

YOU ARE  
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HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER  
LOCKDOWN

The internet services were suspended in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (Now, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, hereinafter “the valley”), as a pre-emptive step in August 2019. Since then internet services are not restored to the full extent in the valley. Although on the direction of the Supreme Court of India (SC) 2G services were restored in January 2020, the valley still suffers from arbitrary orders of the valley administration amidst COVID-19 pandemic. Following the national lock-down and other restrictive measures, a petition was moved to the SC to quash the order of the valley administration which suspended internet services. However, the SC on 11th May 2020, in FMP v UT of J&K, constituted a special committee to handle the issue at hand. The SC failed to appreciate human rights and allowed the government of India and the valley administration to cover the issue under the garb of national security.....

.....OPINION  
P4

NewsDigest

SMC Mayor Likely To Face Floor Test

Srinagar: As many as 51 corporators of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) are set to move a no- confidence motion against the Mayor JunaidAzimMattu. 51 corporators, who would move no- confidence motion attended a four-hour long meeting called by former Deputy Mayor, Sheikh Imran in Grand Mahal Shalimar, KNS reported. Quoting sources, the report says that the corporators will submit the no- confidence motion to SMC ● P-02

Man Held Over Social Media Post

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday arrested a man in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir for posting a 'sensitive' and 'objectionable' comment on social media. Balkrishan Bhat was arrested after the social media monitoring unit of police received information that he had made some sensitive and objectionable comments on Facebook, a police spokesperson said. "Taking cognizance of the matter, a case under FIR number 294/2020 ● P-02

Leopard Mauls Minor In Kulgam

Srinagar: A minor was mauled to death by a leopard in south Kashmir's Kulgam district sparking off protest by the locals against the wildlife department, reports said Wednesday. Five-year-old Umar Farooq Baba was attacked and critically injured by a leopard in his native village Manzgamon Tuesday evening, reports said. The beast tried to drag the injured child towards the jungle but the locals chased the beast away. The injured child, reports said was removed to the ● P-02

Girl Drowns In Kangan Canal

Srinagar: A teenage girl on Wednesday died of drowning in a canal in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 17-year-old Muneeza Bashir drowned into a canal near her house in Sumbal Bala area of Kangan this evening, officials said. Some passers-by saw the girl drowning in the canal and they immediately informed the police. Soon after the incident, local police and SDRF team launched a rescue operation to trace the girl, however a few hours later, the body was ● P-02

Dogs Bite 20 Bandipora Villagers

Srinagar: A pack of stray dogs on Wednesday went on a biting spree injuring over 20 people, including women in several villages of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Stray dogs appeared in Mantrigam, Bonkoot, Badibeth and Tanghat villages of the district and attacked the passerby, including women, reports said. The locals came together and chased away the dogs but not before over 20 people were bitten. All the injured were removed to ● P-02

5 More Militants Killed In Shopian, 14 In Four Days

A scene from the encounter site in Shopian- KO photo by Shah Junaid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After a day's break, five militants, including district commander of Hizbul Mujahideen were killed in a fierce gunfight with government forces in Shopian on Wednesday, taking the number of militants killed in the gunfights with armed forces in the last four days to 14 in the volatile south Kashmir district. "On the basis of a 'specific input' suggesting presence of militants, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of police, army's 44 RR and the personnel of CRPF 178 battalion laid a cordon around a huge apple orchard in Sugoo area of the district in the early hours of Wednesday, reports said. When the search team started advances, the militants present in the orchard

Abducted Man Found Dead

Police on Wednesday recovered body of a man, who was abducted by unidentified gunmen in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday. Body of Tariq Ahmad Paul was recovered today at Turkwan-gam area of the district with 'torture marks', a day after he was abducted from Pinjora village, reports said. Paul's house was damaged during Monday's encounter ● P-02

Militancy Must End: J&K DGP

Militancy has brought endless pain and suffering to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it must end, Director of General of Police Dilbagh Singh said on Wednesday. Interacting with police personnel at the Police Cargo building here, he said J&K Police is working in that direction tirelessly, along with the Army and the Central ● P-02

INCRIMINATING MATERIAL INCLUDING ARMS AND ammuniton were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes,"

US Voices Concern Over Attacks On Minorities In India

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: Voicing concern over the alleged attacks and discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities in India, an official American report said on Wednesday that the US officials have emphasised the need to ensure full protection to minorities as guaranteed under the Constitution. Mandated by the US Congress, the '2019 International Religious Freedom Report' that documents major instances of the violation of religious freedom across the world was released by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the State Department on Wednesday. India previously rejected the US religious freedom report, saying it sees no locus standi for a foreign government to pronounce on the state of its citizens' constitutionally protected rights. The India section of the report says that the US government officials underscored the importance of respecting religious freedom and promoting tolerance and mutual respect throughout the year with the ruling and opposition parties, civil society and religious freedom activists, and ● P-02

Missing Soldier's Body Found In Dam

Srinagar: The body of a soldier on Wednesday was retrieved from a dam in the border town of Uri in Baramulla district, five days after he went missing. The body of Afsar Singh of army's 5 Jatt regiment was recovered today from a dam in Boniyar area of Uri after five days of continuous searches, officials said. A resident of Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh, Singh had reportedly slipped into river Jhelum five days ago. The deceased soldier had been serving army since 2016. According to officials, CCTV footage showed that the soldier had left his rifle and cellphone on the river bank. Meanwhile, police have registered a case under relevant sections and started further investigations

LADAKH FACE-OFF India Seeks Status Quo Restoration, Troop Pullout In Border Meet

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Indian and Chinese armies on Wednesday held Major General-level talks with an aim to end the military standoff in Pangong Tso and a number of other areas in eastern Ladakh, people familiar with the development said. In the over four-and-half-hour meeting, the Indian delegation pressed for restoration of status quo ante and immediate withdrawal of sizeable number of Chinese troops from all the standoff points, they said. The Major General-level dialogue took place in a "positive atmosphere" with an aim to further ease tension between the two sides, they said. The talks came a day after the two armies began a limited disengagement in a few areas in Galwan Valley and Hot Spring in a demonstration of their intent to end the row peacefully. However, both sides remained engaged in aggressive posturing in areas such as Pangong Tso, Daulat Beg Oldie and Demchok. Military sources on Tuesday said the two armies began "disengagement" ►PAGE 02

RECENTLY THE DIPLOMATIC AND military channels of China and India held effective communication on the situation along the border and reached positive consensus,"

Both Nations Taking Steps To Ease Situation: China

China said on Wednesday that Indian and Chinese troops have started implementing the "positive consensus" reached by the senior military officials of the two countries on June 6 aimed at "easing" the situation along the borders. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson's remarks came a day after officials in New Delhi suggested that ● P-02

Who's Responsible For Standoff? Cong Asks PM

The Congress asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday how much of India's land had been occupied by the Chinese army and what he was doing to remove them from the Indian territory. Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said former Army generals and defence experts feared that around 40-60 square ● P-02

28 CRPF Personnel Among 161 Test Positive In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least 28 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, two doctors and 17 paramedics were among 161 people who tested positive for coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the number of infected people across the Union Territory to 4507. "161 new COVID-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 115 of them are from Kashmir, 46 are from Jammu," the officials said. According to the reports, 28 CRPF personnel of 90 battalion tested Covid-19 positive at the

BMO Handwara Suspended For 'Misconduct'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The health department on Wednesday suspended a senior medical officer in north Kashmir's Handwara for using 'un-parliamentary language' against public and healthcare staff. Block Medical Officer (BMO) Handwara, Abdul Majid Bhat was placed under suspension and attached with CMO office after a probe indicted him of using un-parliamentary language for public besides abusing the female staff, officials said Wednesday. His suspension ● P-02

After Poonch, Guns Roar Along LoC In Rajouri

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: After skirmishes in Poonch, India and Pakistan troops on Wednesday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in the neighbouring Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistani Army today opened fire and shelled mortars along the LoC in Rajouri district, officials said. The Indian Army effectively retaliated. "At about 0730 hours today, Pak initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms & intense shelling with mortars along LoC in Nowshera Sector", a defence spokesman said. Exchanges were on when last re-

HC Reserves Verdict On Sagar's Plea Against PSA Detention

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday reserved orders on a plea challenging detention under Public Safety Act of Ali Muhammad Sagar, General Secretary of National Conference. A bench of Justice Sindhu Sharma passed the orders after counsel from both the parties completed arguments. Earlier senior Additional Advocate General B. A. Dar produced the Sagar's detention record. The Senior AAG had already submitted counter affidavit. Sagar was represented by Advocate Shuja-ul-Haq. ● P-02

Cong Cries Foul, Seeks Probe Into Sarpanch's Killing

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress on Wednesday staged a demonstration here against the recent killing of a party sarpanch by unknown gunmen in the valley and demanded a judicial probe into the incident. Led by Pradesh Congress Committee president Ghulam Ahmad Mir, a group of Congress leaders and activists came out of the party headquarters at Residency Road and held a peaceful demonstration to protest the killing of sarpanch Ajay Pandit. Pandit (40) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in his native village of Larkipora in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday. He was the sarpanch of the Lukbawan pan-

Two Boys Who Kept 'Spirit Of Kashmir' Alive During Pandemic

Arif Nazir

Srinagar: With their eyes glued to cellphone calendar and notebook, Yasir Mukhtar (25) and Musaib Ibrahim (26) are getting close to right count. It's after seven weeks that the childhood playmates and pals from Srinagar's Hyderpora locality got the time to tally the cash receipts and the kits worth lakhs distributed since COVID-19 lockdown began in the valley. "Remember, in this turn, we aren't excluding families we reached out before the holy month of Ramadan," says Musaib while drawing a line on the notebook he's holding. "This is the final draft and it seems we've passed Rs 2.5 lakh already," replies Yasir while continuing with his calculations. Almost two months back, as the virus disrupted the social order, the two friends realized that some needy families were being unnoticed by the community-based NGOs and welfare bodies in many Srinagar pockets amid the post Article-370 siege followed by COVID-19 lockdown. At about the same time, the duo had started a WhatsApp group to track the pulse of the society amid curbs. In the same group, a person would soon express his desire to help three needy families, if identified for him. "We identified the families, shared their details and bank account numbers with the person, but he never responded," says Yasir while adding that they had to make a choice to step up again. Knowing that most people in Kashmir have been under a complete lockdown for more than 9 months, they couldn't start a campaign for public donations. "But we had to keep our promise and help those needy families," says Musaib, as he speaks of the trigger for a seven-week-long restless journey. "So we reached out to our immediate friends and relatives for contributions." The duo wasn't left disappointed, as almost everyone whom they approached for help supported their 'noble cause'. "This love and care for others is what differentiates us humans from other creatures," continues Yasir who along with Musaib was joined by four other local boys—Adil, Burhan, Aqib and Ubaid—within a week. "Islam teaches us the same community ►PAGE 02