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News Digest

Al-Badr Militant, 2 Aides Held: Police

Srinagar: Government forces have busted a module of Al-Badr militant outfit by arresting a militant and his two associates in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Friday. The Al-Badr module, involved in grenade throwing incidents at Police Post Warpora in Sopore area of the north Kashmir district, was busted by arresting an uncategorized militant of the outfit, a police official said. He said the militant was identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Pandith, a resident of Bunpora Dangerpora. **● P-02**

Mild Tremor Felt In J&K

Srinagar: An earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale occurred on Friday in Jammu and Kashmir with its epicentre at the India-Pakistan border region, the Met said. The tremors were felt at 1.53 a.m. at 33.03 degrees north and 73.63 degrees east at a depth of 10 km inside the earth. Kashmir is situated in a highly vulnerable seismological region. Earthquakes have wrought havoc in Kashmir in the past. A temblor measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale occurred in the valley in October 8, 2005 in which over 80,000 people were killed on. **● P-02**

CBI Arrests BCAS Officer With Bribe

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday arrested an Assistant Director, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) Jammu and Kashmir, for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs. five thousand from a complainant. According to a statement, a CBI spokesperson said that a case was registered on a complaint against an Assistant Director, BCAS under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) on the allegations of demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 for granting entry passes to the employees of the complainant who were **● P-02**

Youth Falls From Moving Tractor, Dies

Srinagar: A youth on Friday was killed after he fell from a moving tractor in Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 20-year-old Mehraj Ahmed Mir of Potshai fell off from the trolley attached to the tractor driven by his brother near Gungboub, some one kilometer from their house, officials said. Mir was shifted to Sub District Hospital Sogam where doctors declared him brought dead on the arrival. A police officer told news agency GNS that a case has been registered in connection with the incident.

Cash Looted From Mosque, Shrine

Srinagar: Unidentified burglars struck a mosque and a shrine in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and decamped with cash, reports said Friday. The burglars broke open the shrine of Ziyarat-e-Shiekh Jamal Sahib at Sehpora and a Jamia Masjid at Wajil Mominabad in Ganderbal on Thursday night and looted the cash inside the chests, news agency KNT reported Friday. The report said that the matter came to light few villagers learned about the loot and called up police. On being informed, police reached the spot and started an investigation into the **● P-02**

China Sets Up Military Base At Pangong Lake, Cutting Off Indian Army

Agencies

NEW DELHI: China has set up a military base near Finger 5, in the north bank of Pangong Lake, completely cutting off the Indian Army.

The north bank of the lake is divided into 8 Fingers (fingers are mountain spurs jutting into a lake in military parlance) that are contested by both sides.

India claims the Line of Actual Control at Finger 8 and had been holding on to area till Finger 4 but in a clear alteration of status quo, the Chinese have been camping at Finger 4 and have set up fortifications between Finger 5 and 8.

Two months ago, Indian intelligence agencies flagged that cranes, concrete mixture trucks, and other building construction machineries were spotted near Finger 5. They had also flagged that China is making military barracks and offices. Sources said China has stationed hundreds of thousands of troops as well materials at these bases. They have placed tanks, artillery guns and other military armaments at Finger 5.

At Finger 8, troops from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) have set up barracks and constructed underground tunnels. They have set up huge military infrastructure at Finger 8.

Till last year, there was no military infrastructure work carried out in these disputed areas and Indian Army troops used to carry out patrols. There have been regular face-offs between the two armies between Finger 4 and Finger 8, a distance of eight kilometres, on the northern bank of the lake.

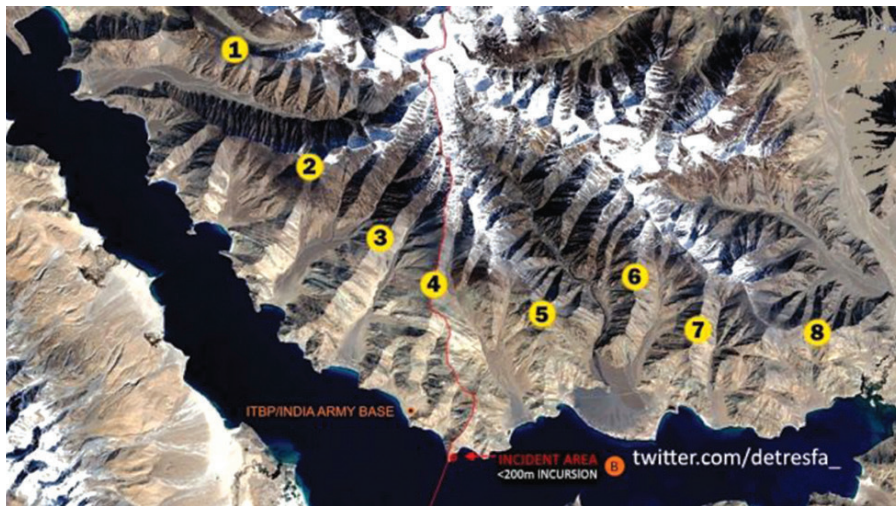
Indian Army Spokesperson Colonel Aman Anand was unavailable for comments.

Now, the Indian Army is unable to move ahead of Finger 4 as PLA troops have occupied some heights there.

As a precautionary measure, Indian troops have occupied some heights overlooking the positions occupied by the PLA.

The movement of Indian Army troops beyond Finger 4 is completely cut off, sources said, owing to provocative Chinese military movements.

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff **»PAGE 02**



India Ready For Any Eventuality: Rawat Tells MPs

As tensions between the India and China continues to simmer in Ladakh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Friday told the Parliament's Standing Committee on Defence that Indian Armed forces were ready for any eventuality. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence is chaired by BJP leader Jai Oram. Members who attended the meeting on Friday included Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. This is probably the first time Rahul Gandhi is attending this committee's meeting since being nominated to the panel last year after Lok Sabha elections. Rawat told the committee that the armed forces had taken adequate steps and measures to thwart any attempt **● P-02**



DM Holds Meet With NSA, Top Military Brass

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and top military brass on Friday deliberated on the five-point agreement reached between India and China on de-escalating tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, government sources said. The deliberation was attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria and Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh among others, they said. The meeting also carried out a comprehensive review of the security scenario in eastern Ladakh in view of fresh confrontation by two sides in the southern bank of Pangong lake earlier this week, the sources said. **● P-02**



In Moscow India, China Agree On 5-Point Plan

India and China have reached a five-point consensus to resolve the four-month-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh agreeing to "quickly disengage" troops, avoid any action that could escalate tensions and take steps to restore peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The agreement in which the two countries said the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side was finalised during the "frank and constructive" talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow on Thursday evening. The talks on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet lasted two-and-a-half-hours. **● P-02**



High Speed Internet Restoration Under Consideration: LG



Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Days after ban on 4G internet was extended in Jammu and Kashmir except two districts, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha said on Friday that the restoration of high speed internet was under consideration and the present dispensation has taken up the matter "very seriously"

Addressing his maiden press

conference at the Raj Bhawan here on Friday, Sinha said that the time has come for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to move forward.

"This UT (J&K) is mostly in discussion because of wrong things.

LG Launches Health Insurance Scheme, Grievances Portal

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday announced a universal health insurance scheme, on the lines of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat, to cover the entire population of the Union territory at an annual expenditure of Rs 123 crore. The scheme will provide **● P-02**

Time has come to move ahead of that for achieving the stars of development," he said.

Sinha, who assumed office after the transfer of GC Murmu as J&K LG on August 6, said that **»PAGE 02**

10 More Die Of Covid-19 In J&K, Toll 858

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the Union Territory to 858.

While six deaths were reported from Jammu division, four other victims of the deadly disease were residents of the Kashmir valley—two from Budgam and one each from Srinagar and Baramulla districts, official sources said.

Among the victims from Jammu, the officials said included a 63-year-old woman from Vikas Nagar, who was admitted to

GMC Jammu on September 9. "She was diagnosed sepsis with acute gastroenteritis, uremic seizures, Hypothyroid with fresh onset seizure," a doctor at GMC Jammu said. "She was detected covid-19 positive on rapid antigen testing and died at 2:00 am," the doctor said.

A 60-year-old man from Narwal also died at GMC, a week after he was admitted there and diagnosed with hypertension, Hypothyroidism and Bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia.

A 50-year-old man from Kachi Chawani, died at GMC at around 11:50 pm. last night, hours after he was admitted. **»PAGE 02**

SHE WAS DETECTED COVID-19 positive on rapid antigen testing and died at 2:00 am," the doctor said.

Covid-19 Crosses 50000 Mark With 1578 New Cases

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed 50000 mark on Friday as the Union Territory reported 1578 Covid-19 cases, including 73 travellers. This is for the ninth day in running that J&K has witnessed over a thousand cases daily. **● P-02**

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire For 3rd Day

JAMMU: For the third consecutive day Friday, India and Pakistan armies exchanged heavy gunfire and mortar shells along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan Army on Friday opened heavy fire and shelled mortars at forward areas along the LoC in Poonch district, officials said.

"At about 0830 hours, Pak initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms & shelling with mortars along LoC in Mankote sector in district Poonch," a defence spokesman said. The Indian Army retaliates befittingly, he added.

On Thursday, the Pakistan Army had opened fire with small arms and shelled **● P-02**

Militant Found Dead 4 Days After Budgam Gunfight

SRINAGAR: The body of a militant, who was injured in an encounter in Check Kawoosa village of central Kashmir's Budgam district, was recovered from a stream near the site of the gunfight last night, police said on Friday.

A senior police officer said that the body was recovered after four days with the help of Marine commandos from Sukhnag Nallah in which the militant had jumped after suffering bullet injury in his neck during the brief encounter.

The encounter had **● P-02**

2 Soldiers Injured In LOC Blast Two army officers including a major were injured in a mine blast during patrolling in a forward post along the Line of Control in Nowshera sector of **● P-02**

KPs Meet LG, Demand One Place For Settlement In Valley

Press Trust of India

JAMMU- A delegation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and demanded one place for their settlement in Kashmir, constitution of a welfare board for the community and a trust to protect temples in the valley.

The delegation was headed by All Parties Migrants Coordination Committee (APMCC) chairman Vinod Pandit, the organisation representing Kashmiri Pandits said here.

Pandit, who presented framed pictures of Sharda Peeth and Harmukh-Gangbal shrines to the Lt Governor, raised the community's long-pending demands for reopening the Sharda temple in

Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PcK) and creating a welfare board for Kashmiri Pandits.

He also raised the issues of one place-settlement of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, constitution of a trust for the upkeep and protection of temples and shrines in Kashmir, increasing the number of special PM employment package, setting up of apex committee on issues of the community, construction of transit accommodations for KP employees and resolving issued of community employees serving in the valley.

Sinha assured the delegation that he would look into the demands. Sharda Peeth, an abandoned Hindu temple located in Sharda village, is situated **»PAGE 02**

Azad Removed As Congress General Secretary

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday was removed by the party from the post of General Secretary.

Besides Azad, senior leaders Motilal Vora, Ambika Soni, Mallikarjun Kharge and Luizinho Faleiro from their posts as General Secretaries in a major organizational reshuffle by the party, NDTV reported Friday.

"The party whole-heartedly appreciates the contributions of outgoing General Secretaries Ghulam Nabi Azad, Motilal Vora, Ambika Soni, Mallikarjun Kharge and Luizinho Faleiro," said a letter signed off by Sonia Gandhi. Azad and Soni, however, continue in



the reconstituted working committee.

The report further says that the reshuffle comes a month after a group of 23 party leaders, in a stunning act of revolt, wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi calling for an overhaul of the party, internal elections and a "full-time, visible leadership". The letter also suggested that the Gandhi family would always be a part of collective decision-making. **»PAGE 02**

In FOCUS In Unemployment-ridden J&K, Barely 4% Students Opt For Technical Courses

Swati Joshi

WITH a 73.3 percent literacy rate, Jammu and Kashmir has secured 13th rank according to a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. Kerala with a 96.2 percent literacy rate has once again topped the survey while Andhra Pradesh with 66.4 percent is at the bottom.

The report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey - from July 2017 to June 2018' objective is to "build indicators on the participation of

the persons of age 3 to 35 years in the education system, expenditure incurred on the education of the household members and various indicators of those currently not attending education".

The NSO surveyed 64,519 rural households from 8,097 villages and 49,238 urban households from 6,188 blocks in the erstwhile state.

Literacy rate The literacy rate is defined as the percentage of literates among persons age 7 years and above. A person who can read and write in a simple language with understanding is counted as literate by the survey.

The overall literacy rate of J&K



is 77.3 percent. The literacy rate amongst males and females of J&K is 85.7 percent and 68 percent respectively in rural and urban areas.

While the gap between male and female literacy rate is 12.8 percent in urban areas, the gap is widened in rural areas to 18.9 percent.

Overall, the difference between male and female literacy rates combining rural and urban areas is 17.7 percent.

The educational level

The highest level of education in males in rural areas of J&K is till middle school (24.1 percent) whereas a majority of females (39.8 percent) are not literate.

Only 8.4 percent and 2.8 percent of males and females respectively are graduate and above in rural areas.

While it is assumed that in urban areas more focus is given on women's education, the trend in J&K tells a different story. Even in urban areas, a majority of women (27.7 percent) are not literate. The highest **»PAGE 02**