



Maximum : 23°C  
Minum : 13°C  
Humidity : 64%

SUNSET  
Today 07:43 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:19 AM

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## WHY KASHMIR'S LEADERSHIP Has Abdicated At A Critical Time

ON May 25, senior National Conference (NC) leader Aga Ruhullah publicly expressed his resentment over his party's continued silence over the revocation of Article 370 of India's Constitution, which granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. Ruhullah was angry over an article his colleague, Tanvir Sadiq, wrote in a local daily, urging New Delhi to let the local parties hold political activities. The article sought reconsideration of new domicile rules that for the first time have thrown open the citizenship of Jammu and Kashmir to outsiders, and restoration of high-speed mobile internet – the demands that represented a drastic climbdown from the party's opposition to the revocation of the autonomy. "Revisit domicile law? Lift curbs on Internet? 'LET' political process ... run? Is that all what you are looking for in this reconciliation? If I am not reading (it) wrong, you are basically asking for 4G (internet) and THEIR 'PERMISSION' to let us start the political process?.....

.....OPINION

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## News Digest

### Javed Wani Takes Oath As HC Judge

Srinagar: The bench strength of Jammu and Kashmir High Court rose to 13 as Justice Javed Iqbal Wani took oath on Friday. Reports said that Chief Justice Gita Mittal administered the oath of office to Justice Wani at Srinagar wing of the High Court at 11 a.m. On Tuesday last, President of India appointed Justice Wani as the Judge of the common High Court to J&K and Ladakh with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office. ● P-02

### 124 More Test Covid-19 Positive InLadakh

Leh: The Union territory of Ladakh recorded the biggest spike in coronavirus cases as 124 people tested positive for the disease during the past two days, taking the total number of cases in the region to 239, officials said on Friday. While 20 fresh cases of COVID-19 were reported from the twin districts of Leh and Kargil on Thursday, 104 new cases were reported on Friday which is also the largest single day spike in the Union territory. ● P-02

### Lashkar Militant Held In Shopian: Police

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant along with arms in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Zahir Ahmad Khan was arrested by police and army's 1RR after a cordon and search operation was launched in Khujpura village of Zainpora on the basis of credible information, a police spokesperson said. He said incriminating material including, arms and ammunition were recovered from his possession. As per police records he ● P-02

### DGP Promotes 28 Sub-Inspectors

Srinagar: Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh on Friday ordered promotion of 28 Sub-Inspectors to the rank of Inspectors. These officers of J&K Police Telecom have been promoted under PHQ order Number 1719 of 2020, an official spokesperson said.

Among the Sis promoted include, Gurpreet Singh, Shivender Singh, Avineet Sharma, Saadut Ali, Sunny Sharma, Ankush Sharma, AadilShafinNajar, HarinderJeet Singh, Karamdeep Singh, NaseerHussain, Samerejeet ● P-02

### JP Sharma Appointed VC SKUAST

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday appointed Dr. J.P. Sharma as Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu. Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu, who is also the Chancellor of SKUAST, ordered the appointment. Dr. Sharma, who was serving as Joint Director (Ext.) ICAR, New Delhi has been appointed as VC SKUAST, Jammu, under section 25(1) of the Sher-e-Kashmir ● P-02

## High Level Meet Reviews Military Preparedness In Ladakh



Soldiers patrolling an area in the mountainous Ladakh Union Territory. File Photo, AbidBhat

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reviewed India's overall military preparedness in eastern Ladakh and several other areas along the Line of Actual Control in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh even as Chinese and Indian armies

held another round of Major General-level talks on the current border standoff, official sources said.

The defence minister was given a detailed account on the overall situation in eastern Ladakh by Army Chief Gen MM Naravane at a high-level meeting which was also attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat,

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, they said.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in an over five-week standoff in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie. The two sides have deployed additional troops along the LAC in North Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh. ● PAGE 02

**IN THE OVER FOUR-AND-HALF-HOUR DIALOGUE,** the Indian delegation pressed for total restoration of status quo ante and immediate withdrawal of thousands of Chinese troops from the areas which India considers on its side of the LAC, the sources said.

## Labourers Rushed In To Finish Strategic Road

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As the two nuclear countries remain locked in a tense stand-off, government is rushing labourers from Jharkhand to speed up construction work on the contentious Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO),

the all-weather road connecting Leh city to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, India Today reported Friday.

According to the report, China wants India to stop construction on the 255-km-long Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road. However, India

has conveyed to China that the road construction activity in Ladakh is in Indian territory and will continue.

The 255-km DSDO road, the report says is the latest flash-point between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. This road connects Leh to the ● PAGE 02

## Cop Suspended For Delaying Chargesheet In Kashmiri Students Sedition Case

Agencies

KARNATAKA: A week after three students from Jammu and Kashmir, who were arrested on charges of sedition in Hubballi in Karnataka, were released on bail, the investigating officer in the case was suspended for a delay in filing the chargesheet against them.

Jackson D'Souza, the police inspector of Hubballi Rural police station, was suspended on Thursday, just days after the three students were released on bail. He cited the lockdown over the coronavirus outbreak for the failure to

file a chargesheet in the case.

Inspector-General of Police (Northern Range) Raghavendra Suhas issued the suspension orders after an enquiry was conducted probing the failure to file a chargesheet in the case.

The lawyers representing the student filed a bail petition in a magistrate court in Hubballi on June 1 but the chargesheet in the case was filed only on June 4. The lawyers stated that there is a stipulated time period in which the chargesheet has to be filed (60-90 days), and on the 91st day, the accused is entitled to bail. ● PAGE 02

## Rajouri Man Dies Of Covid-19, J&K Toll 53

SRINAGAR- A 65-year-old man from Rajouri district, who had tested positive for Covid-19, died at a hospital in Jammu on Friday, taking the number of coronavirus-related fatalities in Jammu and Kashmir to 53, officials said.

"A Covid-19 positive patient (65) from Salsui village of Rajouri's Kalakote Tehsil passed away today morning at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu," the officials said.

They said the sexagenarian man was admitted to the hospital on June 1 with head injuries after falling off from stairs. "He was shifted to isolation ward of the hospital after testing positive for Covid-19 on June 2," they added. With fresh fatality, the death toll due to the pathogen ● P-02

## LoC Flare-Up: Woman Killed, Two Injured In Uri

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A woman was killed and two other people injured on Friday as India and Pakistan troops traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of Baramulla district prompting district authorities to evacuate the villagers towards the safer places.

48-year-old Akhter Begum, wife of Zahoor Ahmad Chichi was killed after a shell landed near her house in Batgram village during cross-LoC shelling on Friday afternoon, Sub-District

Magistrate (SDM) Uri Riyaz Ahmad Malik told Kashmir Observer. Two more people, including a woman identified as Parveena Begum, wife of Shabir Ahmad Sheikh were injured in similar

circumstances in Nambra village of the border town.

He said that the injured people have been removed to the hospital for treatment, while the villagers have been ● PAGE 02

### Cross-LoC Shelling Rattles Poonch

India and Pakistan troops continued trading fire for the fifth consecutive day Friday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, a day after a soldier was killed and a civilian hurt in Pakistan shelling in Rajouri district. Pakistani troops shelled forward posts and villages along the LoC in two sectors of Poonch in violation of the ceasefire agreement, officials said.

There have been unprovoked cross-border firing by ● P-02

## Bilal Lone Issues Statement, Wants End To 'Uncertainty'

SRINAGAR: Calling for intervention of international community to end "uncertainty and repression" in Kashmir, senior Hurriyat Conference (M) leader Bilal Ghani Lone on Friday demanded immediate release of the conglomerate's chairman and other prisoners detained since August 5, last year.

In a statement issued to the media, the Hurriyat executive member expressed grief over the loss of lives of young boys in encounters and border skirmishes between the two ● P-02

## Attacks On Professionals : J&K HC Gives MHA 'Last Opportunity'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has given "last opportunity" to Ministry of Home Affairs to submit a report regarding the details about the attacks on professionals including media persons, bankers, advocates, chartered accountants.

The details sought also include whether these professionals are seeking enactment of a separate legislation like healthcare workers.

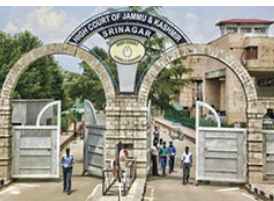
Hearing a batch of Public Interest Litigations including one on its own motion, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Ra-

jesh Oswal said that the court will compelled to take "strict view" in the matter if the report was not filed by June 25.

The directions followed submissions by Assistant Solicitor General of India Vishal Sharma that despite intimation, he has not received any response from the Ministry.

"We give him one last opportunity to file his response in terms of our previous orders failing which we will be compelled to take strict view in the matter," the court said.

The court had May 20 sought the report after ASGI Vishal Sharma submitted that MHA does not ● PAGE 02



## When Bus Became Basket: Kashmiri Driver's Survival Ride In Lockdown

Irfan Dar

SRINAGAR: Standing tall and tough near Srinagar's bunkered Barabarshah bridge, Zahoor Ahmad, 47, was struggling to deal with the growing public curiosity towards his street-side unconventional cart on a sunny summer day.

The bus he used to drive till recent past to ferry passengers over the bridge has not only come to a grinding halt, but also become a fruit cart to passersby's wonder and awe.

"What else you would do when your kids are on the verge of starvation in a place like Kashmir, where lockdowns are jamming our wheel," Zahoor told Kashmir Observer in what appeared to be

a reluctant talk of a thoughtful headman who has hit the road for the sake of his family.

"For the fear of this corona, we can't let our kids die of hunger in our homes!"

Zahoor's tribe is one of the worst lockdown hit communities in Kashmir. Most of them are out of work since August 5, when the former state was plunged into the communication crisis. The subsequent relaxation period saw the driver community carefully going about their business usual.

In order to put food on the table of their families, these drivers are now taking loans, as per Zahoor, and increasingly coming out of their homes with fruit and vegetable carts. Some have also



become street-side grocers and hawkers in lockdown.

The driver disparity remains despite official and non-official wel-

fare bodies claiming to reach out with a helping hand to those who live hand to mouth in the valley.

For Zahoor, the tipping point

came a fortnight ago—when he couldn't take his children's struggle for basic food anymore.

"Every time I looked at their anxious faces, it would kill me," Zahoor said in a broken voice. "My three daughters and a son are my pride. I would do anything for them. I could've come earlier like last year, but the fear of this virus stopped me."

After political status and equations were altered in Kashmir last summer, Zahoor came out with a mobile tea stall and started selling steamy cups for survival outside the guarded gates of Srinagar's Central Jail.

Among his customers would be the distraught family members of the inmates — who ● PAGE 02