

Hills continue on knife's edge

Rajnath sermon for "dialogue" panacea Gurung rubbishes Mamata's claim of deep-rooted conspiracy, firm on Gorkhaland Shah snaps at Mamata GJM takes out rally with body of activist demanding removal of security forces TRS MP demands thorough examination on statehood demand

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18 /-- As Darjeeling remained on the boil over a separate statehood agitation, Union home minister Rajnath Singh today appealed to protesters not to resort to violence and, instead, hold dialogue to resolve any issue. He said resorting to violence would never help them in finding a solution and asked the people living there to remain calm and peaceful. "All concerned parties and stakeholders should resolve their differences through dialogue in amicable environment," Singh said in a democracy like India resorting to violence would never help in finding a solution, he said, emphasising that "every issue can be resolved through mutual dialogue". "I appeal to the people living in Darjeeling and nearby areas to remain calm and peaceful. Nobody should resort to violence," the home minister said in a series of tweets. Singh also spoke to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today and discussed with her the situation prevailing there. "She (Banerjee) has apprised me of the situation prevailing in Darjeeling," he said. Singh had yesterday also spoken to Banerjee and asked her to take all possible steps so that peace prevails in the picturesque hill station where people are protesting against "imposition" of Bengali in schools by making the language mandatory. The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), which is in power in the semi-autonomous Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, is spearheading the agitation there demanding a separate state - Gorkhaland. Darjeeling remained on the edge today as thousands of protesters assembled at the central Chowkbar carrying the body of a GJM activist, who was killed

during clashes with police, and raised slogans demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland. Security personnel in large numbers were deployed in the hill district of West Bengal after widespread clashes between Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) activists and the police were witnessed yesterday. The GJM has claimed that two of their supporters were shot dead by police in Singmari yesterday. The police rejected the allegations of firing by its personnel and said one person was killed during the clashes. This was the first death since violent protests returned to Darjeeling on June 8, after a gap of a few years. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had yesterday said that the ongoing agitation in Darjeeling hills was a "deep-rooted conspiracy" supported by the insurgent groups of the Northeast and some foreign countries. The GJM had rubbished the allegation made by Banerjee, saying that she was trying to malign the Gorkhas fighting for their identity. Meanwhile, GJM chief Bimal Gurung today termed "white lies" Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's claim that the agitation in Darjeeling hills was supported by insurgent groups, and asserted the struggle for a separate Gorkhaland state would be depending on its own merit. "Mamata sees conspiracy in everything. She had made similar allegations against the Indian Army as well," Shah told a press conference when asked about Banerjee dubbing the ongoing agitation in Darjeeling "a deep-rooted conspiracy". "The allegations are baseless, Mamata Banerjee is trying to mislead people. It is not a political fight but a fight for our own identity. We will not stop until and unless Gorkhaland is achieved. The struggle will intensify in the hills," Gurung said in an audio-visual statement. On the boil for the past 10 days over a separate state demand, Darjeeling had yesterday witnessed widespread clashes between GJM activists and the police in which one person was killed and 45 security personnel were injured, including an India Reserve Battalion (IRB) officer. Meanwhile, GJM got

a shot in the arm as Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha today said a dialogue must be initiated with those demanding a separate Gorkhaland state and the issue thoroughly examined, and that it should not be kept lingering for long. A key leader of the ruling TRS, Kavitha, however, did not state if the demand was legitimate or otherwise. Kavitha said even during the agitation for creation of Telangana, which was formed three years ago after bifurcating Andhra Pradesh, there were movements pushing for Vidarbha and Gorkhaland states, and the TRS always held the view that every demand had to be treated and looked at separately. "I said (at that time) kindly examine the merits of the case individually. So, I do not know what the Gorkhaland issue has to be examined properly from its people's point of view," the MP from Nizamabad in Telangana told PTI here. "I would not be able to comment 'yes' (it should be created), 'no' (should not be), because I do not know what the ground situation is. I believe every case has to be considered on its own merit," she said. Asked if she thought the demand for a separate Gorkhaland is "peacocking" her own merit, she said, "I think India itself is a combination of so many diverse cultures. All of us want to assert our own independent identity which is a good thing because we have been united despite being so diverse in our cultural backdrop. But when it comes to political decision-making, I believe rest of the issues also have to be considered," she said. "I would not say it's a legitimate demand or an illegitimate demand. It has to be thoroughly examined," the daughter of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said (PTI)

recruitment and training of the youths. The outfit was first named Gorkhaland Police, but after opposition from various quarters it was renamed Gorkhaland Personnel (GLP). The criteria for a place in this force was education up to standard eight and of course physical fitness and agility. After initial selection, nearly 3000 youths were trained for joining GLP. The force in 2009 ended bands called by GJM, ensured that locals wear traditional Nepali attire at least thrice a week, seize and destroy liquor and provide protection to Gurung and top GJM leaders. Paid only a paltry allowance, the GLP youths were promised to be absorbed into the police force after the creation of Gorkhaland. However, GLP took a back seat and most of its trained youths were absorbed into GJM youth wing instead following the formation of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration in 2011. "During GTA, the state government had promised that these youths would be absorbed in the state police force but nothing of the sort happened. Now we no longer have any expectation from the state government. We are Indians and we hope that the Centre will take action to resolve the crisis in the hills," Alley said.



Supporters of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) rally as they carry bodies of protesters who were killed in clashes with security forces on Saturday, in Darjeeling. REUTERS

GJM plans revival of GLP

DARJEELING (WB), JUNE 18 /-- With GJM gearing up for a prolonged confrontation with West Bengal government over the Gorkhaland statehood issue, the party's leadership is planning to revive Gorkhaland Personnel (GLP) - its "peacocking" wing. "The situation is getting worse with each passing day. We feel that a head-on collision is just a matter of time. So we need to prepare ourselves to counter the state government democratically," GJM central committee member and former in-charge of GLP Colonel (ret'd) Ramesh Alley told PTI. "We (GJM) will revive and recruit more youths in GLP our own peacekeeping force. We are not into any kind of violence nor is GLP into this. But we have to prepare ourselves," he said. GJM, Alley said, wants to raise a 8000-strong force in Darjeeling hills which will be well prepared to tackle "any kind of situation". The idea of setting up GLP by recruiting youths from the hills was first mooted by Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) supremo Bimal Gurung during the Gorkhaland agitation of 2008. Gurung had then held a meeting with former army personnel and officers from the hills and requested them to take charge of selection,

recruitment and training of the youths. The outfit was first named Gorkhaland Police, but after opposition from various quarters it was renamed Gorkhaland Personnel (GLP). The criteria for a place in this force was education up to standard eight and of course physical fitness and agility. After initial selection, nearly 3000 youths were trained for joining GLP. The force in 2009 ended bands called by GJM, ensured that locals wear traditional Nepali attire at least thrice a week, seize and destroy liquor and provide protection to Gurung and top GJM leaders. Paid only a paltry allowance, the GLP youths were promised to be absorbed into the police force after the creation of Gorkhaland. However, GLP took a back seat and most of its trained youths were absorbed into GJM youth wing instead following the formation of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration in 2011. "During GTA, the state government had promised that these youths would be absorbed in the state police force but nothing of the sort happened. Now we no longer have any expectation from the state government. We are Indians and we hope that the Centre will take action to resolve the crisis in the hills," Alley said.

Doors bandh remains largely peaceful Continuous demand for Gorkhaland stays alive



SILIGURI, JUNE 18 /-- After hills' continuous agitations demanding separate statehood, Gorkhaland today a joint party rally was organised in several parts of Terai and Doors. The twelve hour Doors bandh remained peaceful except some minor violence



proke at foothills. Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) including Communist Party of Revolutionary Marxist (CPRM), Jan Andolan Party (JAP) and Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) supporters jointly marched in a peace rally at Sukuna, Mathabesi, Salbari, Nepanta Busty, Panighatta, Jaigang and several other parts of Doors and GTA region.

Sikkim's first IPS may come to Darjeeling Mission to tackle the situation

SILIGURI, JUNE 18 /-- Information is trickling in that Aparajita Rai the first Gorkha female IPS from Sikkim is to arrive to Darjeeling to control the ongoing Gorkhaland agitation.

However, police and administration have not confirmed neither ruled out her arrival at Darjeeling. Media persons across the city are speculating that she will be allocated IPS cadre after getting 358th rank in UPSC 2012 examination. She had cracked UPSC in 2011 too and became the first woman IPS from Sikkim to get such a high rank in these exams. Rai is currently posted in Hooghly, she also won awards which proved her ability. Her major achievements

after the incident of Kolkata where Rai along with IPS Murali Dhar Sharma lathicharged media persons twice while covering the Left's protest march to state secretariat Nabanna, at Mayo Road and Dufferin Road near Esplanade.

Darjeeling were trying to get the official confirmation about Aparajita's arrival on Monday. Aparajita is said to be strict police officer establishment of mobile and checkpoints are the additional arrangements to be made for the electoral purpose. CDO Khanal added, "Meanwhile strict vigil is being taken by SSB in several checkpoints to keep incidents at bay before the Nepal. People are being checked thoroughly and searches are on in vehicles passing through the border."

Indo-Nepal border check points to remain closed on 28th

Check points along the borders of Sikkim, Bihar and West Bengal will remain closed for 48 hours. Chief District Officers (CDO) of Ilam Janak Raj Dahal and

Nepal poll

Manohar Prasad Khanal of Mahendra Nagar informed that the checkpoints will be closed for 48 hours beginning from morning 6 to 5pm. The Pashupatinagar, Chhabhise, Manebhanjyang, Tumiing, and Sandakpur will remain closed before the elections. A meeting of the Nepal-India

Coordination Committee held in Mahendranagar agreed to intensify security checks along the border before 48 hours of the elections aimed at not let any activities against the election to occur. Both sides have agreed to beef up security along the border areas for the election purpose. The launching of a joint patrols and

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