

## NEWS

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# Situation along China border peaceful: Army

Gen Hooda says armed forces prepared to handle situation that could arise post-US withdrawal from Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Drass, July 26: Against the backdrop of repeated incursions by China into Indian territory, a top Army commander Saturday said the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was "absolutely peaceful and calm" and such incidents happen due to differences in perception.

"The situation on the China border is absolutely peaceful and calm. There are no problems. There has been no incident of firing at the LAC. There are some areas where there is a difference of perception on the alignment of the LAC. We think it is some area and they think of some other," General Officer Commanding in Chief, Lt Gen D S Hooda, told reporters here.

He said there was no demarcation of the LAC on the land and in such areas both Indian soldiers as well as Chinese soldiers do patrolling.

"But even in those areas, whenever there are any face-offs, everything is settled peacefully. I cannot comment on the political or the diplomatic level, but soldier-to-soldier contact is handled very peacefully," he said.

He said there was no real concern of the transgressions by the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) and the rules and protocols were largely followed by both the sides.

"Transgressions are always there. Also, let me say that as the infrastructure there is getting developed and roads



**'We have to be prepared for contingencies and see how it can impact the security situation in JK. So, the threat (of spillover from Afghanistan) is there. There could be a spillover. It is not as if nobody is talking about it. You are getting the statements by HM (Hizbul Mujahideen) chief saying that I will take support from al-Qaeda and Taliban. We are hearing statements from Taliban side saying Kashmir is the next battle ground. Terms like 'Ghazve Hind' are being used. It has not yet manifested itself, but these are things that you have to look at and be prepared'**

are coming up. Even our presence is slightly increased in various areas. So, sometimes it is also because of that that

you are actually seeing more of what is happening. There is greater visibility also from our side on what they are

doing. There are rules and agreements and protocols that are defined and largely these protocols are being followed by both sides. Really, there is no cause of real concern that they are doing something which is out of the ordinary," he said.

On reports of deployment of Chinese troops in Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK), the army commander said it does not pose any immediate threat.

"There are some media reports that there are Chinese troops in PaK, but mostly they are related to developmental activities. We are not getting anything that is close to the LoC or poses an immediate threat," Lt Gen Hooda said.

He said ceasefire along the borders with Pakistan was a biggest Confidence Building Measure (CBM) and it would be better for the relations between the two nations if it holds.

"See I cannot answer for India Pakistan relations. These are being handled at a particular level. But definitely, on the border the incidents which are happening, even the Foreign Secretary made that comment that the biggest CBM was ceasefire along the borders. And if the situation on the LoC and borders is calm, then it will definitely help and it will be good for the development of overall relations," he said.

The army commander said the force is prepared for the contingencies which may arise in the wake of the

US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

"We have to be prepared for contingencies. That is my job to look at what sort of contingencies can arrive. And how it can impact on the security situation in JK. So, the threat (of spillover from Afghanistan) is there. There could be a spillover. It is not as if nobody is talking about it. You are getting the statements by HM (Hizbul Mujahideen) chief saying that I will take support from al-Qaeda and Taliban. We are hearing statements from Taliban side saying Kashmir is the next battle ground. Terms like 'Ghazve Hind' are being used. It has not yet manifested itself, but these are things that you have to look at and be prepared," he said.

Lt Gen Hooda also expressed concern over reports of ISIS flags being hoisted in Srinagar.

"Yes, all these things bother us. But we are looking at various contingencies and seeing how we need to deal with them in case they come up to us," he said.

The army commander rubbished apprehensions that Vijay Diwas was losing its importance.

"No, the importance of the Diwas is not waning. It is very significant for the relatives of the martyrs. But yes, we will do more to make it better and increase public participation. It is a very important event for us and we will do what we can," he said.

## Kashmiris mourn Nizami's demise

UJC, APHC, DFP pay glowing tributes to veteran Pakistani journalist

NISAR AHMED THOKAR

Islamabad, July 26: Non-resident Kashmiris have condoled the demise of Abdul Majid Nizami, veteran Pakistani journalist, publisher and editor-in-chief of Nawa-e-Waqt group. Nizami (86) breathed his last this morning after protracted illness.

The chairman of United Jihad Council Syed Salah-ud-Din while condoing the demise said that Majid Nizami was a strong proponent of Kashmiri cause. He said Nizami was a man of integrity who on several occasions took on Pakistani rulers over their flawed Kashmir policy.

Salah-ud-Din expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Vice-president of Demo-



cratic Freedom Party (DFP) Mehmood Ahmed Saghar

while expressing shock over the death of veteran journalist said the deceased was a great patriot and an outspoken champion and defender of Pakistan ideology. Lauding Nizami's commitment towards Kashmir cause Saghar said he always projected and promoted the cause of Kashmir both at national and international levels. Saghar also praised Nizami for his meritorious services

in the field of journalism spanning several decades.

APHC-G convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi said Abdul Majid Nizami was a great supporter of Kashmir cause. "He believed in Quaid's Pakistan based on Islamic ideology and democratic norms and wanted Jammu and Kashmir to become a part of Pakistan", he said adding that the deceased had warned both military and civil Pakistani rulers against any step for normalizing relations with India without resolving core issue of Kashmir.

APHC convener said Nizami refused to travel to India until resolution of Kashmir issue. "Today the struggling people of Kashmir lost a staunch, selfless supporter of their just cause, Kashmiri migrant families will badly miss him", he added.

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<b>Dr. Havind Tandon</b> Orthopedics, Arthroscopies & Joint Replacement	17TH AUG. 2014	10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
<b>Dr. Sudheer Tyagi, Neurosurgery</b> Brain surgery, Spinal surgery	17TH AUG. 2014	10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
<b>Dr. Ameet Kishore, ENT</b> Cochlear implants, Advanced ENT surgery esp. in children	17TH AUG. 2014	10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
<b>Dr. Anoop Ganjoo, Cardiovascular &amp; Thoracic Surgery</b> CABG, Valve replacement, Birth defects, Lung surgery	17TH AUG. 2014	10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
<b>Dr. Shahin Nooreydzan</b> Cosmetic & Plastic Surgery, Liposuction	17TH AUG. 2014	10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

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Dr. Maroof Ahmad Shah

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