



Silence Guns

Rajnath in J&K, needs Pakistan to walk its talk on peace with India

Union home minister Rajnath Singh is on a two-day visit to Jammu & Kashmir to review the security situation in the state and explore the possibility of extending the Ramzan ceasefire announced by the Centre as well as initiating talks with the separatist Hurriyat. It will be recalled that the Centre had unilaterally suspended combat operations against terrorists during the month of Ramzan. However, reports suggest this has had no meaningful impact in bringing down terror-related violence. In the last 20 days, militants have killed more than three dozen people and injured more



than two dozen. Cross-border infiltration from Pakistan also hasn't abated with the army killing three terrorist infiltrators in Kupwara district on Wednesday.

And therein lies the nub of the problem. The situation in Kashmir can't be fully normal unless Pakistan stops sheltering anti-India terrorists. After months of heavy exchange of firing between the two sides at

the border, DGMOs of the two militaries recently agreed to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire. But even that understanding is yet to fully take hold on the ground. The Pakistani army recently stated there's no space for war with India given that the two countries are nuclear powers, which is indubitable. But Rawalpindi GHQ is yet to show it has overcome its obsession with India as its strategic enemy.

One test of this will be prodding the Hurriyat to take up New Delhi's offer of talks. After all, any political solution to the Kashmir imbroglio has to come through dialogue. And for dialogue to be successful, the right atmosphere needs to be created. This is where Pakistan has to walk its talk on peace and silence its guns, enabling all parties to move forward to a final settlement on Kashmir.