

NATIONAL

'Government to set up 4,072 mobile towers in Naxal-hit states'

As many as 4,072 mobile towers will be set up by the government in 10 Naxal-affected states to improve telecom network in such places. A meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Home Ministry's proposal at New Delhi, an official said. In the first phase, which was completed about two years ago, 2,329 mobile towers were installed at a cost of Rs.3,167 crore in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The additional towers will strengthen the telecom network resulting in increased mobile penetration in the Left Wing Extremism-affected and other areas facing security challenges, the official said.

(I.E.,24/05)

India summons Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner

The Indian Government summoned Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan, Syed Haider Shah, to lodge a strong protest over the killing of civilians in ceasefire violations by the Pakistan security forces. A seven-month-old infant died in the unprovoked firings from the Pak side in Bhimber Sector across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. "It was conveyed that the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians, who are located away from the forward line of defences, by Pakistan forces using small arms and high caliber weapons is highly deplorable and condemned in the strongest terms. Targeting of innocent civilians including young children is against all established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct. Pakistan authorities were called upon to investigate into such heinous acts of killing innocent civilians and instruct its forces to desist from such acts immediately," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

(P.,24/05)