

Jaitley, Khanna for stern message to Pak

Army killings will have consequences on bilateral ties with Pak: Antony

NEW DELHI, Aug 19:

Amid escalation of skirmishes on the LoC, India today warned Pakistan that its restraint should not be taken for granted and asserted that the recent killing of five soldiers will have "consequences" on bilateral ties.

Defence Minister A K Antony said Indian troops are strongly and effectively retaliating Pakistan's unprovoked firing on the Line of Control as members cutting across party lines in the Rajya Sabha demanded befitting response.

Making a suo motu statement on the August 6 killing of five Indian soldiers in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir, he said the Government has taken the incident "very very seriously" and "mood" of the House and the nation will be factored into the actions to preserve the sanctity of the LoC.

He, however, remained evasive on questions by members including Leader of Opposition Arun Jaitley as to whether talks will be held with Pakistan at the top political level as there are plans for a meeting between Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and his counterpart

Nawaz Sharif in New York next month.

"Naturally, this incident will have consequences on our behaviour on the LoC and for our relations with Pakistan," Antony said.

"Our restraint should not be taken for granted nor should the capacity of our armed forces and

Army chief briefs PM

NEW DELHI, Aug 19:

Against the backdrop of ceasefire violations along the Line of Control, Army Chief Gen Bikram Singh today briefed Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on the situation there and the retaliatory operations being carried out by the Indian troops.

The Army Chief held an "unscheduled" 40-minute meeting with the Prime Minister at his 7, Race Course Road residence (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

resolve of the Government to uphold the sanctity of the LoC ever be doubted," he said.

He said Army troops have been mobilised to effectively retaliate every violation on the LoC

and "they will do everything to ensure the sanctity of the LoC and The nation".

The Defence Minister tried to defend his initial statement in Parliament on August 6 that "20 heavily armed terrorists along with persons dressed in Pakistan Army uniform" were responsible for the killing, saying that was based on the information available at that time.

"At 2 O'clock, the incident took place... There was some confusion in Kashmir. It is there. I won't say here. That won't help us... They were in doubt. I don't want to say in detail," he said.

Antony said the Government received more information on the incident after the visit of Army Chief Gen Bikram Singh to J&K. The Minister said the number of ceasefire violations have gone up in the last few years. In 2011, there were 61 violations while in 2012, the figure rose to 117.

"This year, there have been 82 violations till August and still four months are left. From August 6 till today morning till 6 am, there have been 24 violations including the tragedy in which our soldiers were killed in Poonch," Antony said. (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Heavy firing, shelling for 10th day in Poonch

*Army jawans, villagers undeterred

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 19: Violating the ceasefire twice today, Pakistani troops opened fire from automatic weapons and mortars on Hamirpur battalion, Balakote and Mendhar along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, drawing retaliation from the Indian Army on both the occasions.

There was no report of casualties or damage to property in the two separate incidents, official sources told the Excelsior.

The Pakistani troops targeted the battalion in Hamirpur at around 9.05 pm tonight, sparking an exchange of fire that continued late into the night, they said.

Earlier this afternoon, the Pakistani Army fired at Indian forward posts with small arms along the LoC in Mendhar, Balakote and Hamirpur sectors in Poonch district.

Pakistani troops had earlier fired heavily on Indian posts in Hamirpur, Mendhar and Balakote border belts along the LoC in Poonch district and also pounded civilian areas in the

strongly, triggering exchanges, which continued throughout last night, they said.

The Pakistani troops also targeted civilian areas with medium mortar shells and rockets sparking

panic among the inhabitants. Some houses and cattle sheds were damaged in the forward areas even as there were reports that the Border Action Team

(Contd on page 6 Col 4)

The Indian soldiers replied



A mortar shell fired by Pakistan Army explodes in Balakote sector on Monday. (Another pic on page 6)

Meeting with majority community today All party delegation meets minorities, curfew relaxed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 19: A high level all party delegation without any representative from the main opposition party, the PDP, today met representatives of minorities for four and a half hours in Kishtwar and would meet the majority community tomorrow in a bid to end the crisis in Kishtwar, which reeled under curfew for 12th day today barring brief relaxation of two hours.

Like their meeting with the delegation of Ministers on Saturday, the minorities met the all party delegation without any representative from the administration, who stayed put in adjacent room to the venue of meeting—the Deputy Commissioner's office complex.

Curfew was relaxed for two hours separately by the authorities after dividing the town into two zones. The relaxation period passed off peacefully, official sources said.

The all party delegation comprising representatives of different parties excepting PDP reached Kishtwar town at 4.30 am from Jammu. Planning and Development Minister Ajay Sadhotra and Medical Education Minister Taj Mohi-ud-Din, who had to lead the delegation, were on way from Srinagar to Kishtwar via Synthan Pass. While Taj reached Kishtwar after the delegation's meeting with the minorities had almost ended, Mr Sadhotra returned from enroute in view of the death of his father-in-law and didn't join the delegation.

The delegation comprised Devender Singh Rana and Surjit Singh Slathia (NC), Janak Raj Gupta and Thakur Hari Singh (Congress), Ashok Khajuria and Dr Nirmal Singh (BJP), Balwant Singh Mankotia (NPP), Sheikh Abdul Rehman (Samajwadi Party), Tusi Dass Langah and Rattan Kumar Bhagat (BSP), HS Raina

(Shiromani Akali Dal), RS Bloeria (NCP), Sham Parsad Kesar (CPM) and Tej Ram Dogra (PDF).

There was no representative of the PDP in the delegation. PDP leader from Kishtwar Syed Asgar Hussain, MLC said the PDP was kept away from the delegation by the alliance partners, whom he charged with playing vote bank politics over Kishtwar incidents.

However, an official handout said Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shantmanu had conveyed to all political party leaders yesterday that the delegation would leave for Kishtwar at 8 am today. Without naming PDP, the handout said all those leaders, who came to the venue of departure, were included in the delegation.

Immediately after their arrival in Kishtwar, the delegation closeted with about 70 representatives of the minorities drawn from all political parties, social and religious organisations. The officers of civil and police administration were not allowed inside the meeting hall and they stayed in a separate room.

The delegation listened to the minorities' representatives for about four and a half hours. As the meeting ended close to 10 pm, the delegation decided to meet representatives of the majority community at 10 am tomorrow.

The minorities repeated their demands, which they had listed before the delegation of four Ministers led by Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand on Saturday. They demanded CBI inquiry into burning, looting and damage caused to their shops, business establishments and other property by the miscreants of majority community on the occasion of Eid festival on August 9, Rs 30 lakh compensation per person, whose shops have been burnt, looted or damaged, Rs 25 lakh relief and job for the family of Arvind Bhagat, who was shot dead during the violence, immediate transfer of DIG Doda-

(Contd on page 6 Col 4)

Militants eye Kargil, Drass for infiltration

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Aug 19: After tight vigil and strengthening of infiltration grid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir and Jammu regions, militants supported by Pakistani troops are trying to infiltrate into Kashmir through Kargil and Drass sectors, highly placed sources said here today.

Pakistani troops violated ceasefire in Kaksar sector of Kargil last night by firing on Indian troop positions from small arms and mortars. The firing continued for half an hour. However, there was no loss of life or damage.

Sources said that around 30 mortar shells fired by Pakistani troops fell near Kaksar and Ladu

villages during the night triggering panic. The terror stricken villagers took cover but there was no damage to property or loss of life as the shells fell outside the villages.

Sources said that Army didn't retaliate as the troops have been asked not to retaliate in Kargil and Drass sectors till further orders. However, during the night intervening August 11 and 12 when Pakistani troops fired in Kargil and Drass, Army had retaliated.

The ceasefire violation in Kargil and Drass sectors took place for the first time in 14 years since the Kargil war of 1999. "Last week Pakistani troops fired from small arms in Kirl Nallah, Marpola, LC post in Drass and Bajrang post in Kaksar and Lutusid in Kargil. However, there

was no loss of life or damage", sources said.

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.

Sources said that the ceasefire violations along the LoC in Kargil and Drass is aimed at pushing in militants through these two sectors where there is no LoC fence and the terrain is very difficult.

Sources said that the border between Drass and Gurez is one of the possible routes of infiltration. However, sources said that the area has been taken care of and large number of troops of 15 Corps and 14 Corps has been

deployed in the sector.

Twenty four infiltrators were killed along the LoC in North Kashmir this summer and infiltration of late has become difficult. Army sources said that there have been 80 per cent increase in the ceasefire violations in Jammu and Kashmir this year.

Army has been maintaining that militants are making desperate attempts to infiltrate into Kashmir valley to re-launch militancy. But they have failed to infiltrate and so far this year. Around 40 of them have infiltrated and majority of them have been killed in the hinterland in security forces operations.

Sources said that the desperation of infiltrating into Kashmir is forcing them to take the most difficult routes of Kargil and Drass.

Parliament Standing Committee may convene another meeting Govt submitting ATR on migrants, refugees, terror victims' issues to MHA within days

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 19: State Government is going to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) and comments on the issues confronting the Kashmiri migrants, West Pakistan refugees, Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) refugees and terrorism affected people of Jammu region to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs within next few days. The report will be examined by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by BJP Member Parliament, Venkaiah Naidu, which has been seriously debating the issues of J&K migrants in order to make comprehensive recommendations to the Union

Government for ameliorating their lot.

Informed sources told EXCELSIOR that in its 137th meeting held on July 30, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs had asked the J&K Government to submit in writing the reasons for delay in settlement of issues of Kashmiri migrants, West Pakistan refugees, PoK refugees and terrorism affected people of Jammu region.

Thereafter, the Ministry of Home Affairs through a proper communiqué asked the J&K Government to furnish the Action Taken Report on the questionnaire prepared by the Parliamentary Standing Committee latest by August 13, 2013 so that the infor-

mation could be sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat on August 19, 2013, sources said. However, J&K Government could not stick to the timeframe set by the MHA because of varied reasons. Now, the ATR and comments will be furnished to MHA within next some days, they said.

"In response to the query of Parliamentary Standing Committee vis-à-vis return of the Kashmiri migrants to the Valley, the Government is going to convey that unless there is consensus in the community as well as their representative bodies nothing specific could be said in this regard. However, the Government is committed to the return of Kashmiri migrants to their native places (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Top positions lying vacant

Adhocism affecting fitness of Health Deptt

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Aug 19: Adhocism is severely affecting fitness of Health Department and its various wings, which are lying headless since past some months as Government is delaying filling up of these top positions.

Seven top positions in the Health Departments and its wings are falling vacant for the last few months following superannuation or transfer of the concerned heads. These positions include State level post of Director Family Welfare, which is lying vacant for the last

five month, official sources informed the Excelsior.

Even the post of Director Health Jammu has also not been filled on temporary basis but adhoc as no formal order is so far issued appointing the incumbent Dr Baljeet Singh Pathania on the position.

According to the sources, the Directorate of Family Welfare is headless since March 2013 following the superannuation of then Director. Similarly the post of State Malariaologist is also lying vacant since May 2013, sources added.

The other top positions lying vacant in the State Health Department include Chief Medical Officer Reasi since May 2013, Divisional Nutrition Officer for the last one month, Chief Administrative Officer in the Labour Department since February 2013, Assistant Director Rehbar-e-Schat since May 2013 and Block Medical Officer Akhnour.

Dr Baljeet Singh Pathania, who took over as Director Health Jammu on superannuation of Dr B D Sharma on September 30, is

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

37 killed in rail tragedy

KHAGARIA, Aug 19:

37 pilgrims including women and children standing on rail tracks were killed when a speeding express train ploughed into them today in Bihar's Khagaria district, triggering angry protests by locals who attacked train drivers, set ablaze a coach and vandalised the station.

The 'kanwaris' or devotees of Lord Shiva were walking along the tracks at Dhamara Ghat station after alighting from the Samastipur-Saharsa passenger when the Sahara-Patna Rajyarani Express travelling at 80 kmph, ran over them, a senior railway official said. Khagaria is about 160 km from Patna.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that 37 persons, including women and children, were killed. Among them were 13 women, four

(Contd on page 6 Col 4)

Spurt in ceasefire violations: BSF

CHANDIGARH, Aug 19:

There has been a spurt in ceasefire violations in last two weeks on the Line of Control and International Border in Jammu and Kashmir "which are happening on daily basis," a senior BSF official said here.

"This shows desperation by ISI and Pakistan forces to push their terrorists into Indian territory under the cover of fire by attempting to pin down Indian security forces," Special Director General (West) of BSF, Rajdip Singh, in Mohali district said in a statement.

"Ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces is not a new phenomenon. The ceasefire on the LoC with Pakistan in J&K came

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

IG CRPF briefs Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 19: Inspector General (Operations), CRPF, Srinagar, P K Singh called on Governor, N N Vohra at Raj Bhavan here today.

Mr. Singh briefed the Governor about the overall law and order situation in the his area of responsibility, which includes Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam districts. He also informed the Governor about certain aspects of the role and responsibility being discharged by his Force, in coordination with the J&K Police.

This was Mr. Singh's first meeting with the Governor after recently taking over as the Inspector General (Operations), CRPF, Srinagar.

HC to observe Aug 21 as holiday

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 19: As per notification from High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, August 21, 2013 has been declared as Holiday for the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, on account of Raksha Bandhan, instead of August 20, 2013.

August 20, 2013 shall be a working day for the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, the notification States.

5 KAS officers transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 19: The State Government today ordered transfer and posting of five KAS officers besides assigning additional charge to two officers.

Inam-ul-Haq Siddiqui, Assistant Commissioner Development Kulgam, is transferred and posted as Special Assistant in the Personal Section of MoS Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation.

Khurshid Ahmad Sanai, Deputy Director Rural Sanitation Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer Tourism Development Authority Kokernag relieving Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, ADC Anantnag of additional charge.

Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, General Manager DIC Ganderbal, is transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary Animal and Sheep

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

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INSIDE	WEATHER
* HS visit ...Page 8	JAMMU
* Chari Pujan performed at Akhara Mandir, yatra reaches Mandi ...Page 3	Possibility of light rain/thundershowers.
* Sham reviews drinking water, irrigation scenario in Jammu division ...Page 5	TEMPERATURE
* DB's directive in Dutta Finance cheating case ...Page 5	Max: 32.5 Degree C
* Kundali, Mela Ram reviews flood situation ...Page 9	Min: 24.4 Degree C
* Kaw, Rasool guide Sachdeva Leopards to emphatic win ...Page 14	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
	Highest: 96.0 per cent
	Lowest: 76.0 per cent
	Sunset on Tuesday: 07.12 p.m.
	Sunrise on Wednesday: 06.00 a.m.
	KASHMIR
	Possibility of light rain/thundershowers.
	TEMPERATURE
	Max: 25.9 Degree C
	Min: 19.3 Degree C
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