Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Kulgam Volleyball **Championship begins**

19 Rakesh Wazir appointed Chairman PHD CCI Jammu Region Chapter

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

DG Sports assesses preparation of J&K team's Judo Camp

www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

11 injured in grenade attack in Srinagar CM condemns attack, Dy CM visits injured at SMHS hospital



Terrorists SRINAGAR: lobbed a grenade at a CRPF bunker near a crowded flea market in the heart of the city here on Sunday, injuring at least 11 civilians, officials

The attack, which took place near a heavily guarded complex housing All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra near the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), comes a day after security forces eliminated a top Pakistani commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar.

A senior police officer said the terrorists hurled the grenade at the Central Police Force (CRPF) bunker near the TRC. "However, the grenade missed the intended target and landed on the roadside, injuring 11 people," the officer said.

The blast took place close to the weekly flea market, popularly known as the

Punish terrorists, their associates: LG

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming the government's resolve not to allow terror elements to succeed in their nefarious designs, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday directed the security officials for an effective and forceful response to punish the terrorists and their associates.

"Terrorists targeting our citizens will have to pay a very heavy price for their actions. You have full freedom to crush terror outfits and leave no stone unturned to complete this mission," the Lieutenant Governor told the senior security

He spoke to Director General of Police Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat and senior officials of the security agencies on the grenade attack in Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor wished speedy recovery of those injured and directed that district administration should extend all possible assistance.

throughd by thousands. The explosion caused panic in the area and sent shoppers scrambling for cover.

Chief Minister Omar

attack. Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chuadhary, accompanied by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Masood visited SMHS hospital here to inquire about the health of civilians injured in

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister

Sunil Sharma elected as BJP legislature party leader in LA

Narinder Singh to be party candidate for Dy Speaker post

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Former minister Sunil Sharma was elected as the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP legisla-

ture party on Sunday. The MLA from Padder Nagseni in the Kishtwar district is all set to be the leader of opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly.

"Sunil Sharma has been elected as the BJP legislature party leader. He will be the leader of the opposition in the assembly," a BJP spokesman said after a meeting of the Legislature party

47-year-old BJP leader was elected for a second term in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly. Sharma won with a narrow margin from Padder Nagseni, a newly created constituency after the 2022 delimitation process in the Union

Sharma was a minister of





President BJP J&K Sat Sharma, along with MLA Sunil Sharma calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan. SRINAGAR: Sat Sharma, President BJP J&K, along with Sunil Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly from Padder-Nagseni Constituency on Sunday called on Lieutenant

state in the PDP-BJP coalition government from 2014

spokesman said

Narinder Singh will be the

Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

the election, Sharma said he is grateful to the party's central and state leadership

of Deputy Speaker.

Talking to reporters after

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sat Sharma returns as J&K BJP Chief

JAMMU: Former minister Sat Paul Sharma returned as the head of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of BJP, a post he had held for two and-a-half years between 2015 and 2018.

Sharma, 63, was denied a party ticket in the recent assembly election. He was appointed as working presilent of the party in September amid resentment over ticket distribution and is now elevated to the post of president, replacing the party's longest-serving J-K unit president Ravinder Raina.

Raina, who had replaced Sharma in May 2018 and held the post for six-and-ahalf years, has been made a member of the party's national executive. He had failed to retain his

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

NC, Congress legislature parties meet to chalk out strategy for maiden J&K Assembly session

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A joint meeting of the legislature parof the National Conference and alliance partner Congress to chalk out a strategy for the maiden session of the and Kashmir Jammu Assembly began Sunday.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was among those present at the meeting.

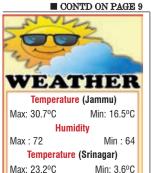
The joint meeting also finalised the nominee for the speaker's post.

Earlier, the two parties held separate meetings of their respective legislature

Pak conducted artillery tests near LoC: Officials STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Pakistan has tested various artillery systems including a replica of the SH-15 and a $155~\mathrm{mm}$ truck-mounted howitzer developed by a Chinese firm along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, according to offi-

This comes as the neighbouring country strengthens defence ties with Gulf and Western European countries, and its long-standing ally Turkiye, the officials said. The movement of the 155 mm guns, produced in collaboration with a Gulf nation under the supervision of a state-owned Chinese defence company, along the LoC was observed recently. they said. The guns -- a variant of SH-15 that is known for its 'shoot and scoot' capability -- can fire a range of munitions, including highexplosive, armour-piercing and smoke rounds, boasting of a maximum range of approximately 30 kilometres and a firing rate of up to six



Sunset: 17:38 Hours

Sunrise: 06:49 Hours

Min: 66

Max: 82

The first session of the legislative assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to meet for a five-day ses-

sion from Monday.

sional calendar for the session issued by the Assembly Secretariat, the House will elect the speaker during the first sitting on Monday.

The House will meet

According to the provi-

after a gap of more than six years, with the last session held in early 2018 -- a year before the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union

Sunday market, which is

The officer said the attack was borne out of the desperation of terrorists following Saturday's killing of the LeT commander.

the grenade.

Chugh visits Devender Singh Rana's residence to offer condolences

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh visited the residence of the late Devender Singh Rana in Jammu on Sunday to offer his condolences on the passing of the esteemed Union Minister Prahlad Joshi was

their heartfelt sympathies to the griev-During the visit, Chugh conveyed his sincere condolences to the family mem-

also present, as both leaders expressed

bers, including Devender Singh Rana's elder brother, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh.

The leaders paid their respects to the late Devender Singh Rana, acknowledging and honouring his contributions to the community and his enduring legacy



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh offering condolences to the family members of late Devender Singh Rana in Jammu on Sunday.

Chugh highlighted the strong sense of respect and solidarity among party lead-

ers and the profound loss felt by the community at Devender Singh Rana's

Terror associate arrested in Pulwama; arms, ammo seized "Sajad Ahmed disclosed the

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces have arrested a terrorist associate linked with the proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen in Pulwama district and seized arms and ammunition from him, police said on Sunday.

They identified the man as Sajad Ahmed Dar, a resident of Pulwama's Tahab area.

A spokesperson said a joint team of police, the Army and the CRPF arrested Dar from Dangerpora, Pulwama, on November 2 in connection with a case registered under the Explosives Act and the Unlawful Activities

location inside his shop where he had kept arms and ammunition. Accordingly, the joint team of the forces raided the said spot where they recovered and seized the hidden arms and ammunition, including a pistol, a magazine with 12 rounds and two live grenades," he added.

Earlier this week, a terrorist associate of Hizbul Mujahideen -- Danish Bashir Ahangar -- was arrested in the instant case.

On his disclosure, further arrests and subsequent seizures were made, the

Will bring stringent law to prevent transfer of tribal land to infiltrators: Amit Shah

RANCHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the JMM-led government in Jharkhand, accusing it of "patronising" Bangladeshi infiltrators for vote bank politics" and asserted that if the BJP was voted to power in the state, it will enact stringent legislation to prevent transfer of tribal land to illegal immi-

Shah also announced that Naxalism would be eradicated from the country by March 2026 and that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would be implemented in Jharkhand without impacting the tribal population. Addressing a BJP rally at

Dhalbhumgarh in Ghatshila, Shah



Jharkhand was declining due to the Hemant Soren government treating "Bangladeshi infiltrators as its vote

"Bangladeshi infiltration is causing a sharp decline in tribal population in Jharkhand, especially in Santhal Parganas and Kolhan regions... the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance is encouraging it for petty political gains," he

"Our 'Mati, Beti, Roti (land, daughter and bread) are under attack. The BJP will not allow this to continue...We will bring in stringent legislation to prevent the transfer of tribal land to infiltrators. We will also take back the land grabbed by them and drive them out," Shah

Shah said his government will introduce UCC in Jharkhand but tribals will be kept out of its ambit

"Hemant Soren and the JMM government are spreading false propaganda that UCC will impact tribal rights, culture and relevant legislation, which is totally baseless as they will be kept out of its ambit," Shah **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Number of terror attacks gone down significantly in J&K: Rajnath China relationship, the level and patrolling at the

STATE TIMES NEWS

KANPUR: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said compared to earlier times, the number of terrorist attacks has decreased significantly in Jammu and Kashmir.

here, Singh said security forces are vigilant in Jammu and Kashmir and terrorism would be completely eradicated from the region.

The Union Territory is witnessing rapid development, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

Commenting on the India-



tions with its neighbours.

Talks between India and China are going on for more than a year, he pointed out. Singh said all issues have been resolved at the Army

defence minister said India India-China border is going Singh visited the Field Gun Factory here and inspected a heat-treat-

> assembly to take stock of critical indigenous defence capabilities. He personally witnessed the manufactur-

ment plant and gun

ing of barrel-and-breach assemblies of various artillery guns and tanks, including the T-72 tank and the Dhanush and Sarang

guns. The defence minister

India, China made 'some progress' in disengagement, other steps could happen: EAM

STATE TIMES NEWS

BRISBANE: India and China have made "some progress" in disengagement, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday, describing it as a "welcome" move which opens up the possibility that other steps could

His comment comes days after Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh. The Indian Army commenced verification patrolling at Depsang while patrolling at Demchok started on Friday.

"In terms of India and China, yes, we have made some progress. You know, our relations were very, very



disturbed for reasons all of you know. We have made some progress in what we call disengagement, which is when troops were very close to each other, with the possibility that could lead to some untoward incident," Jaishankar said while responding to a question during interaction with the Indian diaspora here.

"There are very large numbers of Chinese troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control who were not there before 2020. And we, in turn, have counter-deployed. There are other aspects of the relationship, which also got affected during this period. So clearly, we have to see

after the disengagement, what is the direction we go. But we do think the disengagement is a welcome step. It opens up the possibility that other steps could happen," said the minister.

He said that the expectation after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia last month was that "both the national security advisor and myself, we would meet our counterpart. So that's where things are".

On October 21, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in Delhi that an agreement had been finalised between India and China following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020

The agreement was firmed up on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff.

The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Jaishankar, who arrived in the Australian city of Brisbane earlier in the day on the first leg of his twonation tour, said that there are right now two conflicts, which are in everybody's mind.

"One is Ukraine. And one is what is happening in the Middle East. In

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CONTD ON PAGE 9 AR Rather likely to become J&K Assembly Speaker

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Veteran National Conference leader and seven-time MLA from Charar-e-Sharief Abdul Rahim Rather is likely to become the first speaker of the legislative

assembly of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which is scheduled to meet for a five-

day session on Monday. According to the provisional calendar for the session issued by the Assembly Secretariat, the House will elect the speaker in the first sitting on Monday.

Sources in the National Conference (NC) said the 80-year-old Rather is most likely to be the party's candidate for the post of speaker.

"We are comfortably placed as the treasury benches have the numbers. As of now, Rather sahib is all set to be the speaker of the legislative assembly," a senior NC leader said on the condition

of anonymity. Rather had earlier held the post of the speaker in the legislative assembly of the erstwhile

state of Jammu and Kashmir. He was also the leader of the opposition from 2002 to 2008 when the PDP-Congress coalition government ruled the state.

During a meeting of its legislature party held earlier on Sunday, the BJP nominated Narinder Singh Raina as its candidate for the post of deputy speaker.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9