REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin today discussed bilateral cooperation, including in the economic, financial, and energy sectors and expressed satisfaction with the sustained growth in bilateral ties in these areas. Both leaders held bilateral talks at Tianjin in China on the sidelines of the SCO Summit. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues, including the latest developments concerning Ukraine. The two leaders reaffirmed their support for further strengthening of the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the two countries. The Prime Minister conveyed to President Putin that he was looking forward to receiving him in India for the 23rd Annual Summit later this year. In his opening remarks, Mr Modi said India and Russia have always stood shoulder to shoulder even during the toughest of times. He said the close cooperation between the two nations is also important for world peace, stability and prosperity.

Byte-Modi-Putin

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation declaration strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and sent a clear and unified message against terrorism. The declaration released after the Heads of States Council summit also recognized India's growing contributions to regional cooperation and innovation. The 'Tianjin Declaration' marks a significant step in reinforcing collective efforts against terrorism and reflects the growing importance of India's role in shaping regional cooperation under the SCO umbrella. Reaffirming their unwavering commitment to combating terrorism, separatism, and extremism, the SCO nations rejected the use of such groups for mercenary purposes, and highlighted the sovereign right and responsibility of states to counter extremist threats.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has stressed that, "In the race to development, if we forget our roots, our culture and our language, we will never be truly developed." Khandu said this while attending the annual festival Solung of the Adis at Roing this morning. He reiterated his appeal to practise local dialects in everyday life for its preservation.

Admitting that learning and speaking mainstream languages like English and Hindi are important in today's world, Khandu asserted that it should never be at the cost of mother tongue. He

urged elders and parents to speak to their young children in their native language so that the younger generation stay connected to it. Likewise, he urged the youth to practise and speak in their mother tongue so that later they can pass it down to the generation coming after them. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister laid foundation for several development works in Lower Dibang Valley district.

Minister of Civil Aviation, Urban Development & Land Management, Balo Raja today inaugurated a 3-day Solung Festival celebration at Yingkiong in Upper Siang district. While addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized that festivals such as Solung should be celebrated in a meaningful way, reflecting cultural pride and social responsibility. He called upon the youth to stay vigilant against drug abuse, and urged that Upper Siang should set an example for other districts to emulate. He also underlined the importance of cleanliness after the festival, praising the Adi community as one of the most intellectual societies, and encouraged them to uphold traditions while adopting flexibility for progress and development. On the occasion, the Minister also released a Solung Souvenir.

Arunachal's top Wushu athlete, Nyeman Wangsu will represent India at the prestigious 17th World Wushu Championships, to be held in Brasília, Brazil, from Setp 1st to 8th. Wangsu is a three-time National Games Gold Medalist.