



Pak violates ceasefire along LoC

Pakistan today violated ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir's Kupwara sub-sector. According to officials, the ceasefire violation took place around noon at TMG (Toot Mar Gali) in Nowgam area of Kupwara when PoJK posts fired using small arms on Indian posts.

The firing stopped after some time, officials said, adding that there was no loss of life or injury to anyone in the unprovoked Pak action, officials said.

Cont. on P9 >
CEO placed under suspension

The government today placed under suspension Balbir Kumar, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Bandipora, with immediate effect pending an enquiry against him.

As per a government order, the action was taken under Rule 31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The order states that pending investigation, Balbir Kumar stands

Cont. on P9 >
3 IAS officers relieved after transfer

The general administration department today relieved three IAS officers from the Union Territory, following their transfer orders issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

As per separate orders issued by GAD, Santosh D Vaidya has been relieved to join his new posting in Delhi, while Syed Abid Rashid Shah has been relieved to take up his assignment in Chandigarh.

Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary has been transferred to Ladakh and relieved accordingly.

All three officers stand relieved with immediate effect from February 20 to

Cont. on P9 >
No power tariff hike since Dec 2023: CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today told the legislative assembly that there had been no hike in power tariff since December 2023.

"Billing in metered areas is carried out strictly as per actual electricity consumption, while in non-metered areas, bills are raised on a flat-rate basis in accordance with the agreed load, without any arbitrariness," he said while replying to a question raised by Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri during Question Hour.

Cont. on P9 >
NH toll plazas may go cashless from Apr 1

NEW DELHI, FEB 20: Highways authority NHAI is considering discontinuing cash payments at highway toll plazas from April 1, requiring commuters to use only digital modes such as FASTag or UPI for toll payments.

Post implementation, all toll payments at National Highway fee plazas will be processed exclusively through digital modes, using FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh calls for stronger global naval cooperation at MILAN

P- 11

Rashmika Mandanna CONFIRMS Wedding With Vijay Deverakonda? Details Inside

P-10



Modi holds roundtable with 16 heads of AI, deeptech startups

Discusses potential of harnessing AI in agri, edu

NEW DELHI, FEB 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a series of meetings that included a roundtable with CEOs and founders of 16 AI and deeptech startups, seven back-to-back bilaterals and separate meetings with heads of two leading firms.

During the roundtable, the prime minister discussed the potential of harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) in different sectors, such as agriculture and environmental protection, and promoting higher education in the mother tongue, among others, with the CEOs and founders of 16 AI and deeptech startups.

The CEOs and founders presented their ideas and work during the interaction, officials said.

CEOs and founders of 16 AI and deeptech startups presented their ideas and work at a roundtable meeting with the prime minister.



ter.

Modi underscored the need for strong data governance, cautioned against misinformation, and urged the development of solutions tailored to India's needs, said a statement from Prime Minister's Office.

Referring to UPI as a model of simple and scalable digital innovation, he expressed confidence in Indian companies and en-

couraged trust in domestic products.

He also spoke about expanding private participation in the space sector and noted strong investor interest in Indian startups.

Modi discussed the potential of harnessing AI technology in various sectors like in agriculture and environmental protection, including monitoring crop productivity and fertilizer usage to safeguard soil

health.

Stressing the importance of promoting Indian languages and culture, he called for expanding the AI tools for higher education in mother tongue.

Modi also congratulated innovators for taking bold risks and building impactful solutions.

In healthcare, the PMO said they use AI for advanced diagnostics, gene

Cont. on P9 >

Terrorists injured; AK, other items recovered

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 20**

A day after troops foiled an intrusion bid from across the Loc into Nathua Tibba area of Sunderbani in Rajouri sub-sector of Jammu, forces today found blood-stained tracks leading towards PoJK, showing that retreating terrorists had suffered injuries.

A group of terrorists was yesterday fired upon by the alert troops near the LoC. The troops opened fire soon after picking up the movement of the infiltrating ter

Cont. on P9 >

Lt Gen Pratik reviews anti-infiltration grid in Kashmir



**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 20**

Northern Army commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Friday reviewed the anti-infiltration grid in Kashmir and assessed the operational preparedness of the forces along the Line of Control (LoC).

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, visited North Kashmir to

Cont. on P9 >

MBBS/BDS intern stipend enhancement under review: Govt tells LA

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 20**

The government today informed the House that the proposal for enhancement of stipend for MBBS/BDS interns was presently under examination in the finance department.

Replying to a question of MLA Hasnain Masoodi, the health & medical education department said that a committee constituted by the government had recommended raising the existing stipend from Rs 12,300 per month to Rs 25,000 per month in

Cont. on P9 >

India witnessing civilisational awakening under PM Modi's leadership: LG

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 20**

LG Manoj Sinha today said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India was not merely scripting a tale of economic progress, but also witnessing civilisational awakening.

"Every citizen must honour our glorious heritage with full responsibility. The devotion that preserved our culture through adversity must now drive the new generation, turning the wisdom of the past into the strength of the present, lighting the way forward," he said while speaking at a public function at the sacred and historic site of Bankatashiv in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, where he joined the devotees for Mahayagya and Prana-Pratishtha ceremony at Shri Lakshminarayan Temple.

"Under the leadership of PM Modi, India today is



not only scripting a tale of economic progress but also witnessing civilisational awakening," the LG said.

He offered a threefold resolution for the future: "We must transform India into the preeminent nation of the world, forge it into the most formidable global power, and establish it as the ultimate sanctuary of knowledge and intellectual wealth on Earth".

"The sacred ceremony marks a civilisational re-

vival, revitalising timeless values and sharing them across society," the LG said.

"Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple will inspire the youth to stand proudly resolute in their glorious past and awaken them to an extraordinary present that bears witness to sweeping transformations across all spheres of development," he added.

"The entire world now acknowledges that India

Cont. on P9 >

Extraordinary order

SC directs deployment of judicial officers in Bengal's SIR exercise

NEW DELHI, FEB 20: In an extraordinary order, the Supreme Court on Friday directed deployment of serving and former district judges to assist the Election Commission in the controversy-ridden special intensive revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

Ruing the "unfortunate blame game" between the EC and the TMC-led government, a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi passed a slew of fresh directions to

ensure completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) process in the state.

The bench ordered deputation of judicial officers for adjudication of claims and objections of persons put under logical discrepancy list.

It asked the Calcutta High Court chief justice to spare judicial officers and find former judges to assist in SIR work as it took serious note of state government not sparing enough grade 'A' officers for the revision exercise.

The top court permitted

the EC to publish a draft list of voters in the state by February 28 while allowing the poll panel to also issue supplementary lists later.

The bench directed district collectors and SPs of the state to provide logistical support and security to the judicial officers deputed for the ongoing SIR work while making it clear that orders passed by judicial officers will be deemed as orders of court.

It said judicial officers will be assisted by micro-observers and state gov

Cont. on P9 >

'Maximum Optics Damaging India'

Cong's dig at Modi govt over US-Pak ties

NEW DELHI, FEB 20: Taking a swipe at the government, the Congress on Friday said the romance between the US and Pakistan continues unabated while the "self-declared Vishwaguru" is busy giving the world "gyaan" which is nothing but "MODI governance - Maximum Optics Damaging India".

The opposition party's attack came a day after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attended the Board of Peace in Washington along with

leaders of other nations who have signed up to join the Trump-led organisation.

Trump repeated the assertion that Sharif had claimed he saved 25 million lives when he stopped the war between India and Pakistan. In his remarks, Sharif described Trump as a man of peace and a "saviour of South Asia".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the romance between the US and Pakistan continues

unabated.

"It was on display yet again in Washington DC yesterday. That Pakistan has paid no price whatsoever on the world stage for orchestrating the Pahal-gam terror attack on April 22, 2025 is a depressing commentary on the Modi government's diplomacy which no amount of spin-doctoring can erase. It is all-too-evident," the Congress leader said in a post on X.

"Meanwhile, the self-de

Cont. on P9 >

Ladakh LG pays obeisance at Baba Lal ji temple

**Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 20**

Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today paid obeisance at the historic Baba Lal ji temple at Dhanpur Dham in Gurdaspur, Punjab.

He offered prayers and sought blessings for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of Ladakh and the entire nation.

The sacred shrine, known for its rich spiritual and cultural legacy, holds deep reverence among devotees across the country.

During his visit, the LG



interacted with the temple authorities and members of the management committee. He appreciated their dedicated efforts in preserving the heritage and spiritual traditions of the revered

shrine.

He stated that such places of worship serve as centres of spiritual strength, social harmony and cultural continuity.

Cont. on P9 >