

03 Black Day for Punjab, Congress dancing to tune of Pakistan's ISI: Chugh

10 JKEDI signs MoU with JU for promotion of Entrepreneurship, Skill Dev

10 Wade's sensational cameo helps Australia to oust Pakistan from T20 World Cup

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China building villages within its side of LAC; no transgression: CDS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Bipin Rawat on Thursday said the controversy about the Chinese coming into the Indian territory and building a new village is "not true", and that the villages were well within the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

He also asserted that China has not transgressed the Indian "perception" of the LAC.

In its recent report, the US Department of Defence said China built a large village inside disputed territory between its Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern sector of the LAC.

Earlier in an official reaction to the US report, the external affairs ministry said India has neither accepted China's "illegal occupation of its territory nor any unjustified Chinese claims".

In a weekly media briefing

on Thursday, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "China has undertaken construction activities in the past several years along the border areas



including in the areas that it has illegally occupied over the decades. India has neither accepted such illegal occupation of our territory nor has it accepted the unjustified Chinese claims."

However, Rawat, at 'Times Now Summit 2021', said, "as far as we are concerned, no such village development has taken place on our side of the LAC."

"The present controversy - that has erupted - that the Chinese have come across into our territory and built a new village is not true," he said.

"Wherever the Chinese have now developed their posts, we have seen some old dilapidated huts that existed in that area," he said. So, some of those huts have been broken and newer infrastructure was being built up and modern huts are coming up, he added. "Yes, maybe a couple of them, the villages, have increased in size. What I would probably feel is that these are to billet the Chinese soldiers and subsequently, they may also be planning to facilitate the arrival of their families once in a while... Our civilians going there, our families visiting forward areas, so they are watching all this," he explained.

Noting that Chinese soldiers are isolated, Rawat said, "he (Chinese soldier) is living thousands of miles away from the mainland. And he sees our people that they are in a much happier state. They get to go home much faster."

Rawat also said both the Indian and Chinese forces have posts on their respective side of the LAC.

"But what I wish to come out with is that Chinese are building villages possibly for billeting and locating their civilians or for their military in the future all along the LAC, particularly after the recent face-offs that we have had," the CDS added.

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J&K reports 177 new COVID cases, Ladakh 15

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 177 new Covid cases, 36 from Jammu division and 141 from Kashmir division, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 333667.

Moreover, 96 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 18 from Jammu Division and 78 from Kashmir Division.

No new case of Mucormycosis has been reported during the past 24 hours, officials said.

On COVID vaccination, they said that 99,922 doses of COVID vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours bringing the cumulative number of doses administered across J&K to 1,55,29,188.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 333667 positive cases, 1311 are Active Positive (173 in Jammu Division and 1138 in Kashmir Division), 327908 have recovered and 4448 have died; 2178 in Jammu division and 2270 in Kashmir division. The Bulletin further said that out

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Over 110.74 crore COVID vaccine doses administered in India so far: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 110.74 crore on Thursday, the Union Health Ministry said.

More than 48 lakh (48,76,535) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm, it said.

The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late night, it said.

The vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from COVID-19 continues to be regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level, the ministry underlined.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs)

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 27.0°C Min: 12.4°C

Humidity

Max: 78 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 16.1°C Min: 1.6°C

Humidity

Max: 90 Min: 72

Sunset : 17:34 Hours

Sunrise : 06:59 Hours

Neither accepted China's illegal occupation, nor any unjustified claim: India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said it has neither accepted China's illegal occupation of its territory nor any unjustified Chinese claims, in the first official reaction to a Pentagon report that said Beijing built a large village in a disputed territory along the Line of Actual Control in the Arunachal Pradesh sector.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on its security and takes all the necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and

territorial integrity.

He was replying to a question on the US report at a media briefing.

Bagchi said India too stepped up infrastructure development including the construction of roads and bridges in areas along the border with China.

"We have taken note of the US Department of Defence's report to US Congress which inter-alia also makes a reference to construction activities by Chinese side along the India-China border areas particularly in the Eastern sector," he said.

Bagchi said reports had

Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Law Secretary and Registrar General and to ensure that issues raised in the petition are taken up, discussed and if possible, resolved therein. The meeting be held most expeditiously within a month and a report thereof be submitted before the Court, the Bench directed.

When the petition came-up for hearing, Division Bench observed that the petitioners are Bench Secretaries working in High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. They have preferred this

petition seeking certain reliefs, one of which is to accord approval to resolution adopted on September 13-15, 2002 in the Chief Justices' Conference thereby enhancing salary and perks of High Court Staff. Another relief is for a direction to grant retrospective effect to SRO 386 dated December 1, 2008. Lastly, a prayer has been made for the grant of ACP in view of resolution of the Full Court dated November 26, 2014 and sanction/creation of six posts of Additional Registrars in view of judgment of the

Supreme Court passed in A R Zakki's case. DB observed that the Court, on earlier occasions, had directed for convening of the meeting of the Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Law Secretary and Registrar General for resolving the above disputes and it is alleged that though one meeting was conducted, as directed but in the said meeting only implementation of Shetty Commission Report was considered and there was no discussion with regard

Disciplinary authority should decide punishment to delinquent employee: SC

quantum of punishment..." a bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Abhay S Oka said.

"The well-ingrained principle of law is that it is the disciplinary authority, or the appellate authority in appeal, which is to decide the nature of punishment to be given to the delinquent employee."

"Keeping in view the seriousness of the misconduct committed by such an employee, it is not open for the Courts to assume and usurp the function of the disciplinary authority," the bench added.

The observation was made while setting aside an order of the Delhi High Court which substituted the penalty of removal from service of a CRPF constable for misconduct.

The bench said the Central Reserve Police Force

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Comparing Hindutva with ISIS, Jihadist Islam 'factually wrong, exaggeration': Azad on Khurshid's book

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday dismissed as "factually wrong and an exaggeration" the comparison of Hindutva with the jihadist Islam of terrorist groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram in party colleague Salman Khurshid's latest book.

Azad, a former leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and a member of the Group of 23 leaders that wrote to party chief Sonia Gandhi seeking organisational overhaul, tweeted, "In Mr. Salman Khurshid's new book, we may not agree with Hindutva as a political ideology distinct from com-



posite culture of Hinduism, but comparing Hindutva with ISIS and Jihadist Islam is factually wrong and an exaggeration."

Referring to the observations of Ghulam Nabi Azad, National Convener of

the BJP IT Cell, in a tweet took on Gandhis, saying that 'Ghulam Nabi Azad, member of G-23, calls it factually wrongful exaggeration. It would, therefore, be fair to assume that Khurshid is echoing

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SRINAGAR: Two terrorists were killed on Thursday in separate encounters with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

While one terrorists was killed in Kulgam district in south Kashmir earlier in the day, another was killed in Srinagar city in the evening.

A police official said acting on specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in Chawalgam area of Kulgam, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there.

As the forces were conducting the searches in the area, the militants fired upon them, he said.

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Two terrorists gunned down in separate encounters



The forces retaliated leading to an encounter in which a militant was killed, the official said.

He said the identity and group affiliation of the slain ultra was being ascertained. Later, another terrorist

was killed in a separate encounter between ultras and security forces in Bemina area of the city here in the evening, the official said. He said an AK rifle was recovered from the site of the encounter.