

## Exercise for updating electoral rolls from Sept 16

# EC's step forward for 2014 Parliament, Assembly polls

Sanjeev Pargal

**JAMMU, Aug 25:** In a step towards 2014 Parliament and Assembly elections, the Election Commission has announced the schedule for summary revision of electoral rolls from September 16 and publication of final rolls on January 6, 2014.

The Commission has appointed 61 Election Returning Officers (EROs) and 9460 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for updating the existing and inducting first time voters across the State.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Election Commission would be simultaneously undertaking the exercise for summary revision of electoral rolls for both Parliament and Assembly elections with January 1, 2014 as cut off date for including young voters, who would be completing the age of 18 years by then.

Jammu and Kashmir presently has about 68 lakh voters for Parliament elections. The West Pakistan refugees are excluded from the voter lists of Assembly elections.

The summary revision of voters beginning September 16 would last one month i.e. till October 15. After this, the Election Commission would undertake the task of including new voters in the lists, excluding the dead voters and making corrections received from the people through EROs

and BLOs.

The final list of electoral rolls would be published on January 6, 2014.

The Parliament elections are due to be held in April-May 2014. While this would be final summary revision of electoral rolls for the next Lok Sabha elections, sources said the Election Commission of India would take a decision on whether 2014 Assembly polls in the State would also be held on the same electoral rolls or another revision would be carried out in July-August, 2014 before announcement of the Assembly polls, which were due to be held in November-December next year.

"A decision on whether to go for fresh updation of electoral rolls for the Assembly elections or hold them as per the final electoral rolls to be released on January 6 vested with the Election Commission of India and would be taken after the completion of exercise for Parliament elections," sources said.

They added that the Election Commission has appointed 61 EROs in the rank of Assistant Commissioners (ACs), Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) and Sub Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) for co-ordinating the exercise for publication of fresh electoral rolls.

Apart from them, the Commission has appointed 9460

BLOs for updating the electoral lists. The Government teachers, Patwaris and officers of the similar ranks would serve as the BLOs.

As per the schedule released by the Election Commission, the youths turning 18 on January 1, 2014 can enroll themselves as voters during the summary revision being undertaken from September 16 for a period of one month.

The voters, who wanted to correct their names or delete the names of dead persons, can also apply for it during the similar period, sources said, adding the people would have to fill the forms for additions, deletions and corrections etc.

The new voters would be issued Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs).

Sources said presently there were 68 lakh voters in the State for the Parliament elections and a little less for the Assembly elections as West Pakistani refugees were not entitled for voting in the Assembly polls.

Authorities were expecting significant increase in the number of voters during summary revision of electoral rolls, beginning September 16, in view of the fact that both Parliament and Assembly elections were due next year.

"The political parties were also going to mobilise young voters to include their names in the voter lists for the next year's elections," sources said.

## 8 Pak posts, bunkers destroyed; 2 killed

# Mortars, rockets land unexploded in civil areas at Manjakote, Keri

Excelsior Correspondent

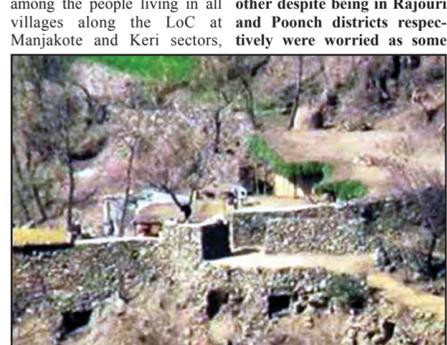
**JAMMU, Aug 25:** Pakistan Army pounded Manjakote and Keri sectors in Rajouri district for second consecutive day as a number of mortar and UBGL shells and rockets fell in the civilian areas while there was no let up in ceasefire violations at Balakote and Mendhar sectors in Poonch district.

At least eight posts and bunkers of Pakistan Army have been destroyed at Nakyal in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) falling opposite Balakote sector while Pakistan claimed its two civilians were killed and four others were injured at Nakyal and Dadot. Pakistan Army has also started constructing new bunkers along the LoC opposite Balakote and Mendhar sectors.

The firing intensified today in almost entire Poonch sector with both sides using heavy caliber weapons.

Official sources told the Excelsior that 20 mortars, 15 rockets and four shells of Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) landed in civilian areas at Kanga Gali, Tarkundi Gali, Baryani Gali and Dorimal in Manjakote sector of Rajouri district, where heavy exchange of shelling and firing between the two Armies continued almost throughout the day, leading to panic among the people.

Pakistan Army also pounded Chiti Bakri and all surrounding villages in Keri sector of Rajouri district today.



New bunkers being raised by Pakistan Army opposite Mendhar sector. (Another pic on page 9)

where the Pakistan Army had opened a new front yesterday after heavy exchanges in entire Poonch sector for past about 20 days.

SSP Rajouri Mubassir Latifi said the situation in forward villages of Manjakote and Keri sectors was well under control though there was panic among the villagers after heavy shelling by Pakistan Army since last night that continued till late this evening. He added that local police officers were in touch with the villagers and have assured them full protection.

"Though panicky, the people were staying in their villages," sources said.

They added that the people in Manjakote and Balakote, the border villages which

## Top VHP leaders among 1700 arrested

AYODHYA/LUCKNOW, Aug 25:

Top VHP leaders Pravin Togadia and Ashok Singhal were among around 1,700 people arrested in a massive crackdown by the UP administration to foil the defiant saffron outfit's controversial yatra today that was banned over fears of communal flareup.

The planned "Chaurasi Kosi Parikrama Yatra" was to have lasted till September 13 criss-crossing six districts of Uttar Pradesh was, however, symbolically launched by the saffron outfit in Ayodhya.

Togadia was arrested from Ayodhya while Singhal was taken into custody at Lucknow airport, as Ayodhya turned into a fortress wrapped in a huge security blanket.

As a cat-and-mouse game was played out in Ayodhya with VHP leaders sneaking out from hideouts to start their yatra defying a ban and trying to dodge the security personnel in hot pursuit, Togadia, who was hiding in Kale Ram temple on the banks of

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## Lt Gen Chachra calls on Vohra

Excelsior Correspondent

**SRINAGAR, Aug 25:** Chief of Northern Command, Lt General Sanjiv Chachra today arrived on a two-day visit here to take stock of security situation in the Kashmir valley and along the Line of Control (LoC) after recent flare up.

The Northern Chief discussed security issues with Governor N N Vohra and senior Army officers, especially the situation along LoC, which has witnessed a spurt in ceasefire violations and infiltration attempts in Kashmir valley.

Srinagar based Army spokesman Naresh Vig in a statement issued here said that the visit of the Army commander assumed importance in the backdrop of the increased number of incidents of infiltration attempts by militants from across the LoC and ongoing ceasefire violations.

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## All 5 accused in gangrape held

MUMBAI, Aug 25:

All the five accused in the gangrape of a photojournalist in a secluded area of a defunct mill here have been arrested by police with the remaining two suspects on the run being held today three days after the crime which will be tried in a fast track court.

The Maharashtra Government announced appointment of noted lawyer Ujjwal Nikam as the special public prosecutor in the case that has triggered outrage across the country even as Mumbai police intensified the hunt to trace the mobile phone used to shoot pictures of the brutal attack.

Mohammed Kasim Hafiz Shaikh alias Kasim Bengali (21), a resident of Agripada in central Mumbai and one of the accused, was arrested at 4.15 AM today from Mumbai Central while his accomplice Siraj Rehman Khan (24) was arrested last night. Both

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## Urges PM to meet Nawaz Sharif in US

# Mufti calls for de-escalation of tension along LoC

Fayaz Bukhari

**SRINAGAR, Aug 25:** Former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today called for de-escalation of tension along the Line of Control (LoC) and urged Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to hold meeting with his Pakistani counterpart on the sidelines of forthcoming UN meet in Washington.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Mufti described the situation along the LoC as alarming. He said that situation highlights need for a permanent resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue rather than giving in to war rhetoric.

He said the Union Government cannot overlook the misery, pain and dislocation that the people of the State have to bear every time peace is shattered along the LoC.

Mufti said that Pakistani promise of reconciliation with India. He said that it should work as a historic new element in Indo-Pak relations which should not be allowed to derail by isolated incidents howsoever provocative they might appear.

Mufti said that rising tensions along the LoC and on the International Border with Pakistan have caused a deep worry in the State. "From Kargil to Kathua there have been incidents of serious nature threatening the decade long ceasefire between the two countries which have rarely seen such a long thaw in the relations", he added.

The former Chief Minister said that the ceasefire had in the past survived even grave provocations like the Mumbai attack but it now looks like falling apart under the impact of unfortunate killings and the attendant rhetoric unleashed by some hawkish elements.

The PDP patron said that there are reports of dislocation of civilian population from some forward areas especially

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## About 110 fresh demands received for creation of new administrative units

\*Fate to be decided in 2nd meeting of Cabinet Sub-Committee

Mohinder Verma

**JAMMU, Aug 25:** About 110 fresh applications seeking creation of new administrative units have been received by the nodal officer appointed by the General Administration Department and the fate of these demands would be decided in the 2nd meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee likely to be convened shortly.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Additional Secretary in the Personal Section of Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, has received around 110 fresh applications regarding creation of new administrative units during the period stipulated by the General Administration Department in its public notice issued on July 31, 2013.

All these applications were then forwarded to the Revenue Department for scrutiny in the light of recommendations already made by the committee headed by retired IAS officer Mushtaq Ahmed Ganaie. "At present Revenue Department is in the process of listing of the applications district wise and will place the same before the Cabinet Sub-Committee in its second meeting which is likely shortly", sources said.

Not ruling out the possibility of a number of fresh applications having been considered in the recommendations already made by the Mushtaq Ahmed Ganaie-headed committee, sources said, "this aspect is also being analyzed by the Revenue Department so that a comprehensive picture vis-à-vis new applications is placed before the Cabinet Sub-Committee. As far as new demands are concerned, the Cabinet Sub-Committee will have to evolve the criteria for consideration along with already recommended by Ganaie committee".

In response to a question, sources said, "majority of the applications pertain to creation of tehsils, CD blocks and Niabats while as in several applications the demand has been raised vis-à-vis location of the headquarters of the new administrative units". In this regard, sources pointed out that from the Pahalgam area two different suggestions have been received from the MLAs on one administrative unit.

"Maximum of these 110 applications have been sent by the sitting and former legislators and the possibility of demand of present or former public representative about the administrative units in a particular area differing from each other cannot be ruled out and such applications will

have to be dealt with by the Cabinet Sub-Committee very cautiously", sources said.

When contacted, Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, who is the Chairman of the Cabinet Sub-Committee said, "since the process of receiving suggestions/demands vis-à-vis creation of new administrative units has been completed, the Committee will meet shortly to decide the fate of these applications".

It is pertinent to mention here that Mushtaq Ahmed Ganaie committee has recommended creation of 23 Sub-Divisions, 57 Tehsils, 63 CD blocks, 79 Niabats and 733 Patwar Halqas besides rationalization/reorganization of various existing Administrative Units.

The report of the committee was placed before the Cabinet in its meeting held on July 24, 2013 and the Cabinet ordered for constitution of a Cabinet Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of DyCM for the examination of demands for the creation of new administrative units and to take on board any fresh demand on this account.

The members of the Cabinet Sub-Committee are Minister for Urban Development and Urban Local Bodies, Nawang Rigjin Jora, Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Sham Lal Sharma, Minister for Agriculture Production, Ghulam Hassan Mir, Minister for Higher Education, Mohd Akbar Lone, Minister for Planning, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Saifullah Mir.

## 6 arrested for Ramban rioting

Excelsior Correspondent

**JAMMU, Aug 25:** Police today arrested six persons in connection with rioting in Ramban town on July 18 in the aftermath of killings of four civilians at Gool in BSF firing.

They have been identified as Mohammad Yusuf son of Din Mohammad R/o Maitra, Fareed Ahmad son of Abdul Hamid R/o Feri, Mohammad Ali son of Feroz Din R/o Kabbi, Abdul Majeed son of Mohammad Rafiq R/o Cafeteria Morh, Mohammad Rafiq son of Ali Mohammad and Ghulam Ali son of Ashiq Hussain, both residents of Sumber, Ramban.

On the day of killings, the mob had gone on rampage burning and damaging some Government officers and vehicles besides some private cars.

Police had registered three FIRs bearing Nos. 106, 107 and 108 of 2013 in connection with rioting at Ramban police station under Sections 436, 336, 147, 148, 332, 323 and 341 RPC.

## 3 held with 42 cement bags

Excelsior Correspondent

**JAMMU, Aug 25:** Police today arrested a Supervisor of Irrigation and Flood Control Department and two others persons for smuggling 42 cement bags of the Department and selling them in private market in Nowshera area of Rajouri district.

SSP Rajouri Mubassir Latifi said police intercepted a tractor-trolley No. 6039 JK 11 at Rajal when it was on way from Dabber to Rajal in Nowshera along with 42 bags of cement concealed and covered by sand in the trolley.

Police seized the cement bags and the trolley.

The cement had been smuggled from the store of Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

Three persons arrested in this connection by the police have been identified as Ashok Kumar, Supervisor of the Department,

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## No info on Chinese intrusion in Chamoli

NEW DELHI, Aug 25:

The Ministry of External Affairs here has so far no information from the Uttarakhand Government about the recent intrusion of Chinese troops reported from Barahoti area of Chamoli of the State.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna had recently told the Centre at a recent meeting on internal security about the threat emanating from the 350 km long border with China.

When asked about whether there has been foray of Chinese troops in Chamoli, and Pithoragarh district of the hill State, Minister of State in the External Affairs E Ahmad told Parliament in the current session that the State Government had not given any such information.

He said there was no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China.

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Contemporary media industry * Pen down strike ...Page 8 Roots of Kishwar violence lie in Kashmir riots: Civil society ...Page 3 Former J&K CJ heads Indian chapter of SAARC Law ...Page 3 Bhalla, Sham assess damage to Bahu Fort; inspect restoration works in different areas ...Page 5 Manohar appeals civil society to contribute in checking female foeticide ...Page 5 Vishal Academy of Taekwondo wins overall trophy in Distt Championship ...Page 14	<p><b>JAMMU</b> Mainly clear sky.</p> <p><b>TEMPERATURE</b> Max: 35.6 Degree C Min: 25.3 Degree C</p> <p><b>RELATIVE HUMIDITY</b> Highest: 83.0 per cent Lowest: 73.0 per cent Sunset on Monday: 07.08 p.m. Sunrise on Tuesday: 06.01 a.m.</p> <p><b>KASHMIR</b> Partially cloudy sky.</p> <p><b>TEMPERATURE</b> Max: 30.4 Degree C Min: 19.2 Degree C</p> <p><b>RELATIVE HUMIDITY</b> Highest: 76.0 per cent Lowest: 59.0 per cent</p>

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\*The Union Government promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance on 5th July 2013. The bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 7th August 2013.\*