

03 Anti-Pak protests held over ceasefire violation

04 Save lives on border or step down: Congress to Modi

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Vajpayee better: AIIMS

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has shown significant improvement in the past 48 hours and doctors are hopeful of his full recovery in the next few days, AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria said on Wednesday afternoon.

The 93-year-old leader was admitted to the premier hospital on June 11. He had

'Remove cap on maintenance to elderly in Act on welfare of senior citizens'

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has proposed widening the definition of children to include sons-in-law and daughters-in-law through amendments in an Act on the welfare of senior citizens. Currently, the term includes only sons.

Jammu under heat wave grip, relief likely on Friday

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed another scorching day on Wednesday with the maximum temperature settling at 43.3 degrees Celsius, 4.3 notches above the normal during this part of the season.

However, the heat wave is likely to recede on Friday as the MeT office has predicted wet weather in most parts

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Hurriyat likely to use talks offer to blackmail the Centre

BLUNT BUTCHER
JAMMU: Last week Home Minister Rajnath Singh travelled to Kashmir to drop a broad but vague hint that the Centre was ready to talk to anyone in the Valley. The invitation or the offer was not individual or the party specific. But Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti immediately took cue from the Centre's peacenik and urged the Hurriyat Conference to seize this 'golden opportunity' and engage with New Delhi in a meaningful dialogue. She too dropped a hint, saying that the proposed talks could lead to political process.

Sources told STATE TIMES that the separatists will use the offer to their advantage to blackmail the Centre by seeking dilution of cases against them and release of those arrested last year.

The spin given to the Home Minister's generic statement is indicative of the extent the Centre is ready to go in Kashmir to buy peace, no matter what cost. He did not qualify his offer either during the Srinagar visit or after returning back to the national capital. Hypothetically, if the Hurriyat

Asstt Comdt among 4 BSF personnel martyred in Pak firing

Maximum BSF casualties along IB this year

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Four Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, including an assistant commandant-rank officer, were killed and three others were injured as Pakistan Rangers opened fire along the International Border in Samba District of Jammu and Kashmir in "betrayal" of a truce announced recently, officials said on Wednesday.

The "unprovoked" firing in Ramgarh sector, which began on Tuesday night, came days after the two border guarding forces, at a sector commander-level meeting on June 4, agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the IB.

"Since the ceasefire was on...the time we use to strengthen our defences. A team was going with defence material, Pakistan violated the ceasefire and fire at them with flat trajectory weapon followed by mortar firing. That is how the causality has taken place." Additional Director General (ADG) of BSF Western Command, K N Choubey, told reporters



Mehbooba, Vasundhara Raje express grief

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on Wednesday condoled the deaths and expressed deep grief over the death of four BSF personnel.

Paying rich tributes to the martyred personnel, the Mehbooba Mufti reiterated her demand for cessation of hostilities along the borders to protect lives and properties of border people who, have been caught in a distressing situation of past few months which has put them to vulnerability.

Mehbooba said the suspension of operations elsewhere in the State has given the people a sigh of relief and hoped the same is extended to the borders and an atmosphere of peace returns to these areas which had prevailed

here. Another team of the BSF led by Assistant Commandant Jitender Singh rushed to evacuate them and a mortar fired from Pakistan's Asraf Post exploded close to them at Chamliyal Border Out Post, resulting in fatal casualties, he said.

The BSF ADG said that it was very unfortunate and "the ceasefire announcement made and agreed is to be honoured".

"We have honoured it and Pakistan has not honoured it. And what Pakistan does is Pakistan's business and how we respond to betrayal is our job," he said.

Assistant Commandant Jitender Singh, SI Rajneesh, ASI Ramniwas and Constable Hansraj were killed in the Pakistani firing.

Eleven BSF troops have been killed in cross-border firing incidents along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir till date in 2018, the highest casualty figure for the border force in a year in the past

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India maintains truce sanctity, Pak betrays: BSF

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indian forces have maintained the sanctity of the ceasefire along the frontier but Pakistan "unfortunately" has not, a senior BSF official said on Wednesday while emphasising the troops were prepared and border dominance would be maintained.

Terming the killing of four BSF personnel in firing by Pakistan Rangers last night as "betrayal", Additional Director General (Western Command) K.N Choubey said what the neighbouring country does is its business and but "how we respond" to the attack is "our job". Choubey also said the BSF would lodge a protest with the Pakistani side over the incident.

"We are always prepared. Ceasefire or no ceasefire, there is no let up in border domination and there is no letup in border surveillance," Choubey told reporters here.

The officer, who paid trib-



BSF ADG Kamal N Choubey and BSF IG Jammu Ram Awatar briefing media at BSF Headquarters in Jammu.

utes to the four BSF personnel killed, was replying to a question on whether the border guarding force was caught off guard.

Every instrument required to protect the territorial integrity of the border is being maintained regardless of ceasefire or no ceasefire, he said.

Asked about the trust level with regard to Pakistan, which has violated truce

agreed at the DGMO level and sector commander level meetings, the BSF ADG said ceasefire was always a bilateral decision.

There was a meeting between our sector DIG and the counterpart's designated officer and it was decided that there will be ceasefire. "We have maintained the sanctity of the ceasefire. Pakistan has not. It has

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Rassana case: Jail Supt asked to appear in court today

STATE TIMES NEWS
PATHANKOT: A court here, hearing the Kathua gang rape-and-murder case, on Wednesday directed a jail official of Jammu and Kashmir to appear before it tomorrow after the defence lawyers moved an application seeking meeting of the accused with their relatives.

District and Sessions judge Tajwinder Singh summoned the Superintendent of the Kathua Jail to appear in the court at 11 am on Thursday to help it find a way-out to

ensure meeting of the accused in the case and their relatives.

The judge passed the order in response to an application moved by the lawyers of the family of one of the accused, Tilak Raj.

We have moved an application on Tuesday on behalf of my client's family as they are unable to meet him due to daily trial in the case.

"Consensus could not be formed and accordingly the court asked the Kathua

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Mother, son killed; 7 injured in road accident

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADARWAH: In a tragic incident, a 52-year-old woman and her son were killed and seven others got injured, four of them seriously in a road accident on Bhadarwah-Chamba interstate road near Bhadarwah in district Doda on Wednesday.

According to eyewitnesses, Maana Daie (52) and her son Mukesh (26) were killed and seven others were injured when the van they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a deep

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Two IPS among 39 SSPs, SPs transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The State Government on Wednesday transferred 39 SSPs, SPs including two IPS officers.

According to order issued by R.K Goyal, Principal Secretary Home Department, Amritpal Singh, IPS (JK:2014), awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Additional SP PC Anantnag; Dr. G.V Sundeep Chakravarthy, IPS (JK:2014), has been posted as Additional SP Baramulla. Rajnesh Pran, Commandant JKAP-14th Bn has been transferred and posted as Commandant IR-

Dushyant Addl SP Rural Jammu; Tabasum Addl SP Udh; Khalil SP PC Sgr; Qureshi SP Secretariat; Amin Addl SP Shopian

18th Bn; Nisha Nathyal, Commandant IR-10th Bn as Commandant JKAP-7th Bn; Mohammad Shafi, Commandant IR-18th Bn as Commandant IR-10th Bn; Firdous Iqbal, Commandant JKAP-7th Bn as Commandant JKAP-14th Bn; Mohammad Yaseen Kichloo, SO to ADGP Armed as Commandant JKAP-4th Bn Security; Sanjeev Kumar Khajuria, Commandant JKAP-4th Bn has been posted as Commandant IR-5th Bn. Dalip Kumar, SSP Railways, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as SSP PC Srinagar; Mohammad Arif Rishu, Commandant IR-5th Bn as Principal CTC Lethpora; Benam Tosh, SO to IGP Railways as Commandant IR-17th Bn; Mehmood Ahmad, Principal CTC Lethpora as SO to ADGP Armed; Roop Raj, Commandant IR-17th Bn

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5 KAS officers transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The State Government on Wednesday transferred five KAS officers.

According to General Administration Department (GAD) order, Rajesh Sharma, KAS, Additional Secretary, Power Development Department has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary in the Governor's Secretariat and Shakeel-ul-Rehman Rather, KAS, Special Secretary, Home Department has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary in the

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Cabinet being sidelined to absorb Munsif as Special Secretary through backdoor

AHMED ALI FAYYAZ
SRINAGAR: Breaching all service rules and regulations, promoters of a blue-eyed boy in the junior Judicial Service have devised a plan to absorb him as Special Secretary to Government through backdoor while bypassing even the Cabinet in Jammu and Kashmir.

Official communications accessed by STATE TIMES make it clear that the blue-eyed boy, who is still a Munsif in the junior judicial service and has been on unlimited deputation in Administrative service since 2005, is being absorbed as Special Secretary in Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs with effect from



2005. This will make him senior to dozens of the Kashmir Administrative

Service (KAS) officers of 1999 batch as also to IAS officers of 2006 batch.

Most of the KAS officers of 1999 to 2006 batches are still in Pay Scale of Rs 15600-Rs 39100 and Grade Pay of Rs 7600 (unrevised). Similarly a number of IAS officers working as Deputy Commissioners, Managing Directors and Special Secretary to Government are still in Junior Administrative Grade (15600-39100 GP 7600).

The blue-eyed boy Munsif is sought to be absorbed in administrative service with effect from his first day on deputation in 2005 as Assistant Legal Remembrancer, equivalent to Under Secretary

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