

Won't allow repeat of 1990 situation: PC

Centre asks J&K to ensure peace by deploying adequate forces

Kishtwar violence issue of India's sovereignty: Jaitley

Dismiss Omar Govt, impose President's rule: Mayawati

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: In the wake of communal clashes in Kishtwar, the Centre has asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to ensure peace by deploying adequate forces in all parts of the State.

In an advisory, the Home Ministry told the State Government that the violence may spread to other parts and asked it to ensure that no such incident is repeated anywhere else.

Assuring all help, the Centre said that adequate forces should be deployed in all sensitive places to maintain law and order, officials sources said.

The Home Ministry also said those indulging in violence should be brought to book and action should be initiated against them, they said.

The Government today

ruled out any terror or "external aggression" link to the communal violence in Kishtwar and asserted that there will be no repeat of 1990 when Pandits were forced to leave Kashmir valley.

Finance Minister P Chidambaram, speaking in the Rajya Sabha on behalf of indisposed Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, said the overall situation in the State is under control even as members warned that the recent events should not be treated as mere inter-community clash as the country's "sovereignty and integrity" is at stake.

The House saw an impromptu discussion on the situation in the State after Leader of Opposition Arun Jaitley raised the issue of violence that began in Kishtwar town on Friday last and spread to other areas of Jammu province.

The BJP leader's concerns over the situation were echoed by several other members like BSP Chief Mayawati, CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy (Trinamool), Karan Singh (Cong), D Raja (CPI), V Maitreyan (AIADMK), T M Selvaganapathy (DMK) and K C Tyagi (JD-U).

Responding to the concerns and apprehensions, Chidambaram said, "it would not be correct to assume or believe that an undercurrent of tension between one community and another is necessarily related to terrorism or to external aggression."

Contending that he was "fairly acquainted" with the "challenges that Jammu and Kashmir faces and consequently, India faces", the Minister said, "There is the challenge of infiltration and aggression.

There is the challenge of terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the (Kashmir) Valley."

Sufficient Army contingents had been deployed in violence-hit areas and they conducted flag marches, he said, adding the Centre will extend all help to the State.

Giving details of the incident, he said the situation in Kishtwar was "near normal" and no untoward incident had been reported since August 9.

While noting that violence had been witnessed in some other parts of Jammu province, the Minister said, "Overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir is tense but under control."

"There is a challenge of infiltration. There is a challenge of terrorists. There is also challenge of undercurrent of tension between one community with another," he said,

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The Central Government will extend all support to the State Government to maintain law and order and ensure peace and harmony in the State," Chidambaram said, adding the State Government would be asked to make it a "credible inquiry".

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Fresh trouble in Kishtwar, curfew continues
Kitchloo resigns, Govt orders judicial probe, compensation

*Car looted, torched with wireless sets

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 12: Acting tough after massive uproar in Parliament and outrage across the country over large-scale violence in Kishtwar targeted against minorities, the Government today ordered a judicial probe into the incidents while Minister of State for Home Sajjad Ahmad Kitchloo, NC MLA from Kishtwar, who was being held responsible for the vandalism not only by the State parties and organisations but even the national leaders, resigned from the Ministry. Governor NN Vohra immediately accepted his resignation on the advice of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Poonch) reeled under curfew. While curfew was relaxed for few hours in parts of Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Kathua and Samba, authorities gave no relaxation in Jammu, Doda and Kishtwar districts. Fresh trouble erupted in Kishtwar town for Raipur under Domana police station for second consecutive day today.

Police today arrested 11 persons including separatist leader Abdul Qayoom Mattu in Kishtwar in connection with Friday's violence. Mattu has



Para-military personnel in action in curfew bound Jammu City on Monday. (More pics on page 3) -Excelsior/Rakesh

some time while Jammu district gradually remained normal mob to indulge in rioting. Some excepting a group clash at

All-party delegation to visit Kishtwar with peace message

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 12: An all-party delegation will visit violence-hit Kishtwar district with a message of peace and communal harmony.

This was decided in the all party meeting chaired by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at his office residence here soon after the resignation of Minister of State for Home, Sajad Ahmed Kichloo over Kishtwar clashes.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution condemning the violence, which started in Kishtwar and then spread to various parts of Jammu division and appealed to the people of the State to maintain communal harmony and uphold the spirit of secularism.

Appreciating the decision of the State Government of instituting a judicial enquiry into the circumstances which led to the violence/disturbance in Kishtwar on August 9, 2013, the all party meeting appealed the Government to reconsider the decision for relief in favour of those whose shops and houses have been damaged/gutted.

It was decided that after the improvement in the situation in Kishtwar and other parts of Jammu division, an all party delegation will visit the affected

areas of Kishtwar with a message of peace and communal harmony.

Earlier, while addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that while the Government would take all measures to restore calm in the clash-hit areas of Jammu division, the political leadership and the civil society as a whole have an important role in bringing back normalcy and harmony in the affected areas. He expressed satisfaction over thaw in the situation and hoped that normalcy will prevail in shortest possible time.

Highlighting the role of civil society and political leadership in such challenging times, the Chief Minister said that the Government and all political parties besides the civil society have to work together for restoring peace for the larger interest of the State and its people. He said the first target in such crisis should be to safeguard the lives and property and bring back peace in affected areas.

The meeting among others was attended by the BJP members Jugal Kishore and Ashok Khajuria, National Conference representatives S S Slathia and Devender Singh Rana, Congress nominees Ravinder Sharma and

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 12: As tensions escalated on the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) with Pakistan violating ceasefire for fifth time in past three days, Director General of BSF Subhash Joshi and Special DG BSF (West) Rajdeep Singh air dashed here and visited forward areas to review the situation. Newly appointed IG BSF Jammu Frontiers, SS Tomar accompanied them.

The top BSF officers visited forward areas of the IB from Samba to Kanachak sectors, which have been witnessing frequent ceasefire violations from Pakistan side. One BSF jawan has been killed and two others were injured in continued firing by the Pakistani Rangers in Hiranagar, Ramgarh and Kanachak sectors in the past few days.

Mr Joshi and other BSF officials inter-acted with the field commanders and jawans of the BSF deployed at forward areas along the IB and called upon them to give effective reply to

Pakistan firing. They stressed upon the security personnel to maintain strict surveillance on the IB to thwart infiltration attempts by the militants on the eve of Independence Day.

Meanwhile, escalating border tension, Pakistani troops today violated the ceasefire for the fifth time in the last three days by targeting forward Indian posts along the LoC in Poonch district with mortar shells, rockets and small arms firing.

Indian troops, guarding the

borderline, took positions and retaliated resulting in heavy exchanges.

"Pakistan troops opened heavy firing with small arms, mortar shells and rockets on Indian forward posts along LoC in Poonch and Durga Battalion areas at Digwar, Krishna Ghati and Mankote around 1.50 am in wee hours of today", official sources said.

"It was yet another ceasefire violation by Pakistan", they said, adding the firing took place from 1.50 am to 6 am. After a long time some bullets and shells also fell in the houses of local people living in the forward areas. Pakistan also used heavy fire arms. An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was also spotted along the LoC, sources said.

There was no loss of life or injury to anyone in the Pakistani firing, sources said.

Pakistani troops fired at 11 posts in Digwar, Mankote and Durga Battalion areas along the LoC in Poonch.

This is fifth ceasefire violation since August 9.

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helicopter the BSF jawan Pawan Kumar, who was injured in Pakistan firing at Alfa Machail post in Kanachak sector yesterday.

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Indian troops, guarding the



Troops patrolling forward areas of LoC in Mendhar sector.

Home Secy lays thrust on online monitoring system for transparency
Over 27,000 arms licenses issued in J&K in one yr

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 12: Despite concerns from several quarters, the issuance of arms licenses is rampant in Jammu and Kashmir with concerned authorities issuing over 27,000 such licenses during the past one year. Since the exercise is fraught with dangers given the sensitivity of the State, the Home Department has geared up exercise for having online arms license processing and monitoring system in order to ensure complete transparency in the whole exercise.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that 28680 application forms for issuance of arms licenses were received in the offices of District Magistrates across the State during the past one year out of which exercise on 844 applications was not initiated for varied reasons while as 143 applications were still pending with the District Magistrates. The remaining 27693 applications were cleared with the issuance of arms licenses.

Of 28690 applications, 12156 were received by the District Magistrate Jammu,

2535 by Udhampur DM, 800 applications were received in Kargil, 120 Anantnag, 23 Bandipora, 1306 Baramulla, 1463 Budgam, 18 Doda, 63 Ganderbal, 334 Kathua, 85 Kulgam, 259 Kupwara, 11 Leh, 169 Poonch, 147 Pulwama, 751 Rajouri, 1827 Ramban, 95 Reasi, 466 Samba, 355 Shopian and 1332 Srinagar. A total of 4365 licenses having validity all over the country have also been issued by the Home Department during this period.

About such applications received in Kishtwar district, sources said, "the figure in this district is disputed because of discrepancies and the same is under examination to ascertain the genuineness of licenses".

"Though the Union Home Ministry had in April 2010 issued directions to all the States across the country for maintenance of comprehensive database of all the arms licenses issued yet initially no serious step was initiated in Jammu and Kashmir to lay thrust on the online arms licenses processing and monitoring system", sources said.

After about two years (in 2012), the State Home

Department issued circular to District Magistrates for streamlining the procedures and matter related to issuance of arms licenses in the State but slackness continued to prevail particularly with regard to online arms licenses processing and monitoring system despite the fact that the same was imperative, sources regretted.

This compelled the State Home Department to again issue circular in January this year reiterating guidelines and instructions for strict compliance by all the concerned, sources said while disclosing that till date information relating to a total of 5613 arms licenses has been processed as per the online processing and monitoring system.

Taking serious note of non compliance of repeated directions, the Principal Secretary, Home Department, Suresh Kumar has started laying required thrust on this aspect by holding frequent meetings and interactions through tele-conference with the District Magistrates and personally monitoring the progress being made in this regard.

As per the directions of the

Principal Secretary, Home Department, the District Magistrates are required to implement the web based centralized system designed and developed by National Informatics Centre for issuance, renewal and recommendation of extending the jurisdiction to the Home Department within one month positively.

The District Magistrates are also required to upload the information relating to licenses issued earlier from their district in the software. Moreover, they have been directed to issue fresh licenses from the web-based application only. "The applications and the requests for extending the jurisdiction will be considered only when their licenses have been uploaded in the system and same are verifiable from the online database maintained by each district", sources added.

In response to a question, sources said, "the issuance of arms licenses is required to be controlled in a most transparent manner so as to ensure that weapons don't fall in the hands of anti-social and anti-national elements keeping in view the sensitivity of the State".

BJP, CCI end bandh call; VHP extends
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 12: On the expiry of their 72 hour bandh call in protest against the communal violence that broke out in Kishtwar on August 9, this evening, the BJP and Chamber of Commerce and Industries did not extend it further after the Government accepted the demands in all parties and prominent citizens meeting held with Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah here, today.

However, VHP and National Panthers Party (NPP) have extended the bandh call by next 24 hours in protest against what they called the failure of Government in giving a written assurance on loss assessment of traders and business community during August 9 violence in Kishtwar on individual basis.

BJP will not extend the bandh call as all organizations which

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SC to hear plea on yatris' security
NEW DELHI, Aug 12:

The Supreme Court today agreed to hear a PIL seeking a direction to the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir Government to provide adequate security and safe passage to pilgrims stranded due to curfew in Kishtwar.

A bench of Chief Justice P Sathasivam and Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, before whom the matter was mentioned for an urgent hearing, said it will hear the plea and posted it for hearing tomorrow.

The PIL filed by Sudesh Dogra, Political Secretary of J&K National Panthers Party, also sought a direction to the Government to provide safe passage to the pilgrims to enable them to return home.

The petition, filed through senior advocate Bhim Singh, sought a direction for providing food and medical facilities to the strand-

(Contd on page 9 Col 2)

JAMMU, Aug 12: In the wake of curfew restrictions, all education institutions across Jammu province shall remain closed on August 13 while the medical examination of KAS candidates has also been postponed.

According to an official communiqué, Divisional administration has ordered closure of all education institutions on

Tuesday.

The Jammu University has also announced that the class work would remain suspended on August 13 in view of the prevailing curfew. The University has already announced postponement of all exams, which were scheduled to be held on August 12 and 13.

Meanwhile, according to a notice issued by the Chairman of

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	KASHMIR Possibility of rain/thunder shower. TEMPERATURE Max: 31.9 Degree C Min: 19.8 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 72.0 per cent Lowest: 53.0 per cent