



Maximum : 27°C
Minimum : 09°C
Humidity : 37%

SUNSET
Today 06:15 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:25 AM



News Digest

No Let Down In Cross-LoC Shelling

Jammu: India and Pakistan troops continued to trade fire along the Line of Control (LoC) on Wednesday in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire and resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas along the LoC in Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, they said. "At about 1845 hours today, Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the" **● P-02**

BSF Officer Shoots Self Dead

Jammu: A sub-inspector of the Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday allegedly shot himself with his service rifle in a camp here, police said. Sub-Inspector Chakerpani Prasad Tiwari (56), posted with 12th Battalion, shot himself in the head at Garoda border outpost in Gajansu area on the outskirts of Jammu, a police official said. Tiwari, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, was rushed to sub-district hospital in Marh where he was declared brought dead by doctors. According to police, it is a case of death by suicide. Police have started inquest **● P-02**

2 Soldiers Among 3 Killed In Road Accidents

Jammu- Two Army men and another person were killed in separate road accidents in Udhampur and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday. The deceased soldiers have been identified as havaldar Suresh Kumar and Naik V M Pawar of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, they said. They died after their vehicle plunged into a 50-feet gorge in Udhampur district on Tuesday, a police official said, adding the bodies were handed over to their unit after completion of legal formalities. In **● P-02**

Ladakh Reports 43 New Covid-19 Cases

Leh: Forty-three people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Ladakh, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 4,195, while 43 more patients recovered from the disease, officials said on Wednesday. The union territory did not report any death due to COVID-19 for the third day, the officials added. The number of active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh stood at 1,030 -- 637 in Leh district and 393 in Kargil district, they said. Among the fresh cases, 39 **● P-02**

5 Gamblers Arrested In City: Police

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in a raid in this capital city. Acting on an input, team from Police Station Saddar raided a gambling site at Bulbul Bagh Bund here and arrested five gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said an amount of Rs 48,310 besides playing cards were seized from the gamblers. "They have been shifted to PS Saddar where they remain in custody," the police spokesperson said. He said a case FIR No. 236/2020 under relevant sections of **● P-02**

Court Acquits All Accused In Babri Demolition Case

Advani, Joshi Cleared Of Conspiracy Charge

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: Twenty-eight years after the Babri Masjid was razed, a court here acquitted all 32 people including BJP veterans L K Advani, M M Joshi and Uma Bharti accused of being involved in the demolition of the mosque they believed occupied the spot where Lord Ram was born.

In a judgment that ran to 2,300 pages with enclosures, the special CBI court on Wednesday said there was no conclusive evidence against the 32 accused of being involved in any conspiracy to bring down the disputed structure in Ayodhya.

Delivering the verdict on the day of his retirement, special Judge S K Yadav did not accept newspaper reports and video cassettes as evidence.

The court also observed that the late Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Ashok Singhal wanted to save the structure because Ram idols were inside.

The 16th century mosque was demolished on December 6, 1992, triggering riots that left



Babri Demolition Case Timeline

- 1528: Babri Masjid built by Mir Baqi, commander of Mughal emperor Babur.
- 1885: Mahant Raghubir Das files plea in Faizabad district court seeking permission to build a canopy outside the disputed structure. Court rejects the plea.
- 1949: Idols of Ram Lalla placed under central dome outside the disputed structure.
- 1950: Gopal Simla Visharad files suit in Faizabad district court for right to worship the idols of Ram Lalla.
- Paramahansa Ramachandra Das files suit for continuation of worship and keeping the idols.
- 1959: Nirmohi Akhara files suit seeking possession of the site.
- 1961: UP Sunni **● P-02**

'No One Demolished Babri Masjid': Oppn Slams Verdict

The opposition parties on Wednesday expressed outrage over the judgment of a CBI court in Lucknow acquitting all the 32 accused in the Babri mosque demolition case and termed the ruling as "travesty of justice". Calling the judgement "obnoxious", AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi claimed it contradicted the Supreme **● P-02**

hundreds dead in the country and widening rifts between the communities.

Twenty-six of the accused were present in the Lucknow court when the judge read out the op-

erative portion of the verdict. Former deputy prime minister L K Advani, the then Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh, former Union ministers Murli Manohar Joshi **►PAGE 02**

J&K Sees 18 More Coronavirus Deaths, Toll 1184

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as eighteen more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, raising the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection in the Union Territory to 1184.

While Jammu reported twelve more Covid-19 deaths, the infection consumed six more lives in Kashmir Valley, officials said.

Among others who died in Jammu include a 79-year-old man from Poonch, a 65-year-old man from

28 Soldiers Among 975 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 975 new cases of coronavirus, including forty-two travelers and 28 soldiers, taking the number of people infected by the virus in Union Territory to 75070. **● P-02**

Covid-19 Claimed Nearly 500 Lives In September

The month of September has proved to be the deadliest month in terms of Covid-19 in J&K Union Territory as the month alone saw 37,000 positive cases **● P-02**

Nagrota, a 24-year-old from UP, at present Rajeev Nagar Jammu, a 30-year-old man from Sawan Chak Kathua, a 60-year-old from Deha Basti and an 82-year-old Talab Til-

lo, a 45-year-old man from Rajouri besides a 60-year-old man from Kishtwar who succumbed at SKIMS Soura, 11 days after admitted to the tertiary care hospital. **►PAGE 02**

Govt Identifies Sites In Srinagar For Housing Projects

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has identified seven sites in this capital city for developing vertical housing projects to make affordable houses available to residents.

According to an official spokesperson, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Deejay Gupta Wednesday visited various areas of Srinagar to inspect the sites identified for developing vertical housing projects the government has approved to make affordable houses available to residents.

Gupta was flanked by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal

Choudhary; Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority, Bashir Ahmad Lone and Chief Town Planner Kashmir Fayaz Ahmad. Senior officers from the Revenue Department and from the CPWD and the NBCC were also present on the occasion of the PS's visit.

Gupta, the official spokesperson said visited the sites located at Rakh-e-Gund Aksha, Khushipora, Shalteng, Palpora, Zoonimar, Harwan and Eidgah - which are spread across three Tehsils of Srinagar - and held a thorough assessment of their suitability for developing the housing projects.

"The Principal Secretary visited some half a dozen sites **►PAGE 02**

JKPCL To Liquidate Liabilities Of 11,000 Crore

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday said it would liquidate the liabilities, including interests in the power sector, by raising over Rs 11,000 crore under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The decision was taken at the meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd board of directors (JKPCL).

An official spokesman said Power Development and Information Departments Principal Secretary Rohit Kansal, who is also the managing **● P-02**

LADAKH FACE-OFF

Deadlock Continues Despite Another Round Of Diplomatic Talks

NEW DELHI: India and China on Wednesday held a fresh round of diplomatic talks with a focus on implementing the five-point agreement reached between the two countries to resolve the nearly five-month-long border standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The virtual talks were held under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs.

The focus of the talks was to



Image for representation

de-escalate tensions, people familiar with the developments said, as the two sides discussed ways to implement the five-point agreement reached **►PAGE 02**

erties which are being illegally used for commercial purposes in contravention of Master Plan or the sanctioned building plan. "It needs no elaboration that a building plan is sanctioned for a specific purpose and a building constructed under such sanctioned plan has to be used for that purpose alone and nothing else," the court said. The court also directed officials to ensure that the status report as ordered by it previously is positively filed before the next date of hearing **►PAGE 02**

NHPC Shuts 120 MW Plant In J&K Till March 2021

NEW DELHI: State-run hydro power giant NHPC on Wednesday said its 120 MW Sewa-II power station in Jammu and Kashmir has been shut till March 31, 2021 due to some damage in its head race tunnel (HRT).

The HRT carries water from intake to a power house for electricity generation.

"It is to inform that Sewa-II Power Station (120 MW) in UT of Jammu & Kashmir has been under complete shutdown w.e.f. 25.09.2020 to 31.03.2021 for damage of HRT," the company said in a BSE filing.

The shutdown will cause tentative loss of 157.4 MU (million units) in generation (design **● P-02**

315 J&K Students Cross Over To Pak To Resume Studies

SRINAGAR: The government of India allowed 315 students from Jammu and Kashmir enrolled at different colleges across Pakistan to cross over via Attari Wagah border in Amritsar on Wednesday.

In an official communication, the Government of India on request of Pakistan has allowed 315 students to cross over to Pakistan to resume studies.

The government of Pakistan had earlier communicated with the government of India to allow the travel of 315 Kashmiri **● P-02**

In FOCUS Amid 6Th Schedule Row, Kashmiri Politician Lobbies For Leh In Kargil

Auqib Javed

As troops and tanks stare at a long winter haul in the strategically-significant hinterland of Ladakh, the heartland recently erupted with an "identity" protest.

Throwing their weight behind the 6th Schedule that guarantees land and job protection to natives, the Leh leaders decided to boycott the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections to press for their demands.

It took a curt call from the Ministry of Home Affairs to summon the dissidents—including members

of the BJP—to New Delhi for some quick damage control. The leaders returned "contented" and withdrew the protests.

But, many in Kargil argue, Leh can't decide the fate of whole of Ladakh housing nearly 60 percent of Muslim population—who, they say, weren't taken on board.

Unlike Leh, Kargil recently reiterated that the region's fight is beyond 6th Schedule, as they're yet to accept post-abrogation 'reality' of the region.

However, to tame the tempers in the Muslim-majority region, the BJP, it's said, recently deputed an emissary. Enter Imran Ansari

On September 25, Kashmiri Shia leader, Imran Raza Ansari reached out to the people of Kargil.

Ansari's visit, interestingly, came when various political and religious leaders from the Shia Muslim majority region had upped the ante against the government and refused to align with Leh leadership on the grant of 6th schedule and other demands. Leadership cutting across party lines in Kargil have refused to accept the post August 5 position and insist on staying as part of Kashmir.

"Imran Ansari came here and tried to know our views regarding the ongoing issue," Sheikh Nazir Mehdi, head of religious seminary,



File Photo

Jamiat Ulema-e- Isna Asharia Kargil, told Kashmir Observer over phone. "We told him, categorically, that

we want to be part of Jammu and Kashmir, and won't accept anything less than that."

Mehdi said people of Kargil have not accepted the Union Territory (UT) status yet, and there are no questions of demanding the 6th Schedule.

"We're neither in its favour, nor in its opposition," he said.

Aga Syed Ahmad, councillor from Sankoo Constituency of Kargil, said they informed Imran Ansari that the UT status has been forcibly imposed on the people of Kargil and that they want to be part of Kashmir.

"We made it clear to Imran saheb that neither 6th Schedule nor UT status is acceptable to us," Ahmad told Kashmir Observer.

According to Ahmad, Ansari told them 'it's the golden chance for Kargil

to make the district more prosperous', "but we told him: "Hum Aabad Tabi Hongay Jab Hum Kashmir Se Milein Gay (Kargil will be prosperous once merged back with Kashmir)."

These leaders, however, said they don't know on whose behalf Imran Ansari was in Kargil but confirmed that he did meet different religious and political leaders in the region.

"May be he [Ansari] wanted to take credit for resolving a long pending issue in the region," said Asgar Karbala senior Kargil leader and former minister.

That pending issue is to bring the two influential religious institutions of Kargil—Imam Khomeini **►PAGE 02**