

# National News

## Soldier killed as Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri



Agency  
Jammu Aug 17,

An Army soldier was killed on Saturday as Pakistan

violated ceasefire by resorting to mortar shelling and small arms firing on forward posts and villages along the Line of Control

(LoC) in Rajouri district, a defence spokesman said. The latest ceasefire violation comes two days after Pakistan claimed that its four soldiers were killed in firing by Indian troops on their posts along the LoC. Lance Naik Sandeep Thapa (35), a resident of Dehradun, sustained fatal injuries in the Pakistani firing in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district, the spokesman said. He said the unprovoked firing from across the border started at around 6.30 am, prompting

strong and effective retaliation by Indian Army guarding the border. The exchange of fire between the two sides was on when the last reports were received, he said, adding the casualties suffered by Pakistan in the retaliatory action was not known immediately. Last month, two Army personnel and a 10-day-old baby were killed and several civilians injured in heavy Pakistani shelling and firing in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region.

## 'Nehru-Gandhi family has brand equity': Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

Agency  
Kolkata Aug 17,

The leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, has said it will be tough for any leader from outside the Gandhi-Nehru family to run the party, as it has "brand equity". He also said the revival of the Congress largely depended on the weakening of regional parties that lack ideology, and claimed that the country was headed for "bipolar politics". Chowdhury said only a party like the Congress, with its "strong" ideological mooring, and pan-India presence, can counter the "communal juggernaut" of the BJP. "The way regional parties are functioning, they will lose their importance in the days to come. Their losing importance means the nation will head towards bipolar politics. "When there is bipolar politics, we would again come back to power. So, the future of the Congress is bright," Chowdhury told PTI. Responding to a question, he said regional parties lack ideological motivation and mass support a national party like the Congress has. He said Sonia Gandhi was reluctant to help the party once again, but yielded to the request of senior Congress functionaries when the organisation was facing a

"crisis" after Rahul Gandhi's resignation. "Sonia Gandhi has led the party in times of crisis. It was due to her leadership in difficult times that the Congress was able to form the government twice in 2004 and 2009," Chowdhury said. The Congress leader from West Bengal said while Sonia Gandhi heads the party as interim chief, efforts are underway to elect a new party president. Chowdhury, a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) - the highest decision-making body of the party - however, noted it would be tough for someone from outside the Gandhi family to run the party. "It would indeed be difficult for someone from outside the Gandhi family to run the party. In politics, too, there is brand equity. If you look at the present BJP, without Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, will it function smoothly? The answer is no. "In our Congress party, too, the Gandhi family is our brand equity. There is no harm in it. No one else in our party has the charisma which they have. It is a hard reality," he said. Sonia Gandhi, 72, was appointed the interim Congress president barely 20 months after she had voluntarily relinquished the post in favour of son Rahul,

who refused to continue as the party chief after the humiliating 2019 general election defeat. Chowdhury lauded Rahul Gandhi's decision of owning responsibility for the party's defeat, and said the "noble step" was worth emulating by other leaders. He said the result could have been different had Rahul Gandhi been declared the joint opposition candidate for prime ministership, as the BJP had turned the general election into a presidential-style contest. While speaking about the alleged tussle between the Congress's old guard and the young leadership represented by Rahul Gandhi, he said, the current party leadership was a mix of the old and the new. The party's old guard was said to have prevailed upon the new in bringing Sonia Gandhi back to the helm, while Rahul Gandhi insisted on a young leader for the post. "The mixture of old and the new is good for the party. There may be difference of ideas but the goal is the same," he said. Chowdhury, a five-time MP from the Beharapore Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal, however, conceded that the party needed to undertake measures for increased public acceptability. He said the political narrative, currently driven by the BJP's

"communal agenda", will change. "We need to increase our acceptance. It is the Congress which is fighting against the BJP, both ideologically and politically. Right now the narrative of communal politics may seem dominant, but it won't be permanent. Things will change. There are more pressing issues like jobs, food, and livelihood," he said. Chowdhury said abrogation of provisions of Article 370 granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir has set a "dangerous example", and will lead to "greater interference by the Centre" in governance of states. "The way Article 370 was abrogated is unprecedented and undemocratic. We have seen UTs being converted into states but this is for the first time that a state has been turned into two union territories," he said. On the Congress speaking in different voices about Article 370, Chowdhury said it was because the government rushed through the bills. "As this bill was brought in great hurry, we didn't have time to discuss the matter within the party. So, there was confusion about the party's stand. But, once the CWC passed a resolution on the issue, there is absolutely no differences or confusion in the party," he added.

# More State News

## ARMY recovers huge cache of Arms and Ammunition in Noney district of Manipur



IT News  
Imphal Aug 17,

As part of the operations for sanitisation of critical areas in Khoopum Valley on the occasion of Independence Day, a specific input was received based on which Indian Army troops under the aegis of the Red Shield Division along with Police launched a search operation in the area of Thanagong in

Noney District, on 14 Aug 2019. During the search of a Community Hall of the village large quantity of war like stores including arms and ammunition were recovered from the premises. These were hidden inside the rice sacks stored in the hall. The recoveries included two assault rifles of AK-47 & AK-56 series with 250 live

rounds, one HK-33 Assault Rifle, one Lathode Grenade Launcher with 20 live grenades and other assorted ammunition of different calibers. Recovered weapons & ammunition have been handed over to PS Bishnupur for further disposal. The successful operation by the security forces has dealt a huge blow to the nefarious designs of the insurgents in the region.

## A R Felicitates Gallantry award winner

HQ IGAR (South)  
Imphal Aug 17,

"A Soldier dies not when he is shot but when he is forgotten". With this thought in mind, Chassad Battalion of 10 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) felicitated war widow and gallantry award winners at Kamjong on 73rd Independence Day. The Battalion felicitated 83 years old Mr Hungyo Henry, village Headman of Bungpa Khunou from Kamjong district who is a Shaurya Chakra awardee. Mr Henry is a



decorated SSB soldier, who is a role model for the residents of Kamjong. He was awarded Shaurya Chakra for his gallant act in Ukhrul way back in 1981. He shared his stories of

exceptional valor which mesmerized gathering of locals. These tales of exceptional human endeavor create lasting memories of patriotism in young minds. Rifleman Ningthoujam Subhashchandra Singh of Chassad Battalion achieved martyrdom in July 2018 fighting militants along Indo-Myanmar border for which he has been conferred with Sena Medal (Gallantry) on the eve of Independence Day 2019. The family of the martyr was felicitated as a befitting tribute to the martyr who laid down his life fighting for the motherland. Commandant Chassad Battalion Assam Rifles expressed his heartfelt appreciation towards the invitees. He conveyed that the unit is honoured with their presence and it has rekindled a sense of pride and honour not only in the locals but the entire fraternity of Assam Rifles.

## Social Service Event By Assam Rifles

HQ IGAR (South)  
Imphal Aug 17,

As a kind gesture by the members of Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association (ARWWA), ladies of 9 Sector Assam Rifles visited an Orphanage being run by EMA Foundation which is tucked away in the outskirts of Imphal town in a small village of New Keithelmanbi. Mrs Shubhra Kabthiyal, President ARWWA, 9 Sector Assam Rifles along with other members of the Association expressed happiness by

celebrating the Independence Day and Rakshabandhan with the children of EMA Foundation. The President ARWWA, 9 Sector Assam Rifles also gifted rationals, eatables and daily essential items to the children and assured every possible help to make the place a beautiful home away from home for them. The event also included conduct of various interesting games and competitions for the children which undoubtedly acted as a catalyst in bringing smiles on the faces of little ones.

## When will you begin dialogue? asks Pakistani journalist. India's UN envoy Syed Akbaruddin replies

Agency  
United Nations Aug 17,

India's Permanent Representative, Syed Akbaruddin dramatically extended the hand of friendship to the hostile neighbour through a Pakistani journalist who complained on Friday about lack of dialogue between the two countries. At his news conference in United Nations, he stepped away from the podium and walked up to the senior Pakistani journalist who asked, "When will you begin a dialogue with Pakistan?" "So let me begin by coming across to you," Akbaruddin told him. "Give me your hand." "Let me tell you we have already extended our hand of friendship by saying we are committed to the Simla agreement," he said. "Let us wait for a response on that from the Pakistani side,"

he said with a pause. For Akbaruddin, who had earlier been the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson and also Prime Minister Narendra Modi's spokesperson on his foreign travels, this was his first encounter with the rambunctious UN press corps. He disarmed them with his openness, informality and humour. He took a dig at the Permanent Representatives - Zhang Jun of China and Maleeha Lodhi of Pakistan - who refused to answer questions from reporters after reading their statement. "People who came here, just walked off. (But) as the representative of an open democracy, I am ready to answer (your questions)," He first asked three Pakistani journalists to shoot their questions to him, surprising them as they were worked up, before turning to an Indian

correspondent and two from other countries. A Pakistani reporter had earlier asked why there was no contacts between the neighbours and why India had not responded to requests for talks. "Stop terror to start talks," Akbaruddin replied. He said, "There are normal diplomatic ways of dealing with the countries when countries deal with each other. But using terror to try and push your goals is not the way that normal states behave in. No democracy will acknowledge or accept talks when terror thrives." He recalled his experiences from his diplomatic career in dealing with Pakistan. "I have been a member of many delegations to Islamabad. I myself served as an Indian diplomat in Islamabad," he said. Akbaruddin caught his first Pakistani questioner's slip in admitting that Kashmir was an

internal affair of India, thanking him. Referring to Article 370, the journalist said, "That could be an internal matter of India." Akbaruddin immediately jumped in confounding him by saying, "Thank you for accepting that." The journalist continued, "Article 370 was enshrined in the Indian constitution." Akbaruddin again acknowledged it, saying, "Thank you, (enshrined) by India." When a reporter said that the restrictions placed on Kashmir undermined India's image as an open democracy, Akbaruddin said, "Public order is integral to ensuring that democracy prospers. Without public order no democracy can function. There are reasonable restrictions and we acknowledge there are restrictions and we are easing them."

## Assam Rifles Distributes Sports Kits To Kwatha Village

HQ IGAR (South)  
Imphal Aug 17,

In an aim to develop sports facilities at remote locations and to support the cause of 'Khelo India Initiative', Tegnoupal Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) distributed sports kits to Kwatha village of Tegnoupal district on 15th August 2019 on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day. Tegnoupal Battalion provided sports kits and infrastructure under the Assam Rifles Civic Action Programme as a gesture to

motivate the youth. The villages are located in remote locations and do not have adequate means and facilities for sports and hence requested the assistance from Assam Rifles located at Kwatha. A total of 10 footballs, 2 Nets, 20 pairs of boots with shin guards and stockings, 20 pairs of jerseys and gloves for the goal keeper along with 10 pairs of boxing gloves, 6 pairs of boxing apparel and equipment along with ropes, corner pads, stools and punching bags were provided by of Tegnoupal Battalion. The Officers of Tegnoupal

Battalion also interacted with the members of the village community and Youth Committee and spoke about the importance of sports and its inculcation among young children for a wholesome development as well as opportunities for the youth in the field of sports as coaches, physical trainers, sports persons or even as a means to join the Indian Army. The honest efforts by the Assam Rifles was deeply appreciated by the villagers of Kwatha who were grateful for the assistance and motivation provided to them by the Assam Rifles.