

Cross-border terrorist infrastructure intact: HM

Terror related violence on decline, record flow of tourists in J&K: PM

*** Naxal violence has no place in democracy : Singh**

NEW DELHI, June 5: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today said that security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has shown significant improvement as terrorist violence parameters of last year were lowest since the upsurge of militancy more than 20 years ago.

2012 saw a significant improvement in the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

"Our strategy to prevent cross-border infiltration by militants and our intelligence based counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir have resulted in a decline in the level of terrorist violence by about one-third in 2012 as compared to 2011," Singh said inaugurating a conference of Chief Ministers on internal security here.

The smile on the face of State Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was quite visible as the Prime Minister made this remark.

In fact, terrorist violence parameters in 2012 have been

the lowest since the upsurge in terrorist activities two decades ago, Singh said.

The Prime Minister said Jammu and Kashmir, which is otherwise considered as militancy-hit State, has seen a



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh addressing the conference of the Chief Ministers on internal security in New Delhi on Wednesday. (UNI)

record number of tourists due to improved security situation.

"The record inflow of

tourists and pilgrims during 2012 also points to an improved security situation in the State. The implementation of several infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir is progressing well," he said.

The Prime Minister said the Centre would convene an all-party meet on Monday to evolve a "broader national consensus" on the strategy to deal with Naxal violence.

"To build a broader national consensus on the strategy to tackle the Naxalite challenge, Government has convened a meeting of all political parties on the 10th of this month," the Prime Minister said.

He said time had now come to view the challenges of terrorism, communal violence and Left Wing Extremism in a holistic manner.

"I think each one of us needs to be completely objective in our approach to these issues, acting in national interest rising above narrow political and ideological divides," the Prime Minister

Singh also said that the Centre's initiative for providing skill development training for

the youths of Jammu and Kashmir was bearing fruit.

"The Himayat and Udaan schemes which aim at providing additional gainful employment to the youth have also achieved a fair measure of success," he said, adding that all these were "welcome developments".

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CM calls for talks with separatists, Pak

Can't wait for last gun to fall silent for AFSPA revocation: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 5: "We cannot wait for last gun to fall silent," Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said today as he made a strong pitch for repeal of the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from the State.

Supporting his demand, 43-year-old Omar asked that if no AFSPA-like laws are required to be imposed in Naxal-affected areas where heinous crimes are being committed by Naxalites, how it could be necessary to keep such laws in force in the areas in J&K which have become by and large peaceful?

Strongly advocating repeal of AFSPA at the Chief Ministers' Conferences on Internal Security, which was chaired by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, he said he has been continuously pitching for partial and gradual revocation of AFSPA from the areas where peace has prevailed and militancy related incidents have diminished considerably.

Omar said he also highlighted this issue in the meetings with the Prime Minister, Home

Minister and at various Unified Command Headquarter meetings and other fora and also with former Home Minister P Chidambaram.

"Though these are the fora where such issues are raised for

this important issue."

He asked the Centre for setting in motion a mechanism which could guide in repealing of the act from the State.

Omar also chose to raise the issue of arrest of Liyaqat Shah by Delhi Police and warned that such incidents would derail the entire process of bringing back youths from Pakistan occupied Kashmir who wanted to join the national mainstream.

"There is urgent need for economic and social rehabilitation for those who are returning to the State from PoK under this policy. We have to facilitate their economic and social rehabilitation," Omar said and sought a joint programme by the Union and the State Governments on this.

He said the return of youth under rehabilitation policy would also help solve the issue of disappearance of people to a greater extent as many of them who had crossed the LoC during the period of disturbance.

About the allegations of youth from his State being harassed in various parts of the country, Omar stressed on putting in place a mechanism to ensure that the students and

professionals pursuing their goals in the country could access the authorities concerned in those States in case of any emergency.

NCTC proposal falls flat
NEW DELHI, June 5: Even a watered-down proposal for anti-terror hub NCTC still appeared a non-starter with non-Congress states today strongly opposing its setting up while the Centre warned them that the country will have to pay a price if it does not come into existence.

At the conference of Chief Ministers, convened to discuss internal security issues, skipped by Jayalalithaa and Mamata Banerjee, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal and

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He also asked the heads of various States to direct their police forces to ascertain the veracity of facts and antecedents of residents of J&K from the J&K Police Force in case of any

(Contd on page 6 Col 4)

Lt Gen Singh to take over as GOC 15 Corps
Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 5: Lt. General Gurmeet Singh is arriving in Srinagar tomorrow to take over as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Srinagar-based 15 Corps also known as Chinar Corps.

Lt General Gurmeet Singh was Additional Director General Military Operations at Army Headquarters prior to his posting as

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Cabinet meeting today
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 5: State Cabinet is meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar tomorrow at 4 pm.

Official sources said that Cabinet will discuss and take decision on the routine agenda, which will be released to the Ministers tomorrow morning.

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Heroin smuggled from Pak seized
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 5: Police today seized pure quality heroin, smuggled from Pakistan, weighing 10.5 kg and valued at Rs 31.5 crores in the international market during a naka laid at Kud on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur district.

Incharge SSP Udhampur Benam Tosh said a Kud police station team along with the para-military jawans of 84 CRPF intercepted

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Bovine smuggling shifts to Mughal Road
Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, June 5: With the bovine-smugglers operating between Jammu and Srinagar shifting their activities on Mughal Road, the police seized five trucks loaded with bovine animals and arrested nine persons in this connection last mid night from Dera Ki Gali and Buzliaz area.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Loss making bodies not to be burdened
Only profit making PSUs to have Chairpersons: Govt

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, June 5: The Government has decided that only profit making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) would be identified for appointment as Chairpersons/Vice Chairpersons while those already making losses would be left from the purview of political appointments.

Official sources engaged with the task of identification of Corporations/Boards, which would have political Chairpersons/Vice Chairpersons as per a decision reached in the Co-ordination Committee meeting of National Conference and Congress, told the Excelsior that the Government has set a process into motion for identification of "profit making PSUs".

"The process to identify the PSUs for rehabilitation of the leaders of Alliance partners with the status of Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State has been initiated. A Government team has been assigned the task of preparing the list of profit making PSUs and submit it to the Government in the shortest possible time," sources said.

They added that the Government wanted to take a decision on "political appointments" at the earliest as "very little time" was left for them to take "advantage of their positions" in their Assembly constituencies with hardly a year and a half left for the Assembly elections.

They said the Government

has made it categorically clear to the team assigned with the task of identifying the PSUs for 'political appointments' not to name any Corporation/Board in its report, which were running in the losses.

Sources said the Government was of the view that only those Corporations/Boards, which were running in profit, should have Chairpersons/Vice Chairpersons so that the public undertakings were in a position to bear extra burden, which the

loss making bodies would be unable to do.

Pointing out that the Government team could take a little over a fortnight to complete the task of identification of profit making Corporations/Boards, which could afford the appointments of Chairpersons/Vice Chairpersons, they said the posts would be shared on the basis of 50:50 between National Conference and Congress.

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Two JeM militants holed up
JeM Div Comdr killed, Army jawan injured

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, June 5: A Divisional Commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant outfit was killed and an Army jawan injured in a fierce encounter in South Kashmir district of Pulwama while two militants are trapped inside the cordon that has been strengthened to avoid militants from fleeing under the cover of darkness during the night.

DIG South Kashmir, Vijay Kumar told Excelsior that on specific information this afternoon, regarding the presence of armed militants in village Ichghosa in South Kashmir district of Pulwama; Police, 44 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) of counter insurgency Victor Force and para-military Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a joint cordon and search operation at Mir Mohalla, Ichghosa this afternoon.

DIG said that the militants hiding inside the village opened fire on the search party and an encounter broke out. "One militant was killed in the encounter and he has been identified as

was involved in the civilian killings of Nazir Ahmad Chopan resident of Kandipora and Mohammad Ahsan Wani resident of Kanigan. "He was also involved in abduction of

Shameem Ahmad Dar resident of Aglar, Kandi. He was also involved in number of firing

Police said that Altaf Baba

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Rehab Policy raises apprehensions
Not through approved routes, ultras sneaking from Nepal

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, June 5: Though Government has approved four routes for the return of militants from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) but 270 militants who have returned from Pakistan since the announcement of the policy in November 2010 have come illegally via Nepal route so far while hundreds more are waiting in PoK to return through the same route.

According to high placed sources, none of the 270 persons including militants, who have returned from PoK since 2010 came via the four approved routes by the Government which has raised many apprehensions among the people regarding the security of the country and the State.

The four entry routes identified by the Government for the return of militants included Poonch- Rawlakote in Jammu, Uri -Muzaffarabad in Kashmir, Wagah Attari in Punjab and Indira Gandhi International

Airport, New Delhi.

However not even a single surrendered militant returned via these four approved routes but adopted the illegal Nepal route for sneaking into India, sources said. The main reason by militants and their families adopting the Nepal route is that the surveillance from this side of border is less in comparison to other four approved routes which discourages the return, sources added.

The return of militants with their families from Nepal route has raised many questions and people apprehended that there was no guarantee that the militants who come via Nepal route have really come for surrender and join national mainstream and not have any link with the militant outfits operating on the soil of Pakistan or PoK who can become a security threat in near future also.

Questioning the policy and sneaking of these militants via Nepal into India, the people who have been grappling with terrorism in the State for last 23 years,

said that the question is why these militants have adopted the Nepal route to cross? They have malicious intentions still. Otherwise had they open heart about the surrender policy and willing to enter the national mainstream they should not hesitate in undergoing thorough checking at four approved entry points? the people asked.

Moreover, the question is how these militants managed to reach Nepal from Pakistan without a Pakistani Passport. If they had the Pakistani Passport how they managed it and then how they again managed their entry from Nepal to India is another question which the people are asking.

Terming it a clear case of illegal immigration, the peace loving citizens of the State asked: "what is the genuinity of these persons since they have not been subjected to the process of verification as notified by the Government itself? Moreover how can be this ascertained that some of these

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

CM office vetoes Academy move on promotions without Vigilance clearance

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, June 5: The Chief Minister's office has vetoed Jammu Kashmir Cultural Academy's move on according promotions to its officers without obtaining Vigilance clearance in view of the Excelsior report on alleged irregularities in several appointments in the Academy.

The DPC meeting today for according promotions to Gazetted officers of different cadre in the Cultural Academy remained inconclusive as the Chief Minister's representative firmly said no to the departmental promotions without Vigilance

Clearance, authoritative sources informed the Excelsior.

Even as the Academy sought to explain that the Vigilance probe had been initiated in some appointments of Class-IV and the DPC meeting was for officers of Gazetted rank, the Chief Minister's representative rejected the plea, sources added.

The scheduled DPC meeting was held at Srinagar today for discussing promotion of Gazetted officers of the Executive, Cultural and Editorial cadre in the Cultural Academy.

Ram Sevak, Deputy Secretary in the Chief Minister's office, was CM's representative in the DPC

meeting, which was attended by Khalid Bashir (Secretary Academy), Sabita Bakshi (Additional Secretary of the Academy-Jammu), A S Aman (Additional Secretary -Kashmir), Haroon Rashid (Additional Secretary Administration) and Arun Bajaj (Under Secretary in CM office).

The Excelsior in its June 3 edition had exclusively reported about the Vigilance probe into alleged irregularities in class-IV appointments in the Cultural Academy during the tenure of then Secretary Rafiq Masoodi. The inquiry has been initiated against 74 appointments while the Vigilance has so far seized records of around 50 appointees and the process was still on, the report said.

Even as the Vigilance investigations are going on, the Cultural Academy scheduled its DPC meeting on June 5 for according promotions apparently in a hush hush manner before FIR was registered against the persons who were at the helm of affairs at the time of alleged illegal appointments.

According to the sources, as soon as the discussion on seniority, APR and other issues concluded in the DPC meeting today, the CM's representative gave reference of the Excelsior report and registered his reservation over

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WEATHER
JAMMU
Partially cloudy sky.
TEMPERATURE
Max: 41.8 Degree C
Min: 27.3 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Highest: 46.0 per cent
Lowest: 34.0 per cent
Sunset on Thursday: 07.36 p.m.
Sunrise on Friday: 05.25 a.m.
KASHMIR
Partially cloudy sky.
TEMPERATURE
Max: 30.3 Degree C
Min: 16.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Highest: 65.0 per cent
Lowest: 53.0 per cent

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