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5 Army jawans killed, one injured in BAT attack on LoC in Poonch

Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir has been suspended for two weeks. Official sources told the Excelsior that an area domination patrol party of six Army jawans of 21 Bihar and 14 Maratha Light Infantry was patrolling forward area on the LoC between Chetana and Begum Posts in Sarla battalion area of Chakan-Da-Bagh sub sector in Poonch district at 1 am when they were surrounded from all sides at 1 am by at least 20 members Border Action Team (BAT), which mainly comprised Lashkar-e-Taiba militants commandos of Pakistan's Special Service Group, Pakistan Army and other militant outfits, who were well trained in "kill and run operations".

Sunil Kumar Acharya led the Army officers in laying wreaths on the bodies of martyrs. Col TDS Bhal, Col Vishal Sharma and 21 Bihar Commanding Officer also paid the tributes to the jawans. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen Sanjiv Chachra and GOC 16 Corps Lt Gen DS Hooda. The bodies will be flown to native Bihar and Maharashtra tomorrow morning for last rites with full military honours. Sources said in total at least 20 members of the BAT were involved in the attack. The BAT is generally part of the LeT outfit but it carried actions on the areas close to the

Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Vinod Bhatia will speak to his counterpart in Pakistan Maj Gen Asfaque Nadeem to raise the issue of killing of the five Indian soldiers tomorrow. The Army Chief is scheduled to visit the Division headquarters in Rajouri and the 93 Brigade headquarters to take stock of the security situation there. He is also expected to meet the Commanding Officer and troops of the units whose troops were killed in Pakistan's Border Area Team action, sources said. They added that 21 Bihar unit is on its way out of the area after a tenure of over two years and the 14

Gen KT Parnekar had said that Army had given very effective response to the killings of two Army jawans. However, he hadn't elaborated. After Mankote, Pakistan Army had twice intercepted porters hired by Army and BSF in Sabjan and Mendhar sectors. In one of the attacks, they had killed a porter and injured another while in the first attack they had snatched belongings of the porters and warned them against venturing into the area again. It was way back in February 2000 when then HUII commander and Pakistan Army commando Ilyas Kashmiri, now an al-Qaeda (though some agencies claimed that Kashmiri is dead) operative had intruded inside the Indian territory in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district and taken away the head of Sepoy Bhausaheb Maruti Talekar of 17 Maratha Light Infantry. Some Army jawans were killed in the attack.

Meanwhile, suspension of cross-LoC trade for two weeks (the current and next week) will advance on Thursday last by the PoK authorities indicated that the BAT attack might have been pre-planned. Sources said generally on all major festivals like Eid and Diwali, the cross-LoC trade on both routes including Poonch-Rawalakote and Uri-Muzaffarabad is suspended for two days or at the most one week. This time, however, the Trade Facilitation authorities at Uri as well as Poonch had received official letters from PoK Trade Authorities last Thursday that there would be no trade on the two routes for two weeks. "This indicated that Trade Authorities had been sounded by Pakistan Army well in advance about the action and that was why they had stopped the trade. Further, the areas where five Army jawans were killed also fell in Chakan-Da-Bagh sub sector, a route taken for cross-LoC trade on Poonch-Rawalakote. "We had requested the Pakistan authorities that the cross-LoC trade/travel holiday should be for 2-3 days but on August 1, they sent a letter saying there will be no trade/travel between August 6 and 18," Mohammad Bashir Lone, Custodian Cross LoC Trade/Travel, Chakan-Da-Bagh, Poonch said. Lone said that last cross-LoC trade took place on August 2 and crossing on August 5. He added that resumption of trade and travel through Chakan-Da-Bagh after the holidays are over will be decided by the higher ups of the Government.

Sources said Pakistan Army had resorted to ceasefire violations 57 times on the LoC in 2013. Of them, six violations were reported during last just five days. Three ceasefire violations were also reported on the International Border at Hiranagar, Samba and RS Pura sectors during past just about one week. PRO (Defence) Jammu SN Acharya said the number of infiltration attempts by the militants, mostly backed by Pakistan Army, have doubled this year so far as compared to the corresponding period last year. "There had been 57 cease fire violations this year, which were 80 per cent more than the last year during the corresponding period last year," Mr Acharya said, adding that the Indian Army has successfully eliminated 19 hardcore terrorists in the recent months of July and ongoing days of August this year along the LoC and hinterland in J&K, which had frustrated Pakistan Army as well as militant group. "The effective Counter infiltration Grid on the LoC has ensured that 17 infiltrations bids were foiled this year," Mr Acharya said. Among the recent infiltration attempts on July 27, a BSF jawan was injured when Pakistani troops violated ceasefire twice in the space of 10 hours by targeting Indian posts along the Indo-Pak border in Poonch and Hiranagar sectors. The Pakistani troops had used mortars, RPGs and heavy machine guns leading to heavy firing exchanges. On July 3, Pakistan violated ceasefire when it fired on cops, who had gone to LoC in Sabjan, Poonch to collect the body of a Pakistani intruder killed in an IED blast on July 1. Pakistani troops fired on troops trying to evacuate injured porters after two were killed in IED attack by Pakistani militants along LoC in Poonch on July 8. On July 12, Pakistani Rangers fired on Indian forward posts in Pindi belt along International Border (IB) in Jammu district. Pakistani troops opened small arms firing on Indian posts in forward area along LoC in Poonch district on the night of July 22. Meanwhile, people living in the forward areas along the LoC in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri were apprehensive that peace could suffer due to provocations by Pakistan Army and the militants. They condemned Pakistan Army and militants for their unprovoked acts of firing and demanded an immediate end to it. They were of the view that firing by the Pakistani troops could vitiate the peaceful atmosphere and spoil the ceasefire, which had come into force in November 2003.

The 14 Maratha Light Infantry is scheduled to replace 21 Bihar in the area in the next few days.

The BAT team, which was in Pakistan Army uniforms, had already laid ambush for the Army patrol about 500 meters inside the Indian territory. It rained bullets from automatic weapons on the Army jawans on observing their movement. Before the troops could realize the situation, they were trapped and five of them were killed on spot. One of the soldiers, who had taken position at a height, survived with injuries.

The attack lasted just five minutes. The BAT members retreated to Gurand camp, from where they had set-in. Sources didn't rule out the involvement of some jawans of Pakistan's 801 Mujahid Regiment deployed across Chakan-Da-Bagh in the attack as it comprised a number of Baluch jawans, who were known for "hit and run attacks". Army jawans killed in the attack have been identified as Naik Prem Nath Singh, 35, a resident of Chapra, Bihar, Lance Naik Shambu Saran Ray, 29, R/o Bhojpur, Bihar, Sepoy Vijay Kumar Ray, 27 R/o Patna, Bihar, Sepoy Raghunandan Prasad, 23 R/o Chapra, Bihar, all belonging to 21 Bihar and Naik Pundalik Mane Kerba, 36, R/o Kolhapur, Maharashtra of 14 Maratha Light Infantry.

Injured Army jawan was identified as Sambhaji Kuttye, a resident of Kolhapur, Maharashtra and affiliated with 14 Maratha Light Infantry. Sources said the border patrol party of Indian Army lost contact with its unit at about 1.15 am. Army sent a patrol in the area at 5.30 am, which spotted the bodies of five soldiers and saw another jawan lying in an injured condition. Troops from the nearby posts immediately rushed to the spot after getting report of the killings and cordoned off the area. As the report of the killings spread, senior Army officers from Poonch also rushed to the spot. Troops conducted searches in the area but the attackers had managed to escape back to PoK taking cover of darkness and adverse weather condition in the area. The Army kept the area sealed till this morning before allowing police and media persons. Bodies of the jawans were shifted to Military Hospital, Poonch. SSP Poonch Shamsheer Hussain arranged a team of civil surgeons and got post-mortem on the bodies conducted in the Military Hospital itself. The injured jawan was airlifted to Command Hospital in Udhampur.

The bodies were shifted to Poonch Brigade Headquarters this evening where Army officers and senior officers of civil administration, police and jawans paid tributes to them at 7.30 pm. Brig



Army soldiers giving gun salute to 5 martyrs in Poonch on Tuesday.

LoC with full assistance of Pakistan Army, Special Service Group, militants and guides of other outfits.

They added that the BAT choose the extreme dark hours, adverse weather conditions and the area with thick vegetation and dense forests to carry out "hit and run attacks", which might have been completed in 5 to 7 minutes to ensure that before Indian troops from other areas retaliated, the BAT members are back.

Excelsior had exclusively reported about the activation of BAT by the Pakistan Army and the LeT on the LoC opposite Poonch sector last month.

Army chief Gen Bikram Singh, who was reportedly in touch with Northern Command chief Lt Gen Sanjiv Chachra and GOC 16 Corps Lt Gen DS Hooda, is flying to Poonch tomorrow morning and would visit the LoC including the site of killings of the Army soldiers. He would review the situation with top Army Commanders in

Maratha Light Infantry battalion will take over the position from it. Army officials said the DGMO will raise with his Pakistani counterpart the issue of killing of Indian soldiers. The DGMOs of the two sides regularly talk to each other on every Wednesday. The attack has taken place around 30-35 km from the site of last attack at Mankote on January 8 where one Indian soldier was beheaded and another's body was mutilated.

After the incident in January, the Army Chief had said that India reserved the right to retaliate "at a place and time of our choosing". Gen Singh has also asked the commanders deployed on the LoC to respond immediately in case of provocations by Pakistan Army and had said: "I expect my commanders to be aggressive in the face of firing". Sources said the BAT members along with Pakistan Army jawans, all of whom were wearing Pakistan Army uniforms, had intruded about half kilometers inside the Indian territory to execute the killings. They picked the unattended area, which appeared that they had been maintaining vigil in the area and might have conducted recon earlier also. They picked up the time of midnight when it was extreme dark and weather was quite harsh. Moreover, there was quite gap between two forward Indian posts, as such, the jawans didn't hear the gun shots. There were reports that the BAT members might have used silencer fitted weapons. The latest attack by BAT and Pakistan Army came just a little less than seven months when they had intruded deep inside the Indian territory at Mankote in Mendhar sector of Poonch and killed two jawans. They had beheaded the jawan and took head of one of them along with them to Pakistan. The incident had taken place on January 8. At a press conference in Northern Command in June few days before his retirement, former Northern Army Commander Lt

Nitish announces Rs 10 lakh compensation for slain soldiers
PATNA, Aug 6: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the family of each of the four soldiers, hailing from Bihar, who were killed in an ambush by Pakistani forces along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Kumar also announced a state funeral for the martyrs, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said. (PTI)

Poonch to devise strategy to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future and give effective response to misadventure of Pakistan Army, which led to countrywide condemnations and anger right from the common man to top political leadership.

NSAB team in Ladakh to assess situation in view of Chinese skirmishes

information about the Chinese incursions in these areas, the National Security Advisory Board Chairman also had assessment of infrastructure constructed under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) scheme in the villages near the Line of Actual Control, sources informed. Shyam Saran, who was India's Foreign Secretary in 2004, also had detailed meeting with the Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), representatives of the intelligence agencies, representative of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council (LAHDC), Leh, Deputy Commissioner and former Member Parliament. The motive behind holding meeting with the LAHDC and representatives of the people was to elicit their views about the aggressive postures being made by the Chinese Army during the past several months besides to ascertain the requirement about the creation of infrastructure in border areas, sources said. It is pertinent to mention here that National Security Advisory Board is an important element of the National Security Council system. The NSAB is a multi-disciplinary body comprising persons of eminence from outside Government with the principal function of providing long-term prognosis and analysis to the National Security Council and recommending solutions and policy options to the issues raised by them. When contacted, Executive Council from Changthang area

Gurmet Dorjey, who met Shyam Saran and his team on behalf of Hill Council, conveyed that vacuum which gets created due to restrictions on the movement of nomads towards the pastures in the forward locations is acting as blessings in disguise for the Chinese Army. "We sought intervention of National Security Advisory Board Chairman in allowing nomads towards the areas under the control of India so that Chinese Army don't dominate the same taking the undue advantage of isolation of these areas", he said. "We also stressed that restrictions on movement of domestic as well as foreign tourists in several areas particularly on forward locations should be lifted in order to ensure frequent movement of people from this side as this will restrict Chinese Army from unnecessary claiming one or another area as part of their territory", he added. Former Member Parliament, P Namgyal, while apprising the NSAB about the status of infrastructure in the border villages, sought Shyam Saran's intervention for creation of more infrastructure so that border people remain uninhabited in their villages and don't move out for want of amenities and facilities. Such incidents won't improve relations: Omar morning about the news that five of our soldiers had been killed on the LoC. My heartfelt condolences to the next of the kin," Abdullah said on microblogging site Twitter.

"Our borders are safe only because of nomads and there is a dire need to encourage them to frequently visit the pastures along the Line of Actual Control instead of putting restrictions on the same", Mr Namgyal said when contacted, adding "the visiting team was asked to get the proposal vis-a-vis construction of tunnel in between the area near Tso Mori lake and a village in Spiti area of Himachal Pradesh to ensure all weather road connectivity to the Ladakh region besides opening of Kailash Mansarovar yatra from the Ladakh region". According to the sources, the National Security Advisory Board received suggestions from various quarters for providing mobile network in all the 118 villages of the Leh district for connectivity of border people with the district headquarters and increasing funding under Border Area Development Programme (BADP). "The team will visit different forward locations of Kargil and interact with the Army and ITBP before returning to Leh on Thursday. They will leave for Union Capital on Friday and brief National Security Council about the ground situation in the Ladakh

"These incidents don't help efforts to normalise or even improve relations with Pakistan and call into question the Pakistan's government's recent overtures," he said.

LoC attack by terrorists: Antony

by Pakistan. The incident could cast a shadow on the resumption of the Indo-Pak dialogue process. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif are slated to meet in New York next month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, sources said. The dialogue process was put on hold following the beheading of an Indian soldier and another soldier's body found mutilated following the January 8 attack by Pakistani troops in the Poonch sector.

Meanwhile, India today summoned Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner and lodged a strong protest over killing of five Indian soldiers along the Line of Control in the Poonch sector. Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner Mansoor Ahmed Khan was summoned by Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs Rudrendra Tandon in South Block and delivered a strong diplomatic message, sources said. Strongly condemning the killing of five Indian soldiers by Pakistani Army in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch Sector, Union Minister Farooq Abdullah today said it will affect the normalisation of ties between the two nations.

He also said such incidents would affect the dialogue process. "It will affect the normalisation of relationship. People of India will not want that our soldiers keep on dying and we keep on talking about friendship...Both cannot go on at the same time," Abdullah told reporters outside Parliament House. Observing that the hand of friendship cannot be extended from one side only, he said, "Pakistan has to stop the killings of Indian soldiers. The dialogue process cannot resume if such a situation continues." After the incident, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh talked to Defence Minister A K Antony. The Army chief had briefed the Defence Minister early in the morning about the incident, they said. Sources said the Prime Minister was kept informed about the developments since the morning. He spoke to Antony and asked him to ensure that the families of the victims are taken care of.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi today said India would not be cowed down by the "deceitful" killing of five of its soldiers by Pakistan along the LoC and asked the Government to take "appropriate" measures. Expressing deep grief and shock over the incident in Jammu & Kashmir, she said that the entire Congress party as indeed the entire country stands by the families of the martyred soldiers. Gandhi said the Indian nation could "not be cowed down" by such "blatant acts of deceit" and urged the Government to take appropriate steps.

Expressing grief over the killing of Indian soldiers by Pakistani troops, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi today accused the Centre of being lax in securing the borders. "Dastardly ambush by Pakistan last night in the Chakan-Da-Bagh area of Poonch leading to death of 5 Indian soldiers is unacceptable," Modi tweeted. "From China's intrusions to Pakistan's ambushes- UPA Government has been absolutely lax in securing Indian borders. When will Centre wake up?" Modi wrote on the micro-blogging site twitter. "My heartfelt condolences to the families of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in Poonch," he tweeted.

He said such an attitude of the political leadership was breaking the morale of the armed forces. He said by claiming that terrorists and men wearing Pakistan

Mortality at GB Pant Hospital increases, admissions fall

period. And during the same period 269 children died. Although number of the deaths is same but death percentage has gone up. In April, May and June this year the number of deaths reported at the Hospital is 100, 76 and 93 which is 5.15 per cent, 5.13 per cent and 6.13 per cent while last year the number of deaths reported in April, May and June was 81, 113 and 75 which is 2.68 per cent, 4.16 per cent and 3.92 per cent respectively. The Hospital data shows that in year 2011-12 the number of patients who were examined at the Outpatient's Department of the Hospital was 2, 97, 817 while in 2012-2013 it was 2, 44, 835 and those admitted was 32, 103 and 22, 755 respectively. SHO, Munshi suspended Haroon Ahmad Akhsoo son of Mohammad Manzoor Ali of Kolkata and Mohammad Shamim Gazi of Nizamuddin, New Delhi were in the police lock on charges of theft. They were booked under Section 2013 457, 380 of RPC under FIR 71/2013 under Police Station Kunzaur.

BJP leader Yashwant Sinha even questioned whether the Congress was serious in dealing with Pakistan sternly. In the Rajya Sabha, Leader of the Opposition Arun Jaitley said Antony's contention that the attack was carried out by "persons dressed in Pakistan Army uniform" provides "an escape route" to Pakistan which has always been in a state of denial, even in Kargil where it said 'non-State actors' were involved.

Demanding a "befitting reply", he said there is a "need to modulate our foreign policy to send a message to Pakistan that these kinds of attacks will not be tolerated." He also mentioned repeated incursions by Chinese troops and wanted to know what the Government was doing. Referring to the plans for organising a meeting of the Prime Minister with Sharif in New York, the BJP leader said the Government should not forget that the country's interest is supreme. Taking a dig at pro-talks elements who say "dialogue with Pakistan should be uninterrupted and uninteruptible", Jaitley said, "our pursuit against terrorism should be uninterrupted and uninteruptible". Talking about peace overtures by Sharif recently, he doubted whether Pakistan will "walk the talk" as he said "some people felt enthusiastic when new Pak Prime Minister expressed desire to have peace with India. But is he in control of Pakistan. Who is in control of Pakistan is a big question."

He emphasised that India must not lower its guard and not take things lying down. Samajwadi Party, which extends outside support to the UPA Government, was critical of the Government in handling Chinese intrusions and repeated ceasefire violations by Pakistan. Raising the issue in Lok Sabha, SP chief Mulayam Singh Yadav said neither Pakistan nor China can be trusted, as both were aggressive towards India. "Our five soldiers have been killed on the LoC. Our Army is not weak," he said, questioning what had been done in response to the provocative action by Pakistan troops in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is a matter of national unity, national security and self-confidence. Tell us why we are not able to stop these attacks," said Yadav, a former Defence Minister. In the Upper House, Ram Gopal Yadav (SP) said, "Our leadership is not capable to put across its views strongly to China and Pakistan." He said such an attitude of the political leadership was breaking the morale of the armed forces. He said by claiming that terrorists and men wearing Pakistan

2 killed, 7 injured as houses collapse; bridge washed away

buried alive while three other members of the family were injured after their 'kutcha' house collapsed at village Katooba during rain today. The incident took place when some boulders hit the house leading to land slides. Some of the family members ran to safety while these four got trapped. The deceased was identified as minor Mohd Akhtar, son of Mohd Farid. His body was later removed from the debris. The other injured including 71-year-old Khatoon Bibi, wife of

Army uniform attacked the Indian troops, "you have given an escape route to Pakistan for dialogue. What proof do you have that terrorists have killed (Indian troops)? Every time Pakistan says its army is not involved," Yadav said. Referring to Chinese incursions, he said Chinese troops came 19 km inside India. "Did you stop them? Our leaders are not able to look into eyes of China, this is the situation you have brought our country to," the SP leader said. He wondered why the Government was "afraid" in hitting back when the entire country was with it on the issue of China and Pakistan.

Minister of State for Home RPN Singh termed the incident as "sad" and said that such attacks will not help build ties between the two countries. "If Pakistan wants better relations with India then this is not the way," he said. Senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi asked the Government to explain in Parliament the steps it has taken to protect Indian boundaries. "We demand that the Government should clarify in Parliament the steps it is taking to stop attacks on Indian soldiers," he said. Former Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Jaswant Singh condemned the killings, saying, "It is a matter of greater concern."

Pakistani troops entered Indian territory along the Line of Control in the Poonch sector in Jammu and Kashmir past midnight and ambushed a patrol killing five Indian soldiers and injuring one. BNP leader Venkaiah Naidu demanded a statement from Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on the issue of killing of five Indian soldiers. "This is part of the Pakistan's strategy. Pakistan is doing it consciously. This is their state policy to encourage terrorism in our country," he said. "Prime Minister should give statement on the issue in Parliament on the issue and whatever suggestions come from the House, a strategy should be finalised accordingly," Naidu added.

Attacking the UPA Government, he said, "Pakistan is aiding and funding terrorist movement here. But our Government does not have any strategy to tackle this. Government has not done anything so far. Unless government takes it seriously, Pakistan will continue to do it." Condemning the incident, BJP spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad asked how many more Indian soldiers to be sacrificed? "BJP condemns the incident. We would like to ask the Government how many more brave Indian soldiers need to sacri-

ficed? Prasad asked. "We have always maintained that Government should take up these issues seriously. Pakistan talks about track I and track II policy and their soldiers are attacking our soldiers," he said. Referring to China, Prasad said, "There are also reports that China has launched cyber attack on our cyber installations. This is unfortunate. India should take it seriously." Another BJP spokesperson Shahnawaj Hussain said the incident reflects a total failure on the part of the Government. "It is a total failure of the Government. Government should respond to Pakistan in the same language which Pakistan understands," Hussain said. Making a scathing attack on the Government, BJP MP Vinay Katiyar said, "It has become a habit of Pakistan soldiers to kill our soldiers. It seems they enjoy doing this. Except lodging our protests, we are not able to do anything. It is affecting the morale of our soldiers. India should decide its future course of action." CPI also sought Government's statement on the border firing incident in the House. "When Parliament is in session Government should make some statement on the issue. What happened there and how the Government is going to tackle the issue," CPI leader D Raja said. "There are several issues regarding our foreign policy. We need to discuss them. There are cases of Chinese incursion. Now the firing on the border on Indian soldiers. These are serious issues. Government will have to take up the issue with authorities in Pakistan," Raja said. Describing the incident as "unfortunate", Congress leader Karan Singh said, "This is an unfortunate incident. Very often firing takes place to facilitate infiltration."

Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Saif-ud-din Soz said these kinds of incident will not be any help for Pakistan also. "In the last two-three months there are repeated firing incidents. It is a sad incident. Government is responding continuously to the situation by stating that this will not be tolerated. These kind of incidents will not be helpful for Pakistan also. This is not acceptable. The border incident is a warning for Nawaz Sharif also," Soz said. However, Congress MP Mani Shankar Iyer maintained that despite the incident, dialogue process should not be discontinued. "I do not believe in stopping dialogue. The important thing about the dialogue is whatever you want to say there is no restriction on it. Unilateral statement is not areas of Mendhar. The water from rain and flooded drains and some small nal-lahs entered many houses in lower Surankote area and caused extensive damage to the public property today. The rain was heavy and it flooded the main market as well. The water also entered many shops. The people held protest against the local Municipal Committee authorities. Later, SDM Mendhar and DC Poonch also visited the town and talked to the affected families. The SDM said that in some houses there was

by locals and police by using ropes today. They had gone to fetch sand from the river. Reports from Rajouri said that a woman was washed away in a nallah in Chhaja Baglika area of Thannamandi today. The deceased has been identified as 45-year-old Razia Begum, Pappi Garooi, resident of Mangota. The woman went across the nallah to bring her cattle while the 10-year-old daughter was waiting on the other side of the bank. Suddenly flash flood washed away the woman when she was crossing. Her three cattle were also washed away. Later, the villagers and police party led by SHO Thannamandi Shaheen Mirza started search along the nallah but her body could not be traced till late this evening. The rain and flood in several nallahs and rivers also caused massive damage in Mendhar and Surankote areas of Poonch today. While a bridge on Harni-Nad road was washed away due to massive flood in Harni nallah during the day, the road link to several villages in the area has been snapped with this. The bridge was nearly 50 mt long and its entire portion including some approach road has also been washed away. This nallah also caused extensive damage to the crop fields in the low lying

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Nearly 70 mt portion of road washed away as 'bund' breaches at Sherpur on old Samba-Kathua road due to flood.

Abdul Ghani, 12-year-old Mohd Sharief and another child were later removed to hospital in Kathua. The administration provided immediate relief to the family. Due to rain and land slides the Basohli-Bani road remained blocked for several hours today. However, GREF authorities cleared the road and restored traffic after four hours. Dayala Chak-Billarwar road was also blocked due to land slides near Dabi and Thein area this morning. It was also cleared by the authorities in the afternoon. The flood in Babbar nallah also disrupted movement of traffic on Ghagwal-Rajpura and Hiranagar border belt. At least three persons trapped in Fallain Mandal area of Tawi were rescued

3-4 feet water and property of many people has been damaged. Nearly 100 houses said to have suffered damage in the area. Four members of a family were injured in a house collapse near Jarha Wali Gali in Gursai area of Mendhar today. The trapped people raised alarm and the people and some policemen on Buddha Amamath yatra duty rushed and rescued them. All the four were rushed to Rajouri hospital and condition of one of them was said to be serious. They were identified as Mohd Aslam, son of Nizam din, Mohd Farid, son of Mohd Aslam, Sajjad Ahmed son of Mohd Aslam and Mehmod, son of Sain resident of Samooti Nad. Condition of Sajjad was said to be serious and he was referred to Jammu.