislators, former Ministers, former legislators and office bearers had been invited to the convention.

Not sparing the Congress during the NDA rule in Kargil, Ministers and senior party he said killing of five Indian leaders either, Ms Soni, in her jaws at border by Pak Army address to the convention, is reported to have taken the party and the Prime Minister should Ministers in the Alliance not meet his Pakistani counter-Government to task describing part on sidelines of next month's them as "constituency specific UN summit in protest. He con-

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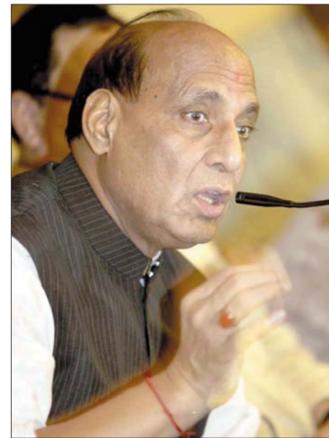
**'Stop talks with Pak, strengthen VDCs, rehabilitate refugees'**

## UPA responsible for worst ever economic crisis, terrorism: Rajnath

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Aug 31: Expressing his serious concern

denmed the PM's decision to hold dialogue with Pakistan under the present circumstances.



—Excelsior/Rakesh  
BJP president Rajnath Singh talking to reporters at Jammu on Saturday.

BJP chief also called for lowering of diplomatic relations with Pakistan till it mends its ways.

Expressing his concern over repeated incursions by China through its People's Liberation Army (PLA) especially in Ladakh, he said the PLA has entered in Indian territory and the Government refutes the same saying "it is no man's land", thereby making a fun of itself.

The China has also entered the

PoK which is the part of India and it is framing policies and programmes there with Pak Government. Being the member of Security Council, China was this way violating the international law but U P A Government is watching as mute spectator to it, he added.

Mr Singh said that the situation has deteriorated to such an extent in the country that accountability is no where and the Prime Minister who was in the charge of Coal Ministry had said on the missing of some important files pertaining to Ministry that he was not its custodian. This is an

irresponsible statement as being in charge of Coal Ministry, he can't escape from the responsibility, he added.

Condemning the August 9 communal violence in Kishtwar, the BJP leader said what happened in this hilly township is totally unfortunate. He accused the State Government of watching the situation as a mute spectator and not acting in time by taking the pre-emptive measures.

He said some youth in Kishtwar during the violence had Pak flags in their hands and these youth were not Indian but Pakistanis who were shouting pro Pak slogans and Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is answerable to the nation that why his Government did not act against these youth when the MoS Home was also in the town at the time of violence.

"The State Government has its own intelligence agency and why could not it gather the information before hand about the happenings in Kishtwar and act accordingly", he said, adding Mr Abdullah owes an answer to the people.

He demanded adequate compensation be given to the Kishtwar people on the basis of loss suffered by each individual. The compensation of Rs two lakh announced by the State Government is not sufficient and that too has not been released till date, he added.

BJP chief lauded the role of Village Defense Committee (VDC) members in combating terrorism and made a strong dig at the forces demanding disbanding of VDCs who have laid down their lives in fighting terrorism in the State. The BJP if comes to power at Centre will strengthen VDCs by enhancing their honorarium, he added.

While expressing concern over the problems being faced by West Pakistani refugees who have been deprived of citizenship rights since 1947 by successive State

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**Major infiltration bid foiled**

## 5 infiltrators killed in Tangdhar sector

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: Army foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir killing five militants early today.

A Srinagar based Defence spokesman said here that based on specific intelligence about likelihood of infiltration, troops deployed in Tangdhar sector along the LoC in Kupwara district launched a counter infiltration operation over two nights, resulting in the killing of five militants who were attempting to sneak into Kashmir.

The spokesman said that the alert troops who were guarding the LoC got intelligence inputs about likelihood of infiltration attempt

on the night of August 29. "At approximately 11.30 p.m. on August 29, the intruders were spotted attempting infiltration. Accordingly, troops established counter infiltration posture to cover the route of infiltration and they were trapped at a location, approximately 1.5 kilometers on own side of the Line of Control", the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the security grid remained in place for 24 hours despite difficult terrain and bad weather in the sector. "On the night of August 30, the noose around the group was tightened forcing them to attempt breaking out of the cordon. At 9.30 p.m., two militants were spotted at approximately 50 metres from the troops. On

being challenged, they opened heavy fire. The fire fight ensued for few hours resulting into the killing of four of them. Later, the other one was also detected in the same area. He too was effectively engaged and gunned down", the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that after the search of the area six AK-47 rifles and other warlike stores were recovered. "The identity and affiliation of the group is yet to be ascertained", the spokesman added.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps, Lt General Gurmit Singh, commended the soldiers and commanders for the professionalism and grit resulting into surgical counter infiltration operation eliminating the infiltration bid. He also conveyed special appreciation to the intelligence agencies for the effective intelligence grid.

The killing of the infiltrators comes a day after security forces killed five top foreign militants of Hizbul Mujahideen, including district commander Qari Assadullah, in Kangan area of central Kashmir Ganderbal district.

This is the second major infiltration bid that was foiled by the troops along the LoC in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. On July 14, Army foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district by killing three militants.

Around six militants tried to

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**'Let PDP come forward with a solution'**

## Omar for Indo-Pak PMs summit to resolve Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

PATTAN, BARAMULLA, Aug 31: Declaring that Pakistan's role in Kashmir issue is an established fact, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasised the need for sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan to address it.

He said the leaders of the two countries should talk and in the right direction and perspective to resolve this issue once and for all.

"We want to tell our children that Kashmir issue no longer exists and peace and development has taken permanent place in the State," he said and stressed on the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan.

Addressing a public meeting here, the Chief Minister said the Kashmir issue was born at the time of partition of the country.

India considers it's accession to it necessary for the secular characteristics of India, while Pakistan wants the area to be with it for having Muslim majority representative character.

Both the countries are nurturing their individual ideas in this regard and people of Jammu and Kashmir are suffering constantly, he said and called for a summit between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan to talk it out.

He said State Government or

any political leadership here were not in a position to resolve the issues between India and Pakistan.

The Chief Minister further said some elements did not want the two countries to talk.

Mr Abdullah said these elements want the burning issues to remain burning for their vested interests and asserted that friendly ties between the two neighbours have a direct bearing on the peace and development situation in

and asked the people to strengthen National Conference at all ranks to see Jammu and Kashmir moving forward in the direction of political stability and holistic development.

The Chief Minister said opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) has lost ground under his feet so it tries to raise new slogans and make false promises to attract public attention.

He further said that the 60-year-



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah addressing a public meeting at Pattan on Saturday.

Jammu and Kashmir.

He said people of the State were eager to see the two countries talking amicably and in a conducive atmosphere to resolve all issues including Siachien and Sircreek.

Mr Abdullah said despite the fact that his party National Conference (NC) had not included the Kashmir issue in its 2008 Election Manifesto, yet the party vehemently highlighted the need for recognising the political genesis of Kashmir issue and resolving it politically through the process of internal and external dialogue.

"We will continue to bat for it and facilitate the dialogue, he said

old Kashmir issue could not be solved by the long struggle spear-headed by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

"It could not be solved by the four wars fought by India and Pakistan. It could not be solved by 25 years of militancy and disturbance. It could not be solved through summits and dialogues," he said and ridiculed PDP Patron Mufi Mohammad Sayed's statement demanding 40 Assembly seats in next election to resolve Kashmir issue in a twinkling of eye.

The Chief Minister strongly emphasised that the role of Pakistan has been established in Kashmir

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**Vigilance initiates probe into financial irregularities in SMVDU**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 31: On the direction of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu, the State Vigilance Organization has initiated inquiry into alleged financial irregularities in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra.

For the purpose, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Vigilance Organization has been constituted to look into the allegations, which include purchase of a particularly science equipment at an approximate price of Rs 1.75 crore without floating any tender by then Vice-Chancellor Prof R N Bamezai, official sources informed the Excelsior.

Misusing official powers for conferring undue financial benefits to individuals, appointments and misuse of official vehicles at the

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**FIR registered against Kichloo in slapping case**

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Aug 31: Police has finally registered FIR against the then Minister of State for Home and sitting MLA from Kishtwar, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo for slapping the then Chief Executive Officer, Kishtwar Development Authority, Riaz Ahmed Choudhary.

The registration of FIR had become imperative as the Principal District and Sessions Judge Kishtwar on August 26, 2013 dismissed the revision petition filed against the order of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Aja Gupta, who had directed the Kishtwar Police to register FIR against Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo.

The FIR No.161/2013 has been registered under Sections 186,

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**Petrol, diesel prices up**

NEW DELHI, Aug 31:

Petrol price was today hiked by a steep Rs 2.35 per litre, the sixth increase in rates in three months, and diesel by 50 paise per litre on falling rupee and firming international oil prices.

The increase in rates, which will be effective midnight tonight, are excluding local sales tax or VAT, Indian Oil Corp, the nation's largest fuel retailer, announced. The actual hike will be higher and will vary from city to city.

Petrol price in Delhi will go up by Rs 2.83 to Rs 74.10 per litre while it will cost Rs 81.57 per litre in Mumbai as against Rs 78.61 currently.

This is the sixth increase in rates since June and in all petrol prices have gone up by a massive Rs 9.17 per litre, excluding VAT. Price of

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## FOOD ON EVERY PLATE. SMILE ON EVERY FACE.

The Food Security Bill will ensure 81 crore people will get Rice - ₹3 per kg, Wheat - ₹2 per kg, Coarse grains (Sorghum, Pearl Millets, Finger Millets) - ₹1 per kg.

Antyodaya Ann Yojana families are getting 35 kg grains per month



\*The Union Government promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance on 5th July, 2013. The bill is under the consideration of the Parliament.\*

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