

From page 1

5 injured, heavy firing resumes on LoC

casualties or damage was reported in the firing. Indian side retaliated effectively.

They have been identified as Parvez Khan, 22, son of Mohammad Shakeel, a resident of



A civilian injured in Poonch firing being treated at GMC Jammu on Friday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

After two civilians and three Army soldiers were injured in heavy firing from Pakistan side yesterday, Indian troops retaliated very effectively targeting the enemy's eight troops, which had continuously been raining bullet and shells apart from all kind of heavy weaponry on the Indian side including the civilian areas.

Reports said the heavy Indian retaliation forced Pakistani troops to desert their eight forward posts at Niykal in POK opposite Hamirpur fearing imminent death. Three Pakistani jawans were confirmed dead at Niykal while at least four others were injured, sources said.

After heavy Indian retaliation, Pakistani firing stopped this morning as four to six ambulances could be seen ferrying dead and injured Army soldiers from their forward posts to hospitals in Niykal area.

Sources said three Indian Army personnel of 15 Bihar Regiment were injured after a mortar shell fired by Pakistani troops fell on their post in Balakote sector of Poonch district. A total of six Army soldiers were manning the post. While three jawans inside the post survived, three others, who were outside the post, were injured.

The injured jawans have been identified as Devinder Kumar Yadav, Tanjit Kumar and Prince Kumar of 15 Bihar Regiment's C Company and 638 Post. Troops evacuated the injured from their forward post and shifted them to Military Hospital in Rajouri, where they were responding to the treatment.

Two civilians, who were injured at Sandot and Mankote in forward areas of Poonch after shells, rockets and bullets, fired by Pakistan Army, landed near their

Sandot, Balakote and Mohammad Shamim son of Attallah Mohammad, a resident of village Patari in Mankote area.

They were shifted to local hospital from where they were shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu in view of their serious condition. The civilians had received pellets of 82 mm mortar, sources said.

Some shells also fell on cattle sheds of Mohammad Aslam son of Mohammad Hussain at village Basooni in Balakote killing his two cattle. There were reports that two of some Gujjars putting up in the forward areas have been injured.

Last night, Pakistan Army resorted to heavy firing between Sona Gali to Balakote and Hamirpur. Heavy firearms and mortar shells were used. Indian side has been giving effective response to Pakistan firing and shelling.

Meanwhile, people living in forward villages of Balakote, Mendhar, Mankote and Poonch especially Salhutri, Jhalas, Thera, Sandot, Mankote and Bhera etc were feeling panicky following heavy firing by the Pakistan Army targeting civilian areas in which two civilians have been injured so far and some cattle have perished.

"This has reminded us of 'pre-2003 ceasefire agreement' days when Pakistan shelling and firing had forced us to migrate to safer areas," said Rehmat Khan, a civilian resident up at village Salhutri where walls of several houses were hit by the bullets and pellets or mortar shells.

The people said they had been living peacefully in their houses at forward areas after ceasefire agreement came into force in November

2003. However, frequent violation of ceasefire by the Pakistan Army in the form of firing, which had earlier been confined to Army posts, have now started hitting the civilian areas, leading to panic among the villagers.

At several places, the villagers were even ready to migrate. However, SSP Poonch Shamsheer Hussain, Deputy Commissioner Sajjad Ahmad Khan and other senior officers of civil and police administration visited the villages and persuaded them not to migrate with the assurance that situation would settle down in the next few days.

Meanwhile, asserting that it was ready to deal with any situation on the border, the Army tonight said Indian troops have responded strongly to ceasefire violations by Pakistan and will continue to send a strong message to it.

"We are giving a hard message (to Pakistan) on LoC - let me assure you on this - whatever action we take are strong and it is effective (with regard to ceasefire violation)". General Officer Commanding (GOC), 16 Corps, Lt Gen D S Hooda, told reporters here.

He was replying to question whether India wants to give a strong message to Pakistan over LoC firing and ceasefire violations. "There are no orders required to the troops on the ground - we are responding very strongly (with regard to Pak firing and ceasefire violations on LoC in Poonch)," he said.

"They (Pakistan) are trying that LoC remains active - we have got evidence to see that during ceasefire violations - they are trying to push in infiltrators", the GOC said.

"Their attempt is to keep LoC active by carrying various actions in order to disturb counter infiltration grid - I want to tell you we are responding strongly - people on the borders know exactly what to do", Lt Gen Hooda said, adding "so troops are absolutely ready."

He said that cross border militants have failed to infiltrate along LoC in the region for past couple of years and that is why the militancy in Jammu region has fallen down.

The GOC also blamed Pakistan for targeting civilian areas in the range of 3 kilometers on Indian side to cause panic. "Our response is effective - we want to keep it strong so that they do not target civilian areas," he added.

Satwain Canal, re-organization of Settlement, Land Records Depts receive Cabinet nod

PDD in addition to his own duties consequent to the appointment of Basharat Ahmad Dhar as Chairperson of SERC.

The Cabinet also approved the constitution of the J&K Property Tax Board and the appointment of Jeet Lal Gupta as its Chairman after his superannuation on 31st August 2013.

Farhat Tasneem, retired Law Secretary and Kachoo Isfandiyar Khan, retired IAS officer, would be its members. The Board would be serviced by the General Administration Department.

The re-organization and restructuring of the institution of Settlement Operations in the State also received the approval of Cabinet.

As per the decision, a combined Settlement (Preparation and Upgradation of Records) and Land Records (Maintenance of Records) in one organization would be designated as Survey and Land Records. Accordingly, the post of Settlement Commissioner J&K has been re-designated as Commissioner Survey and Land Records J&K (Ex-officio Settlement Commissioner).

The Cabinet also created 9 settlement divisions for the purpose to be headed by Regional Directors, Survey and Land Records. It also re-designated the post of one Joint Settlement Commissioner, two Joint Agrarian Reformers Commissioners, two Director Land Records and two Settlement Officers as Regional Directors, Survey and Land Records.

The functions of proposed Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (EX-officio Settlement Officer) in the first instance in Leh and Kargil districts were assigned to respective Additional Deputy Commissioners in addition to their own duties.

Further deployment of subordinate staff in the proposed settlement divisions by the Financial Commissioner, Revenue by internal adjustment / re-deployment of the existing staff on normative basis for making these divisions functional.

It further approved that the Additional Deputy Commissioner in Srinagar/Jammu will exercise the powers of Joint Agrarian

Reforms Commissioners within their own areas of jurisdiction as are being exercised by the ADCs in other districts.

The Cabinet also gave sanction to the revision of compensation payable to the victims or their dependents under the Jammu and Kashmir Victim Compensation Scheme-2013.

The revised compensation under the scheme for loss of life would be Rs two lakh for death, for torture in police custody Rs three lakh, for loss of any limb or part of body resulting in 80% disability Rs two lakh, loss of limb or part of body resulting in 40% and below 80% disability Rs 1.5 lakh.

Similarly, a victim of rape in case of minor or rape in police custody will be paid Rs 3 lakh, for rape Rs two lakh, acid victims who suffer complete damage / burns Rs three lakh and those who suffer partial damages and burns shall be paid Rs. Two lakh besides for injury causing severe mental agony to women and child victims in case like human trafficking will be paid Rs one lakh.

The Cabinet also accorded approval to the grant of relief up to Rs two lakhs or 50% of the loss, whichever is less, as assessed by the Tehsildar of the area where losses (damage to the immovable properties are caused in the law and order situation/riots. The relief in such circumstances will be sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioner concerned.

The Cabinet also accorded approval to the allotment of additional 80 kanals of land for construction of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) at Industrial Estate Ompura Budgam. It directed the concerned department to pursue the matter of reserving 50% of seats in NIFT Ompura Budgam for students belonging to J&K.

The recent communal disturbance in Kishtwar was also condemned by the Cabinet in one voice and conveyed its sympathies to those who were injured during the violence and to those who suffered damage to their properties.

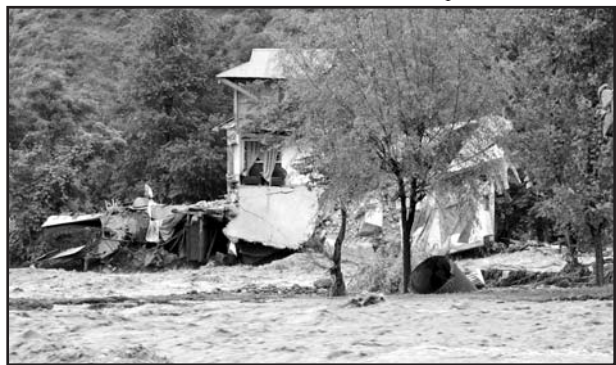
The Cabinet also condemned despicable efforts of elements, which tried to engineer a similar situation in other parts of the State and appealed people to maintain the age-old ties of communal harmony and brotherhood in the State.

8 dead, 80 rescued; 1200 houses collapse

Uttar Sampark Kranti, Malwa and DMU trains were stopped at different stations.

The flood in rivers Chenab, Tawi, Ujh, Devak, Basantar, Manawar Tawi and Suran cree-

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Sajjad Ahmed Khan said that Army rescued nearly 50 persons who were trapped in flooded Suran river at Surankote. He said on the request of the District



Flooded Suran river at Surankote.

ated havoc and nearly 80 people were rescued from different locations by Army, Police, Civil Defence men and the civilians.

A 50 year old woman was washed away in Sherpur nallah near Kathua on Old Samba-Kathua road last evening and her body was traced today. She was later identified as Shakuntla Devi, wife of Bishan Dass of village Badala in Kathua. Chenab also continued to flow above the danger mark and now the water has started receding.

A Govt School building and a temple at Bakore village near Jaurian were washed away in heavy flood in Chenab. The administration shifted many families from several villages along the river bank in Khowr, Jaurian and Pargwal area to the safer places. A woman named, Darshna Devi, wife of Nikku Ram of village Zad died after her house collapsed today. Her body was later removed from the debris of a wall.

The flood in river Tawi also posed danger to many families in low lying villages of Fallain-Mandal and people were also shifted to different safer locations. The IAF helicopters also kept hovering over the swollen rivers to rescue the trapped persons.

In Tehsil Akhnoor, total 170 houses were said to have collapsed in last two days. They included 49 cattle sheds. Nine cattle were also killed in these incidents. In Jammu, about a dozen houses including one each in Durga Nagar and Muthi, were partially damaged in the rain since yesterday, however, no loss of life has been reported.

Two persons including a minor girl were buried alive after a house collapsed near Lati in Dudu area of district Udhampur last evening. Eight other members were injured and were removed to Ramnagar hospital today. The deceased were identified as Savitri Devi (57), wife of Punnu Ram and Anju Devi (6), daughter of Dev Raj, residents of Seri village in Lati.

There were two houses which totally collapsed and 15 members were there inside, eight received injuries while others managed to escape. The police and Naib Tehsildar concerned visited the village today.

According to report received from District Administration Udhampur, nearly 135 houses were fully and partially damaged in the entire district in last two days. Nearly 60 houses have been damaged due to rain in Ramnagar out of them 20 have been fully collapsed. 58 houses reportedly to have been collapsed in Majalta tehsil, ten in Dudu area and nine in Chenani.

At Gangerha village in Udhampur nearly 43 houses suffered damage due to land slides. About 25 families were shifted to a city community hall by the district administration this evening from their unsafe houses. Most of the link roads in the entire district have been closed due to land slides. Between Udhampur and Chenani land slides created blockades at least at 12 points. A huge boulder struck the highway near Samroli and GREF men were trying to blast it to clear the highway.

In Kathua district nearly 500 houses and cattle sheds collapsed in which a woman and nearly 14 cattle were killed. Reports from Basohli said that massive damage was caused in Bagnoti and Billawar area. One Guddi (50), wife of Rishan Din, resident of Janoo village near Basohli was buried alive under the wall of her kutch house last night. Her body was later extricated by the family. Out of these 500 structures, 130 were cattle shed which perished. From Biral village near Billawar nearly a dozen families were rescued to the safer place by the administration.

In Basohli, 42 houses were reported to have collapsed in last two days, 30 in Hiranagar, in Bani nearly 50 while rest in Kathua, Nagri, Rajbagh, Billawar and Ramkote area. Some Government buildings including schools have also suffered damage in the district.

Administration the Brigade Commander of the area responded immediately and the troops of CIF rescued over 50 trapped persons in the river yesterday.

These people had been trapped at different places including Kalai, Draba and Surankote. Due to torrential rains at the higher reaches there was flash flood and these people got trapped. The flood water also entered some localities of Surankote.

The people of Poonch area also held protest demonstration



Katra-Reasi road blocked due to landslides on Friday.

-Excelsior/Mengi

near Sher-e-Kashmir bridge and blocked Jammu-Poonch road for nearly two hours after water entered their houses due to rains. They alleged that due to breaching of bund the river water entered their houses two days back causing damage to their property. Later, with the intervention of senior officers in the administration the road was cleared.

In Rajouri area nearly 90 houses are reported to have been collapsed. Many link roads are closed paralyzing normal life. A senior officer in the Administration said that nearly 40 houses are said to have been damaged in Manjakote area, 20 in Thanamandi and rest in Peeri Jaglanu and Kotranka area.

The reports from Nowshera and Sunderbani said that about 20 houses were partially or fully damaged. Kotranka-Khwass, Sarola-Budhal, Gambir Mugla-Kotli road besides many other roads were closed.

Reports from Samba said that nearly 175 houses collapsed in last two days due to heavy rain, a BSF post was marooned and suffered damage at the bank of river Basantar while six trapped persons were rescued from Rangoor camp area. A police party led by DySP Vijaypur and SHO Ramgarh Satish Kumar in coordination with the civil administration Samba, rescued six villagers who had been trapped in swollen Basantar river near Rangoor Camp.

They were identified as Mukesh, son of Bhagwan Dass, Ravi Kumar, son of Hans Raj, Jacky, son of Mohinder, Pinka and Sunny, sons of Kala Ram and Rajat, son of Sham Lal from the same village. They had gone to their fields but got trapped in flash flood and remained there for several hours. DC and SSP Samba personally supervised the operation. Spokesman said that nearly 180 houses have been collapsed in the entire district in last two days and more reports are pouring in. In Vijaypur nearly 98 houses, 35 in Nud and Sumb, 40 in Purmandal and a few in other areas of the district including Raya-Suchani and Gurha Slathian. At Dyoan village eight goats of one Kartar Chand were killed in house collapsed. Nearly, half a dozen others were injured.

No talks with Pak: Khurshid

of the LoC ceasefire violations, slaying of five Indian soldiers and repeated firing incidents at the border.

"It is not the time to even publicly discuss about when, how and what kind of bilateral talks will be held," he stressed, adding that any dialogue would be possible only after normalisation of circumstances.

The Government was not overly concerned over the safety of LoC and had full faith in its armed forces, which had full training and freedom to act on operation field, Mr Khurshid said in response to another query

At Kamore near Indo- Pak border, a BSF post suffered extensive damage as a bundh along Basantar river got breached and water entered many fields and villages. The border post area was said to be marooned. An observatory tower has also been damaged. The border fencing at many places suffered damage due to floods in nallahs. Several roads including Sumb, Mansar, Gagwal-Rajpura border Purmandal were closed due to flood in nallas and land slides at several places.

In Reasi, nearly 50 houses reported to have been damaged in rains and land slides and majority of them (37) have been collapsed in Mahore-Arnas area. In Pouni block, area about 13 houses suffered damage while several link roads have also been closed. Chopper service from Katra to Sanji Chhat also remained suspended for the second day today.

Katra-Reasi road was closed due to massive land slides near a Railway tunnel at Katra and the traffic was diverted to other route. The villagers whose houses were fully collapsed in Pouni area are - Munshi Ram, Charan Dass, Krishan Lal, Rattan Lal, Kulbhusan, Baldev Raj, Bittu Subash Chandar and Suraj

A report from Ramban said that one Sharifa Begum, resident of Dashed village in Gool washed away in a flooded nallah today. The incident took place when she was crossing the nallah. Her body was later recovered by the villagers. Another villager namely Abdul Rashid Naik, resident of Neel slipped into the nallah during rain and washed away today. He had gone for grazing his cattle and the body could not be traced. Nearly two dozen houses said to have been damaged in the area. Similar reports of houses collapse have also been received from Doda, Kishtwar and Bhaderwah area but no loss of life has been reported.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet which met at Srinagar today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah took note of the loss of life and the damage caused to the property and public infrastructure due to heavy rains and floods in the State. The Revenue Department was directed to assess the losses on this account and submit report to the Government. The Chief Secretary was directed to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee of State Disaster Relief Fund urgently for providing timely relief to the sufferers.

Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand also paid visit to flood affected areas of Akhnoor and Khowr and took stock of the situation. Accompanied by SDM Akhnoor and several other officers the DyCM visited Datyal, Pangali and other low lying areas at the banks of river Chenab where crop of the farmers and houses have been damaged. He directed the Revenue officers to assess the loss and submit report.

Minister of State for Revenue and Relief Aijaz Ahmed Khan exhorted upon the officers to be prompt and extra vigilant towards their services to deal with the situation arisen due to heavy rain and floods. Divisional Commissioner Jammu Shant Manu and DC Ajeet Kumar Sahu also attended the meet. It was informed in the meeting that 836 houses were completely and 2161 partially damaged so far in the recent rains in the region. 23 persons have been died in these incidents.

over the situation at LoC.

There were institutionalised system for the Army to be implemented in such situations like phone calls, flag meetings, meetings of DGMOs, among others and the decision to adopt any of these was left to them.

"The Government came into picture at rare case involving policy matters, he added. "The Government does not want to distract the Army with any debate over the issue and such matters are not publicised. The Army's ability and conduct has been commendable," he added. (UNI)

Omar flays national leaders for different treatment towards J&K

Addressing Independence Day function here yesterday, Omar Said: in fact it is you who treat the State and its people differently, consider them separate identity, deal with them in a biased approach and exhibit a peculiar mind-set towards people of Jammu and Kashmir". He said that the different and biased way of treating Jammu and Kashmir is amply visible by the reaction of these leaders vis-a-vis Kishtwar incident and those taking place elsewhere in the country.

He said that Kishitwar like clashes between two groups of Hindu and Muslims claimed 34 lives in UP, 13 in Maharashtra, 15 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Karnataka, 6 in Rajasthan, 5 in Gujarat in 2012 and again 8 in Maharashtra, one in MP, 2 in Rajasthan and 2 in Gujarat in 2013 besides some more deaths in Bihar recently. He asked these national leaders as to why they didn't show any concern over these incidents, initiated debates in the Parliament and on TV channels, tried to rush to the spots, tweeted on Twitter, wrote columns in newspapers and created hype.

"This is the duplicity in your approach and this makes the difference. This is the why people of the Jammu and Kashmir think that they are different from rest of the Country. It is you who make them to think like this", he told the particular category of national leaders and asked them to peep in their outlook.

Asking these national leaders to bring change in their mind set, the Chief Minister said that integration between the people of the Country and the State cannot be achieved through provisions of law or Acts but when you show same concern and extend same treatment to the State which you do for rest of the Country.

"You have to shun the separate approach towards Jammu and Kashmir, you have to shun the practice of treating Jammu and Kashmir differently, you have to measure the events through one yardstick and treat Jammu and Kashmir at par with rest of the Country then you can talk of integration of hearts and minds", he asserted.

"When you only debate in the Parliament on Kishtwar incident and show no concern regarding similar issues taking place regularly elsewhere in the Country, when you show your eagerness and enthusiasm to visit clash-hit areas in Kishtwar and in other places in the Country where such incidents take place, when you

create hype on Tweeter and social media and speak vociferously in the Parliament and outside only on Kishtwar incident and not talk about similar incidents in the rest of the Country, then the people of Jammu and Kashmir think that they are different from rest of the Country", he lamented on BJP's approach exhibited towards Kishtwar incident and said when this kind of mind set will change people of Jammu and Kashmir will not feel to be different from rest of the Country. "It is you who have to change", he told them.

Condemning Kishtwar, Gool, Budgam, Bandipora and other incidents of violence, the Chief Minister said that rumours and hype regarding the unfortunate incidents fanned and propagated by peace inimical elements blew these out of proportion and tried to export violence to other parts. He said false photographs of the Kishtwar incident were circulated to exploit the sentiments of people. He said these photographs were found to be of Burma. He said these elements tried their best to put entire State in flames for their vested interests.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the common masses for showing maturity and not letting the situation to go out of control. "Your cooperation has helped us to bring the situation under control and foil the designs of anti-peace elements", he said and sought unabated cooperation of people in maintaining peace and tranquility and carrying forward process of development in the State.

7 CEs shifted in PDD

CVPPL against available vacancy.

S. Manmohan Singh, Incharge Chief Engineer awaiting orders of adjustment has been transferred and posted as Incharge Chief Engineer Commercial and Survey, J&K against available vacancy.

Ravi Kumar Chanyal, Incharge Chief Engineer awaiting orders of adjustment has been transferred and posted as Incharge Chief Engineer Planning and Design, J&K against available vacancy with additional responsibility of implementation of r-APDRP in Jammu, relieving Ajay Gupta of the additional charge of Planning and Design J&K.

Khurshid Ahmad Budoo, awaiting orders of adjustment has been transferred and posted as

He said that people of the State are committed to the harmony, brotherhood and co-existence since ages and would continue to nurture this trait. He said enemies of the harmony have been defeated in the past and would be defeated in future also.

Omar cautioned the people against rumour mongers and impressed upon them not to get carried away by rumours but ascertain truth and show wisdom while reacting to any event.

On political issue of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister reiterated his stand that money or gun cannot solve the J&K-centric political issues but dialogue process is only way forward in this regard. "I am being time and again underlining K-issue as a political issue and driving home the necessity of dealing it politically", he said and maintained that both internal and external dialogues were imperative to address the issues amicably. He said the external dimension of the issue needs to be settled with Pakistan and for addressing its internal dimension, the separatists should come forward for dialogue.

The Chief Minister also expressed his serious concern over the tension at LoC and borders and on violation of ceasefire. He said exchange of fire from either side would not solve any issue. He said there is need of rebuilding the confidence between the two neighbours so that dialogue process takes place.

Omar Abdullah unfurled National Flag and took salute at the march past at Bakshi Stadium here.

Incharge Chief Engineer, Procurement and Material Management against available vacancy relieving Mohammad Muzaffar Mattoo of additional charge.

Mohammad Muzaffar Mattoo, Incharge Chief Engineer, M&RE Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Chief Engineer, Generation Kashmir.

Bashir Ahmad Khan, Incharge Chief Engineer has been transferred and posted as Incharge Chief Engineer M&RE Kashmir.

Subash Chandar Incharge Chief Engineer awaiting orders of adjustment has been transferred and posted as Incharge Chief Engineer Generation Leh against an available vacancy with additional charge of looking after M&RE Leh and Kargil.

Curfew continues for 8th day

Official sources said no relaxation was given in curfew on the occasion of Independence Day yesterday as well as today in Kishtwar town.

Independence day function was held at helipad in Kishtwar town where Agriculture Minister Ghulam Hassan Mir unfurled the tricolor and took salute in the presence of civil and police administration.

Though no untoward incident was reported from any part of Kishtwar town, authorities decided against any relaxation in curfew today in view of Friday when a large number of people were expected to gather for the prayers.

The people from Kishtwar complained that they were facing acute shortage of essential commodities including ration supply in view of indefinite curfew for the past eight days. They said the authorities should relax curfew to help them purchase essential items like ration, medicines, vegetables etc.

Authorities were afraid that in the absence of any meeting between the two communities for patch up, the trouble could flare up during curfew relaxation as the miscreants had caused huge damage to the property of minorities on the day of Eid festival.

The minorities were not ready for any meeting either with police or civil administration or with majority community saying they would meet only with an all party delegation from the State or a Central team as they wanted to show them the brazen loot of their shops, business establishments and other property by the miscreants of majority community on August 9.

They said they were not ready to meet the local officials of civil or police administration, some of whom were directly responsible

Pak violates ceasefire in Kargil

12. However, it was not immediately known whether Indian troops responded or not.

The firing from small arms took place in Kill Nallah, Marpola, LC post in Drass and Bajrang post in Kaksar and Lutusid in Kargil. However, there was no loss of life or damage.

Army neither confirmed the ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops in Kargil and Drass nor denied it.

Since early this month, there

for the incidents of arson and violence as they gave free hand to the miscreants by not taking any action against them.

"The entire loot and arson took place in the presence of administration and they allowed the miscreants to do it. In such a scenario, there was no fun of any meeting with such administration," they added.

Curfew was lifted from all seven districts of Jammu region last night, where it had been imposed after Kishtwar violence. However, as a precautionary measure, authorities continued night curfew in Bhaderwah town of Doda district.

Sources said police has been asked to maintain strict vigil on the miscreants in the entire Jammu region.

Army remained deployed in Kishtwar district while it was withdrawn from most of the other areas. Army had been called out on August 10 night in most of the places to assist police and paramilitary forces in maintenance of law and order.

The State Cabinet today sanctioned Rs 5 crore for disbursement of ex-gratia relief to the victims of riots and law and order disturbances in Jammu province including Kishtwar districts where houses/shops were damaged or gutted and looted in the incidents of violence.

Meanwhile, Excelsior continued to receive emails from the pilgrims of Machail Mata Ji, who had gone to the holy shrine by air demanding that the helicopter agency should be directed by the Government to lift them back.

An email received from Sandeep said they had been stranded at Gulabgarh due to failure of the administration as the helicopter agency was not lifting them back from the shrine area.

have been continuous ceasefire violations by Pakistan in Poonch and Mendhar sectors along the LoC and this is for the first time that they have violated the ceasefire in Kargil and Drass.

The Kargil conflict had happened after militants and Pakistani soldiers crossed over and took positions on the Indian side of the LoC over the winter months of 1998-99. The two countries were involved in armed conflict between May and July 1999.