

Government's all-Kashmiri brigade to employ J&K youth

NEW DELHI: The Centre is planning to have an all-Kashmiri brigade that will be stationed only in Jammu and Kashmir as a confidence-building measure for the state.

The move will also provide employment to youths from the valley. To quell the simmering anger, the government may also propose visit by an all-party delegation to Srinagar after home minister Rajnath Singh makes a statement in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

While speaking at Bhavra in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had underlined the need for creating "employment opportunities" for youth in Jammu and Kashmir. Government officials said the home minister has given the nod for creation of a 'special force' in the valley.

Relaxation in height, weight and other physical requirements will be finalised soon. The initial cost of raising the unit is estimated to be Rs 200 crore, said officials familiar with the matter.

The home ministry has also agreed to share the cost of recruitment of more special police officers (SPOs) in the Jammu and Kashmir police based on a proposal from the state government.

The current cycle of violence in Kashmir that started with the killing of Hizb-ul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani on July 8 has seen death of 56 persons and injuries to thousands.

Demarche to Pak envoy over cross border terror

Foreign secretary S Jaishankar on Tuesday summoned Pakistani high commissioner to India Abdul Basit and issued strong demarche on continuing cross border terrorism. He also made specific reference to Bahadur Ali, a Pakisthani national allegedly working for terror outfit LeT.

Bahadur Ali alias Abu Saifullah, a resident of Lahore, was arrested on June 25 in Jammu and Kashmir along with arms.