

## Situation in Ladakh under control: Chachra

# India, China to develop mechanism to prevent face-offs: Antony

NEW DELHI/DRASS, July 26: India and China are trying to develop effective mechanisms to prevent the "embarrassing" face-offs between their troops along the "disputed" points of the Line of Actual Control, Defence Minister A K Antony said here today.

Terminating the 21-day stand-off between the two sides in Depsang valley in Daulat Beg Oldi area as an "unusual" incident, the Defence Minister said the two countries will meet soon in Beijing to discuss issues and try to find a solution for such "unpleasant incidents".

"Till the final settlement of the border issue, we are trying to find out more effective mechanisms to prevent occasional incidents. There are many points in the LAC that are disputed and they are patrolled by both sides. So, sometimes it leads to some face-off," he told reporters on the 14th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The Minister was asked to comment on the rising incursions by the Chinese troops into

the Indian territory along the LAC in Ladakh and North Eastern sectors.

Antony said, "There are disputed points where both sides are going there which sometimes causes some embarrassing



GOC-in-C Northern Command, Lt General Sanjiv Chachra along with his wife during wreath laying ceremony on 'Vijay Diwas' in Drass on Friday.

situations."

He said after the Depsang incident in April, India and China had "free and frank" talks and "we are trying to have more border personnel meeting places

and have more effective mechanisms to prevent such unpleasant incidents."

"On the one side, both sides are trying to find a long term solution to the long pending border dispute. Till that time, our

aim is to maintain peace and tranquillity at the border," Antony said.

On the recent third meeting of the Joint Working Group (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

## Dastageer Sahib Shrine gutting

# Enquiry rules out short-circuit; recommends detailed probe

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 26: The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report on gutting of revered Dastageer Sahib Shrine at Khanyar last year has ruled out any sabotage as it has said that samples taken from the shrine didn't possess any inflammable substance and ruled out short circuit, then Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Asgar Samoon said in his report to the Government.

The report prepared by the then Divisional Commissioner, Samoon who was inquiry office was made public by the Government today.

The Divisional Commissioner's report said that the FSL report mentions that "no inflammable substance was detected and the exhibits did not bear any sign of short circuit".

"However, since the scene of evidence was disturbed by the mobs who went on rampage after the fire went of control, the FSL experts are not sure to rule out short circuit as cause of the incident," the report says.

The report further reveals: "However available evidence

including statements of eye witnesses and forensic reports suggest that possibility of short circuit cannot be ruled out."

The former Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has recommended a detailed probe by agencies concerned to find out the exact cause of fire. "Detailed investigation by police and concerned intelligence agencies is required to find out the exact cause of the fire incident, keeping in view recent attacks on several (other) shrines," the report recommends.

Dastageer Sahib Shrine was completely gutted in a mysterious fire on June 25 last year with the blaze starting reportedly from the minaret of the shrine early in the morning.

The report says the Fire tenders reached the spot from Babbemb and Rainawari at 6:34 and 6:37 a.m. when the fire started between 6 a.m. and 6:15 a.m.

The report says that the Holy relics were shifted from the shrine at 6:20 a.m. but it has not questioned the delay of the Fire tenders reaching the spot. One of the fire stations is hardly a kilometre away from

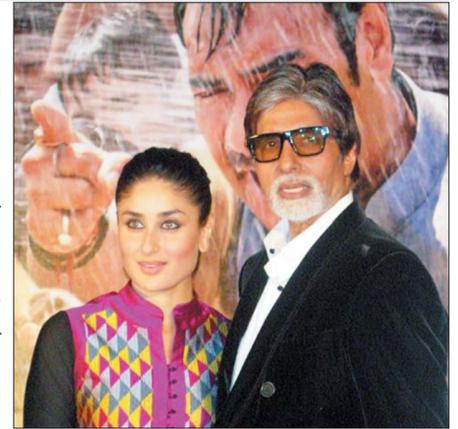
the shrine and could have taken only 2-3 minutes but it reached at 6:34 a.m. some half an hour after the smoke was seen coming out of the minaret.

The report quoting Javed Iqbal Wani, Junior Engineer Waqf Board, also says that the shrine had a power agreement of 10 KV but the load was 20 KV. However, the report is silent about the overloading.

The report has said that the shrines in Kashmir are vulnerable to natural and man induced disasters as they are made up of wood and candles are used and the wiring system of the shrines is overloaded.

The report has suggested installations of automatic fire alarm system and smoke sensors in the shrines so that in case of any fire the administration takes measures of fire fighting quickly. It has also recommended automatic water sprinkling in case of fire.

The report has also recommended that no inflammable substance including fire pots should be allowed inside the shrine and installation of CCTV and X-ray machines at the shrines.



Bollywood actors Kareena Kapoor and Amitabh Bachchan during the launch of the song 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' from the upcoming film Satyagraha in Mumbai.(UNI)

## Kashmir dispute being used for anti-India actions: France

NEW DELHI, July 26:

France today said the dispute over the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan sometimes serves as a pretext excuse for destabilising actions against New Delhi.

"India's dispute with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue sometimes serves as a pretext excuse for destabilising actions against New Delhi. France encourages dialogue between India and Pakistan as they are the only ways to resolve these disputes," French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said at an IDSA function here.

He termed the concentration of terrorists in Pakistan as worrisome over the possession of nuclear weapons by that country.

"How can we not express our concern regarding certain developments in Pakistan? Everyone knows that terrorists continue to be present in Pakistan and the international terrorist networks take advantage

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

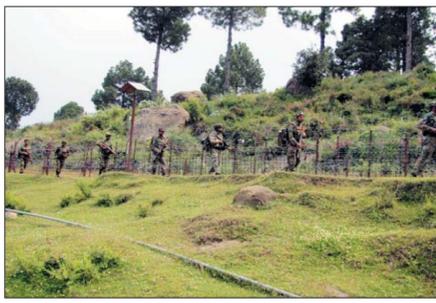
## 6 ultras assisted by BAT make fresh intrusion bid

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 26: On the eve of Kargil 'Vijay Diwas' celebrations, Pakistan Army tried to push a group of six militants into the Indian territory from Phagwari Gali on the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar sector of Poonch district. The Border Action Team (BAT) of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) is reported to have assisted the militants in infiltration but in vain.

Reliable sources and intelligence inputs revealed that a group of six militants tried to intrude into the Indian side from Phagwari Gali along the LoC in Mendhar sector at 1 am in the wee hours of today. The militants were heavily armed.

## \*Forced to retreat by alert troops



Troops conducting patrol on LoC in Mendhar.

However, troops spotted movement of the militants in their radar and became alert, they said, adding that Army on the LoC was anticipating some kind of mischief from Pakistan

side on the eve of 'Vijay Diwas' celebrations as India had defeated Pakistani troops on this day and recaptured all heights driving Pakistani soldiers away from the Indian territory in Kargil.

Troops opened firing aiming the directions the militants were taking to sneak-in and thwarted their plot. The militants retreated. There were reports that some infiltrators had suffered casualties while retreating but there was no confirmation.

Army's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Col R K Palta, however, said there were no casualties, damage or ceasefire violation on the LoC last night. "Situation is normal," he added.

According to sources, the firing lasted between 1 am to 2 am (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

## Sarpanch shot at in Sopore

### \*Hunt on to nab militants

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 26: Militants shot and severely injured a Sarpanch at village Krankshvan, Sopore in North Kashmir district of Baramulla this afternoon.

Police said Sarpanch Khazir Mohammad Parray, 45, resident of village Krankshvan, Sopore was fired upon by militants when he was coming out from the local Masjid Friday offering prayers.

Parray was shifted to the Srinagar's SMHS hospital for treatment. He has got severe injury in his mouth.

A local resident Mushtaq Ahmad said that Parray came out of the Masjid after offering Friday prayers. "As soon as he came out of the Masjid, militants were waiting for him outside and he was shot dead," he added.

"We heard some fire shots and we peeped out of window of the Masjid and saw him in pool of blood. Few youth came out of the Masjid and took him to hospital", Ahmad said.

Sources said that militants came on a mortar cycle and one of them fired at the Sarpanch while another was waiting on the motorcycle. "The duo fled after carrying out the attack, sources added.

Police said that they along with security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a man hunt for the militants responsible for the attack.

Sources said that 52 Rashtriya Rifles of Kilo Force of



Injured Sarpanch in the hospital on Friday.

—Excelsior/Amin War

Army, 179 and 177 battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Jammu and Kashmir Police Sopore area conducting searches of the village. The cordon and search operation was on till late evening.

Sopore police have registered a case in this regard and the investigation has been started.

The attack on Panchayat members in Sopore area comes after three months. Last time militants shot at Sarpanch of village Bomai in April 28.

Earlier a Sarpanch of the village and Congress worker Habibullah Mir was shot dead by militants in Bomai Sopore in January this year. His killing led to wave of resignations by Panchs and Sarpanchs in area.

## Finalize seniority list of Edu Dept Lecturers as per statutory rules: HC

### \*3 months time granted for implementing order

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 26: In a significant judgment, which will streamline the entire Education Department vis-à-vis direct recruit lecturers and promotees, Justice Bansi Lal Bhat has directed the State through Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department to finalize the seniority list of lecturers in accordance with the statutory rules and quota within a period of three months. The High Court has further directed that promotions, if any, in the Education Department shall be effected in accordance with the seniority list so prepared.

This judgment was passed in a writ petition filed by direct recruit lecturers of the Education Department through Advocate Wasim Sadiq Nargal, wherein they challenged regularisation of 400 senior lecturers/lecturers, beyond promotion/DPC quota from 1992 to 1998.

The petitioners challenged the

final seniority list, which was issued in 2006 in violation of Education Gazetted Services Recruitment Rules and without adhering to quota of 50:50 between direct recruits and the promotees laid down in Suraj Parkash Gupta's case.

The petitioners prayed before the High Court that the seniority list be finalized in consonance with the Recruitment Rules of 1992 by giving weightage to quota as per Supreme Court judgment passed in Suraj Parkash Gupta case by pushing down the excess promotees, who have been promoted in excess of their quota meant for direct recruits from respective dates on which the vacancies in their quota become available.

Advocate Nargal appearing for the petitioners argued that respondents have made appointments/promotions in violation of interim order passed by the Court on April 25, 2011 and respondents without finalizing the seniority list as per mandate of law, have been according promo-

tions as senior lecturers and subsequent promotions as a result of which the promotional avenues of direct recruits were jeopardized.

It was further argued that 50:50 quota has been provided in recruitment rules at the time of entry in the Education Department as lecturer and this quota/ratio has not been followed by the Education Department. "The quota, which was meant for direct recruits, who are selected/appointed after facing tough competition through Public Service Commission, has been usurped by promotees as a

result of which the promotional avenues of direct recruits are marred", the counsel for the petitioners further argued.

It was averred in the petition that huge promotions were made by the Education Department with effect from 1992 to 2006 in flagrant violation of rules/quota and Supreme Court judgment and the Government was under legal obligation to have maintained seniority of all direct recruits and promotees in conformity with Rule 24 of CCA Rules and as per Rule 10 of SRO-83.

"Rule of quota being statutory (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

## CM directs for digitization of record of 4 key depts in Civil Sectt

### \*Directions issued for compliance of SRO on IT activities

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 26: In order to protect the official record from being damaged in any incident like the one that took place on July 11, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah has issued directions for digitization of entire record of the four key departments in the Civil Secretariat while as directions have been issued for strict compliance regarding utilization of fixed amount of budget by the departments for Information Technology related activities, which included upkeep and protection of official files.

Authoritative sources told EXCELSIOR that within days after the record of nearly a dozen departments was gutted in the devastating fire in the Civil

Secretariat at Srinagar, Chief Minister called a meeting of Minister of State for Information Technology, Feroz Ahmed Khan and the officers of the IT Department and discussed the issue of digitization of the record of offices in the Civil Secretariat complex.

In the meeting, it was decided that process of digitization of official record would begin with the four key departments—Law, Planning and Development, Finance and General Administration besides the record of the State Legislative Assembly and Council.

Accordingly, Chief Minister directed the Minister of State for Information Technology to get a formal proposal prepared indicating all the aspects including the financial implications

involved in the same so that digitization activity could be set in motion as early as possible, sources said.

Stating that Information Technology Department has submitted the detailed proposal as desired by the Chief Minister, sources said, "Omar Abdullah will give go ahead to the Information Technology Department within next few days and even pass necessary directions for extending financial assistance, if any, to the IT Department so that funds don't become hurdle in the digitization exercise".

In response to a question, they said that soon after the formal approval from the Chief Minister, Information Technology Department in consultation with the departments of Law, Finance, Planning and

Development and General Administration would work out the figures vis-à-vis number of files to be digitized and then float open tenders inviting bids for carrying out the task.

Disclosing that digitization of record of Higher Education Department has already been going on, sources said, "M/s Pyramid Technologies, which has been entrusted with the task, has conveyed that it would try to complete digitization within next three months", adding "the other departments in the Civil Secretariat will be taken up in the second and subsequent phases".

Replying to another query, sources said that following digitization the record of these departments will remain saved (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

## Canadian charity funding HM?

TORONTO, July 26:

The dreaded Kashmiri militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen may be receiving money through a Pakistan-based agency from an Islamic charity in Canada engaged in helping the poor and needy in this country.

The federal charity watchdog of Canada is now threatening to revoke the charity status of Mississauga's ISNA (Islamic Society of North America) Development Foundation, the Toronto Star reported. A Canada Revenue Agency audit revealed the foundation shipped more than USD 280,000 to a Pakistan-based agency, which the Government fears went to supporting the Hizbul Mujahideen — a militant group that seeks the secession of Kashmir from India, the paper said.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

## Soldier on duty even during loo break

CHANDIGARH, July 26:

An Armed Forces Tribunal has ordered payment of Rs 10 lakh compensation to the widow of a jawan, who died of injuries suffered during a loo break, ruling that a soldier going to toilet while on work was very much on duty.

The Justice Vinod Kumar Ahuja-led AFT bench here yesterday ordered the compensation meant for soldiers killed on duty in Sepoy Lakshman Kumar's case with an additional 10 per cent interest.

On August 15, 2009, Dogra regiment soldier Kumar fell while on his way to toilet and suffered head injuries. He was on duty along the India-China border in Ladakh.

He succumbed to his injuries four days later. (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

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Rich tributes paid to martyrs on Kargil: 'Vijay Diwas' ...Page 3	TEMPERATURE
J&K State Innovation Council set upto encourage talented youth: CS ...Page 3	Max: 33.2 Degree C
Fresh non-bailable warrants in drugs scam ...Page 5	Min: 24.3 Degree C
Bhalla felicitates JKCCF topper ...Page 5	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Dhawan slams ton as India win second ODI by 58 runs ...Page 14	Highest: 88.0 per cent
	Lowest: 65.0 per cent
	Sunset on Saturday: 07.34 p.m.
	Sunrise on Sunday: 05.44 a.m.
	KASHMIR
	Mainly clear sky.
	TEMPERATURE
	Max: 31.3 Degree C
	Min: 17.6 Degree C
	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
	Highest: 72.0 per cent
	Lowest: 40.0 per cent