



Maximum : 27°C  
Minimum : 11°C  
Humidity : 37%

SUNSET Today 06:16 PM  
SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:25 AM

# OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR

12 Safar-ul-Muzaffar | 1442 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 215 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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## News Digest

### Kuwaiti Ruler Sheikh Sabah Dies At 91

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ruler of Kuwait who drew on his decades as the oil-rich nation's top diplomat to push for closer ties to Iraq after the 1990 Gulf War and solutions to other regional crises, died Tuesday. He was 91. In a Middle East replete with elderly rulers, Sheikh Sabah stood out for his efforts at pushing for diplomacy to resolve a bitter dispute between Qatar and other Arab nations that continues to this day. His 2006 ascension in Kuwait, a staunch US ally since the American-led

### Cross-LoC Shelling Rattles Poonch, Rajouri

Jammu: India and Pakistan troops on Tuesday continued trading gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said that the Pakistan Army on Tuesday opened fire and shelled mortars in forward areas along the LoC in three sectors Poonch and Rajouri districts. They said this prompted the Indian Army to retaliate befittingly. "The Pakistan Army violated ceasefire by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district this afternoon," a

### Man Posed As Police Officer Arrested

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a youth, who was posing as a police officer and intimidating people here in this capital city. According to a police spokesperson, police station Sherghari received a complaint on September 27 by Sohail Ahmed Pinchoo of Noorbagh alleging that he was receiving threatening calls on his phone from a person who identified himself as DySP Cargo. Accordingly, he said a case FIR No. 56/2020 under relevant sections of law was registered and

### 2 Soldiers Injured In Highway Accident

Jammu Two Army personnel were seriously injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 50-feet gorge in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. The accident took place near NarsooNallah on Dhar road around 2.15 pm when the vehicle was moving from Jammu to Udhampur, a police official said. He said two army personnel travelling in the vehicle were seriously injured and were shifted to a military hospital Udhampur.

### Militants Flee After Brief Encounter

Anantnag- Militants "seem to have fled" after an encounter with joint team of police and army in MarahamaSangam area in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, a police officer said on Tuesday. He said that militants and the joint team of forces had exchanged fire after the former attacked a patrol in Marahama area this afternoon. "It seems that the militants have managed to flee. However the searches in the area are still underway," the officer told GNS. There was no loss of life or injury reported during the firefight.

### Teacher Held For Circulating 'Threatening' Posters

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday arrested a private school teacher for his alleged involvement in circulating threatening posters of a militant outfit in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to a police spokesperson, the villagers of Gundipora filed a complaint with the police stating that on September 10, posters of Lashkar-I-Islam were found pasted in the area in which threat had been issued to some youth, including girl students, accusing them of indulging into prostitution besides being informers of the state forces. The posters, police spokesperson said created a fear psychosis among the people, especially those who had been given life threats. Accordingly, the police spokesperson said a case FIR No. 69/2020 U/S 18, 20 ULA (P) Act, 506 IPC was

## China Says It Does Not Recognise UT Of Ladakh

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Amid the ongoing military standoff with India along the Line of Action Control (LAC), China on Tuesday declared that it does not recognise the Union Territory of Ladakh and called it "illegally established" by India. A belligerent China also said it was opposed to India building military infrastructure in the border areas.

"China does not recognise the so-called union territory of Ladakh illegally established by India, and opposes infrastructure construction in disputed border areas for military control purposes," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said while commenting on India's move to build roads along the border.

"According to the recent consensus reached between China and India, neither side should take any actions in border areas that would complicate the situation, so as not to affect the efforts of both sides to ease the situation," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

BJP led government in Delhi separated Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir and declared it as a Union Territory on August 5, last year. The



### Never Accepted China's 1959 LAC Definition: MEA

India on Tuesday rejected China's position that it abides by its 1959 stand on the perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and asked the neighbouring country to refrain from advancing an "untenable unilateral" interpretation of the de-facto border. The stand by China spelt out by its

May and escalated in June to the deadliest violence between the two sides in decades - a clash on a high ridge in which soldiers used clubs, stones and their fists. Twenty Indian soldiers were killed and dozens of others were injured. China is

CHINA HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED INDIA'S INCLUSION OF CHINESE territory in India's administrative jurisdiction in the western part of the Sino-Indian border. This position is firm, consistent and has never changed."

## HC Flays 'Callous Approach' Of Admin

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday said that due to "callous approach" of the detaining authorities, the whole purpose of the preventive laws is getting defeated in J&K. "We are at pains to observe that in routine this Court comes across the cases in which the detention orders issued on the grounds of threat to the security and integrity of State are getting quashed due to non-adherence to technical require-

ments," said a bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Rajesh Oswal while allowing an appeal against court's single bench order by virtue of which PSA detention of a man-Sartaj Ahmad Allie—from Kulgam. "In many petitions the grounds taken are non-furnishing of material relied upon by the detaining Authority to the detainee; not informing the detainee about his right to make representation; not informing the detainee about the grounds of detention in the language that he understands

## SC Asks J&K Govt How Long Can Mehbooba Be Detained?

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to respond to Itija Mufti's amended plea challenging the detention of her mother, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, under the J-K Public Safety Act, saying it cannot go on forever and "some via media" should be explored. A bench of Justices S K Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy granted 15 days to the Union Territory to file re-

sponse and asked as to what was the maximum period for which a person can be detained under the specific law and whether the authorities proposed to continue with the detention of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader. On the issue of the permission to attend party meetings, the top court, in a hearing conducted through video conferencing here, said that the PDP President should place such a request with the authorities. The bench took note of the submission of lawyer

## INDIA ON G-B POLLS 'Camouflaging Illegal Occupation'

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday said it has conveyed its strong protest to Pakistan over announcement of elections to the "so-called Gilgit-Baltistan" legislative assembly next month, holding that the "cosmetic exercises" are intended to camouflage the "illegal" occupation of the region by Islamabad. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said actions like holding of elections in the region can neither hide the "illegal occupation" of parts of Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by Islamabad nor the "grave human rights violations and

## 2 Collaborators Held Over Shopian 'Fake Encounter'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police has arrested two local "collaborators" in connection with Shopian "fake encounter", days after the DNA results confirmed the 3 killed youth were missing Rajouri labourers. According to a report by India Today, police have arrested two local collaborators on charges of "criminal conspiracy" under relevant sections in an FIR. The two, according to the report have been sent to eight days of judicial remand by the district court.

## Govt Suspends Another KAS Officer

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday suspended a senior KAS officer pending enquiry into his conduct. "Pending enquiry into his conduct, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, KAS, Managing Director, J&K SC, ST and OBC Development Corporation, is hereby placed under suspension, with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956," reads a government order issued here. "During the period of his suspension, he shall remain attached with the General Administration Department," the order said. Sources told news agency GNS that a number of officers

## LG Offers State Chopper For Emergency Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed the Union Territory officials to use the choppers of Raj Bhawan for medical emergencies to help the people in distress. Chairing a joint meeting of various departments at the Civil Secretariat here to review winter preparedness, LG directed the officers for strengthening of a robust response mechanism for power restoration, essential supplies, water and road connectivity during winters, an official spokesperson said Tuesday. The LG, as per the official spokesperson also directed the officials present in the meeting to use Raj Bhawan choppers for medical emergencies in

## J&K Couldn't Achieve National eGovernance Plan In 10 Years: CAG

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has criticised the Jammu and Kashmir government for its failure in implementing the National e-Governance Plan, saying the objective of making all local public services accessible to the common man could not be achieved in the Union territory over a period of around 10 years. In its report on Social, General, Economic (Non-Public Sector Undertakings) sectors for the financial year ended March 31, 2017, the CAG also

highlighted the shortcomings in the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and said no annual report was prepared by the erstwhile state's forest development agency since its inception in July 2010. The report, tabled in Parliament recently, said against the approved outlay of Rs 212.10 crore for implementation of six schemes by the Information Technology Department under the NeGP, Rs 60.38 crore (28 per cent) was released by the Centre to Jammu and Kashmir. Balance outlay of Rs 151.72 crore (72 per cent) could not be received as the confirmation regard-

ing contribution of 20 per cent State share had not been provided to Government of India. Overall fund utilisation during 2012-17 was only 41 per cent as on 31 March 2017, the CAG said. It said the objective of providing connectivity under State Wide Area Network (SWAN) project could not be achieved as against the amount of Rs 15.25 crore received for its implementation, Rs 6.90 crore was surrendered and Rs 7.92 crore remained blocked. Complete potential of State Data Centre (SDC) was not being utilised in absence

## In FOCUS 'We're Here Because We're Nowhere': Kashmir's 'Other' Pandits

Hibah Bhat

INSIDE the meditatively-calm courtyard of heavily-guarded 300-year-old Ganpatyar temple in Habba Kadal, Bharti Kumari is lost in thoughts. In the backdrop of serene Jhelum riverbank dotted with heritage marvels, she has been vainly calling out the attention of administration for last ten days. But even as her tribe pleads—"our children sometimes sleep hungry too"—they continue to feel ditched and discarded. "We're here because we're nowhere," Kumari says in an anguished voice. The 33-year-old Kashmiri Pandit woman is one among dozens of non-migrant Kashmir pandits sup-



porting an indefinite hunger strike launched by Sanjay Tickoo, President of the Kashmiri Pandit Sangarash Samiti (KPSS) on September 20. The strike aims at demanding 500 government jobs which were promised to the community of non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits during a High Court ruling in 2016 under PM Package for return and rehabilitation in 2009. In late eighties, Kashmir witnessed a homegrown insurgency against the Indian rule followed by instances of target killings of minority communities which eventually led to a mass migration on January 19, 1990, in which most of

the Kashmiri pandits left the valley, taking with them whatever belongings they could find. Those who did not leave the valley, decided to stay back. However, the community continues to pay a price for staying like those paying for leaving. Living in suffocation Kumari's family was among those who refused to leave their home. Although she doesn't regret it, nothing in life fell back into place since then. "We've been suffering ever since," complains Kumari, who was hardly 3-year-old when her community left the valley in droves.

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday booked a bridegroom after firecrackers were burst during his marriage ceremony on Monday in Batamloo area, in violation of the government orders. According to a police spokesperson, last night sound of firecrackers was heard in Reka Chowk locality of Batmaloo area of the city. On inquiry, the police spokesperson said that it was found that the firecrackers were being used during the marriage ceremony of Bilal Ahmad Shah by his family and friends. "In this regard case

## Relatives Burst Firecrackers, Bridegroom Booked

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