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### News Digest

#### Twin Grenade Attacks In Shopian

SRINAGAR- Suspected militants carried out two grenade attacks on government forces in South Kashmir's Shopian district on Wednesday. A senior Police officer said that militants lobbed grenade in Bonbazar area of the south Kashmir township this morning followed by firing on forces, however in this incident no loss of life or injury has been reported. ● P-02

#### Ac Creates 3 More Secretary Posts

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu, accorded sanction to the creation of three posts of Secretary to the Government in the Super Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service. The creation of these posts will be helpful in assigning ● P-02

#### Govt Notifies Rules For Domiciles Entry

SRINAGAR: The Government has asked all the authorities competent to issue Domicile Certificates in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020, to enter the details of all such Domicile Certificates which are issued offline into the application ● P-02

#### CISF Takes Over Leh Airport Security

Leh: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Wednesday took over the security of the Leh airport, the country's highest-altitude commercial aerodrome in the newly created Union Territory of Ladakh. A contingent of 185 CISF personnel will provide round-the-clock, armed security to the strategic and "hypersensitive" ● P-02

#### 2 Teens Killed In Hit-And-Run Accident

Srinagar: Two teenage girls were killed in a hit-and-run accident in Pampore town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, official sources said Wednesday. Three teenage girls identified as Nazila, Tabin Nazir and Nadiya Rafiq were walking on a road in Tulbagh area of Pampore on Tuesday evening when a speedy vehicle (JK13F-0346) mowed them ● P-02

#### Raj Bhavan Cancels 'At Home' On Aug 15

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu will not host 'At Home' function on August 15 at the Raj Bhavan this year in view of coronavirus pandemic. In a statement issued here, an official spokesperson said that 'At Home' function on August 15 hosted by the Raj Bhavan, Srinagar, as per past practice, stands cancelled. "The decision was taken after ● P-02

#### Minor Drowns In River Jhelum

Srinagar: A minor boy on Wednesday drowned in river Jhelum in the border town of Uri in Baramulla district. 10-year-old Mohammad Momen of Sillikote was taking a bath in river Jhelum near his relative's house in Gingal area on Wednesday afternoon when he was swept away by the gushing waters, officials said. SHO Uri Mohammad Ashraf said that the rescue operation has ● P-02

### Lt Governor GC Murmu Resigns



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday tendered his resignation after nine months as the head of administration of the Union Territory. However there was no official word on the development till late on Wednesday.

According to sources, he could be the next Comptroller and Auditor General of India after Rajesh Mehreshi retires this week.

While reports said Murmu has sent his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind, there was no confirmation whether it has been accepted or rejected.

Meanwhile speculations are rife that the outgoing CAG Rajiv Mehreshi is likely to replace Murmu as new LG of Jammu and Kashmir. Mehreshi is considered to be close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has also dealt with ● P-02

### GOC Briefs LG On Kashmir Situation

SRINAGAR: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Northern Command, Lt Gen Y K Joshi on Wednesday briefed Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu about the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The LG and Lt Gen Joshi discussed about various important issues pertaining to the prevailing security scenario and the overall security management in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said. "Lt Gen Y K Joshi briefed the LG about the security situation in the forward areas and hinterland of J&K and the successful anti-militancy operations being conducted by the Army," he said. Murmu, he said stressed on the high importance for ● P-02

### CRPF Man, 10 More Die Of Covid-19 In J&K

SRINAGAR: A Paramilitary CRPF man and ten others on Wednesday died of Covid-19 in Jammu and Kashmir, raising the number of fatalities in the Union Territory to 428 since the pandemic breakout, officials said.

Among them, three deaths were reported from Srinagar, two each from Anantnag and Budgam including a CRPF trooper besides one each from Bandipora, Kupwara, Baramulla and Jammu division's Udhampur district. With these deaths, the toll due to the virus in Kashmir stands at—397 and 31 in Jammu. Official sources said a 43-year-old woman from Ramnagar Udhampur died at ASCOMS (Batra) hospital. "She was a cancer patient and tested positive for the novel coronavirus subsequently,"

Regarding the CRPF trooper, they said, he belonged to 176 battalion. He had tested covid-19 negative on July 25 but his X-ray showed bilateral lower pneumonia. He was shifted first to BSF hospital and later to SKIMS Soura where his Covid-19 test was found positive. "He succumbed due to cardiac arrest," official sources said. They said that a 50-year-old woman from Kupwara died this

### Another August 5 & People In Kashmir Remain Locked Indoors

SRINAGAR- Curfew-like restrictions remained enforced across Kashmir on Wednesday, the first anniversary of revocation of semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Police and CRPF personnel were deployed in strength all across the Valley, especially Srinagar city and major towns, to keep a lid on any form of protests, even as no one had called for them.

The officials said police vehicles, fitted with public address system, went around localities soon after day break announcing imposition of strict restrictions for combating COVID-19 spread. "There is a ban on assembly of more than three persons and people are requested not to violate the law and stay indoors," the police said.

Barricades have been set up at hundreds of places in the valley including Srinagar city to regulate movement of essential services and emergencies, while concertina wires have been laid to block some parts of the roads, the officials said.

Authorities in Srinagar had on Monday announced that curfew will be imposed in Srinagar city "in view of inputs about violent protests endangering public life and property as the separatist and Pakistan-sponsored groups were planning to observe 5 August as a Black Day." However, the order imposing curfew was suddenly ● P-02



#### Transformation Underway In J&K, Ladakh: Jaishankar

A transformation is underway in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday on the first anniversary of the Centre's decision to revoke the special status of the region. Taking to Twitter, Jaishankar highlighted application ● P-02

#### Stop Clampdown In Kashmir: Amnesty

Asking government of India to "urgently stop the protracted clampdown" in Jammu and Kashmir, prominent human rights watchdog Amnesty International on Wednesday demanded release of all political leaders, journalists and activists, besides restoration of high speed internet ● P-02

#### Press Freedom Violations Unworthy Of A Democracy: RSF

Claiming that the working has been "hell" for journalists in Kashmir for the past year, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on Wednesday slammed government of India over its alleged press freedom violations in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. "Working has been hell for ● P-02

### We Closely Follow Situation In Kashmir: China Says India's Unilateral Move In Kashmir 'Illegal, Invalid'

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: China on Wednesday hoped that India and Pakistan can "properly" handle their differences through dialogue, improve relations and jointly safeguard peace, stability and development of both the countries and the wider region. Responding to a question raised by a Pakistani correspon-

#### Kashmir Annexation Does Not Contribute To Peace: Turkey

The annexation of Jammu and Kashmir does not contribute to peace and stability in the region, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday on the occasion of the first anniversary of India's decision of revoking the seven-decade-long semi-autonomous status of the Himalayan ● P-02

dent on the completion of one-year of the revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into ● P-02

### PM Attends Ram Temple 'Bhoomi Pujan' Wait Of Centuries Has Ended: Modi

Press Trust Of India

AYODHYA- The wait of centuries has ended, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after performing the groundbreaking ceremony here for a temple at the spot where many devout Hindus believe Lord Ram was born.

Across the country, people remained glued to their television sets as Modi performed rituals at the Ram Janmabhoomi, the site of a bitter Hindu-Muslim conflict that lasted decades before being settled by the Supreme Court last year.

Beginning his speech with Jai Shya Ram, the prime minister told the gathering that a grand temple will now be built for Ram Lalla, the infant Ram, who had been living in a temporary tent for years. Many people made sacrifices for the Ram temple. I pay my respects to all of them, the prime minister said in the speech that followed the laying of



the foundation for the Ram temple. He also released a postage stamp to mark the event, an occasion which is also being seen as an ideological victory of the BJP over its rivals. Some of the leaders of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, ● P-02

A PUJA HAS BEEN GOING ON NON-stop for three days. The 'Ram darbar' has been decorated. A replica of the 'shila' (foundation stone) has been prepared and it will be sent to Ayodhya along with other material."

### Govt Curbs Foil NC Meet

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- A meeting of some political parties called by Jammu and Kashmir's veteran leader Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday to discuss the situation arising out of the abrogation of Article 370 provisions a year ago could not be held due to strict restrictions imposed by authorities, his National Conference said. Abdullah had invited leaders of several political parties to his residence on Gupkar Road to chalk out a joint political strategy for restoration of the special status through democratic means.

National Conference MP from Anantnag in south Kashmir Hassan Masoodi and PDP's Rajya Sabha member Fayaz Mir were turned away from Gupkar Road citing restrictions imposed by the authorities due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the district, NC leaders said. CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, NC MP from Baramulla in north Kashmir Akbar Lone and Abdullah's nephew Muzaffar Shah, who heads the ● P-02

#### BJP Members Celebrate, Hoist Tricolour

The BJP's Kashmir unit on Wednesday celebrated the first anniversary of the revocation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir and accused those protesting the constitutional changes of being sympathisers of the ISIS. BJP ● P-02

restrictions imposed by the authorities due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the district, NC leaders said. CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, NC MP from Baramulla in north Kashmir Akbar Lone and Abdullah's nephew Muzaffar Shah, who heads the ● P-02

### 25,000 Non-Local Workers Return To J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A total of 25,000 non-Kashmiri migrant workers, out of the 40,000, who had left Jammu and Kashmir after the coronavirus outbreak, have returned to the Union Territory prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As estimated, 40,000 non-Kashmiri migrant workers were engaged in different works in the Union Territory prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the nationwide lockdown for the first time, migrant workers staying in different parts of the country became desperate to leave for their native places.

Due to the non-availability of transportation at that time, many of them had started returning home on foot, creating a humanitarian crisis. Later, the central government started 'Shramik Special' ● P-02

### We Want People To Become Their Own 'Bhagyavidhaata': LG

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration will focus on strengthening and empowering panchayati raj institutions in the coming days to address issues of misgovernance and corruption, Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has said.

Effective implementation of the three-tier panchayati raj system will help "mainstreaming of the public participation" in the decision-making process and development of the Union Territory, he said.

"The implementation of panchayati raj system is our biggest target now. We are going to do it. It is our mission. Empowering this setup is our biggest dream. We will ensure its implementation," Murmu told PTL ● P-02

Auqib Javeed

G HULAM HASSAN who held the grand old party National Conference's fort during Kashmir's tumultuous years couldn't fathom the last summer's summon from a nearby police station in downtown Srinagar. Even as the top party leaders were already detained, he thought it was out of question to hound those who always risked their lives to prepare the political turf for New Delhi in Kashmir. "And yet," Hassan recalls, a year after the summon, "I was told that I'm no longer a free man for the sake of law and order in Kashmir." As votaries of Kashmir's special status, Hassan's tribe was jailed and released only after they "signed a bond of silence." "We've been flag-bearers of the idea of India in Kashmir and for

## Article 370: A Year On, Mess In Kashmir's Mainstream

that, we've faced social boycott, assassination bids and lost our colleagues to militant gun," the emotive NC leader says. "All those sacrifices, however, were rendered useless last year when we were treated as separatists."

These political detentions took place after New Delhi revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bi-furcated the erstwhile state into two union territories—Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on 5 August, 2019. The decision was a huge setback for local politicians, who from the years were making Article 370 as their 'political bible'. Article 370 and 35-A had granted semi-autonomous status to J&K, allowing a separate constitution and



state flag, the power to legislate in all matters except finance, defence, foreign affairs and communications; and guarantee property rights to residents. Following their removal, the government imposed military clampdown for over 4 months. The region was completely cut-off from the

outside world—mobile phones, internet and other communications were blocked. Several political leaders, separatists and youth across the erstwhile state were arrested. Many mainstream political leaders were detained in Hotel Centaur, which was later declared as a sub-jail. Although many politicians have been released since then, over a dozen leaders are still under house detention, including the former BJP ally and ex-chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti. As Hassan terms it, the crack-down on Delhi's traditional allies in the region has "dented the image of the mainstream politics" in J&K. "The BJP government's posturing is telling," Hassan says. "They

no longer need us anytime soon. If they can jail PM Modi's 'younger brother', Sajjad Lone, and release him from house detention just 5 days before first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, then one can only imagine about others." **Political Stepney** Analysts and political commentators in Kashmir believe that the ruling BJP government wants to run Kashmir from New Delhi only. Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a political analyst and law professor, believes that New Delhi has used the "so called mainstream leadership" in J&K as "Stepney"—only needed when its use arises. "It seems they [BJP] have felt that the local mainstream camp doesn't come up with their expectations despite nurturing and pampering them for decades," Prof Hussain told Kashmir Observer. "These leaders are being punished as ● P-02