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Terrorist held from Madrassa in south Kashmir

Tunnel suspected to be used by JeM terrorists for infiltration detected in Samba: DGP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 150-metre long underground tunnel suspected to be used by four Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists for infiltration from Pakistan was detected by the BSF at the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Sunday, DGP Dilbag Singh said.

Singh, who along with Border Security Force (BSF) Inspector General, Jammu frontier, N S and Inspector Jamwal. General of Police, Jammu Mukesh Singh range, inspected the scene near Regal post, said the tunnel was unearthed following investigation into the recent encounter near Nagrota on Jammu-Srinagar the National Highway.

The four Kashmir-bound Pakistani terrorists were killed in a gunfight when the truck, in which they were travelling, was stopped for checking at Ban toll plaza on the highway on Thursday.

A huge cache of arms and ammunition including 11 AK assault rifles, three pistols, 29 grenades and six UBGL grenades were recovered

Death of student: Govt suspends



Pakistan targets villages, forward posts along IB, LoC

Drone sighted near LoC, search ops launched

JAMMU: Pakistani troops targeted forward posts and villages along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and Rajouri district, drawing retaliation from Indian troops, officials said on Sunday.

However, there was no report of any casualty in the latest ceasefire violation which came a day after a personnel of the Indian Army was killed and three others including two women were injured in separate ceasefire violations by Pakistan in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

At about 11.15 am on Sunday, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector of Rajouri. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, a defence spokesman said. In another CONTD ON PAGE 9

from the possession of the slain terrorists, who had come to execute a big plan to upcoming disrupt the Development District Council (DDC) polls, police said.

Police shared some vital inputs found from the encounter scene with the BSF which after hectic efforts, managed to find the tunnel," the Director General of Police (DGP) told reporters.

Jamwal termed the antitunnelling operation as a major success and said that a strong protest will be lodged with Pakistan.

He gave full credit to the personnel of the force for their commitment, dedication and motivation to search the area full of wild growth. The tunnel, which is 2.5 metre wide and 25 to 30

metre deep was constructed with proper engineering effort to ensure that it is not detected as its opening was found surrounded with sarkanda (elephant grass)," the IG BSF said.

He also lauded the cooperation and regular inflow

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STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: A terrorist was arrested from a Madrassa in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said

on Sunday. Security forces launched a search operation in the Chatpura Mohalla area of the south Kashmir district late on Saturday based on intelligence inputs about the presence of a person from the Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district who was actively involved with terrorists, an Army

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DDC polls: 168 polling staff airlifted for snow-bound

areas in Kishtwar **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Ahead of the District Development Council (DDC) elections, 168 polling staff along with election material were airlifted on Sunday to the snowbound Warwan block in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials

said. DDC elections along with bypolls to panchayats and urban local bodies are scheduled to take place in eight phases in the Union Territory, beginning

from Jammu division and CONTD ON PAGE 9 290 from Kashmir division,



A view of Kud Valley.

J&K records 564 new COVID-19 cases

STATE TIMES NEWS they said.

The officials said Jammu district recorded the highest of 121 cases, followed by 107 in Srinagar.

There are 5,700 active cases, while 99,219 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. Meanwhile, the UT report-

The Bulletin further said ed five COVID-19 deaths in that out of 28,10,409 test the last 24 hours from results available, Jammu and one from

Kashmir.

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(Pic by Shilpa Thakur)

According to the daily

Media Bulletin, out of

1,06,548 positive cases,

5,700 are Active Positive,

99,219 have recovered and

1,629 have died; 555 in

Jammu division and 1,074 in

Kashmir division.

COVID will soon be past episode of 21st century: Vardhan

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Taking prompt action against those alleged to be responsible for the death of differently abled class 10 student in Srinagar, the Jammu and Kashmir Government on Sunday suspended three members of District Medical Board

Srinagar along with Class-It is alleged that the deceased student died at the door of the board after being denied a scribe by JKBOSE to write for his class 10 exams in view of his inability to write down the paper himself due to his extremely poor

members of District Medical Board Sgr STATE TIMES NEWS health (muscular dystrophy) and disability as well. "The sister and mother of

the deceased person approached the Medical Board on November 17, 2020 and requested that the deceased be examined in the vehicle parked outside the centre due to his severe disability and lack of facilities therein in the Centre. But the deceased was not attended and when he suffered

STATE TIMES NEWS

Election

District

The

SRINAGAR: The State

Jammu and Kashmir, K.K

Sharma, on Sunday said that

all advanced arrangements

are being put in place to

breathlessness the doctors rushed outside to attend the RJD's Tejashwi Yadav-led deceased and referred him to 'Mahagathbandhan' of which

which the party had won 19

out of the 70 seats it contest-

Advanced arrangements in place to ensure

transparent, safe DDC polls: SEC

Minister Narendra Modi is

likely to hold virtual meet-

ings with chief ministers

and other representatives

of states and union territo-

ries on Tuesday to review

the COVID-19 situation

and discuss vaccine distri-

Modi is expected to hold

two back to back meetings,

one with eight states with

high caseloads and another

with states and UTs to dis-

cuss vaccine distribution

The prime minister, till

now, has held several vir-

tual meetings with states

over the coronavirus situa-

While the national daily

COVID-19 case count has

remained below 50,000 for

strategy, sources said.

bution strategy.

tion.

al structure

NEW DELHI: There is a huge disconnect between people and Congress leaders and "five-star culture" has crept into the party, Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Sunday as he called for overhaul in the organisation-His remarks come after Congress' debacle in the Bihar assembly elections, in

retained power in a close contest, bagging 125 seats in the 243-member assembly in the recent polls. There is an

Congress leaders must shed 'five-star culture': Azad level, Azad said, adding that Congress leaders at all levels should shed five-star culture at least during elections.

Azad, who was the seniormost among the 23 letter writers demanding an organisational overhaul in the Congress, said they are raising issues as "reformists and not rebels".

"There is a huge disconnect between the people and Congress leaders at the district, block and state levels. The party's connect with the public should be a continuous process and not only during

held several top positions in the Congress, said the party's leaders should shed "five-star culture" which he said has crept into the party.

SRINAGAR: Jammu and

Kashmir on Saturday recorded 564 new COVID-19

cases while five deaths took

The infection tally in the

union territory has risen to 1,06,548 and the toll stands

Of the fresh cases, 274 are

at 1,629, officials said.

place in the last 24 hours,

"Congress leaders should give up this five star culture. At least during elections, they should avoid five-stars and stay in the field," he said. Speaking for the first time after the party's poor per-formance in the Bihar polls,

Azad also said that leaders should tour a state along with state leaders and not just stay in five-star hotels and return. "Each leader

STATE TIMES NEWS conference.

NEW DELHI: The rapid-The health minister saluted ness at which coronavirus the millions of frontline vaccines are being developed workers and elaborated will have a significant effect on new technologies that will India's strategy to contain the virus. help in faster drug discover-"It is not the first one and ies, lowering the cost and definitely not the last one. But this COVID 19 will soon making it more affordable for the poor, Union Health be a past episode of the 21st

tocol for COVID patients is on Sunday. The process, which used to well defined now," a statetake 10 years to produce vacment quoted Vardhan as saycines, is now done in almost ing. "Fewer and fewer people 10 months, Vardhan said while addressing the Boston infected are dving. V Center of Excellence (BoCE) for Health and Human Development through video

Minister Harsh Vardhan said

Ladakh reports two more COVID-19 deaths, 79 new cases STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh has recorded two more coronavirus-related deaths and 79 fresh cases, taking the fatality figure to 98 and the virus tally to 7,866, officials said on Sunday.

Both the deaths and new cases were reported from Leh district, which has witnessed a surge in the COVID-19 cases over the past one month, the officials said, as a civil society group called for a voluntary weeklong lockdown from Monday to break the chain

The latest deaths took the virus toll in Ladakh to 98 --57 in Leh and 41 in Kargil district, they said, adding that 113 patients were discharged after successful treatment, taking the total number of recovered patients to 6,856, which is 87 per cent of the total cases.

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hospital wherein he was declared brought dead CONTD ON PAGE 9

Commissioner,

the Congress was the second major partner ended up with 110 seats while the NDA

overhaul the party structure by conducting elections from block to district and state

between November- 28 to

December-19. The meeting,

elections," he told PTI. The Leader of Opposition

in the Rajya Sabha, who has

Soldier commits suicide near LoC in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A soldier allegedly shot himself dead on Sunday with his service rifle at a forward post near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, said officials. Havaldar Rajinder Kumar

was on duty when he report-edly shot himself with his rifle at his post in Salootri area around 8.25 am, the officials said.

He was rushed to the hospital, where he succumbed to injuries at around 10.05 am, CONTD ON PAGE 9 must have knowledge of each assembly

CONTD ON PAGE 9

have vaccines available very soon and the cases will ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

century. Our treatment pro-

Article 370 not there now, it will never be: Shahnawaz Hussain

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The BJP Sunday said Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was buried by Parliament following proper procedures of law, and expressed hope that it will not be restored by the Supreme Court.

Several mainstream parties from Jammu and Kashmir have challenged in the Supreme Court the Centre's also divide the state into two August 5, 2019 decision to union territories. withdraw Article 370 and

anything on the (Supreme Court), the judiciary. But, (Article) 370 is gone. The 'Gupkar gang' is sure it (Article 370) will be restored, but I am also sure it will not be restored. The way they are making a claim, I too am.

We have abrogated it according to proper procedures and both the houses of the Parliament have passed it. Parliament frames laws and it (Art 370) has

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SRINAGAR: Srinagai recorded the coldest night of the season as the minimum temperature dropped several degrees below the freezing point across Kashmir on Sunday, even as the meteorological department has fore-

cast a spell of wet weather in the Valley from Monday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius Saturday night which is the lowest so far this season, a MeT official said, adding the minimum temperature settled below zero degrees Celsius across the Kashmir valley.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was the coldest recorded place

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some time, several urban centres have witnessed a surge, resulting in enforcement of several measures, including curfews in some cities.

The central government has also been putting in place measures for quick

and effective distribution of coronavirus vaccine when it becomes available. Five vaccine candidates are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which four are in Phase II/III and one is in Phase-I/II trials

Modalities being explored for emergency authorisation of vaccine

NEW DELHI: The government is exploring the modalities of emergency authorisation and usage of anti-coronavirus vaccines pending completion of phase-three clinical trial and regular licensure

The issue of advance purchase commitment for vaccines, including pricing, was also discussed in a recent meeting attended by NITI Aayog Member (Health) Vinod Paul, Principal Scientific Advisor to the government K VijayRaghavan and Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. "It was decided that the PMO-constituted Vaccine Task Force (VTF) will lay down the principles for emergency use authorisation while the National Expert Group On Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) should take the lead in setting the principles for advance market commitment, including vaccine pricing," a source said.

These developments assume significance against the backdrop of Pfizer seeking emergency use authorisation of its COVID-19 vaccine from the US regulators. Another USbased biotechnology giant, Moderna, said it also intends to apply for an emergency use authorisation (EUA) with the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, five vaccines are under different phases of clinical trials in India. The CONTD ON PAGE 9

I do not want to discuss ensuing polls being held ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Modi to discuss with states over COVID vaccine distribution plan Sub-zero temperatures across Kashmir; coldest night of season in Srinagar **STATE TIMES NEWS** NEW DELHI: Prime STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol price on Sunday was hiked by 8 paise per litre and diesel by 19 paise, the third straight day of increase in rates as the firming international oil rates broke a nearly twomonth-long hiatus in price

revision. Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to Rs 81.46 per litre from Rs 81.38, according to a price notification from oil

marketing companies. Diesel rates went up from Rs 70.88 to Rs 71.07 per litre.

State-owned fuel retailers started raising fuel prices from Friday. In three days, petrol price has gone up by 40 paise and diesel rates have risen by 61 paise per litre. Petrol prices had

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ensure transparent, safe and secure conduct of first time Development Council elections, ULB and State Election Commissioner, J&K, K.K Sharma chairing panchayat by elections in the a meeting at Srinagar on Sunday. Union Territory. Election law and order situation and State Commissioner was addresssecurity arrangements for ing a meeting held to review

Petrol, diesel prices rise for third straight day

STATE TIMES NEWS