

**OPENING STATEMENT OF THE HOME MINISTER AT THE PRESS  
CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

The highlight of the month of September was the conference of DGPs/IGPs held on September 14-16, 2009. It gave me an opportunity to present an overview of the security situation in the country; recount the steps that are being taken to build capacity; and to list the unfinished tasks that have to be addressed with a sense of urgency. The Prime Minister addressed the conference on September 15, 2009. I may recall that I had expressed my hope that the conference this year will mark the beginning of the process of reinventing the security system in the country. I had also listed a number of big ideas that are on our agenda. We have begun work on the agenda and I shall report progress from time to time. In my view, the conference was marked by a degree of candour and urgency that had not been noticed in previous conferences.

2. In separate sessions, I addressed the DGPs of all States on the need to sign up for the ambitious Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) and the DGPs of seven States affected by Left wing extremism on enhancing our capacity to confront naxalite violence.

**U.S. Visit**

3. Another highlight was my visit to the USA on September 8-11, 2009. Among the objectives of the visit were: to engage the US administration on the need to share intelligence, to access technology, to learn from their experiences on megacity policing, and to visit the National Counter Terrorism Centre that I hope to replicate in India. In my view, these objectives were achieved in substantial measure.

### **Visits to States**

4. I visited Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand on September 25, 2009 to review the security situation in those States. I am satisfied that both States are fully prepared to meet the challenge of Left wing extremism.

5. Two well-planned and successful operations led to the arrest of Kobad Ghandy, a member of the politburo of the CPI (Maoist), in Delhi on September 20, 2009 and of Chhatradhar Mahato, leader of the PCPA (People's Committee on Police Atrocities), in West Bengal on September 26, 2009.

### **Internal Security**

6. On September 17, 2009, at a meeting of Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs, a broad consensus was reached to clamp down on unauthorized construction of any religious place of worship on a public street or public place. I welcome the order of the Supreme Court made on September 29, 2009 directing that there shall be no fresh construction of places of worship at public places throughout the country.

7. On September 13-14, 2009, 372 cadres of the proscribed DHD/J (Dima Halam Daogah – Joel Group) laid down their arms and surrendered 136 weapons to the Government of Assam. The cadres have been lodged in designated camps.

### **CPMFs**

8. Following the approval for 38 new CRPF battalions, orders were issued fixing the Key Location Plans as follows:

CIAT School: Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

CWS: Siliguri, West Bengal

GC/Range HQ: Bahalgarh, Haryana

9. Orders were issued enabling the CRPF to fill vacancies at the level of Constables (2,000) and Sub-Inspectors (100) through appointment of ex-servicemen on contract basis.

### **Border and Coastal Security**

10. On the Indo Bangladesh border, 14 km of new fencing and 13 km of fresh road works were completed.

11. On the Indo-Tibet border,

- a. Work on construction of 10 roads totaling 196 km is under progress. 45.27 km of formation works and 4.77 km of surfacing works were completed in September;
- b. Forest Department clearances for the Thangu-Muguthang, Giagang-Kerand, Naga-Jadhang and PDA-Sumla roads were obtained;
- c. Wildlife Department clearances for three roads were granted by the Supreme Court during September.

12. 2 Interceptor boats were delivered in September completing the delivery of 24 Interceptor Boats as per Action Plan I. 18 more Interceptor boats were delivered in September, making a total of 22, against the target of 36 Interceptor boats under Action Plan II. Thus, there is a short delivery of 14 boats which we hope will be delivered this year.

13. Under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), the first instalment amounting to Rs. 205.54 crore was released to seven States viz., Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

## **Census 2011 and National Population Register (NPR)**

14. In the first phase of direct data collection for the NPR, collection of biographic details has been undertaken in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. So far, details have been collected on 10.02 lakh usual residents.

## **States and UTs**

15. A sum of Rs.77.59 crore and a sum of Rs.10.23 crore were released to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir under SRE(P) and SRE(R&R) respectively.

16. Sanction for creation of 1,127 posts for the Chandigarh police was issued.

17. A sum of Rs 1.43 crore was sanctioned for Daman & Diu under the Police Modernisation Scheme.

18. On September 9, 2009 sanction was accorded for the creation of 326 posts to regularize Home Guards in the A&N Islands.

## **Police upgradation**

19. States were requested to sign the MoU with the Central Government to implement the CCTNS. The last day was fixed, in consultation with the DGPs, as September 30, 2009. As of today, 21 States have signed the MoU and I hope the remaining will do so in a day or two. Once this process is completed, MHA will release Rs 89.06 crore of funds in the first stage to the States/UTs.

### **Commonwealth Games**

20. In order to prepare Delhi for the Commonwealth Games 2010 and to provide better security to the residents of Delhi,

- a. 22 new Police Stations were notified and inaugurated on September 22, 2009;
- b. 9 new Sub-Divisions were notified;
- c. 337 new vehicles (38 Maruti Gypsies, 270 Motorcycles and 29 pick-up Vans) costing Rs. 5.61 crore and equipment costing Rs. 1.21 crore were sanctioned;
- d. Rs.60 crore was allotted for anti-sabotage equipment, mine-sweepers and non-linear junction detectors.

### **Strengthening the NIA**

21. NIA continues to recruit more officers. In order to fill Group A and Group B posts immediately, a one-time special recruitment process was approved in consultation with the UPSC.

### **Legislative refinements**

22. The following two conventions were notified under Section 2(1)(f) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 on September 22, 2009. They will now fall under the definition of 'International Covenants':

- a. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- b. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

23. Comprehensive Advisories were issued to all States/UTs on

- a. crime against women and measures required to curb the menace (September 4, 2009);

- b. preventing and combating human trafficking in India (September 9, 2009).

### **Freedom Fighters**

24. A Committee of eminent freedom fighters was constituted on September 14, 2009 to discuss issues of concern to freedom fighters. The Committee will be chaired by Shri Ajay Maken, Minister of State.

### **Communal riot compensation**

25. Approval of the Cabinet was obtained for extension of the rehabilitation package to the victims of the anti-Sikh riots in 1984 to West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Chandigarh.

26. I visited the Tihar Jail on September 23, 2009. I was impressed by the systems followed in the prison and the gradual introduction of new technology. I have suggested that many more activities in the prison should be improved through induction of new technology.

27. The bio-metric attendance monitoring system was introduced in the offices of MHA on September 1, 2009. Preliminary results show that the system has been widely accepted and is performing satisfactorily. A review will be done next week.

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