

03 Admn focused on exploring full potential of J&K's pilgrimage tourism: LG

09 Terrorists pasted threatening posters in Rajouri

10 33rd Jammu District Volleyball Championship concludes; Stadium 'A' Jammu lifts boys title, Trikuta Club girls' trophy

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India great power, time-tested friend of Russia: Putin



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting President of Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House in New Delhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Describing India as a "great power" and a "time-tested" friend, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday identified terrorism, drug trafficking and organised crime as common challenges facing both countries.

In his initial remarks during in-person talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here, Putin also expressed concern over the developments in Afghanistan and said India and Russia will continue to coordinate on major challenges facing the region.

"We perceive India as a great power, a friendly nation and a time-tested friend. The relations between our countries are

developing and we are looking into the future," Putin said.

Modi said Putin's second visit abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic reflected his personal commitment to the India-Russia ties and that the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two sides was getting stronger.

In the last few decades, the world witnessed many fundamental changes and different kinds of geopolitical equations and variables, but the friendship of India and Russia remained constant, Modi said.

"Your visit to India is a reflection of your commitment to ties with India,"

India, Russia ink 28 pacts

NEW DELHI: India and Russia on Monday inked 28 agreements to further broad-base their partnership and vowed to expand cooperation and coordination in dealing with major challenges like the threat of terrorism and the unfolding situation in Afghanistan. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla described the summit talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin as "highly productive". He said 28 agreements that included government-to-government pacts were concluded between the two sides in a number of areas. Asked whether India raised the issue of the eastern Ladakh standoff, the foreign secretary only said all concerns relating to India's security were discussed.

the prime minister said.

Putin said both sides continue to cooperate on global issues and the positions of the two sides on many issues have similarities.

"Naturally, we are concerned about everything that has to do with terrorism. I mean the fight against terrorism and the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime," Putin said. "In this regard,

Terrorist, associate arrested in Sopore

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Monday arrested a terrorist and his associate in Sopore in Baramulla district, police said.

Acting on a specific input regarding the presence of a terrorist in Ningli area of Sopore in the north Kashmir district, a cordon-and-search operation was launched by the security forces, a police spokesman said. "During the search operation, a

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Selfie point in Jammu damaged, FIR lodged

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The first-ever selfie point with an installation 'I love Jammu' set up under the smart city mission at B C Road here was damaged by unidentified persons, following which an FIR was lodged in the case, officials said on Monday.

The selfie point was inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) Anvy Lavasa on October

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Leave India if you feel suffocated here: Indresh tells Farooq Abdullah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar hit out at National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Monday over his remarks that the people of Jammu and Kashmir may have to make "sacrifices" like the agitating farmers to get their rights back, saying it shows that he loves violence, not peace.

He suggested that Abdullah should leave the country to live in any other part of the world that he likes if he feels suffocated in India.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader also slammed People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti for staging a protest in Delhi against the alleged repression of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying "it has become a fashion for her to tell lies".

He said both the leaders from Jammu and Kashmir should stop playing the "poli-



tics of provocation" and becoming an obstruction in maintaining the country's unity and integrity.

"His statement clearly shows that he loves violence, not peace. He is saying he will get everyone killed, keep them hungry," Kumar said at a press conference here when asked for his views on Abdullah's remarks.

"Farooq Abdullah had earlier said China's help will be taken for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Shall we accept it? Never. It is nonsense. If he feels suffocated here, he

should go wherever he wants, Arab or America. His wife lives in England. He can also think of going there to live with his wife. He will be happy," the RSS leader added.

Abdullah on Sunday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir may have to make "sacrifices", like the farmers protesting against three farm laws did, to restore its statehood and special status.

Addressing a convention of the NC's youth wing on the occasion of the 116th birth anniversary of party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah at his mausoleum at Naseembagh in Srinagar, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister also said his party does not support violence.

In August 2019, the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Union

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Jammu-Lakhanpur NH turns into garbage dump; Gujarat-based company fails to maintain

■ HITESH MAHAJAN

JAMMU: The Jammu-Lakhanpur National Highway has turned into a garbage dump as heaps of garbage can be seen along highway besides the repair

ness along highway; repair of dividers; plantation, shifting of accident victims including animals etc. But surprisingly, nothing has been seen on ground so far as heaps of garbage are lying along high-

Gujarat-based company given contract of Rs 16 Crore for 24 months to maintain NH

work of the NH is not being carried out properly. Thus putting the lives of passengers at risk.

Pertinent to mention that the tender was allotted to a Gujarat based company to maintain Jammu to Lakhanpur road in Rs 16 crore for 24 months.

The tender include cleanli-

way, dividers are covered with bushes posing serious accident threats.

"How can we expect our tourism industry to groom if we cannot even provide smooth and clean roads to the pilgrims and tourists," owner of a restaurant near Samba town, said

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Former revenue officials among four charge-sheeted for land-grabbing by impersonation, fraud

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch Jammu filed charge-sheet against four people, including two revenue officials, who died during the course of investigation, for their involvement in grabbing 1 Kanal 10 Marlas (0.187 acre) land at Sunjwan belonging to complainant after hatching a criminal conspiracy and managing fictitious 'Fard-e-Intikhab' (revenue extract) to grab the land by way of impersonation in 2010.

As per an official spokesperson, the charge-sheet was filed in the court of

Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu in FIR No. 20/2010 registered under sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of RPC and 5(2) of PC Act at Crime Branch Jammu against the then Naib Tehsildar, Aslam Din, son of Haji Kala Khan, resident of Rehan Kotranka (now expired) and the then Patwari Halqa Sunjwan, Tara Chand, son of Mangat Ram, resident of Bakshi Nagar, Jammu (now expired) then Patwari Halqa Sunjwan, Jammu along with accused Gurmukh Singh, son of Gurneet Singh, resident of Narwal Pain Satwari and

Romesh Chander, son of Lajpat Rai, resident of Rehari. Bal Krishan Dutta, son of Ludermani Dutta, resident of HNo 77, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu has lodged the complaint before the Crime Branch Jammu and the allegations against the accused were prima facie substantiated which led to the registration of the case, the spokesperson said.

During the course of investigation, record pertaining to the land in question was obtained from revenue department and the statements of witnesses were recorded. The original copy

of sale deed dated October 12 2004 was obtained from the court concerned and seized in the case, said spokesperson, adding that evidence collected during investigation revealed that Singh and Chander in connivance with the then Patwari Halqa Sunjwan and the then Naib Tehsildar managed fictitious Fard-e- Intikhab, while Chander impersonated Dutta (complainant) before the court. The spokesperson further said both the accused misled the court and prepared a fake sale deed in the name of Singh. "Since

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Centre, Army tell SC 487 women officers out of 615 granted PC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre and Army authorities Monday told the Supreme Court that after its last year's verdict, 487 Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCOs) have been granted Permanent Commission out of the 615 who were considered for it.

The top court which recorded its appreciation for all the concerned authorities including Chief of Army Staff for acting fair and objective manner to resolve the issue directed that 12 WSSCOs, who have been released from service during the pendency of proceedings,

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J&K Bank awarded for second highest percentage of digital payment transactions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In recognition of its growing digital operations, J&K Bank has been felicitated for achieving 2nd highest percentage of digital payment transactions under the category of Small & Micro banks as a private sector Bank.

The Bank earned the honors for its outstanding performance in promoting digital payments as part of the "Digital Payments Utsav", celebrated by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

On behalf of the Bank, Vice President (Strategy &

IT) Imtiyaz Ahmad received the 'Utkarsh Puraskar' of DigiDhan Award 2020-21 from Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways (GoI) Ashwini Vaishnav in presence of Minister of State (MoS) for Electronics & IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

Commenting upon the achievement, CMD R K Chhibber congratulated the entire IT Department of the Bank for this feat saying, "It is a big recog-

nition for the Bank especially its Digital Team that has been working beyond duty hours to expand digital operations of the bank while focusing on making these easier, safer and smarter.

The acknowledgement testifies to our sustained focus on innovation and scale so as to create greater value for all our stakeholders especially our valuable customers."

Notably, the Bank also earned second place under the category of 'Process Innovation' at the recently held Infosys Finalec Innovation Awards 2021.

108 new COVID cases in J&K, two more die

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 108 fresh coronavirus cases on Monday, pushing the infection count to 3,37,915, while two fatalities in the past 24 hours raised the death toll to 4,483, officials said.

Twenty-two of the new cases were from the Jammu division and 86 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 40 fresh COVID-19 cases followed by Baramulla and Jammu districts, both of which registered 11 new infections.

There are 1,661 active coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir, while the count of recoveries has reached 3,31,771, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 31 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 21,714, while the number

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 24.1°C Min: 10.8°C

Humidity

Max : 86 Min : 62

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 12.4°C Min: 2.6°C

Humidity

Max : 94 Min: 71

Sunset : 17:28 Hours

Sunrise : 07:20 Hours

ACB presents charge-sheet against XEn, AAO in trap case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has produced charge-sheet against two Government employees namely Rajinder Kumar, Executive Engineer and Mohd Farooq, Assistant Accounts Officer, SAMAGRA (Education Division, SSA/RMSA, Div III-IV) in a trap case in the Court of Anti-Corruption Jammu.

As per an official spokesperson, the case was registered on basis of a complaint regarding alleged demand of bribe by Rajinder Kumar, Executive Engineer and Mohd Farooq Ahmad, Asstt Accounts

Officer of SAMAGRA (Education Division, SSA/RMSA, Div III-IV) Jammu for release of long pending bills. "Complainant has alleged that he had carried out partial construction work. He had received payment of Rs. 29.97 lakh in February, 2020. After completion of some more work, bills worth Rs 15 lakh were raised by him. The accused officials withheld payment on the grounds that their share in respect of the earlier payment has not been paid in terms of 2 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively as such Rs 45,000 was demanded for release of new

bills. On receipt of complaint, FIR No. 05/20 under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act read with 120B of IPC was registered against accused public servants and were subsequently caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe. After receiving sanction from Government, a charge-sheet of the case was produced against the accused in the Anti-Corruption Court, Jammu for judicial determination," said official, adding that next date of hearing has been fixed on January 3, 2022.

Air connectivity in J&K needs to be enhanced: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday led a delegation of Jammu and Kashmir leaders to request the Union Civil Aviation Minister for affordable air connectivity to remote areas of the Union Territory.

Chugh lauded the initiatives taken by the Centre and the LG Administration in enhancing, upgrading and modernizing the air connectivity in the Union Territory and sought affordable services for the people of the remote areas like Kishtwar, Doda, Poonch-Rajouri, Uri, Gurez, Karnah, Keran and other such places that remain landlocked during most part of the year.

"Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has been taking pioneering steps in realizing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in upgrading air services in Jammu and Kashmir", said Chugh.



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh led delegation of J&K leaders calling on Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.

During an interaction with the Union Civil Aviation Minister in Delhi the delegation had an exhaustive discussion with Jyotiraditya Scindia on facilities being improved and new strides being taken in the sector.

Chugh said already many steps being taken for putting in place state

of air terminals at Jammu and Srinagar airports with world class facilities. He said it would go a long way in promoting pilgrim and adventure tourism, the mainstay of majority of the people, directly and indirectly in both the regions of the Union Territory.

While Chugh sought the facilities to

be completed within time-bound schedule by involving the local stakeholders apart from skilled and unskilled work-force, the Union Minister gave an overview of the facilities being created with the primary objective of incentivizing the tourists to give economic fillip to the Union Territory.

He said air connectivity holds key to economic emancipation of the people and promoting the tourism destinations on national and international canvass is imperative.

Chugh said that extension of the air services to common people, especially during medical and other emergencies, will in fact be in consonance with the Prime Minister's cherished agenda of Sabka Vikas, Sabka Sath and Sabka Vishwas.

He hailed the dynamism with which the Lieutenant Governor Sinha is single mindedly pursuing each sector of development. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CBSE's assessment scheme attained finality, received court's seal of approval: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday said that CBSE's assessment scheme for evaluation of marks of class 12 students, whose board examinations were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year, has attained finality and received the seal of approval of the apex court.

Observing that it will not reopen the issue of CBSE's scheme at all, the top court said it will not be open to the petitioners, who have raised grievance related to the scheme and evaluation of marks, to challenge the scheme.

We are making it very clear, so far as the formula is concerned, that has attained

finality. We will not reopen that issue at all, a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and C T Ravikumar told the counsel appearing for the petitioners.

The apex court noted that the petitioners are in effect questioning the ratio prescribed in the scheme, formulated by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which has received approval of the top court and similar arguments for reconsideration were earlier rejected.

While disposing of the plea, the bench said the petitioners would pursue their representation made to the authority in this regard and the same be decided on its own

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