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Indian student killed...

Singh Puri and Kiren Rijiju left for Hungary and Slovakia respectively, a day after the government decided to send four Union ministers as India's special envoys to neighbouring countries of Ukraine to oversee the evacuation of Indians from the war-torn country through its border crossings.

The other ministers who will oversee the evacuation process are - V K Singh and Jyotiraditya Scindia. Singh had left on Monday night for Poland.

The MEA said Foreign Secretary is calling in ambassadors of Russia and Ukraine to reiterate its demand for "urgent safe passage" to Indian nationals who are still in Kharkiv and in other cities in the conflict zones.

"Similar action is also being undertaken by our ambassadors in Russia and Ukraine," the MEA said.

They said India has already taken up with the Russian and Ukrainian embassies the "pressing" requirement of safe passage to Indian nationals, including students, from Kharkiv and other cities in conflict zones.

"This demand has been repeatedly made to Russia and Ukraine since the beginning of this conflict on February 24. It has been conveyed to both their ambassadors in New Delhi as well as taken up in their capitals," said a source.

"An Indian team has been positioned in the Russian city of Belgorod, close to the Ukrainian border. However, the conflict situation in and around Kharkiv and nearby cities has been an obstacle," the source said.

"Therefore, it is imperative that Russia and Ukraine respond to our need for safe passage urgently," it said.

The sources said in places where the conflict has not endangered movement, Indian authorities have been able to evacuate the citizens. They said India will continue to make utmost efforts to ensure the return of Indian citizens stranded in Ukraine.

On evacuation front, three evacuation flights from Romania's capital Bucharest and Hungary's capital Budapest came to India on Tuesday with 616 Indian nationals who were stranded in Ukraine due to the Russian military offensive, officials said.

On Tuesday, two flights were operated by IndiGo while one service was operated by Tata Group-owned Air India Express.

India began the evacuation of its citizens from Ukraine's western neighbours such as Romania and Hungary on February 26. Private Indian carriers have brought back 2,012 Indian nationals in nine special flights till now.

Air India Express operated the Bucharest-Mumbai flight via Kuwait with 182 Indian nationals.

IndiGo operated Budapest-Delhi flight via Istanbul with 216 Indian nationals.

India's largest carrier also operated Bucharest-Delhi service via Istanbul with 218 Indian nationals.

Meanwhile, IndiGo sent four planes, two to Budapest and two to Rzeszow in Poland, to evacuate Indians. SpiceJet also sent a plane to Kosice in Slovakia for evacuation on Tuesday.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had said on February 27 that around 13,000 Indians, mainly college students, are currently stranded in Ukraine.

Ukrainian airspace has been shut down since February 24, when the Russian government started its military operations against the country.

In first Indian casualty in the war in Ukraine, a student from Karnataka was killed in shelling in Kharkiv city on Tuesday morning.

External Affairs Ministry confirmed the death of the Indian in a tweet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked the Indian Air Force (IAF) to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine due to the Russian military offensive against that country, sources said on Tuesday.

Indians are travelling by road to Ukraine's borders with Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland etc, from where they are being taken by the Indian government officials to airports for evacuation flights.

The Indian Embassy in Ukraine on Twitter advised all Indian nationals, including students, to leave Kyiv urgently on Tuesday itself, preferably by available trains or through any other means available.

Indus Water Treaty...

for Indus Waters under obligations of the Indus Water Treaty-1960.

India and Pakistan signed the treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the Washington-based World Bank being a signatory.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange

between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers. However, there have been disagreements and differences between India and Pakistan over the treaty.

The Indian delegation's visit was earlier scheduled for mid-January, but it was postponed at the request of India due to COVID-related restrictions. The meeting is taking place amid the chill in bilateral relations over the Kashmir issue.

The Indian delegation includes three female officers. This is the first time since the signing of the treaty that three female officers are part of the Indian delegation.

The delegation comprises Saxena's advisors from the Central Water Commission, the Central Electricity Authority, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and the Ministry of External Affairs.

A Pakistani official said the participants are set to discuss arrangements regarding communication of advance information about flood flows during the current season, maintenance of free flow of water into Sutlej river and finalisation of future programmes, meetings and tours and inspections.

The participants, under the agenda items of the meeting, will also finalise and sign a record of the last PCIW meeting.

"There is no plan for any field visit/inspection by the Indian delegation members during their stay in Pakistan as they have come to participate in the meeting only, the Pakistani official said.

Besides objections already under discussions over 1,000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnai hydropower projects, Pakistan has also expressed concern over the construction of 10 hydroelectric power projects Durbuk Shyok, Nimu Chilling, Kiru, Tamasha, Kalaroos-II, Baltikulan Small, Kargil Hunderman, Phagla, Kulam Ramwari and Mandi.

"Therefore, all these projects have been made part of the PCIW meeting during which the Pakistani Indus water commission's team, headed by Syed Muhammad Mehr Ali Shah, will reiterate its objections and seek reply/justification from the visiting Indian delegation, explained the official.

"Moreover, both countries will also resume talks on Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai projects, he added.

Since annual meetings, under the treaty, are to be held before March 31 each year, alternately in the two countries, the Pakistani delegation had paid a two-day visit to New Delhi from March 23 to 24 last year.

During the meeting, the participants discussed Pakistan's objections to the designs of Pakal Dul, Lower Kalnai and other hydroelectric projects, including 19MW Durbuk and 24MW Nimu-Chilling plants, and other data-related issues.

The Indian side had shared some information/documents related to 1,000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnai hydropower projects with Pakistan.

It had agreed on getting the site of the controversial KishanGanga hydropower project inspected by Pakistani experts, the report said.

According to the treaty, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run-of-the-river projects on the western rivers subject to specific criteria for design and operation.

The pact also gives the right to Pakistan to raise objections to designs of Indian hydroelectric projects on the western rivers. Pakistan has raised objections on the design of these projects.

India, however, asserts that the design of the project is fully compliant with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and certified by the Central Water Commission and the Central Electricity Authority, the apex organisations of the country in the field of water resources and power.

Under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), all the waters of the eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi - amounting to around 33 million acre feet (MAF) annually is allocated to India for unrestricted use.

The waters of western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab - amounting to around 135 MAF annually have been assigned largely to Pakistan. India is permitted to construct the run of the river plants on western rivers with limited storage as per criteria specified in the treaty.

Under the provisions of Article VIII(5) of the Indus Waters Treaty, the Permanent Indus Commission is required to meet regularly at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan. The last meeting of the Commission was held on March 23-24 2021 in New Delhi.

'Above normal' max...

of northwest India will be higher during summer, while heat waves will be comparatively lesser in the Indo-Gangetic plains," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

"During the upcoming hot weather season (March to May), normal to above normal minimum temperatures are most likely over many parts of northwest India, most parts of northeast India, some parts of central India, east coastal region and

some areas along the foothills of the Himalayas," the IMD said in a statement.

During March, normal to below normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of Peninsular India and east and northeast India, whereas above normal maximum temperatures are forecast over many parts of western and central India.

Minimum temperature expected to be above normal in most parts of northwest and west India.

No heat wave is predicted in the northern plains in March.

For the plains, a "heat wave" is declared when the maximum temperature is more than 40 degrees Celsius, and at least 4.5 notches above normal.

A "severe" heat wave is declared if departure from normal temperature is more than 6.5 degrees Celsius, according to the IMD.

The IMD also said India recorded 44 percent more rainfall in the winter season.

Heavy rainfall events (15) in the country in February were the lowest in four years, it said, adding that most heavy rainfall events were concentrated in Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir.

The country saw 18 events each of heavy rainfall in 2021 and 2020 and 82 in 2019.

J&K Admn working...

he said. The official said work has been allotted in the case of 384 units, while work allotment is in final stages in case of 2,360 units. The tendering process has also been initiated for another 1,392 units.

About 76 per cent of the construction at Wandhama in Ganderbal district and 90 per cent of the work at Sheikhpura in Budgam district have been completed, the official said.

India reports 6,915...

administered in the country so far exceeded 177.70 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23. It surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

The 180 new fatalities include 110 from Kerala and 20 from Goa.

A total of 5,14,023 deaths have been reported so far in the country -- 1,43,701 from Maharashtra, 65,333 from Kerala, 39,950 from Karnataka, 38,004 from Tamil Nadu, 26,122 from Delhi, 23,456 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,176 from West Bengal.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

COVID: J&K reports...

Union Territory, while the number of patients who have recuperated is 4,47,690, the officials said. The death toll due to the viral disease stands at 4,748 in Jammu and Kashmir. The officials said there are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory and no fresh case of the infection was reported since Monday evening.

NATO sees no....

The United States recently reinforced the eastern flank of NATO's territory with some 5,000 additional troops. (AP)

Self-styled scribe...

any such report of blackmailing will be established, a strict action will be taken against the culprits". Police is also taking statements of locals and revenue officials to establish the blackmailing tactics of the so-called journalist Mohit Mehra.

JEE-Main first...

and recognised by participating state governments.

It is also an eligibility test for JEE (Advanced), which is conducted for admission to IITs. Paper two is conducted for admission to B.Arch and B.Planning courses.

Commercial LPG prices...

previous six months.

Just like LPG, petrol and diesel prices too have been on a freeze since early November 2021.

It is being speculated that fuel prices will be hiked once assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and four other states end next week.

Trekking expedition organised

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Nowshera: New

National Public Hr Sec

School organised a trekking

expedition prgramme for

11th and 12th classes.

Students accompanied by

their teachers Deepak

Sharma and Chamkour

Singh were flagged off from

the school by Chairman

NNP Prithvi Raj Khoker

along with Principal Suresh

Choudhary. Students on

their foot marched to DFO

Office Nowshera where they

were welcomed by councilor

Rohit Kohli and forest offi

cials and were later flagged

off and

ascorted by forest

officials for the 3 kilometer

beautiful track made by

Forest department.

Students were also accom-

panied by Chairman NNP

HSS and Principal NNP

HSS. Rakesh Choudhary

was overall in-charge of

trekking programme.

Centre appoints Waqf Board members for J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Centre Government on Tuesday nominated five persons as members of the Waqf

Board for J&K Union Territory. In a significant step towards the constitution of the Waqf Board in Jammu & Kashmir, the Union Minority Affairs Ministry has appointed five persons as members of the body entrusted with maintenance of religious properties of Muslims in UT.

According to a notification, Dr. Daraskhan Andrabi has been appointed as chairperson of the Board. The notification states that Andrabi has been appointed under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 14 of The Waqf Act-1995. Syed Muhammad Hussain has been nominated as member of the Board under clause (C) of sub-section (1) of Section 14 of the law governing constitution of Waqf Boards in States and UTs. Dr. Gulam Nabi Haleem and Sohail Kazmi

have been appointed as members of the body clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 14 of the law.

The Centre has also nominated Nawab Din (Regional Director Survey and Land Records, Udhampur) as member of the body under clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 14 of the Waqf Act.

It is worthwhile to mention that the laws governing Waqf properties in Jammu & Kashmir were repealed in August 2019 through the Jammu & Kashmir Re-organisation Act.

Over 100 terrorists, associates on radar in J&K; Ops against them soon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Over 100 terrorists and their

associates are on the radar of the security

forces which will soon launch an operation

against them in Jammu and Kashmir,

sources in the security grid said on Tuesday.

According to sources, these terrorists are

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