

Incursions discussed in strategic dialogue India's message to China: bigger IAF plane to operate on LAC

NEW DELHI, Aug 20: Months after stand-off with PLA troops in Daulat Beig Oldie, India today sent out a message to China operat-

plane landed at the world's highest and recently-activated Daulat Beig Oldie airstrip in Ladakh area of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. Significantly, the landing

the armed forces to use the medium-lift aircraft to induct troops and supplies in larger number, improve communication network and also serve as a morale booster for maintenance



In a significant capability demonstration move by the IAF, a C-130J-30 Super Hercules aircraft landed at Daulat Beig Oldie (DBO), the highest airstrip in the world at Ladakh at 0654 hours on Tuesday. (UNI)

ing medium-lift C-130J transport plane there, marking a giant leap in capacity to ferry troops and supplies to Line of Actual Control.

took place on a day when India and China held strategic dialogue after a gap of three years where they discussed the recent spate of incursions and ways to maintain peace along the LAC.

of troops positioned there. "A C-130J Super Hercules landed at DBO, the highest airstrip in the world at 0654 hours today. The Commanding Officer and the

The achievement will enable 'PDP responsible for imposing AFSPA'

Remain vigilant against anti-peace elements: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 20: Seeking people's cooperation in maintaining peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today promised them speedy march towards prosperity.

disruptive forces and foiling their ill designs of dividing people. Omar asked people to be vigilant against anti-peace elements and contribute positively in maintaining tranquillity and harmony in the State. "I do not ask you for vote or anything else at present. I only want you to continue your support to me in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the State as the peace and harmony are important above everything and pre-requisite for development, employment and welfare of the people," he said.

Chief Minister said a political leader who had been Home Minister of the country and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir was now demanding 40 assembly seats to address Kashmir issue which he all together forgot when he was in power. "This is yet another manipulation, deception and gimmick on the part of this political leader (Sayeed) who never talked of Kashmir issue when in chair as Chief Minister of the State and Home Minister of the country. "They (PDP leadership) possess a set mind of willy-nilly obtaining power to relish it, otherwise they will not do anything even if given 80 Assembly seats," he said.

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The Chief Minister said certain politicians wearing "black spectacles" refuse to see the sea-change brought about by the present dispensation on peace and development fronts. "They feel unhappy to witness the success of the Coalition Government when they compare it to the failures in their tenure," he said, referring to the leadership of opposition PDP.

Referring to recent events in Gool, Budgam and Kishtwar, he cautioned people against the designs of the vested interests who want to create conflict between Kashmir and Jammu, Hindu and Muslim and Shia and Sunni to polarise the society. He said these elements become active when elections draw near so that they create hatred between various sections of the society for vote bank politics.

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Peace march likely in town Breakthrough on cards in Kishtwar crisis

*CRPF may replace SSB, pickets to come up

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 20: The all party delegation tonight appeared to be heading towards breakthrough in resolving 12 days long crisis in Kishtwar town arising out of August 9 vandalism leading to imposition of indefinite curfew and deployment of Army in the town with a joint meeting of the two communities proposed at 10 am tomorrow. "If everything goes well, representatives of both minority and majority communities would sit together at 10 am tomorrow in cordial atmosphere and their majority of issues would be addressed. Curfew might be lifted or relaxed, shops re-opened and a peace march taken out by both the communities along with members of all party delegation in the town after tomorrow's meeting," reliable sources told the Excelsior.

Medical Education Minister Taj Mohi-ud-Din, has conceded. The joint meeting of the two communities was initially scheduled to be held this evening but the minorities wanted some of their issues to be addressed first, which led to the delay.

provide security to both the communities and ensure that such riots didn't occur in future. "Role of both the communities today was very positive and they fully cooperated with the delegation to end the deadlock," sources said, adding since most of the issues of both the communities have been addressed, they would turn up for tomorrow's meeting in more positive mood.

Sources said the majority community had turned up for the joint meeting at the Deputy Commissioner office complex around 7 pm but representatives of the minorities met at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) demanding that the delegation first assure them on the remaining issues. "Finally all the issues of minorities were addressed and they turned up for the joint meeting at about 8.30 pm. However, by then some of the representatives of the majority community had left. Also, some members of the minorities couldn't make it to the venue. Finally, it was decided that the joint meeting would be held at 10 am tomorrow," sources said. They added that there was consensus that the Government would take effective measures to



Raksha Bandhan Greetings To All Our Readers

645 ultras killed in J&K, NE

NEW DELHI, Aug 20: As many as 645 militants have been killed in over 232 anti-terrorist operations conducted by Army in Jammu and Kashmir and Northeastern States in the last three years. This was informed by Defence Minister A K Antony in reply to a written query in the Lok Sabha. He also said of the 68 cases received by National Human Rights Commission for inquiry during the period, 60 have been investigated but no punishment has been awarded in any of them. Eight cases are still under investigation. The Minister said the highest number of operations were carried out in 2010 where 329 terrorists were killed in 103 actions by the Army. He said in 2013, till August 14, the Army has conducted 33 counter terrorist operations in which 53 ultras have been killed. Army has been engaged in counter terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir and Northeastern States for several decades. Replying to another query, the Defence Minister said the Army was facing a shortage of 9,590 officers and 22,841 jawans against the sanctioned strength of 47,762 and 11,50,191 respectively.

After Poonch, Pak opens up Rajouri sector; fires mortars

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: Ongoing ceasefire violations by Pakistan Army, which were so far confined to Poonch district for past about two weeks, today spread to Rajouri, where Pakistan Army fired two 82 mm mortar shells in Peer Gali and Ramgarh in Mangalnarh area of Manjakote this morning. Official sources said one shell each fell at Peer Gali and Ramgarh in forward area of Mangalnarh on the Line of Control (LoC) at Manjakote sector of Rajouri district between 9.15 am to 9.45 am. The shells exploded in open areas, which fell short of fencing on the Indian side. This was for the first time that Pakistan opened up Rajouri sector after 14 days of continuous firing in almost entire Poonch district. SSP Rajouri Mubassir Latifi said no one was injured in the

shell explosions. India Army effectively retaliated, sources said. Meanwhile, in fresh ceasefire violations, Pakistani troops today opened fire from automa-

Indian troops and leading to heavy exchanges for three to four hours. The firing continued almost entire night at Balakote, Hamirpur, Mendhar and parts of Krishna Ghati sectors in Poonch district. The Pakistani troops targeted the battalion in Hamirpur at 8.30



Amid tensions on border, a girl ties 'rakhi' to a BSF jawan at Suchetgarh in RS Pura sector on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Non-adherence to repeated instructions on leaving hqrs Govt issues fresh directions, spells out procedure for district/divisional officers

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 20: Old habits die-hard! This adage is well suited in case of large number of district and divisional officers as they have been leaving their headquarters without the prior permission/knowledge of the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners despite repeated circular instructions from the Government. But, now they will have to mend their ways as the General Administration Department on the instructions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah and Chief Secretary,

Government again issued a Circular No.4-GAD dated January 13 reiterating instructions to the District Officers and Divisional/State Level Heads of the Departments not to leave their headquarters without prior permission of District Development Commissioner/Divisional Commissioner/Administrative Secretary concerned. The objective behind this circular was to ensure accountability and timely response of the administration to the pressing needs of the people besides to make sure that officers concentrate on their works in their areas

Similarly, in the year 2009 Government again issued a Circular No.4-GAD dated January 13 reiterating instructions to the District Officers and Divisional/State Level Heads of the Departments not to leave their headquarters without prior permission of District Development Commissioner/Divisional Commissioner/Administrative Secretary concerned. The objective behind this circular was to ensure accountability and timely response of the administration to the pressing needs of the people besides to make sure that officers concentrate on their works in their areas

54 missing jawans in Pak jails

NEW DELHI, Aug 20: As many as 54 defence personnel, including a BSF trooper, missing since the 1965 and 1971 wars are believed to be in the custody of Pakistan. Defence Minister A K Antony said today. In reply to a written query in Lok Sabha, he said, "Fifty four missing defence personnel of 1965 and 1971 wars (including one from BSF) are believed to be in the custody in Pakistan." He said the Government has repeatedly been taking up the matter with the Pakistan Government but "it does not acknowledge presence of any such personnel in its custody". Antony said a delegation of 14 relatives of missing defence personnel also visited 10 jails in Pakistan during June 1-June 14 in 2007. The delegation, however, could not conclusively confirm the physical presence of any missing defence personnel, he said. (PTI)

ISI pumping fake currency: Tunda

NEW DEHI, Aug 20: Lashkar-e-Toiba operative Abdul Karim Tunda has told his interrogators that Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI used to run the entire supply chain of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) being smuggled into India. Interrogators said Tunda told them that Iqbal Kana, who is the biggest dealer of FICN, gets the notes through an ISI Brigadier and then it is pushed into India via Bangladesh and Nepal through Tunda's network. "The terrorist says that these fake Indian currency notes are printed in Islamabad and Peshwar in Pakistan," police officials said. Tunda told interrogators that his work was to collect, disburse and push FICN through his network into India and that each consignment contained FICN with face value running into crores of rupees. "Tunda had a very good network of his known ones, sympathizers

Bear kills man in Budgam

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 20: A man was attacked by a bear and killed on spot in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Police said that a bear attacked Nisar Ahmad Ahangar, 30 son of Sali Ahangar resident of Nagbal at Khanidajan, Charar-e-Sharief, Budgam and left him critically injured, who later died on the spot. "He received sever injuries in the attack and died on spot. The body of deceased was handed over to his next of kins for last rites," police said.

Arms, ammunition seized in Mahore

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 20: Army troops have busted a militant hideout and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition in Reasi district. Army troops during a search operation busted a militant hideout in general area of Mahore and seized a cache of arms last night, a Defence spokesman said here today. He said the recoveries included one AK-47 rifle with 40 rounds ammunition, two magazines and 36 rounds of Pika ammunition.

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