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STATE TIMES

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Powerful blast kills 17 people in Pakistan

AGENCY

KARACHI: At least 17 people were killed and nearly 30 others injured on Saturday when a powerful blast targeting a vehicle of the security forces went off in Pakistan's Quetta city.

The high intensity blast occurred in a parking lot near Pishin bus stop which is in a high security area.

Baluchistan's Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti told media that a truck of the Frontier Corps was targeted in the blast.

"The bomb disposal squad has reached the spot and we will be able to confirm soon whether it was a suicide attack or a planted bomb," he said.

Bugti said around 30 injured persons were shifted to the Civil hospital for treatment and admitted that the condition of six to seven people was critical. "So far I can confirm that 10 people

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Raj univ asks JK students to leave hostel over scholarship amount issue

AGENCY

JAIPUR: Over 200 Kashmiri students in a private university here were allegedly forced to leave the varsity hostel as the institute did not receive the scholarship amount provided to them by the central government.

The students, however, were allowed to avail the hostel facilities by the university management only after they protested the varsity's move.

"We (students) came here in 2014 under the prime minister's scholarship scheme, from Kashmir. There was no issue in the last three years but from this session, the university asked us that we would not be provided the hostel facility because the scholarship amount has not reached them yet," Arshit Mahmood, a student, said. He alleged that all the students

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.7°C Min: 20.0°C
Humidity
Max: 77 Min: 79
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 32.3°C Min: 16.9°C
Humidity
Max: 66 Min: 37
Sunset : 19:19 Hours
Sunrise : 05:55 Hours

Jawan, woman killed as Pakistan violates ceasefire in Poonch

LoC schools reopen

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Army Jawan and a woman were killed while another was critically injured as Pakistan violated ceasefire on Saturday by shelling mortars and firing on forward posts along the LoC in Poonch district.

The Indian Army retaliated strongly to the ceasefire violation.

"One jawan was martyred, and another one was critically injured during ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops," a senior Army official said.

"Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked mortar shelling and firing on forward posts along the LoC in Poonch district from around 5pm," he said.

The martyred jawan, Nbsub Jagram Singh Tomar, was grievously injured and later succumbed to his

injuries. 42-year-old Tomar was a native of Madhya Pradesh's Tarsana village and is survived by his wife, one son and a daughter.

In another incident of ceasefire violation, a 40-year-old woman was killed in firing by the Pakistani army at border villages and Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch, officials said.

"The Pakistani army initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate firing of small arms, automatic weapons and mortars from 5.15 AM in Poonch sector along the LoC," a defence spokesman said.

Indian Army personnel guarding the border posts retaliated strongly and effectively.

The exchange of fire stopped at 0645 hours, he said.

Around 5.20 Am, mortar shells fired from across the

border exploded near the house of Mohd. Shabir at Gohlad Kalran village, killing his wife Raqia Bi, a police officer said.

On August 8, the Pakistani troops resorted to firing and shelling in the Krishnagati sector of Poonch district, killing Sepoy Pawan Singh Sugra (21).

Till August 1 this year, there have been 285 instances of ceasefire violation by the Pakistani forces. In 2016, the number was significantly less at 228.

Meanwhile, 658 schools along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera sector reopened after remaining closed for a week following cross-border shelling by Pakistan.

Authorities had closed 671 schools in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on August 5 for safety and security of students in view of heavy and indiscriminate shelling.

Thirteen schools in vulnerable areas would remain closed till further orders, officials said.

Deputy Commissioner (Rajouri) Shahid Iqbal Choudhary had ordered reopening of the schools in the sector from today on the recommendation of the chief education officer, they said.

The 13 educational institutions which remained close were located in Sehar, Karahli, Numb, Makri, Niki, Sariya, Jhangar, Mohinder Mohalla, Bakshi Mohalla, Pull, Dhanaka and Dandesar, the officials said quoting an order issued by Choudhary yesterday.

These include two higher secondary schools.

The officials said while most students returned to the schools this morning, the authorities were monitoring the situation and once it improved, the 13

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For every Pak bullet, Indian Army retaliating with 10: Nirmal

Slams NC for politicising Article 35A

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Army is giving a befitting reply to Pakistan's ceasefire violations by firing 10 bullets for every Pakistani bullet across the LoC, Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh said on Saturday.

"Pakistan is being given a befitting reply. If they (Pak Army) fire one bullet, we (Indian Army) retaliate with 10 bullets," Singh said here.

He said "that is the kind of fierce retaliation we are giving on the borders. We are giving them a reply in the language that they better understand".

"But the way the Pakistan Army is brutally killing civilians on the borders. We will not tolerate it. We will deal with them sternly, diplomatically and militarily," the Deputy CM said.

Meanwhile, asserting that the issue with regard to Article 35A is sub-judice in the Supreme Court, Nirmal Singh has asked opposition not to politicise it.

"Some people have approached to the Apex Court and let us wait for the verdict," he told reporters here. "We must have faith in the Supreme Court", he added. Lashing out at the opposition, he said, "these people (NC-Congress) are overreacting on Article 35A"



Dy CM calls on President

NEW DELHI: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh on Saturday called on the President, Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Deputy Chief Minister complimented Kovind on assuming the office.

Dr Nirmal Singh slammed the National Conference President Farooq Abdullah for 'politicising' the issue and asked him to cooperate. "Person like Dr Farooq Abdullah, who says that stone pelters are part of the movement, is unfortunate," he said adding, "they must cooperate in

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Won't allow Oppn to topple Govt in J&K on Art 35A: Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister of State in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that opposition leaders will not be given any chance to topple the government on Article 35A and Article 370 issues.

"We are not going to oblige them," Dr Singh told reporters here.

He said that if the opposition leaders want to go to the people and place their view point on Article 35A and Article 370, they are welcome.

"There is no threat to the coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir and PDP-BJP must not pay attention to criticism from opposition. The government



is stable and functioning well," Dr Singh said.

He asked coalition partners to concentrate on development and welfare of people.

"These are small controversies being raked up by leaders in the opposition who are out of power," he said and added, "The government

should focus on day to day problems and needs of people."

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's recent meeting in New Delhi on Article 35A, followed by tweets from National Conference working president Omar Abdullah, he said, "Anybody's tweet cannot decide what the Prime Minister has said."

On prevailing situation along Indo-Pak borders, the Union MoS said, "The way India has now been retaliating to Pakistan's unprovoked ceasefire violations, has never happened in the past so many years and at

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Two army men martyred, 3 injured in Shopian encounter

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two army men were killed and three others, including a Captain, injured in an encounter with militants in Shopian district of south Kashmir, the police said on Saturday night.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation following information about presence of militants in Avneera village of Zainapora area of the district, a police official said.

He said as the security forces were conducting searches, the militants opened firing on them which was retaliated by the law enforcement personnel, triggering a gunfight.

Five soldiers were injured in the gun battle, he said, adding that they were evacuated to the 92 Base Hospital of the



Army for treatment, where two among them succumbed to their injuries. "One soldier was martyred and four others were injured in a firefight in Zainapora area of Avneera village," said Muneer Khan, Inspector General of Police.

The gunbattle started after security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation fol-

lowing information about presence of militants in Avneera village of Zainapora area of the district, a police official said.

As the security forces were conducting searches, the militants opened fire on them, triggering a gunfight, he said.

Meanwhile, two terrorists are still holed up in the area.

Earlier, in a joint operation, 55 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), special operations group of state police and central reserve police force laid siege in the area after receiving information about the presence of terrorists.

Miscreants hurled a petrol bomb on a police party at Dalgate area of Srinagar on Saturday, resulting in injuries to a civilian, police said.

"A petrol bomb was hurled towards a police party at Badyari Chowk in Dalgate area but it missed the intended target and exploded on the roadside," a police official said.

A cab driver was injured in the explosion, the official said, adding he has been admitted to a local hospital where his condition is stated to be stable.

Army launches manhunt after terrorists attack on RR HQ

STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: The Army has launched a massive manhunt with the help of reinforcement of Para commandos, soon after terrorists attacked 41 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) headquarter in the forest area of Kalaroose Kupwara district of north Kashmir yesterday night. The indiscriminate firing continued on the RR headquarter for at least 10 minutes. The troops retaliated which resulted in a brief clash, official sources said. Besides 41 RR, the camp also houses troopers of other units including 21 Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Rifles. Sunil Randhawa

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BJP-PDP set to flex muscles to prevent Rohingya Muslims' deportation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Even though BJP and PDP have apparently managed to bridge the widening gap over the contentious issue of revoking Article 35A, another crisis is set to put the alliance partners to test with regard to deportation of Rohingya Muslims from Jammu and other parts of the State.

After the Union Government recently informed Rajya Sabha that it had issued detailed instructions for their deportation, ball was set rolling here in the State administration to work out the modalities for their safe return to their

native places.

The State government had earlier set up high level Group of Ministers headed by Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh to thoroughly review the issue of their illegal settlement in the State. After initial meeting in the first week of May 2017, the Group of Ministers never met again to take a look at the data collected by the State Home Secretary.

Interestingly, PDP and other mainstream Kashmiri parties had even then opposed any move to deport Rohingya Muslims from Jammu and other parts of the State.

The influx of Rohingya Muslims in Jammu took place during the National Conference-Congress regime, which ensured facilities like electricity and drinking water being to their dwelling places. The Rohingya Muslims also got support of a Srinagar based NGO which facilitated Madrassas and schools for their children, with NC-Congress dispensation taking no cognizance of brazen encouragement of illegal settlers, least to speak about their deportation.

The fact that the Union Government had made it clear that the power to iden-

tify and deport such squatters had also been delegated to the State governments and UT administrations leaves no scope for any State government agency to sit over the matter and delay their return.

Since the State government had already prepared a comprehensive data and is aware of the locations where these Rohingya Muslims have been camping in and around Jammu makes it convenient for the task force to initiate their deportation after verifying their antecedents.

There are an estimated 40,000 Rohingyas who,

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Army to deploy robots to fight terrorists in Kashmir

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army will use hundreds of indigenously built robots to fight terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, a national television channel reported quoting media reports.

The robots are reportedly capable of delivering ammunition at the intended locations in case of unsafe and emergency situations.

According to online portal the eastcoastdaily.in, the defence ministry has already approved an army proposal to induct 544 robots for the purpose.

The army plans to boost the use of such machines for

security and surveillance as the 'terror theatre' has of late moved from the jungles to urban areas.

"The way the situation is evolving, it may just be a matter of time when security forces as a whole, and Rashtriya Rifles in particular, will be facing the threat in built-up and super built-up areas," the army was quoted as saying.

"These robotic surveillance platforms can be extensively used by the RR forces (Rashtriya Rifles) for gathering real-time input prior to manual insertion," the report quoted an army note as

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India behaving like mature power in Doklam standoff: US Expert

AGENCY

WASHINGTON: India is "behaving like a mature power" in the Doklam standoff in the Sikkim section and making China look like an adolescent throwing a temper tantrum, a top American defence expert has said.

India and China have been locked in a face-off in the Doklam area for the last 50 days after Indian troops stopped the Chinese People's Liberation Army from building a road in the area.

Praising India's behaviour over the matter, James R Holmes, professor of strategy at the prestigious US Naval War College, said,

"New Delhi has done things right thus far, neither backing away from the dispute nor replying in kind to Beijing's over-the-top rhetoric."

"It is behaving as the mature power and making China look like the adolescent throwing a temper tantrum," Holmes said. He said it was 'weird' that China wanted to keep alive a boundary dispute with its most formidable neighbour. "If China wants to pursue an assertive maritime strategy, it needs secure borders on land so it doesn't have to worry about overland aggression from

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Separatists' strike affects normal life in Kashmir



Srinagar observed Bandh on Article 35A.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Normal life in Kashmir came to a halt on Saturday due to a separatist-sponsored strike against the legal challenge to Article 35A of the

Constitution, which they termed as a move to change the demography of the Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir.

Article 35A of the Constitution defines the resi-

dency laws in Jammu and Kashmir and bars outsiders from buying any immovable property or applying for jobs in the state government.

Schools, colleges, shops, business establishments and private offices remained closed, officials said, adding that attendance in most government offices was very thin.

Buses stayed off the roads in most parts of Kashmir, while a few private vehicles could be seen plying, the officials said. Authorities imposed restrictions on the movement of people in five police station areas -- Maharajgunj, Nowhatta, Khanyar, Nowhatta

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JKSSB to declare 50 selection lists by August-end

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on Saturday conducted its 128th Board meeting under the chairmanship of its Chairman, Simrandeep Singh and declared 30 selection lists, the vacancies for which were notified vide advertisements No. 06 of 2013; Advertisement No. 01 of 2011; Advertisement No. 07 of 2015; Advertisement No. 01 of 2014; Advertisement No. 06 of 2015; Advertisement No. 02 of 2014; Advertisement No. 04 of 2013; Advertisement No. 05 of 2015 and

Advertisement No. 03 of 2012.

These results included for the posts of Supervisor in Social Welfare Department in Districts Kulgam, Budgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Shopian and Kupwara of Kashmir Division and Districts Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch, Doda, Ramban and Samba of Jammu Division.

The results for the posts of Driver in Health and Medical Education Department for Districts Reasi, Ramban, Jammu, Kishtwar, Samba and

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