

A first for CISF: Troopers to wear riot gear

Army training paramilitary force jawans in controlling mob

MAJID JAHANGIR/TNS

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2 Six months after the Buniyar (Baramulla) incident, in which a teenager was killed after Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) men opened fire, the paramilitary force personnel are now being trained in controlling a violent mob.

The Army, which performs the dual role of guarding the Line of Control (LoC) and countering militancy in the hinterland of the Valley, is imparting the training to the CISF men.

"After the Buniyar incident, the security establishment felt the need to train the CISF men in the Valley in handling a mob. A small incident involving any security agency can spark a cycle of protests. Therefore, we have decided to train the CISF men," said Maj Gen Bipin Rawat, GOC, 19 Infantry Division.

This is the first time the CISF, which is not directly involved in any counter-insurgency operation or handling law and order situation in the state, is being trained to handle protests.

The CISF provides security to various installations of national importance across



Security forces often have to confront the protesters. So, they must know the ground rules. A file photo

"After the firing incident at Buniyar, it was felt that CISF men in the Valley must be trained in handling a mob. A small incident involving any security agency can spark a cycle of protests. Therefore, we have decided to train the CISF men"

— Maj Gen Bipin Rawat, GOC, 19 Infantry Division

the country. In Kashmir, it has been deployed to protect two National Hydro Power Corporation projects in Baramulla district.

In the first phase, 30 jawans of the CISF, deployed at Uri-I — a 480 MW hydroelectric power station — are being trained. They will in turn train their colleagues.

The jawans are being trained in dealing with street

protests and stone throwers using minimal force and non-lethal weapons.

"They are also being taught about the standard operating procedure to be followed while handling the protesters," an official said.

The CISF trainees are being trained at the 15 Corps Battle School at Khrew in Pulwama.

On January 2, CISF men guarding the Uri-I power

house had opened fire on people protesting against power cuts. An 18-year-old student, Altaf Ahmad, was killed in the firing.

Almost a month later, the J&K police had filed a charge sheet in court, charging the CISF men under Sections 304 and 308 of the Ranbir Penal Code.

The police alleged that the CISF men had opened fire without provocation. The J&K Police had later arrested five CISF personnel, out of whom four were released on bail.

The CISF and the state government were at loggerheads over the indictment of five CISF men for the killing.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had also hit out at the CISF over the killing by calling it a "murder".

The CISF had termed the action of the J&K Police against its men illegal, as they claimed that they were protected under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

The teenager's death had triggered protests in Baramulla district. The situation was brought under control with the timely intervention of the police and the civil administration.

Justice delivery system set to change: New CJ

SAURABH MALIK/TNS

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 2

The new Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice MM Kumar, is all geared up to oil the justice delivery mechanism to make it more effective.

"One of my foremost priorities will be to organise the way the two Benches of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court function.... The emphasis will not just be on the disposal of cases, but also on ensuring the delivery of quality justice"

— Justice MM Kumar, new Chief Justice of J&K High Court



15 judges may attend ceremony

At least 15 Judges and 100 lawyers are expected to reach the Valley for Justice MM Kumar's oath-taking ceremony as the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court

"As against the sanctioned strength of 14 Judges, there are just six judges in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. Already the effect of the shortage is showing. Around 80,000 cases are pending adjudication there. I believe six names have been recommended for elevation as High Court Judges. It is to be seen when they actually join."

"We had a proactive approach while dealing with environmental issues in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Heading the Green Bench, we have actually gone deep into the issues. It is heartening to see the Jammu and Kashmir High Court replicating the pattern as well," he added.

Citing an example, Justice Kumar said: "The Bench has recently displayed hands-on approach while dealing with a matter pertaining to the death of infants in the state. My efforts will be to ensure that active and fearless

approach continues to be adopted while dealing with such issues."

Justice Kumar also made it clear that the scales of justice were tilted in favour of change, for the betterment of the state. He minced no words in saying that he was all set to bring about a change in the way justice was delivered to the masses.

"The emphasis will not just be on the disposal of cases, but also on ensuring the delivery of quality justice," he asserted, while indicating that the orders would be beyond just directions to the respondents to decide representations.

The post of J&K High Court Chief Justice had fallen vacant after the elevation of Justice FM Ibrahim Kalifulla to the Supreme Court. Justice Kumar is known for his impeccable integrity, calibre and administrative experience; and was elevated to the Bench on July 2, 2001.

Govt not punishing corrupt officials: RTI body

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

The Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information Movement today accused the state government of failing to take action against corrupt officials and ministers.

"The State Accountability Commission (SAC) and Vigilance Commissioner have failed to act," movement convener Raja Muzaffar Bhat said while addressing mediapersons here.

Bhat said they were not expecting the Chief Vigilance Commissioner to stop the corrupt practices adopted by influential people in the state.

"When the SAC and Vigilance cannot act against powerful people in the state, how can an ordinary man expect wonders from the CVC," Bhat questioned. He said people of the state had lost faith in the government, which needed to take concrete action against corrupt politicians and officials.

He said serious allegations had surfaced against Cabinet Minister Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, but the government had failed to act against him. "Sayeed should be dropped from the Council of Ministers," Bhat demanded, while citing the instance of Suresh Kalmadi and A Raja.

He said that many cases of corruption were pending against ministers and top bureaucrats in the coalition government.

AMARNATH PILGRIMAGE



Workers clear snow from a track to be used for the Amarnath pilgrimage. A Tribune photograph

Governor conducts aerial recce of tracks

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

Governor NN Vohra today undertook an aerial reconnaissance of the Pahalgam-Sheshnag-Holy Cave-Panjtarni-Baltal circuit to assess the status of snowmelt along the two Amarnath yatra routes and at various camps along the tracks.

He also reviewed the progress of the ongoing work on the clearance of tracks and management of logistics at various camps for the smooth conduct of the yatra, which is slated to begin from June 25.

The Governor, who is also the Chairman of the SASB, accompanied by Navin K Choudhary, his Principal Secretary and

Chief Executive Officer, flew to the holy cave but could not land there because of accumulation of snow on the helipad near the shrine.

The Governor surveyed the Panjtarni and Sheshnag camps, which were still under the snow.

Aerial survey could not take place in the morning from both Baltal and Chandanwari sides due to bad weather. The survey of the entire route was subsequently conducted in the afternoon, an official spokesperson said.

A team of officials and engineers of the SASB as well as a group of state police officers also undertook a ground survey to assess the likely time frame within which men and

material could be moved to establish vital facilities for the yatra.

The Governor directed the deployment of additional manpower for the clearance of tracks and for putting in place various yatra-related facilities.

He directed the CEO to ensure that all arrangements were made according to the timeline and reiterated the need for close coordination at all levels to facilitate the visiting yatis.

From Baltal, the Governor drove to Domel and reviewed the track-clearance work, construction of an entry gate and shelter by the Sonamarg Development Authority under the Disaster Management Plan. He also inspected additional toilets being set up at the Baltal base camp.

BOOK FAIR Omar for inculcating reading habit in youth

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

Concerned at declining reading habit among the younger generation, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today underlined the need for inculcating book reading in youngsters to keep this culture alive.

The Chief Minister said advancements in technology and growing influence of television channels, Internet and computers had driven the younger generation away from the habit.

He was addressing a gathering of writers, educationists, students and lovers of literature after inaugurating the Srinagar Book Fair at SP College here. The Chief Minister welcomed the holding of the fair by the National Book Trust of India in Srinagar after 1986 and said it would help revive the habit of book reading among people.

He said it was observed that the present generation was not so fond of reading books. "They instead watch television or remain busy on the Internet or play video games on computers," he said, while stressing the need for developing the culture of book reading among young boys and girls. Around 110 publishing houses from the state and outside have displayed books on various subjects in around 175 stalls set up at the arena.

Cong ministers in damage control mode

DINESH MANHOTRA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 2

Congress ministers have finally started establishing a direct link with party workers by visiting the party office to "inquire" about their problems, after the resentment shown by grass-root level workers against the non-serious attitude being adopted by party nominees in the government.

Minister for Medical Education RS Chib, who reached the Congress headquarters

this afternoon, faced some tough questions, as a number of Congress workers complained that party ministers had completely ignored grass-root level workers.

Some of the Congress workers alleged that instead of giving importance to party workers, party ministers were giving preference to their blue-eyed boys. They said if such attitude of the ministers continued, the party would face problems in the near future.

"It is a good beginning. We have been demanding that

ministers should regularly visit the party office to inquire about the problems being faced by the workers," senior vice-president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Dharampal Sharma said. He said the issue was raised by the party workers in the recently held conclave in Srinagar. "Ultimately the ministers have started the process," he said and hoped that in the coming days more ministers would visit the party office and establish a direct link with the party workers.

In the presence of senior leaders, the party workers had openly expressed their anger against the party ministers. A Congress worker after participating in an interaction with the minister said since the formation of the National Conference-Congress coalition regime in the state, the party ministers were avoiding visit to the party office. "Instead of establishing a direct link with the party workers, the ministers have confined their activities to their respective constituencies," he said.

Dhoni goes on front foot

DARSHAN BHARTI
AND RANJIT THAKUR

POONCH/RAJOURI, JUNE 2

Captain of the Indian cricket team Mahendra Singh Dhoni today visited the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and interacted with soldiers deployed on the Line of Control (LoC). It was his first visit after being appointed as the honorary Lt Col in the Territorial Army.

Dhoni visited the forward posts at Hamirpur in Bimber Gali to understand the ground reality, the strategic importance of the posts and to boost the morale of soldiers deployed on the LoC. Dhoni also visited Rajouri and interacted with soldiers.

"Today I had an opportunity to visit the forward posts to understand their strategic importance and to meet the soldiers. I am pleased to be here and I want to serve the Army actively. But cricket which brought me here is my first responsibility. After my retirement from cricket I will love to serve the Army on the



Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni flanked by Army personnel at a forward post in Poonch. A Tribune photo

forward posts," Dhoni told mediapersons.

When asked whether Pakistani cricket team should visit India for a cricket series, Dhoni said, "We need to take an initiative, as cricket has played a key role in strengthening neighbouring relations. As a player I have to play for my country and perform. Both India and Pakistani cricket boards have to decide the dates." In his hour-long stay at Hamirpur, Dhoni met soldiers deployed on the posts in forward areas along the LoC. Sol-

Visit cancelled

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

Amid fears of trouble, the proposed visit of Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni to witness tomorrow's final of the Kashmir Premier League (KPL) at Baramulla has been cancelled. Dhoni will, however, interact with select KPL players at Thimaya Hall, Baramulla. — TNS

diars who met Dhoni said his visit to the LoC had recharged and encouraged them.

Corruption rampant in state: Rajnath

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

Former BJP president Rajnath Singh today said corruption was rampant in the state, as the party had received several complaints in this regard.

Rajnath Singh, head of a party delegation on a study tour, while talking to mediapersons here, said the group would submit its report within three months.

He said a number of delegations that had met the team had complained of "rampant corruption" in the state.

He also pointed out that there were complaints of discrimination among the three regions of the state - Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh.

Without divulging the details of the report, which he said would be submitted within three months, the senior BJP leader said all issues would be dealt with in the report.

2 arrested in Sopore grenade attack case

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

The police claimed to have solved a case of a grenade attack on the Sopore police station last month and arrested two suspected militants.

On May 19, a grenade was lobbed at the Sopore police station in north Kashmir's Baramulla district around 10 am, which exploded at the main gate of the police station, injuring four policemen and six civilians. — TNS

Su|do|ku

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

6	1	2	5	4	9	7	3	8
9	8	4	2	7	3	6	1	5
5	7	3	6	8	1	9	2	4
4	2	6	7	3	8	5	9	1
3	5	1	4	9	6	8	7	2
7	9	8	1	2	5	3	4	6
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2	6	7	3	5	4	1	8	9
8	4	5	9	1	7	2	6	3

HARD

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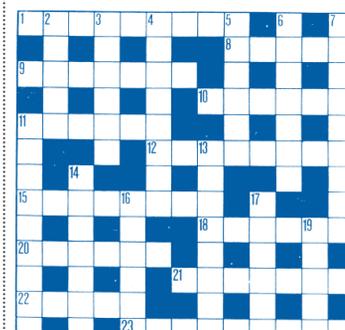
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- VIP treatment (3,6)
- Greek epic poet (5)
- Insensitively rude (7)
- Fiend (6)
- Scene of uproar (6)
- Pretentious nonsense (4-4)
- A fine soft wool (8)
- Give up office (6)
- Scanty (6)
- Strong sweet alcoholic spirit (7)
- Intensely (5)
- Irreproachable (4-5)

Down

- Run away to marry (5)
- Coagulate (6)
- Be like (8)
- Beat severely (6)
- Pleasant and friendly (7)
- Inexperienced person (9)
- Indication of disapproval (5,4)
- Sharpness of tongue (8)
- Muslim (7)
- To wonder (6)
- In itself (2,4)
- Haggard (5)



Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Decorum, 2 Cavalier, 3 Mirage, 4 Fact of life, 5 Baby, 6 Entrust, 9 First of all, 11 Hercules, 12 Quartet, 14 Behind, 16 Dumpy, 17 Aria.