

'Pak based terror groups remain threat'

300 terrorists active in J&K, infiltration up: HM

NEW DELHI, July 2:

Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde today said Pakistan-based terrorist groups continue to sponsor, plan and organise terror act in India and their activities remain a threat in the hinterland.

Addressing members of the Consultative Committee for Home Ministry, he said groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba continue to sponsor terror acts in India.

"It is seen that the planning and organising of terrorist acts from across the border continue. Terrorists active in the hinterland remained a threat," he told the Committee at a meeting here.

A terrorist group by the name of Indian Mujahideen was set up by Pakistan-based terrorist elements in order to retain deniability and most of the recruits in the IM were drawn from India.

"Security agencies have managed to identify and arrest most of the IM operatives. Their leaders, however, remain at large," he said, adding the Government has carried out an

assessment of the legal regime and the mechanisms for counter terrorism and has taken concerted steps to strengthen these.

Union Home Secretary Anil Goswami said there have been continuous efforts to bring about better initiatives to tackle terrorism by comprehensive rules of engagement, inclusive of legal framework, additional recruitments, intelligence network and coordination with civil administration.

Border management, mobility and communication system for improving the security situation and combating terrorism are other measures in this regard, he said.

Home Minister Shinde said Left-wing extremism was one of the gravest challenges for the country and the strategy to be adopted to combat violence in these areas has to be a combination of security measures coupled with development.

He informed that a series of steps to combat terrorism in the country has been taken which include sharing of intelligence through close and effective

coordination among Central and State level agencies and creation of four regional hubs (Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata) of National Security Guards (NSG) to cover the whole country which have strengthened the efforts to combat terrorism.

The members of the Committee deliberated on all aspects of combating terrorism in the country and discussed the recent incidents of security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States, Left-wing extremism, coordination among security agencies, rehabilitation policy and security arrangements along the borders.

The Committee also appreciated the services of the forces including paramilitary in relief and rescue work during the recent Uttarakhand floods.

Meanwhile, Pakistan-based militant groups have intensified their infiltration attempts along the border in Jammu and Kashmir where around 300 terrorists continue to be active, according to the

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Qasba tenders apology before HC

No official authority can comment on court orders: CJ

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 2: Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, M M Kumar today ordered that no official authority is competent to comment on the court orders.

While passing orders on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) titled Muejeb Andrabi versus State and others, the Chief Justice said: "All the courts are in power to pass orders to render justice. No official authority is competent to comment on the orders of the court."

The order was passed in reference to a compliance report filed by the Commissioner Srinagar Municipality, G N Qasba before the Jammu and Kashmir High Court last month in which court directions were held responsible for SMC's failure to remove the illegal constructions from Srinagar city.

The Chief Justice in his observations asked the Advocate General of the State, Mohammad Ishaq Qadri that he should ensure that no such acts are repeated. "If this will happen again we will not spare anybody. Advocate General is asked to

ensure that no such act be repeated in future", the CJ observed.

The Commissioner SMC today tendered an apology before the Court and assured the Chief Justice M M Kumar that he will not commit such a mistake in future.

The Division Bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court comprising Chief Justice M M Kumar and Justice D S Thakur, was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) titled Muejeb Andrabi versus State and others.

The PIL sought making the Srinagar city as hawk free city by removing all hawkers from the city and to provide them alternate space.

Qasba had to apologise as while complying the High Court order (dated 22/05/2013), the SMC authorities filed response where in one of the paras about failure on part of the SMC to remove the illegal constructions court directions were held responsible. "The problem gets further aggravated due to passing of interim orders by this Hon'ble court due to which the SMC could not take any action", reads the SMC response.

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A boy throws water on children to beat the heat in Jammu on Tuesday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

Sujata to be new FS

NEW DELHI, July 2:

Sujata Singh, currently envoy to Germany, will be India's next Foreign Secretary following an approval of her appointment by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, ending months of speculation on who will head the foreign services.

59-year-old Singh, a 1976 batch IFS officer, was a close contender for the top job along

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Singh, Sharif may meet in NY

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (BRUNEI), July 2:

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif are likely to meet for the first time in September on the sidelines of UN General Assembly annual session in New York, a senior Pakistani official said here today.

"There are number of steps being taken up and we hope that the two PMs (Prime Ministers) can meet hopefully on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September, if not earlier. We are providing great political impetus to this dialogue process," Pakistan advisor on national security and foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz said.

He was speaking after a meeting with External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum here.

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4 students killed, 5 hurt in Leh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 2: In a tragic accident, four students were killed and five others including a driver sustained severe injuries when a vehicle, they were travelling in, plunged into deep gorge near Lamauru area of the Leh district tonight.

The ill-fated Tavera vehicle bearing registration number JK10-3409 was on its way from Jammu to Leh when it met with accident reportedly due to the negligence of the driver near Lamauru under the jurisdiction of Khaltasi Police Station at around 8 pm.

On getting information about the tragic accident, a police party from Khaltasi Police Station swung into action and started rescue operation. After hectic efforts, police team brought all the occupants of the vehicle out of the gorge and shifted them to Sub-District Hospital where doctors declared three of them as brought

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Rs 100 cr worth cash, gold seized

MUMBAI, July 2:

A total of 102 bags stuffed with currency notes, gold and diamond jewellery estimated to be worth at least Rs 100 crore were seized from four trucks in a joint operation here by Income Tax and NIA sleuths while they were being transported to Gujarat by private couriers.

Forty-five persons accompanying the goods are being questioned after the trucks were raided outside the Central Railway terminus in South Mumbai, Director General of Income Tax (Investigations) Swatantra Kumar told reporters today. The raids were conducted last night jointly by the Income Tax Department and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

I-T Department officials said prima facie the cash appears to be part of hawala transaction to be carried to Gujarat from Mumbai.

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Police detains driver, 3 injured in Tral

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 2: Police today detained a driver who ferried the army personnel to Markundal, Sumbal where two men were killed on Sunday.

Source said that driver Manzoor Ahmed Sheekh son of Abdul Rashid Sheekh, resident of Markundal, Sumbal was detained today. He had revealed before media that he was accompanying the 13 RR contingent when Irfan Ahmed Ganie was killed. Police detained Manzoor for questioning at Police Station Sumbal.

In the meantime, at least three persons including a child were wounded when a grenade went off at the site of encounter in South Kashmir's Mandoora village of Tral town.

Reports said that police and Para-military troopers were busy in

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SVO books EO, 3 MC presidents

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 2: The Vigilance Organization has booked Incharge Executive Officer of three Municipal Committees in Kashmir and then Municipal presidents of these committees for making illegal appointments.

These appointments were made in the Municipal Committees Sumbal, Hajin and Bandipora during the year 2009-10 by the respective Municipal Committee presidents in connivance with Incharge Executive Officer Abdul Rashid Shah, who held the charge of all three committees.

Total 149 illegal appointments were made (53 in MC Bandipora, 13 in MC Hajin and 82 in MC Sumbal) in gross violation of standing Government orders and rules without any competence. Some of the beneficiaries included relatives of the

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41 ADs promoted in E&S

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 2: The State Government today ordered placement of 41 Assistant Directors as Incharge Deputy Directors in J&K Economics and Statistics Gazetted Service pending clearance by the DPC and PSC.

The promoted officers, include Jag Dutt Sharma (Planning Department), Kamal Singh Sambyal (DESO Samba), Jasbir Singh (CEO Kathua), Kamal Nain (RDD Civil Secretariat), Shashi Bala (CEO Jammu), G R Malik (Development Commissioner Power), Ali Mohd Bhat (GMC Srinagar), Omkar Singh Jasrotia (Labour and Employment Deptt Civil Secretariat), Gh Rasool Bhat (Planning Department), Ali Mohd Ahangar (Planning Department), Abdul Aziz Dar (CAO Kulgam), Sham Lal Gupta (DPAP Udhampur), Surinder Kumar Gupta (Tourism

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Delegation level talks on Day 1

After 3 postponements, J&K's plan meet finally fixed for July 8, 9

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 2: After three postponements, the Jammu and Kashmir's annual plan finalisation meeting has finally been fixed on July 8 and 9. Initially, the Planning Commission had conveyed to the State delegation that the meeting could be either held on July 8 or 9.

However, the meeting would now last two days with the first day fixed for bureaucratic level talks on "resource mobilization" and second day for final meeting between Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for approval of the plan.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Planning Commission today gave its final nod to Jammu and Kashmir Government for the final plan meeting on July 8 and 9.

Planning and Development Minister Ajay Sadhotra, when approached, confirmed that the State's plan finalisation meeting with the Planning Commission of India has been fixed for July 8 and 9.

"July 8 has been fixed for 'resource meeting' between State bureaucrats headed by Chief Secretary Mohammad Iqbal Khandey and Planning Commission Members and Advisors while July 9 was scheduled for plan finalisation between Mr Ahluwalia and Mr Abdullah," Mr Sadhotra said.

Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather, Planning Minister Ajay Sadhotra, Minister of State for Finance and Planning Dr Manohar Lal Sharma and Economic Advisor to J&K Government Jalil Khan will join the meeting.

This is probably for the first time in past many years that the State's plan finalisation meeting has been deferred thrice. The first meeting was fixed on May 20 followed by June 2 and July 2. All three

meetings were postponed reportedly on the ground that the Planning Commission and J&K Government were unable to reach a consensus on plan amount to be approved in favour of the State for current financial year of 2013-14.

Last year, J&K's plan was finalised on July 13.

Sources said the Planning Commission Members and Advisors would have day long interaction with the State bureaucrats headed by the Chief Secretary and comprising all Administrative Secretaries and some Head of Departments on July 8 to ascertain resources of the State to fund the plan in different sectors.

The next day Ahluwalia would meet Omar and his selected Ministers and finalise the plan amount and Prime Minister's Re-construction Plan (PMRP).

Worthwhile to mention here that Jammu and Kashmir has staked claim for Rs 8050 crores worth plan for 2013-14, a 10 per cent step up over 2012-13 when the State plan was Rs 7300 crores. However, the State eventually ended up with getting only Rs 5800 crores as the Planning Commission had, at the last moment, blocked Rs 1500 crores from the plan amount.

The State has sought Rs 600 crores under the PMRP, Rs 100 crores less from the previous financial year. However, it has also asked for revalidation of Rs 400 crores under the PMRP, which it didn't get from the approved amount in the last financial year.

The State plan finalisation was delayed as the Planning Commission had earlier been offering only Rs 5800 crores worth plan to the State for this financial year, which the State had refused, leading to differences.

The State Government was now confident that it would be in a position to get Rs 8050 crores plan and Rs 600 crores under PMRP.

Germany endorses Indian position on J&K

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 2: Germany today said that it will not take any position on Jammu and Kashmir issue that can be seen as an interference and it fully recognizes the legitimate institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

The German Ambassador to India Michael Steiner told reporters during an interaction at Kashmir University here: "German position on Kashmir has not changed. We will not take a position which can be in any way seen as an interference."

Steiner said his visit to the State is an endorsement of legitimacy of the institutions in

Jammu and Kashmir. "We, of course, and I do this by coming here to Srinagar, recognize fully



the legitimate institutions in Kashmir," he said.

The Ambassador said the

focus of German efforts in Jammu and Kashmir is to help the State prosper. "We concentrate ourselves on helping Kashmir to prosper and to get into an exchange with us. We are not here in politics on this issue," he added.

Steiner said there has been no change in the advisory on travel to Kashmir to German's due to hanging of Parliament convict Afzal Guru in February this year but Berlin has asked its citizens to be vigilant. "There has been no change in the travel advisory. At least I would have known, if there had been one," he said.

Germany was the first European country to modify its negative travel advisory on

Kashmir in 2011.

The Ambassador said the restrictions on travel to Kashmir were eased couple of years ago and it remains the same. "Of course, we tell our citizens to remain vigilant," he added.

Steiner during an interactive session with students of Kashmir University said that Germany is making it easier for Indians to get visa by outsourcing large parts of the process across India including Srinagar places where there is no German embassy or consulate.

The Ambassador said the new system will allow the German embassy to reach out to places where it has no presence

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Jammu Ministers express concern over delay in repair of transformers

CM directs Planning Minister to release funds for clearing liabilities

* CS asked to submit proposal for creation of new infra

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 2: Taking serious note of the concern expressed by his Cabinet colleagues from the Congress party, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today issued directions for the release of adequate funds to clear the liabilities of the private industrial units, which have stopped repair of transformers of the Power Development Department (PDD) for inordinate delay in making them payments for the works executed during the past one and half year.

Sources told EXCELSIOR that soon after the Cabinet

decided the routine administrative agenda, Minister for Housing, Horticulture and Culture, Raman Bhalla and Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Sham Lal Sharma raised the issue of prevailing power crisis in Jammu region and said that situation has turned worse because of increase in transformers damage rate and inordinate delay in repairing the same.

"Due to scorching heat the transformers damage rate has increased considerably in Jammu but the Power Development Department has been unable to get the same repaired within shortest possible time", sources said quoting

Ministers having told the Cabinet.

They also informed the Chief Minister, who is also holding the power portfolio, that on one side the pendency period of under repair transformers in the work-shops of Power Development Department has increased due to inadequate infrastructure on the other side the private small scale industrial units, which were repairing large number of damaged transformers, have stopped the work due to non-clearance of their liabilities."

"Though the industrial units made a number of representations to the Minister of State for Power, Development Commissioner Power and Chief

Engineer yet they failed to clear the liabilities on the ground that the department doesn't have sufficient funds", sources said further quoting the Ministers.

They again informed the Chief Minister that due to prevailing situation people in many areas of Jammu were being compelled to remain without electricity for several days due to delay in repair of transformers.

Responding to the issue raised by the Ministers, Chief Minister directed the Planning and Development Minister, Ajay Sadhotra to immediately release adequate funds to the Power Development

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12,000 perform darshan on Day 5

Yatris face problems, get separate registration dates

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 2:

Notwithstanding the claims of the Government and Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) of keeping all arrangements for yatris in place, the pilgrims coming from different parts of country are subjected to many hardships both at Pahalgam and Nunwan base camps.

A group of 100 pilgrims from Gujarat who had reached Srinagar for the pilgrimage of holy cave on June 29 two weeks in advance of the darshan date were not allowed to leave for cave shrine by authorities and asked to get themselves registered afresh.

But to their surprise these yatris were given different dates of darshan and that too not from a single track, said Paras Rathore, head of the group from Nunwan.

He said that some yatris were given the darshan date of July 2 while others of July 4 and some



have been put to many hardships by the administration and their duration of yatra will also increase

were given the darshan date of July 4 and 7 said they have not been allowed to enter the base

of July 7 that too from two different tracks.

He said this way the yatris

as a result of which the yatris have run short of money as well.

Moreover the yatris who

camp and they are spending the nights in open as they can't

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	KASHMIR
	Partially cloudy sky.
	TEMPERATURE
	Max: 28.3 Degree C
	Min: 18.0 Degree C
	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
	Highest: 66.0 per cent
	Lowest: 52.0 per cent