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COVID SURGE: Centre asks states, UTs to review health infra preparedness

Omicron tally in India rises to 1,892

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: With Omicron tally across the country rising to 1,892 and surge being witnessed in the corona tally, the Centre on Tuesday asked states and Union Territories to review infrastructure preparedness, including re-establishment of field and makeshift facilities, so that they are not found wanting if there is a surge in hospital admissions due to escalation in Covid cases.

To tackle a possible rise in COVID-19 cases, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on January 1 advised states to start setting up makeshift hospitals, constitute special teams to monitor patients in home isolation as he emphasised the significance of upgrading health infrastructure timely and swiftly.

Referring to the letter of Bhushan, Additional Secretary in the ministry Arti Ahuja wrote to all

states, saying it is expected that the work for re-establishment and re-commissioning of field and makeshift hospital facilities would have begun.

States and Union Territories must have also started the exercise to repurpose the beds in public and private hospitals for Covid cases to ensure maximum preparedness against another potential surge in cases, the officer said in the letter. The additional chief secretary, principal secretary and health secretary of all states. "You may review this matter at your level regularly to ensure that in the eventuality of a potential surge in hospital admissions, the state and UT is not found wanting," she stated.

States are also expected to develop Covid care centres in hotel rooms and other similar accommodations to be linked with dedicated Covid hospitals mild or asymptomatic

cases, Ahuja reiterated.

"It is imperative that logistical supplies like testing reagents and kits (both for RT-PCR and rapid antigen testing) are procured and maintained in ample supply to avoid any stock shortages, in case of a sudden increase in the number of cases. It is advised that these preparatory measures must be taken up with the highest priority and regular monitoring may be ensured."

Meanwhile, a total of 1,892 cases of Omicron variant of coronavirus have been detected across 23 states and Union Territories so far, out of which 766 have recovered or migrated, according to the Union health ministry's updated this evening.

Maharashtra has recorded the maximum number of 568 cases, followed by Delhi (382), Kerala (185), Rajasthan (174), Gujarat (152), and Tamil Nadu (121).

India's Covid tally rose to 3,49,60,261 with 37,379 new cases, while the active cases increased to 1,71,830, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The death toll climbed to 4,82,017 with 124 more fatalities, the data showed.

The active cases comprise 0.49 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.13 per cent, the health ministry said.

An increase of 26,248 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.24 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.05 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,43,06,414, while the case fatality rate was recorded at

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Govt grants Special Casual Leave today on Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday ordered to grant of Special Casual Leave on account of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday on January 5.

"Sanction is accorded to the grant of one day Special Casual Leave in favour of the employees who desire to avail holiday on account of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday on 5th of January, 2022," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

Four Jr Scale JKAS officers posted in Social Media Cell of Info Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday posted four Junior Scale JKAS officers in Social Media Cell of Information Department for a period of two months.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General

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Rain lashes Jammu division; snowfall in Kashmir

'42 flights cancelled due to poor visibility at Srinagar Int'l Airport'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Rain lashed Jammu division on Tuesday while light to moderate snowfall occurred in Kashmir as the weather office forecast inclement weather in J&K and Ladakh till January 9.

"We have already issued an advisory about moderate to heavy snowfall in Kashmir division and rain in Jammu division.

Inclement weather is expected to continue till January 9 (forenoon)", an official of the MeT department said.

Srinagar had 0.6, Pahalgam minus 1.2, and Gulmarg minus 5.0 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature. Dras town of Ladakh region had minus 7.5, Leh minus 6.1, and Kargil minus 9.0 as the minimum temperatures.

Jammu city had 11.8, Katra 10.3, Batote 2.6, Banihal 1.4, and Bhaderwah 3.5 as the



A woman walking through flooded road after rain lashes Jammu on Tuesday.

night's lowest temperatures. Meanwhile, 42 flights which were scheduled to operate to and fro Srinagar international airport here were cancelled due to poor visibility amid rains and snowfall in Kashmir Valley.

"Continuous snowfall and poor visibility resulted in 42 cancellations across all airlines. The visibility has now improved and the flights are operating," AAI said in a tweet, according to a

Srinagar-based news agency.

"The passengers of the cancelled flights shall be rescheduled in the next available flight of the concerned airlines. There will be no extra charges for rescheduling. The passengers may also opt for full refund at their convenience," it said. "All the passengers of the cancelled flights shall be rescheduled in the next

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107 Jr Scale JKAS officers promoted to Time Scale

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday promoted 107 Junior Scale officers to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS).

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of Junior Scale officers to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service in pay level 11 (Rs 67700-208700), with effect from January 1, 2021, on notional basis and on regular basis from December 10, 2021," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, Junior Scale officers who have been promoted to the Time Scale include Mohamad Ashraf, Tawfeeq Ahmad Gazi, Sanjeev Sharma, Mazahir Hussain Shah, Sunaina Saini, Abdul Qyume, Sheeba Inayat, Abid Iqbal Malik, Peerzada Farhat Ahmed, Arun Kumar Badyal, Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi, Akhil Sadotra, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, Rachna Sharma, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Piyush Dhotra, Vikas Sharma, Masood Ahmad Wani, Shafqat Majed Bhat, Tariq Ahmad Reshi,

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Two Lashkar terrorists killed in Kulgam encounter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district on Tuesday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Okay village of Kulgam district which turned into an encounter, a police official said.

Two ultras were killed in the exchange of firing with the security forces, the official said.

Inspector General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the slain duo were locals and affiliated with the LeT. He said they were involved in



several terror crimes.

According to a police spokesperson, the killed terrorists have been identified as Amir Ahmad Wani, resident of Alamgunj Shopian and Sameer Ahmad Khan,

resident of Tiken Pulwama.

As per police records, the killed ultra Amir Ahmad was a categorized terrorist linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF). However, the other killed terrorist joined

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COVID: J&K records 199 fresh cases, Ladakh 65

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 199 fresh cases of the coronavirus, which took the tally to 3,42,001, while no death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 90 were from the Jammu division and 109 from the Kashmir division, they

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Labourer injured in Samba under-construction bridge collapse dies in hospital

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A labourer undergoing treatment for injuries sustained when an iron shuttering of an under-construction bridge collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district has died, officials said on Tuesday.

Madan Lal of Chak Chandu in Suchetgarh was critically injured and was undergoing treatment at

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 14.0°C Min: 11.8°C

Humidity

Max: 88 Min: 76

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 4.3°C Min: 0.6°C

Humidity

Max: 96 Min: 91

Sunset : 17:39 Hours

Sunrise : 07:34 Hours

Images of Indian Army's New Year celebrations at Galwan surface

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Photographs of Indian Army troops holding a large tri-colour at the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh as part of the New Year celebration were released on Tuesday by sources in the security establishment.

The photographs were also posted by Union Law and Justice minister Kiren Rijju on Twitter with the caption "brave Indian Army soldiers in Galwan Valley on the occasion of #NewYear2022."

The images were released three days after China's state media played up a purported



Indian Army soldiers unfurling Tricolour in Galwan Valley on New Year.

video of PLA soldiers sending New Year greetings to Chinese people from a location near the Galwan valley region.

In one of the photos, released by the sources in the Indian security establishment, around 30 Indian soldiers were seen with the

national flag.

Another photo showed the group with four of them holding the national flag and another tri-colour flying high on a flagpole adjacent to a temporary observation post.

The sources said the photographs were of January 1 in the Galwan Valley.

The Indian and Chinese troops exchanged sweets and greetings at 10 border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) including in eastern Ladakh and North Sikkim on January 1, which was seen as a warm gesture in the midst of the

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Driver dead, 20 UP tourists injured as bus turns turtle inside Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: A mini-bus carrying tourists turned turtle inside the Banihal-Qazigund tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Tuesday, leaving the 18-year-old driver dead and 20 travellers injured, officials said.

According to reports, a tourist vehicle (JK02AT 6530) on its way from Katra to Srinagar turned turtle on the road inside Banihal-Qazigund four-lane tunnel.

Police along with QRT immediately rushed to spot and shifted all to SDH Banihal, where doctors



Tourist vehicle which met with an accident inside tunnel.

declared driver of the vehicle as brought dead.

SDM Banihal Zaheer Abbas also visited the Hospital and assured full support from administration.

BMO Banihal Dr Rabia Khan said that out of all 11 injured persons, three seriously injured were shifted to GMC Anantnag for

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Pylon work of India's first cable-stayed railway bridge completed in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pylon work of India's first cable-stayed railway bridge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was completed on Tuesday, officials said, terming it a breakthrough in connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country by train within the next couple of years.

The Anji Khad bridge having a single pylon with a height of 331 metres above the river bed on the Rs 21,653-crore Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is a milestone project of the Indian Railways, they said.

"When I came here, it was a major challenge for us to complete the work on the



pylon which is the lifeline of a bridge. The pylon is complete now, and we are hopeful of constructing this engineering marvel within one year," project manager, Hindustan Construction Company, Ajay Kumar Pasheen told reporters.

"All phases of the pylon work stand completed, and we are ready to move ahead to complete the bridge," he said.

Another engineer said he had joined the site at the beginning of the work in March 2017 and is happy to

be part of the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge.

He said the Anji Khad bridge, which is going to connect Katra and Reasi, is an engineering marvel.

The bridge has a total length of 473.25 metres, while the length of the viaduct is 120 metres and the central embankment 94.25 metres, the official said, adding it is supported by 96 cables.

He said the bridge has been designed to handle strong winds and even explosions.

In October 2016, the Railways decided to build a cable-stayed bridge at Anji Khad after the plan to build an arch bridge similar

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