

**04 DH Rajouri fiasco: 2 FIRs registered, Magisterial enquiry report pending**

**05 Declare Sept 23 as State holiday to uphold Dogra honour: Harsh**

**12 J&K women win bronze medals in Ninth Commonwealth Karate C'ship**

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**Pak violates ceasefire in Uri, soldier injured**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Pakistani troops on Wednesday violated ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector, resulting in injuries to one soldier, an army official said. The Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing towards Indian posts in Kamalkote area of Uri in Baramulla district, the official said, adding the Indian army responded in adequate measure. Further details are awaited, he added.

**Vijay Mallya offers to repay 100 p c of 'public money'**

**AGENCY**  
LONDON: Fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya on Wednesday took to social media with an offer to pay back 100 per cent of "public money" to various Indian banks and urged the government to accept his offer, days ahead of a UK Court's decision on his plea not to extradite him to India. The 62-year-old former Kingfisher Airlines boss, who has been on bail in the UK on an extradition warrant since his arrest in April last year, is fighting extradition to India on charges of fraud and money laundering allegedly amounting to around Rs 9,000 crore. A ruling in the case is expected at Westminster Magistrates' Court

**Work hard, compete for Army's 'Super30' prog: Gen Rawat to Kashmiri girl students**

**AGENCY**  
NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat on Wednesday exhorted girl students from Jammu and Kashmir to work hard and compete for Army's 'Super 30' coaching programme and build their career through good education. He was interacting with 18 girl students from various schools in the Valley, at the South Block here. "There is no other place like Kashmir when it comes to scenic beauty and a sublime environment. But, terrorism has vitiated the atmosphere, he said. "Unlike Kashmir, you do not see bunkers in Delhi or gun-toting security personnel everywhere. People roam here at night in peace. The Kashmir Valley also

**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 21.1°C Min: 09.0°C  
Humidity  
Max: 79 Min: 87  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 07.9°C Min: -3.0°C  
Humidity  
Max: 86 Min: 89  
Sunset : 17:26 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:20 Hours

**Panchayat Polls: 7,959 candidates in fray for Phase-VIII, IX**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: For the final two phases of the extended 9-Phase Panchayat Polls, 7,959 candidates are in the fray. Voting and counting for the last two phases will be held on 8th and 11th December. According to the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Shaleen Kabra, for penultimate Phase-VIII, 1,333 candidates are in the fray for 483 Sarpanch Halqas and 5,695 candidates for 3,860 Panch wards across the State. Voting and counting for Phase-VIII is scheduled to be held on 8th December 2018. Giving district-wise details, Kabra said Phase-VIII, 105 candidates are in the fray for 39 Sarpanch Halqas and 461 candidates for 321 Panch wards in district Kupwara; 10 candidates for 22 Sarpanch Halqas and 64 for 196 Panch Halqas in district Bandipora; 71 candidates for 42 Sarpanch Halqas and 285 for 366 Panch Halqas in district Baramulla; 3 candidates for 7 Sarpanch Halqas and 4 for 59 Panch wards in district Srinagar; 13 candidates for 40 Sarpanch Halqas and 37 for 315 Panch wards in district Budgam; 9 candidates for 29 Sarpanch Halqas and 25 for 231

Panch wards in district Pulwama; 4 candidates for 11 Sarpanch Halqas and 11 for 95 Panch wards in district Shopian; 4 candidates for 23 Sarpanch Halqas and 5 for 177 Panch wards in district Kulgam; 205 candidates for 55 Sarpanch Halqas and 894 for 431 Panch wards in district Reasi; 223 candidates for 52 Sarpanch Halqas and 896 for 384 Panch wards in district Kathua; 157 candidates for 35 Sarpanch Halqas and 709 for 285 Panch wards in district Samba; 404 candidates for 96 Sarpanch Halqas and 1771 for 758 Panch wards in district Jammu and 125 candidates for 32 Sarpanch Halqas and 533 for 242 Panch wards in district Rajouri. For the Phase-IX, which is the final phase of the Panchayat Polls, Kabra said, 210 candidates are in the fray for 236 Sarpanch Halqas and 721 candidates for 1904 Panch wards across the State. Voting and counting for Phase-IX is scheduled to be held on 11th December 2018. Giving district-wise details, Kabra said, for Phase-IX, 78 candidates are in the fray for 33 Sarpanch Halqas and

311 candidates for 291 Panch wards in district Kupwara; 21 candidates for 14 Sarpanch Halqas and 88 for 100 Panch Halqas in district Bandipora; 30 candidates for 45 Sarpanch Halqas and 73 for 383 Panch Halqas in district Baramulla; 17 candidates for 13 Sarpanch Halqas and 34 for 109 Panch wards in district Ganderbal; 16 candidates for 39 Sarpanch Halqas and 68 for 319 Panch wards in district Budgam; 7 candidates for 39 Sarpanch Halqas and 9 for 309 Panch wards in district Pulwama; 4 candidates for 11 Sarpanch Halqas and 16 for 89 Panch wards in district Shopian; 5 candidates for 23 Sarpanch Halqas and 11 for 167 Panch wards in district Kulgam and 32 candidates for 19 Sarpanch Halqas and 111 for 137 Panch wards in district Anantnag. He said first 7 Phases of the Panchayat Polls have passed off smoothly and peacefully with good participation. In Phase-VII held on December 4, overall poll percentage of 75.3 per cent was witnessed across the State with 84.8 per cent

**Farooq welcomes Pak's 'positive approach' to improve ties with India**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday welcomed the "positive approach" of Pakistan's leadership on resolving long-pending issues with India, saying it has rekindled the hope that the two countries can live with trust and friendship. "I foresee a time when my colleagues, friends and family members move around without security. It is perhaps for that day, God has kept me going," Abdullah said at the annual day celebrations of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar. His comments come two days after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who completed 100 days as premier last week, said his government enjoys unwavering support of the armed forces,

sides, to open a corridor to facilitate Sikh pilgrims in visiting gurdwaras on either side. It signalled a possible move to mend ties that had nosedived over terrorist attacks in India by Pakistan-based groups. "I wish that day comes when the two neighbouring countries of India and Pakistan live in camaraderie," Abdullah, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said. He said Khan's avowals on India-Pakistan bonhomie has rekindled the hope that a day will come when the people of Jammu and Kashmir will live in a peaceful atmosphere. Abdullah asserted that only democratically elected governments will advance the cause of development and will work for the socio-economic emancipation of the underprivileged.



an influential player in the country's politics, particularly on matters of foreign policy. Last week, Khan said his government, the army and all political parties in Pakistan are on the same page on improving ties with India. He, however, did not mention cross-border terrorism which India has stressed is as a stumbling block in resuming talks between the two sides. India and Pakistan last month laid the foundation stones, on their respective

**Two ashrams of godman raided in Jammu**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir High Court appointed panel on Wednesday raided two 'ashrams' at Dyalachak and Bhagwati Nagar locality in Jammu City, both managed by absconding self-styled preacher Virender Dev Dikshit, to find out the nature of activities being carried out inside the premises. The committee was set up by a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Tashi Rabstan while hearing a PIL filed in the State High Court by Dogra Sangathan. Serious allegations were made by the petitioner in the PIL about the working of the 'ashrams' run by the self-styled godman. The committee comprised Senior Additional Advocate General Seema Shekhar and Kavita Suri member of the J&K State Women Commission. The raid in Bhagwati Nagar continued till late Wednesday evening and efforts were made by the members of the commission, assisted by the state police, to dig details of disciples who are still visiting the ashram even



Outer view of Jammu ashram of Baba Virender Dev Dikshit in Bhagwati Nagar. In the absence of their self-styled 'Guru'. A group of elderly ladies were residing inside the building where several disciples turned up in the ashram on different occasions. These women were to be from Bengal, Orissa and Maharashtra. The members of the commission quizzed caretakers present inside the building to find answers to numerous questions. According to official sources, self-styled spiritual Guru, Virender Dev Dikshit is absconding ever since women and young girls were rescued from his ashram in North West Delhi in December 2017. Since then he is dodging sleuths of Central Bureau of Investigation. He is believed to be hiding somewhere in Nepal. According to locals in the area, despite several complaints the police had not acted in advance. Locals

**Who is Virender Dev Dikshit?**

Controversial godman Virender Dev Dikshit, is accused of sexually exploiting women. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has issued an International Blue Corner Notice against the self-styled godman. Over 40 girls were rescued in December last year from his Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya in Rohini. Dikshit is now on the run. Four FIRs have been registered at Rohini's Vijay Vihar police station in connection with Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya - two against Dixit alleging rape and forced confinement, one against three devotees for obstructing a team from inspecting the ashram on December 19, 2017 and one by a female inmate against her own brother, accusing him of rape. Earlier, too, Dixit had four rape cases registered against him in Farrukhabad, but he was later acquitted.

**Guv unwell, could not attend SKIMS function: Raj Bhawan**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Governor Satya Pal Malik could not attend the annual day function of SKIMS hospital on Wednesday here as he was unwell, a Raj Bhawan spokesman said. He was apparently reacting to media reports criticising the Governor for not attending the annual function of the premier tertiary care hospital of the state where Malik was the chief guest. "Governor Satya Pal Malik could not attend SKIMS Saura Annual day function in Srinagar on morning as he was unwell," the spokesman said. "In fact, the Governor was already scheduled

**Tight security in Ayodhya on anniversary of Babri mosque demolition**

**AGENCY**  
AYODHYA: Hundreds of security personnel dotted the roads and bylanes and police made preventive arrests to thwart protests at the disputed site in Ayodhya on the 26th anniversary of demolition of Babri mosque on Thursday, as authorities kept a tight vigil especially in the wake of saffron outfits raising the pitch over the sensitive Ram temple issue. Police on Wednesday arrested four activists of Hindu Samaj Party from

Das, who had threatened to commit self-immolation for the construction of Ram temple on December 6. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal are preparing to mark the day as 'Shaurya Diwas' (day of bravery) and 'Vijay Diwas' (day of victory) and have asked the people to light earthen lamps as on Diwali, while the Muslim outfits have said they will observe 'Yaum E Gham' (day of sorrow) and 'Yaum

**VVIP chopper case: Christian Michel sent to 5-day CBI custody**

**AGENCY**  
NEW DELHI: Christian Michel, the alleged middleman who has been chargesheeted in the Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal, was on Wednesday produced before a Delhi Court which allowed his five-day custodial interrogation by the CBI. He will again be produced in the Court on December 10. Michel, who is a citizen of United Kingdom, was brought to India on late Tuesday night following

**Burglars take away ATM containing cash of over Rs 3.6 lakh**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: An ATM, loaded with over Rs 3.60 lakh cash, was stolen on Wednesday in Kathua District, police said. A case has been registered, police said, adding they have launched a manhunt to find the machine and nab the culprits. The burglars took the Chann Arorian village route along the Jammu-Pathankot highway in early hours of Wednesday and decamped with the ATM, a police officer said.

**India's most powerful satellite GSAT-11 launched successfully**

**AGENCY**  
BENGALURU: India's heaviest satellite GSAT-11, that would boost broadband services in the country, was successfully launched by an ArianeSpace rocket from French Guiana in the early hours of Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. Blasting off from the Ariane Launch Complex in Kourou, a French territory located along the northeastern coast of South America, at 02:07 am (IST),

**Is hate-preacher Molvi taking administration, army for ride? BJP-NC bonhomie gives new spin to Rajouri unrest**

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
RAJOURI: Rajouri administration on Wednesday apparently succeeded in buying peace after bringing the members of the minority community, agitated over hate speech of a local Muslim cleric, and the majority community on one platform. The sequence of events moved fast in wake of the ultimatum of Sanatan Dharam Sabha to police to file FIR against Molvi Farooq of Jamia Masjid, Rajouri over his stinging remakes against a particular religion, with scene shifting to the local army unit where the differences were 'ironed-out' and 'all-is-well-joint-statement' issued. However, the controversy and the manner with which the issue was put under the carpet have raised several questions about the motivation to the Molvi to incite passions, despite being a prominent member of Rajouri Ekta Committee, patronised by the army. "The army has been playing a very crucial role in maintaining peace and harmony in the border pockets but it should guard against elements, who want themselves to be seen on both sides of the fence", a vocal activist of the minority community told STATE TIMES on the condition of anonymity. He referred to various instances of dubious elements double crossing the law enforcing agencies and at the same time furthering the agenda of anti-national elements due to sympathy for their cause or high degree of indoctrination. "The past three decades of terror has given birth to a culture of double cross with dubious actors playing murky roles", he said, wondering as to why Molvi Farooq should have made venomous speech from the mosque after Friday prayers.

The instant issue of hate speech and action by the police and district administration thereof is mired in controversies. The youth of the minority community had last evening decided to press for filing an FIR against Molvi Farooq and sought an appointment with the Senior Superintendent of Police, which was fixed for 11:00 AM this morning. On reaching the SSP office, as per schedule, the youth representatives were shocked on not finding him in the office. Agitated and annoyed, they left the office and decided to meet again to chalk out further course of action. However, hours after they got a message to reach the local army grounds. "Under the aegis of the local commanders, the locals of Rajouri including prominent members of all the political parties held a meeting under the banner of Ekta Committee and had detailed discussions", sources said, adding that hours after a joint statement was issued by the Committee. Prior to that, some of the prominent activists of both the communities, including the agitated minority community youth, flanking the Molvi, spoke in altogether different tone and tenor. They were all praise for the 'contribution' of the Molvi, who they added had erred and apologised. Captioned 'Rajouri creates History to maintain Peace', the handout read, "Displaying a rare gesture of maturity and in the larger interest of peace, progress and prosperity of Rajouri all the members of Ekta Committee Rajouri took an initiative to bridge the gap between the communities by arranging a meeting of civil society members hailing from different communities and faith groups of Rajouri at ALG. All the members present in the meeting unanimously in one voice condemned the unfortunate statement given by Maulana Farooq sb in Juma congregation. Maulana Farooq himself came forward to tender an unconditional

apology in the meeting besides also issued a video in this context earlier to maintain peace and communal harmony in Rajouri. All the members stressed upon the need to strengthen the bonds of amity friendship and brotherhood in Rajouri to make it a truly peaceful progressive and healthy society". "This is indeed a historic beginning in the achievement of lasting peace in the region an example for the other regions to follow", the statement added. Sources said that the statement had been issued in a particular background. Believing sources, the actors behind the so-called peace are arch rivals BJP and National Conference, which were panicky over situation taking ugly turn. According to sources, the BJP is reported to have supported a proxy successful candidate of National Conference in the recently held Urban Local Body elections to head the local civic body in order to keep the Congress at bay. "In the event of communal flare up, the very existence of the civic body could have been threatened, as the BJP could not have afforded to remain mute spectator in the run up to 2019 parliamentary and Assembly elections", the sources said, adding the unethical NC-BJP bonhomie has saved the Molvi from noose of the law. The local patriotic groups are worried over the Molvi going scot-free just because of his association with the Ekta Committee. His hate speech is still haunting the members of the minority committee, who are in dilemma whether the Molvi was taking the army for a ride by double crossing. "Given the contents besides tone and tenor of his speech at Friday congregation, the Molvi is surely working at the behest of the enemies of the nation, who want to destabilise border pockets".