



Maximum : 25°C  
Minimum : 17°C  
Humidity : 81%

SUNSET Today 06:52 PM  
SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:07 AM

# OBSERVER

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## News Digest

### Shooting Stones Disrupt Highway Traffic

Srinagar: The traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with outside world, continues to be disrupted amid shooting stones near Panthyal in Ramban district on Thursday. A senior traffic police officer said that traffic movement "continues" to be disrupted on the thoroughfare due to "intermittent shooting" stones at Panthyal. The traffic was disturbed since early morning due to the shooting stones, mainly at Panthyal. As per officials only LMVs were to be allowed from Srinagar to Jammu today. However, HMVs were to be allowed from Udhampur towards Srinagar, as per the notification by the traffic department.

### Man Gets 1 Year Jail For Cheque Bounce

Srinagar: A local court has awarded one-year simple imprisonment to a man in a cheque-bounce case. Convicting the accused for the commission of offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instrument Act, Sub-Judge Forest Magistrate Srinagar also directed the accused to pay a compensation of Rs 6 lakh to the complainant and in case default of payment of fine amount, the accused shall further undergo the simple imprisonment of one year. Sub-Judge Forest Magistrate Srinagar, Manoj Parihar according to news agency KNT directed police to lodge the convicted fellow at District Jail Srinagar.

In a complaint, Muhammad Shareef Yatoo of Ramban district has appealed general public to help them in tracing their missing son, Mohsin Amin Bhat (19) has been missing since 29 August. "His ailing mother is in utter shock and is bed ridden since then. Also, the condition of his brother who is already suffering from multiple ailments has been hospitalized and seems unable to bear the shock of this sudden disappearance," Muhammad Amin the father of the missing youth said. The family appealed their son to return home for sake of his ailing mother and brother.

### Srinagar Man Untraceable From 3 Days

Pulwama: A family from Churso area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district has appealed general public to help them in tracing their missing son, Mohsin Amin Bhat (19) has been missing since 29 August. "His ailing mother is in utter shock and is bed ridden since then. Also, the condition of his brother who is already suffering from multiple ailments has been hospitalized and seems unable to bear the shock of this sudden disappearance," Muhammad Amin the father of the missing youth said. The family appealed their son to return home for sake of his ailing mother and brother.

### Shepherd Drowns In Bandipore Nallah

Bandipora: A shepherd drowned here in North Kashmir's Bandipora district, while rearing cattle on the bank of Zalwan Nallah. Police sources said that a shepherd was rearing cattle when he slipped into Zalwan Nallah and got drowned. Efforts are on to retrieve his body, sources added. The shepherd has been identified as Bagh Hussain Khatana son of Mukhna Khatana, a resident of Tanghat Bonakoot area of Bandipora district.

## Army Chief in Ladakh, IAF Chief in Arunachal as LAC Tension Heats Up

General Naravane Lands In Ladakh To Review Operational Preparedness

NEW DELHI: With Line of Actual Control in Ladakh on a knife edge following latest flare up, Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane landed in Ladakh on a two-day visit Thursday to review the latest operational situation. The military tensions with China flared up after Indian soldiers occupied heights on the southern bank of Pangong Tso under Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh last week.

In the meanwhile Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria travelled to the eastern sectors of the LAC for the ground assessment of the Chinese threats on the other front. General Naravane not only carried out a comprehensive review of the security situation overseeing the deployment of the troops but also visited the Chushul sector near the southern banks of the Pangong lake where Indian troops have occupied the heights in the latest move.

Air Chief, on the other hand,



### China Deploys Militia Squads In Eastern Ladakh

China has deployed five militia squads for rapid response at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh. It has done so to "consolidate the border" and "stabilise Tibet region", IANS quoting sources reported on Thursday.

"Militia is basically a reserve force of the Chinese's" P-02

reviewed the border situation from the airbases in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and asked the air force to maintain a high level of alert considering the evolving

situation in eastern Ladakh. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava earlier said the Indian Army has strengthened its presence in at

### Gen Rawat Issues Warning To Pakistan

India's armed forces are capable of handling aggressive Chinese actions in "best suitable ways", Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat said on Thursday. His remarks came against the backdrop of China's attempts to change the status quo in certain areas in eastern Ladakh. In an interactive session at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, Gen Rawat said India's policy of engagement, P-02

least three strategic heights in the southern bank of Pangong lake. Some "readjustments" in deployment of troops were also carried out on the P-02

**SEVERAL COMPANIES OF THE SSB HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO MOVE towards the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian Army started deploying its troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since last night. Additional troops are being brought from other parts of Kashmir as well.**

## LOAN MORATORIUM

### SC Breather For Distressed Borrowers

Says Accounts Not Declared NPA As On Aug 31 Not To Be Declared NPA For Further Two Months

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court of India on Thursday passed an interim order saying that the accounts not declared as non-performing asset (NPA) as on 31 August shall not be declared as NPAs till further notice.

"Accounts not declared NPA as on August 31 not to be declared NPA for two months," the court directed. It said it will hear the matter again on September 10.

Considering the economic impact of the lockdown imposed to fight the coronavirus crisis, the RBI had on March 27 said that banks would be allowed to grant a moratorium of three months on payment of all installments due between March 1 and May 31. On May 23, it said that banks can extend the moratorium until August 31. However, the RBI had said it would be imprudent to go for a forced waiver of interest, risking the financial via-

bility of the banks it was mandated to regulate and putting the interests of the depositors in jeopardy.

The case was heard by a bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah. Bhushan said in his order that banks should take no action against borrowers that is coercive.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre and the RBI, said that the steps needed to be taken by the authorities had to take note of three key points: the reduction of immediate pressure of payment of installments, the restructuring of stressed assets.

Mehta added that the idea of a loan moratorium was to defer repayment with the aim of easing the financial burden caused by the coronavirus and not to waive-off any interest. "The effort is that those who are affected by Covid and facing distress get the benefit and those who are defaulters are not able to take benefit," he told the top court. The solicitor general added that the coronavirus had a different impact on every sector.

Bhushan told Mehta that the main grievance of the petitioners was that they had not P-02

**ACCOUNTS NOT DECLARED NPA AS ON August 31 not to be declared NPA for two months," the court directed. It said it will hear the matter again on September 10.**

### J&K Police Files Case After 'Hit List' Appears On Social Media

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday said an FIR has been registered after a list was posted on social media containing names of political workers and 'informers', warning them of severe consequences.

Giving details a police statement said, on 29th August and 2nd of September 2020, militant leaders "acting under instruction from across, conspired with some of their over-ground associates and other anti social elements" and prepared hit lists containing names and details of civilians, activists, political workers and security force personnel.

Such hit lists were uploaded and with the help of cyber OGWs and that they were circulated widely to instil a sense of fear among the civilians and

also pass a direction to other militants operating elsewhere and their associates to target these persons.

"Separately, but connected, a fake image depicting a young boy joining the militant ranks too was created and uploaded to spread negativity and also harm the boy variously," the statement reads.

It further said the police has taken cognizance of the matter and an FIR has been registered and a full-fledged criminal investigation backed by technical teams has been initiated.

Efforts, he said, are afoot to identify both the original offenders who created the content as well as others who are allowing their connections and accounts to maintain the communication systems of the militant networks.

"It is to be borne in mind that in the event of harm coming P-02

## J&K Reports Biggest Single-Day Spike Of 1079 In Covid-19 Cases,

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 1079 new COVID-19 cases, the highest single-day count so far, taking its tally to 39943.

Among the cases 622 were reported from Jammu division and 457 from Kashmir valley.

Giving district-wise break, they said, Srinagar reported 139, Baramulla 14, Pulwama 33, Budgam 63, Anantnag 27, Bandipora 49, Kupwara 30, Kulgam 17, Shopian 28, Ganderbal 57, Jammu 484, Rajouri 15,

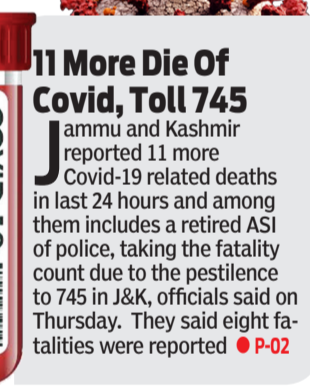
Kathua 21, Udhampur 16, Samba 26, Ramban 6, Doda 14, Poonch 8, Reasi 10 and Kishtwar 22.

A number of these cases in Kashmir were confirmed at CD and SKIMS laboratories.

The CD cases include male (32) from Indra Nagar, male (28) from Parimpora, male (NA) from HMT Srg, male (50) from Lal Bazar, male (25) from Matipora, female (35) from Sindoo Shirmal, male (27) from Uplona Camp, male (37) from Soura Srg, female (NA) from Chattabal

### 11 More Die Of Covid, Toll 745

Jammu and Kashmir reported 11 more Covid-19 related deaths in last 24 hours and among them includes a retired ASI of police, taking the fatality count due to the pestilence to 745 in J&K, officials said on Thursday. They said eight fatalities were reported P-02



Srg, male (33) from Srinagar, two males (40, 37) and three females (60, 39, 06) from P-02

### HC Calls For Urgent Halt On Private Practice By Govt Doctors

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has called for "urgent halt" to the private practice by the doctors of government hospitals and directed the administration to seriously "examine" it.

Hearing an application, a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta ordered it while observing that "judicial notice" can be taken of the fact that employment opportunities in J&K are by far extremely few and large numbers of people are without financial resources while health facilities are either not available or insufficient.

The court passed the directions and made the observations after the counsel for the applicant said that the working of the Government Dental College Srinagar, and Associated Hospitals of P-02

## LG Tours Budgam, Pays Obeisance At Charar-e-Sharif

Directs Officers To Ensure Seamless Issuance Of Domicile Certificates

SRINAGAR: 'Inclusive socio-economic development of all the districts across J&K is the top priority of the government', Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his visit to district Budgam today. He also visited Charar-e-Sharif and paid obeisance at the shrine of Sheikh Nooruddin Wali.

LG promised efficient administration and doorstep delivery of public services during his day-long visit to the district.

The visit was the latest in a series of continuous district and P-02



### Probe Delay in Building Char Khanqah: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday ordered an inquiry into the delay in construction of a mosque at the shrine of revered Kashmiri Sufi saint Nooruddin Wali at Charar-e-Sharif. "The Lt Governor has ordered a comprehensive enquiry to ascertain the reasons for delay in construction of Khanqah (Mosque) at Charar-i-Sharif and also the unwarranted delay in execution of developmental works in the holy Hazratbal P-02

## First PDP Meeting In 13 Months Disallowed

Freedom Of Political Leaders Is As Fake As Narrative Of Normalcy: PDP

SRINAGAR: Authorities Thursday barred Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders from attending a party meeting here. PDP meeting was scheduled to be held at party headquarters on The Bund, Srinagar but hours before the scheduled meeting, police informed senior PDP leaders that they were not allowed to venture out of their houses.

Several PDP leaders including former minister Nayeem Akhtar posted videos on Twitter showing how policemen on their gates stopped them from venturing out from their houses. Iltija Mufti who operates the twit-

### PDP's Foiled Meet Exposes Govt: CPI (M)

While condemning the police action to disallow PDP leaders from moving out of their houses for a party meeting CPI(M) Thursday said it has once again exposed the hollow claims of the BJP government about normalcy in Kashmir. In a statement, CPI (M) spokesman said P-02

ter handle of her mother Mehbooba Mufti tweeted that P-02

## In FOCUS

# Beyond Beijing's Advances, Kashmir In South Asia's Shifting Sands

Swati Joshi

AS military convoys are once again rumbling on Srinagar-Leh highway, the native voices are amplifying their concern on the Dragon's sudden cravings for the 'godforsaken land' known for its strategic significance. Ladakh's ex-lawmaker, Deldan Namgyal, believes that the redrawn political map of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh post the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A has "provoked China to intensify its incursions". "The recent stand-off between

the China's PLA and Indian Army is very threatening and the situation is very serious in the area," the Ladakhi politician said, while holding New Delhi responsible for "failing to keep good diplomatic ties" with the neighbouring country.

Even experts believe that the last summer's unilateral step has further aggravated the complex strategic environment of South Asia, the region believed to be the most militarized zone on the planet where two nuclear opponents, India and Pakistan, are competing for an arms race.

Kashmir being a pending political dispute in the region, many believe, is

only pitting nuke-armoured nations against each other and threatening the peace of the entire South Asia.

### Stance of 'Iron Brothers'

With the scrapping of semi autonomous status of the region partly ruled by New Delhi, Islamabad and Beijing, the already strong relations between the two "all-weather friends" and "iron brothers"—Pakistan and China—have apparently become sturdier.

Apart from joint-military drills, the two countries have accelerated progress on the ambitious and strategically-significant China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) since last year.



After slashing the funding for CPEC projects by 60 percent in its budget, Islamabad on August 8, 2019—three days after the abrogation of Article

370—announced plans to set up a body to accelerate projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Islamabad also approved the framework of Gwadar Special Economic District and the formation of the National Coastal Development Authority, which would construct tourist resorts near Gwadar. A centerpiece of the Gwadar city port is operated by a Chinese company.

"Following CPEC, China is clearly desiring a greater role in Kashmir," Manoj Kewalramani, a policy analyst at Chinese Studies at the Takshashila Institution, Bangalore, told Kashmir Observer.

"It's also evident by the 2019 August meetings of Chinese foreign minister with his Indian and Pakistani counterparts."

### Kashmir in South Asia

As a self-avowed "Ambassador of Kashmir", Prime Minister Imran Khan has already put Kashmir issue in front of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARC) Nations Coronavirus Conference in March this year.

And since Kashmir dispute is the pivotal point of Indo-Pak rivalry which, according to researcher Dr. Syed Shahbaz Hussain, has further aggravated the complex strategic environment of South Asia, Islamabad is counting on Beijing to press New Delhi over the Kashmir issue. And it seemed to be P-02