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### India-China ties...

would've experienced, I speak fairly clear, reasonably understandably (and) there is no lack of clarity so if they want to hear it, I am sure they would have heard it," Jaishankar said in response to a question at a panel discussion on "Greater Power Competition: The Emerging World Order" at the Bloomberg New Economic Forum in Singapore.

"We are going through a particularly bad patch in our relationship because they have taken a set of actions in violation of agreements for which they still don't have a credible explanation and that indicates some rethink about where they want to take our relationship, but that's for them to answer," he further said, in an apparent reference to the eastern Ladakh border clash with China.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in the Galwan Valley on June 15 last year.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the north and south banks of the Pangong Lake in February and in the Gogra area in August. The last round of military talks on October 10 to end the standoff in the remaining friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh ended in a stalemate.

Meanwhile, on Thursday the two sides agreed to hold the 14th round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

Jaishankar also dismissed as "ridiculous" the notion that the United States has been strategically contracting and yielding space to others amidst a global rebalancing of power.

He said that the US is today, a much more flexible partner, much more open to ideas, suggestions, and working arrangements than in the past.

"Don't confuse it with the decline of the United States. I think that's ridiculous," he said in response to a question from the moderator at the session, also attended by former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"It's clear China has been expanding. But the nature of China, the manner of its growing influence is very different. And we don't have a situation where China necessarily replaces the United States. Well, it's natural to think of China, US (and) China as the overarching happening. The fact is, there are also a lot of other countries including India, which have come much more into play. There's been a rebalancing in the world, he said.

Citing QUAD as an example, he pointed out that some countries are coming together on a certain set of concerns and issues or interests. The Quad comprising India, Japan, the US and Australia was formed to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the resource-rich Indo-Pacific free of any influence.

He said the United States is today, a much more flexible partner, much more open to ideas, suggestions, and working arrangements than in the past. "I think this reflects a very different kind of world. We are moving into a world in a sense, you could say, the real transitions after 1992 are now occurring."

The minister also elaborated on a question about how the world is changing. "It is certainly not unipolar and it is not really really bipolar either. There are many more players. A lot of what we are doing in terms of repositioning, working with countries, (it) is multipolar work," he said.

"In a sense, it is partly a hedging strategy, partly autonomous partnership, often very issue based (as) we work with different countries on different sets of issues," said Jaishankar.

Noting that the COVID has called into question the old model of globalisation, he said, "we are actually at multiple levels in a very, very complex transition."

He pointed out that countries are willing to pay additional costs for a greater sense of security.

"We all want more reliable, more resilient supply chains. We want more options. Many of us were in touch during that period and went through very difficult issues. It could have been on health, even in some cases on food. So we are actually at multiple levels in a very, very complex transition. The transition, some of it is with the rise and fall and the rebalancing of powers, he said.

"The transition some of it is with the rise and fall and the rebalancing of powers. Some of it is many more players. Some of it is that our concept of what is national security has changed. We think much more of economic security, much more of health security, much more of digital security, he said.

He said that in the old days, it didn't matter beyond a point what the neighbour's domestic system was.

"Today, issues of trust and transparency are much more relevant in a data driven world. So it does matter to me what the character of my partner is, who they are partners with. So these are all new factors, which I would suggest is really taking the world in a very, very different direction," he said.

Obviously, India would like to see how its interests are best served and those interests today are definitely served with a much closer relationship with the United States, with a much stronger relationship with Europe, and the UK as well as re-energising the relationships with the ASEAN and especially Singapore, he said.

### Farms Bills: Had...

people want is a different matter but we could not connect to them in the last two years. "Firstly due to the situation that broke out after August 5, 2019 restrictions and thereafter due to Covid-19," he said adding, "we are visiting people now and holding interactions. We will be visiting every region of the Union Territory in coming days and know their aspirations."

### India to soon...

addressing the gathering at the "Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv" here.

"By 2024-2025, we will be achieving the target of exporting defence products worth USD 5 billion as fixed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I can assure him that 90 per cent of the defence products will be made in India soon," he said.

Earlier, Singh paid tributes to Rani Laxmibai and said there was a time when India was counted among the countries buying the largest number of defence equipment in the world, but today, with the efforts of the prime minister, the situation has changed.

In the presence of Modi at the concluding session on the final day of the Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv, which began in Jhansi on Wednesday, the defence minister said due to his initiatives for women empowerment, women are being recruited in the Army.

He said taking inspiration from Rani Laxmibai, the government is also increasing the participation of women in various fields as well as in the Army.

Singh, who inaugurated the three-day event jointly organised by the defence ministry and the Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday, had earlier said women's participation has increased in all security forces, including police and the paramilitary forces, since the Modi government came to power in 2014.

"When I was the home minister, I had issued an advisory to all the states that a 33-per cent representation should be given to women in security forces. The situation has changed now. In all police and paramilitary forces, the participation of women has increased," he had said.

"There was a time when 65-70 per cent of defence equipment was imported. The picture has changed now. Only 35 per cent defence items are imported and 65 per cent are being manufactured in India," Singh had said.

Shedding light on other visible results, he had said defence exports from India had crossed the Rs 38,000-crore mark in the last seven years.

### Austria to enter...

for Anesthesiology, Resuscitation and Intensive Care Medicine told Austrian news agency APA.

Given the current infection developments, we believe there are no alternatives to even greater contact restriction than recently, so any measures that help curb the momentum are welcome, he added.

### Ganderbal area.

In another mishap at Vijaypur, four persons got injured and were shifted to hospital for treatment. They were identified as Fazam Begum, resident of Bari Brahma; Makhan Singh, Meenu Kumar and Hardev Singh, all residents of Billawar.

### Youth found hanging

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A youth was found hanging in his house at Lakhapur area on Friday.

As per details, Ishant Sharma, son of Shahsi, resident of Ward No 1, Lakhapur was found hanging with ceiling fan in his room and was shifted to hospital by his family members where doctors declared him as brought dead. Police is investigating the matter.

### Theft case solved, 2 arrested

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Friday solved a theft case by arresting two thieves and recovered stolen gold ornaments and cash from their possession.

As per details, Raj Kumar, son of Shiv Nagar lodged a complaint with police regarding theft in his house. Acting on the complaint, police started investigation and rounded up two suspects who confessed their crime during interrogation. The accused, identified as Nitish Sharma and Mukesh Kumar, were arrested and on their disclosure stolen gold ornaments and cash was also recovered by police.

### Boy-girl consumed poison, hospitalised

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A boy and a girl were hospitalized after they consumed poison in Udhampur on Friday. They were shifted to hospital for treatment, but their condition is stated to be critical. The boy has been identified as Sushant Padotra, resident of Jawahar Nagar while girl is a resident of Battal Ballian.

### Man dies after consuming poison

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man died after he consumed some poison in his house at Sidhra on Friday.

As per details, one Chuni Lal, son of Biku Ram, resident of Aintal consumed poison in his house and was shifted to hospital by his family members where he was declared as brought dead. Police is investigating the matter.

### Man dies under mysterious circumstances

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man died under mysterious circumstances in Kanachak area on Friday.

As per details, one Surinder Kumar, son of Shiv Dharam, resident of Amritsar (Punjab) who came to Babe-dal-Talab for taking part in annual Mela, fell unconscious and was shifted to hospital where he was declared brought dead by doctors. Police is investigating the matter.

### Drone like flying-object spotted near LoC in Mendhar, alert sounded

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: An alert has been sounded in Mendhar sub-division after a drone like object was spotted over villages near LoC on Friday. The suspected object with blinking lights was seen flying over villages including Sonian, Lanjote, Dhargalo and others located in the vicinity of Line of Control.

As per sources, many villagers have seen this object after which an alert has been sounded, forces have stepped up security in the area and searches are also going on.

### POCSO accused escapes from Police custody

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Till now Police has got no clue of an accused, who fled from the police custody few days back.

As per details, one Kuldeep Singh alias Kallo, resident of Panchayat Katti, who was arrested under Sections 354/506 of POCSO Act, fled from the Police Station on Nov 16 when he was being taken to washroom by a Policeman on the duty. The detainee pushed away the cop and managed to flee taking advantage of darkness.

### Man held with Charas

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Police on Friday nabbed a man and recovered 293 gm Charas from his possession.

As per details, a party from Police Station Chanderkote arrested a person with 293 gm Charas at Naka Point NH Chanderkote. The accused was apprehended by police party headed by Incharge SHO Chanderkote, Insp Rous Khan under supervision of DySP Hqs Ramban, Pardeep Singh Sen, while conducting Naka checking under jurisdiction of Police Station Chanderkote. On enquiry, the accused disclosed his identity as Anil Bakshi, son of Harbans Lal, resident of Hari Singh Nagar, Rehari Colony, Jammu. FIR No 148/2021 under sections 8/20 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Chanderkote.

For the past seven days, the country has reported more than 10,000 new infection cases daily.

Hospitals have been overwhelmed with many new COVID-19 patients, and deaths have been rising again, too. So far, 11,525 people have died of the virus in Austria.

Austria, a country of 8.9 million, has one of the lowest vaccination rates in Western Europe only 65.7% of the population are fully vaccinated.

Despite all the persuasion and campaigns, too few people have decided to get vaccinated, Schallenberg said, leaving the country no other choice but to introduce mandatory vaccinations in February.

The chancellor said the details would be finalised in the coming weeks but those who continued to refuse to get vaccinated would have to expect to get fined.

For a long time, the consensus in this country was that we didn't want mandatory vaccination, Schallenberg said. For a long time, perhaps too long. (AP)

### COVID inspection teams...

functionality of oxygen plants, and reviewing emergency Covid action plan.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on the district-wise analysis of Covid-19 situation & threat level, present status of positivity rate, testing, and vaccination across the UT, besides measures taken to implement the directions passed in previous meetings. The Deputy Commissioners apprised the meeting of various measures and containment efforts put in place in their respective districts.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Shailesh Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Sh Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners and SPs, attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

### JK reports 193...

(Division), 328888 have recovered and 4459 have died; 2182 in Jammu division and 2277 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 17086195 test results available, 335016 samples have tested positive and 16751179 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 54,770 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 4168315 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 5641 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1669 in isolation and 435041 in home surveillance. Besides, 3721505 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded 18 fresh COVID-19 cases, raising its tally to 21,270, officials said.

There are now 211 active cases -- 202 in Leh district and nine in Kargil district - in the union territory, they said.

No death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours.

Ladakh has registered 211 Covid-related deaths -- 153 in Leh and 58 in Kargil - since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

All 18 fresh cases were reported from Leh, the officials said.

Twelve more patients were cured of the disease and discharged from hospital in Leh since Thursday. The total number of cured patients has reached 20,846, they said.

### Strike disrupts normal...

or under house detention, to protest such inhumanity, and in solidarity with the devastated families of the slain civilians and their demand that the dead bodies of their loved ones be returned to them for burial, people should observe a shut down on Friday 19th November on their own," the Hurriyat said in a statement here.

The bodies of the two civilians Altaf Bhat and Mudasir Gul killed during Monday's encounter in Hyderpora area of the city were exhumed at Handwara late on Thursday and were handed over to the families. The bodies were buried here during the night after their last rites were performed by the families.

### SKUAST-J organises training cum awareness programme under NABARD funded project

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Principal Investigator of the project briefed the farmers about aims and objectives of the project wherein sustainable business cum marketing model will be suggested for farmers' to augment their income and appropriate market linkages will be developed for better remuneration. He emphasized the farmers that being a member of FPO to take advantage of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and focus on post harvest management and processing of the commodities to reduce the losses and to increase the income. Dr. Lakshmi Kant Sharma, Associate Professor, Agricultural Extension Education suggested the farmers to adopt technologies recommended by the University for cultivation of vegetables and also discussed appropriate use of farm inputs. Dr. Narinder Panotra, Assistant Professor, Agronomy deliberated upon the preparation of vermicompost and suggested few organic and natural pesticides to control pests and diseases. Earlier, Rajes Dutta, District Development Manager, NABARD, Udhampur and Doda welcomed the farmers' and team of Scientists from various divisions of the University. The programme was also attended by Yogeshwar Sharma, AEA, Chenani, Karan Singh, JAEO, Assar and members of FPO.

The programme was organised for the Farmers' of Farmer Producer Organization of Vegetables of Sudhmahadev and Doda and in the presence of officials of NABARD, Department of Agriculture and Members of the Farmer Producer Organization. More than fifty farmers' participated in the programme and put forth their suggestions and demand for the marketing of vegetables. Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee meeting under supervision of Dr. Shahid Ahmad, Associate Director Research and Nodal Officer (PME Cell), SKUAST-Jammu was also conducted to review the implementation of the captioned project and future course of action to benefit the farmers. Dr. Anil Bhat, and members of FPO.

Efforts on to establish women, youth cooperatives in district: DC Rajouri

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: District administration Rajouri, in collaboration with Cooperative Department on Friday organised a mega function to mark 68th All India Cooperative Week celebration that commenced from 14th November.

Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh K Shavan was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Antar Singh; General Secretary JK Cooperative Union Jammu, Bhakshi Ganesh Das; President House Building Cooperative Societies Ltd Rajouri, Dr Gauri Ram; MGNF Fellow, Josh Varghish and Prominent citizens including Subash Chander (retired KAS); Ifthikhar Dar and members of the cooperative societies attended the event.

The programme began with singing of the National Anthem by the girl students.

In his address, the DDC said that the District Administration is making concerted efforts to strengthen the cooperative societies in the district and all possible measures are being taken in this regard.