

03 Do Kashmir valley leaders accusing DC mean to say BJP is working in interest of Kashmir Valley?

09 Two brothers among five killed in separate mishaps

10 JKPS Panjtirthi celebrates Shivratri with devotion & sanctity

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

WORLD CLASS SCHOOLING CBSE AFFILIATED

The Shri Ram
Universal school
ADMISSIONS OPEN
Nursery to 11th
SCIENCE/COMMERCE/ARTS
CBSE Affiliation no.120111
The Shri Ram Universal School



NH-1 SHRI VIHAR JAMMU, VILAYPUR, SAMBA
Transport for JAMMU/SAMBA & KATHUA

LeT terrorist arrested in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday said that a terrorist of Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit has been arrested in Sanatnagar area of Srinagar district.

As per details, a terrorist was arrested along with ten magazines of AK-47 by police in Sanatnagar area.

A case has been registered and investigation has started.

India reports 6,915 new COVID infections; active cases below 1 lakh after 2 months

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India saw a single-day rise of 6,915 coronavirus infections, taking the country's total tally of cases to 4,29,31,045, while active cases fell below the one-lakh mark after 60 days, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,14,023 with 180 new fatalities reported in 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases have declined to 92,472, now comprising 0.22 per cent of the total infections, while the country's COVID-19 recovery rate has further

Commercial LPG prices hiked by Rs 105

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Price of commercial LPG, used by hotels and other commercial establishments, was on Tuesday hiked by Rs 105 to its second-highest level but rates of subsidised gas sold to households remained on freeze.

The price of a 19-kg commercial cylinder has been hiked to Rs 2,012 from Rs 1,907, according to price notification from state-owned fuel retailers.


This is the second-highest rate, after Rs 2,101 per cylinder in December 2021.

LPG rates are revised on the 1st of every month based on the price of benchmark fuel in the previous month.

However, the price of domestic cooking gas LPG, sold to households, has not been changed since October when it rose to Rs 899.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

The hiatus in those rates came after criticism from the Opposition over prices being hiked by Rs 90 in the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 23.4°C Min: 12.3°C

Humidity
Max : 84 Min : 47

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 7.8°C Min: 3.4°C

Humidity
Max : 83 Min: 77

Sunset : 18:30 Hours
Sunrise : 06:58 Hours

Indian student killed in Kharkiv, all stranded nationals asked to leave Kyiv; PM asks IAF to evacuate Indians

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU: In first Indian casualty in the war in Ukraine, a medical student from Karnataka was killed in shelling in Kharkiv city, just hours after the Indian embassy in Kyiv asked all stranded Indians to leave the capital city urgently "through any means available".

Also on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a high-level meeting, his fourth in the last 48 hours on Ukraine.

Earlier in the day, Modi asked the Indian Air Force (IAF) to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine, sources said, adding the force is likely to deploy several C-17 aircraft, which has the capacity to carry approximately 300 passengers, as part of Operation Ganga.

Till now, only private Indian carriers have been evacuating Indians from Romania and Hungary,

Modi chairs another meet on Ukraine issue

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting Tuesday evening on the Ukraine crisis with focus on the evacuation of Indian citizens from the war-hit country, official sources said. This was his fourth meeting on the Ukraine situation since Sunday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and another Union minister Piyush Goyal were among those who attended the meeting besides top bureaucrats.

The meeting comes as the situation in the war-hit country worsened, with one Indian student also losing his life in shelling in Kharkiv as Russian troops advanced deeper into Ukraine.

Modi has asserted that his government's top priority is to ensure safety and evacuation of Indian students.

countries with land borders with Ukraine on the western side, as the Ukrainian air-space has been shut since February 24.

Confirming the death of the student, the external affairs ministry said it was in touch with the family of the victim.

Modi also spoke to the father of Indian student

Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagoudar and offered his heartfelt condolences to the family following the tragedy, official sources said.

According to Naveen's uncle, he was in a bunker in Kharkiv and had gone out in the morning to exchange currency and to fetch some food when he was caught shelling

happened, in which he was killed instantaneously.

Naveen was in the fourth year of his course in the Kharkiv medical college.

The Kharkiv city is witnessing increasing fighting between the Ukrainian troops and Russian forces.

Official sources said the deteriorating situation in Kharkiv is a matter of grave concern and that the safety and security of Indian nationals in that city is of utmost priority for the government.

Earlier, the Indian embassy in Kyiv said, "All Indian nationals including students are advised to leave Kyiv urgently today. Preferably by available trains or through any other means available."

The advisory came amid increasing fighting between Russian forces and Ukrainian troops around Kyiv. Meanwhile, Union Ministers Hardeep

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Admn working for completion of transit accommodations for migrant employees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is working for speedy completion of transit accommodations for migrant employees in the valley, an official of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department said on Tuesday. Around 920 kanal (115 acres) of land has been identified and transferred to the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) at 19 locations for construction of transit accommodations in Kashmir.

The prime minister's pack-

age for Kashmiri migrants announced in 2008 has two major components. One is provision of 6,000 jobs for youths and the other is provision of 6000 accommodation units for employees. Over 4,000 migrant employees have already been selected and appointed in different departments and over 1,000 odd units have been completed.

"The administration of Jammu and Kashmir is expeditiously working towards speedy completion of transit accommodations so that they are made available to migrant employees," the official said.

He said that on the direc-

tions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the construction of transit accommodations has been taken up in a mission mode.

The official said private land was to be acquired for the accommodations in the initial phase but due to cost escalation and time constraints, a decision was taken in 2019 to acquire state land to speed up the construction work.

During the winter season, he said the construction work in Kashmir division remains suspended between

'Journalist' attacked, injured by locals at Gharota

Self-styled scribe was on-spot to blackmail parties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A self-styled journalist, operating as conduit of revenue officials, injured by residents of village in Gharota at Kangar was actually at the spot to allegedly the warring parties fighting over a piece of land in the area.

Soon after the attack, the dubious journo Mohit Kumar Mehra of Jammu Jottings newspaper actually wanted to hush up the case with regard to the attack in order to avoid the lodging of FIR as his presence on the spot was controversial. However, the police registered a case in view of serious injury to the scribe and fight between the parties.

In a filmy style, Journalist Mehra initially told the police that he had come to Kangar area near Gharota for some work and saw a woman being beaten up

by Gujjars, allegedly involved in land grabbing.

As he intervened to rescue the women, the Gujjars also attacked him wherein he received severe head injuries. This manufactured story was actually to mislead the



FOLLOW-UP

police.

During preliminary investigation, the police came to know that on getting information from some revenue officials, Mohit rushed to the spot with an intent of blackmailing the warring parties. However, on demanding money, the locals started beating him up as a result of which he got severe head injury.

Traffic resumes on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway

Snow clearance ops on Srinagar-Leh NH in last phase



Vehicles plying on National highway after its restoration.

said.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is maintaining the highway which usually remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall in the 3528 m-high Zojila Pass, a high mountain pass that runs

through the Kashmir valley to Ladakh.

BRO's Project Vijayak Chief Engineer Ashish Gambir said the snow clearance operation is going on in full swing in the Zojila Pass and the road would be opened as

soon as possible.

He gave this assurance to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor Feroz Ahmad Khan during a meeting here, an official spokesperson said.

Gambir said only a stretch of 2-3 km is left to be cleared of snow from Srinagar side and the highway is all set to reopen shortly. It was closed for vehicular traffic in January this year.

The spokesperson said the chief engineer also briefed Khan about the BRO projects being executed in Kargil district. Gambir said the recently announced bypass from Drass to Pushkum via Shimsha Kharboo is in tendering process and work will start soon on the project, the spokesperson said, adding this road is expected to

decongest and minimise traffic in Kargil and Drass towns.

He also said the work on Kargil to Batalik road is already underway, while the survey on the Hambuting-la tunnel is complete and further process will be carried out soon.

On Khangral to Sanjak road realignment, the spokesperson said the BRO and the Kargil Revenue Department decided to conduct a joint survey on the project. Accordingly, the CEC assured it will take up the issue with the UT administration. The spokesperson said Gambir assured that local workers who have labour cards as per MGNREGA will be engaged in Project Vijayak on twice the wage.

MGNREGA workers currently get wage of Rs 214 per day, while the BRO project will give them at least Rs 600 per day, he said.

Indus Water Treaty: Officials from India, Pakistan hold talks

■ AGENCY
ISLAMABAD: Officials from India and Pakistan met here on Monday as part of the annual meeting of the Permanent Commission on Indus Waters (PCIW) and the two sides are expected to discuss among other topics arrangements about flood flow information during the

current season and finalise future programmes, meetings and inspections.

A 10-member Indian delegation, headed by Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters P K Saxena, which arrived here via Wagah border on Monday met the Pakistani team in the national capital.

Sources have confirmed that the discussions have begun and Pakistan's objections are being discussed in a congenial atmosphere. The discussions will continue tomorrow.

The three-day meeting is being organised by the office of Pakistan's Commissioner

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

'Above normal' max temperatures likely in J&K, Ladakh from Mar to May: IMD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: "The maximum temperatures are likely to remain above normal in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, major parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and adjoining areas of southwest Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra," the India Meteorological Department said on Tuesday. Maximum temperatures are predicted to remain "below normal" in the northern plains, including Punjab, parts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; during the March to May period, it added.

"Above normal maximum

temperatures are most likely over many areas in western and adjoining central India, northwest India and northernmost parts of northeast India," it said.

However, below normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of Peninsular India, east and northeast India as well as the northern plains, the IMD said.

The number of heat waves in the Indo-Gangetic plains is likely to be lower than normal during the period.

"The probability of occurrence of heat waves over west-central and parts

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

NATO sees no need to change nuclear alert level

■ AGENCY
LASK AIR BASE (POLAND): NATO's chief said on Tuesday the alliance sees no need to change its nuclear weapons alert level, despite Russia's threats.

The alliance's secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg, spoke to The Associated Press following talks on European security with Polish President Andrzej Duda. They met at an air base in Lask, central Poland, where NATO's Polish and US fighter jets are based. We will always do what is needed to protect and defend our allies, but we don't think there is any need

now to change the alert levels of NATO's nuclear forces, Stoltenberg said.

The Kremlin has raised the spectre of nuclear war, reporting on Monday that its land, air and sea nuclear forces were on high alert following President Vladimir Putin's weekend order. NATO itself has no nuclear weapons, but three of its members, the United States, Britain and France, do.

Stoltenberg stressed that Russia has signed a number of agreements, agreeing that nuclear war cannot be won and should not be fought.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

COVID: J&K reports 55 fresh cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: With 55 fresh cases, Jammu and Kashmir's COVID-19 tally climbed to 4,53,052 on Tuesday, while no death due to the viral disease was reported in the Union Territory in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 29 were reported from the Jammu division and 26 from the Kashmir division, they added.

The officials said Jammu district recorded the highest number of 23 cases, followed by 17 in Srinagar district.

There are 614 active cases of the infection in the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9