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Russian forces seize...

plunging it into darkness, isolation and fear. Electricity and phone connections are largely down, and homes and shops are facing food and water shortages.

Without phone connections, medics didn't know where to take the wounded.

In just seven days of fighting, more than 2% of Ukraine's population has been forced out of the country, according to the tally the U.N. refugee agency released to The Associated Press. The mass evacuation could be seen in Kharkiv, a city of about 1.4 million people and Ukraine's second-largest. Residents desperate to escape falling shells and bombs crowded the city's train station and pressed onto trains, not always knowing where they were headed.

At least 227 civilians have been killed and another 525 wounded in that time, according to the latest figures from the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. It acknowledges that is a vast undercount, and Ukraine earlier said more than 2,000 civilians have died. That figure could not be independently verified.

As the toll of war mounted, a second round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations was expected later Thursday in neighboring Belarus though the two sides appeared to have little common ground.

We are ready to conduct talks, but we will continue the operation because we won't allow Ukraine to preserve a military infrastructure that threatens Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, repeating an accusation Moscow has repeatedly used to justify its invasion.

Lavrov said that the West has continuously armed Ukraine, trained its troops and built up bases there to turn Ukraine into a bulwark against Russia.

The U.S. and its allies have insisted that NATO is a defensive alliance that doesn't pose a threat to Russia. And the West fears Russia's invasion is meant to overthrow Ukraine's government and install a friendly government though Lavrov said Moscow would let the Ukrainians choose what government they should have.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier raised the specter of nuclear war, putting his country's nuclear forces on high alert, but his foreign minister shrugged off questions of whether Russia could escalate the conflict with nuclear weapons, saying such talk comes from the West.

In Kherson, the Russians took over the regional administration headquarters, Hennady Lahuta, the governor of the region, said Thursday while adding that he and other officials were continuing to perform their duties and provide assistance to the population.

Kherson's mayor, Igor Kolykhaev, previously said that the national flag was still flying, but that there were no Ukrainian troops in the city. Britain's defense secretary said it was possible the Russians had taken over, though not yet verified.

The mayor said the city would maintain a strict curfew and require pedestrians to walk in groups no larger than two, obey commands to stop and not to provoke the troops.

The flag flying over us is Ukrainian, he wrote on Facebook. And for it to stay that way, these demands must be observed.

Earlier Thursday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russian land forces have stalled and Moscow is now unleashing air attacks, but that they are being parried by Ukrainian defense systems, including in Kherson.

Kyiv withstood the night and another missile and bomb attack. Our air defenses worked, he said. Kherson, Izyum all the other cities that the occupiers hit from the air did not give up anything.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said explosions heard overnight in the Ukrainian capital were Russian missiles being shot down by air defense systems.

From Kherson, Russian troops appeared to roll toward Mykolaiv, another major Black Sea port and shipbuilding center to the west along the coast. The regional governor, Vitaliy Kim, said that big convoys of Russian troops are advancing on the city but said that they will likely need to regroup before trying to take it over.

A group of Russian amphibious landing vessels is also heading toward the port of Odesa, farther west, the Ukrainian military said.

Moscow's isolation deepened when most of the world lined up against it at the United Nations to demand it withdraw from Ukraine. The prosecutor for the International Criminal Court opened an investigation into possible war crimes. And in a stunning reversal, the International Paralympic Committee banned Russian and Belarusian athletes from the Winter Paralympic Games.

Russia reported its military casualties Wednesday for the first time in the war, saying nearly 500 of its troops have been killed and almost 1,600 wounded. Ukraine did not disclose its own military losses.

Ukraine's military general staff said in a Facebook post that Russia's forces had suffered some 9,000 casualties in the fighting. It did not clarify if that figure included both killed and wounded soldiers.

In a video address to the nation early Thursday, Zelenskyy praised his country's resistance.

We are a people who in a week have destroyed the plans of the enemy, he said. They will have no peace here. They will have no food. They will have here not one quiet moment.

ED provisionally attaches...

be filed before the adjudicating authority of the PMLA within six months.

The authority decides on the merit of the attachment and if it okays the ED action, the authority proceeds to confiscate assets.

The accused can further appeal against an order of the adjudicating authority before the appellate authority of the PMLA followed by trial court, high court and Supreme Court.

Abdullah challenged the ED's order, and in his petition, which has annexed over 50 documents with it, highlighted every aspect of the JKCA scam.

It informed the court that it was at the instance of Abdullah that an in-house committee of the association was formed, which found two office bearers guilty of financial misappropriation, and that of a case being registered in the local police station.

Abdullah's petition contended that the ED had nowhere conducted an independent inquiry into the case "rendering it inherently biased".

"Nowhere has the ED satisfactorily offered reasons to believe that the petitioner is in possession of proceeds of crime, or that such proceeds are likely to be concealed," it stated.

Challenging the provisional attachment order of the ED, it contended that the commercial property attached by the central probe agency at Srinagar was shown even in records of the Estate Department as "undivided property held by the entire family of the petitioner (Abdullah). The lease was renewed in 1981."

Sangram Sena organises 53rd Maharudra Yagya



Sangram Sena members serving Langar among people.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Sangram Sena, Jammu organized 53rd Maharudra Yagya in Prachin Aap Shambu Temple at Maa Kol Kandoli Mandir, Nagrota.

The Havan was started from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm followed by Bhandara from 1:00 pm onwards. Kanya Pujan also performed followed by Buzurg Adar Saman. Prominent persons present in the function include Bhushan Singh Manhas (Inspector), Satpal Sharma Gen. Sec. DLF, and other members, Brig. Mehra (President Jammu Pragati Manh), Raju Jamwal, R.K Raina, President Sangram Sena, Kishore Kumar Sharma (Sarpanch Nagrota), Lala Kishore Kumar Sharma (Sarpanch Nagrota), Capt. R.S. Langeh, Gen. Secy.

Sangram Sena, Sudhir Padha, Chairman Divine Touch and Member Sewa Samiti, Rajesh Banathia, CO Sangram Sena, Kamla Sharma (President J&K Home Guard), Amit Sharma (Secretary Technology & Science), Th. Karnail Singh, Shree Raghunath Mandir Sewa Samiti, Raju Jamwal President Sangram Sena Ward No. 8 Rehari, Kapil Sharma, Kuldeep Singh, Sangram Sena Youth President, Sanjay Gupta, Joint Secretary, Sangram Sena, Shiv Kapoor, State Secretary Sangram Sena, Dr. A.K. Chopra, Jammu District Sangram Sena, Rajesh Sharma (PP), Sukhvinder Singh, Vice President Freedom Fighter and many renowned personality of the state.

JE RDD caught...

was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla. During the course of investigation, a trap team constituted which caught Tassaduq Riyaz, Junior Engineer RDD, Block Harduabora, Tehsil Karhama, District Baramulla, red-handed, while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 5000 from the complainant," the official said, adding that the accused was arrested and taken into custody. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses, said official, adding that further investigation of the case is going on.

Modi blames previous...

government for rescuing them when they had lost all hope.

A strong India is the answer to these troubles, Modi said, expressing his sympathies with the students who, he added, had to go through such an experience at a young age.

"If medical education policies were right earlier, then you would not have to go abroad," he said, adding that no parents want their children to go overseas at such a young age.

His government is working to correct the past mistakes, he added.

There were 300 to 400 medical colleges earlier, and they now number nearly 700, Modi said. The number of seats they offer has now gone up to 1.5 lakh from earlier 80,000-90,000, he said.

"My effort is that every district has one medical college. Probably, there will be more doctors produced in 10 years than the last 70 years," he said.

This will be a big thing as young students would not have to travel abroad, and their families would not have to under such stress, he added.

Speaking to the students, Modi said everyone should keep doing something for the country.

"You had to undergo such an experience in life at such a young age in a distant place alone. I can imagine the mental state you would have been through. Now we are able to evacuate people properly," he said.

The students shared their experiences with Modi, who is on a tour of the state as part of the BJP's campaign for the ongoing assembly polls.

Modi represents Varanasi constituency in Lok Sabha.

Sharing their experience, some students said they had left all hopes after Russia launched an attack on Ukraine and could not have returned without support from the government.

Some other students said they faced no difficulties and received adequate facilities from the Indian embassy there.

"After the attack began, it seemed I will not be able to return and saw death from close quarters. I am proud of being an Indian and you as prime minister," a student said, adding that the display of Indian flag on their windows and buses ensured that Russian forces let them go without causing any problem.

Another student conveyed his family's gratitude to the prime minister, saying they believed only he can do something after he was stranded in Ukraine. "You were being remembered only next to God," he said.

Even students of some other countries also used Indian flag to get smooth passage from the Russian army, one said.

Interacts with students...

to the state as part of the BJP's campaign for the assembly polls.

The Prime Minister represents Varanasi constituency in Lok Sabha.

The government has launched "Operation Ganga" to evacuate Indian citizens, mostly students, from Ukraine which has been attacked by Russia.

The government has already sent four Union ministers to countries neighbouring Ukraine as India's "special envoys" to coordinate the evacuation efforts.

CS for launching...

Tulip Garden at Kashmir: He asked the department for installation of scanners for quick admission of visitors in these parks besides developing online ticketing system for parking of vehicles.

Chief Secretary called for integration of Bahu Fort Temple, Bagh-e-Bahu aquarium and Bagh-e-Bahu garden as a single unit. He directed for plantation of seasonal flowers in the garden besides asking for combating monkey menace from the area with the help of Wildlife department.

Taking notice of poor condition of road leading to the garden, Chief Secretary directed the officers for repairing the vital connectivity at the earliest.

Among others present were Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad; Director Parks and Gardens Jammu, Jatinder Singh; Director Finance and Special Secretary, Floriculture Department besides officers from other allied departments including Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai and Director Fisheries, Bashir Ahmad Bhat.

Missing Revenue Records...

of different mutations of village Chowadi, photocopy of field book of village Chowadi, photocopy of Latha/Massavi, Aks Massavi of village Deeli and other revenue record, the detail of which stands already given hereinabove - from private residences of petitioners only reveals scale of gravity of allegations against them and web of complexity requiring dis-entangling during investigation. The chilling aspect is that if revenue record has been found missing since long time, recovery of part of the same, original or in the shape of photocopies - from private residences of petitioners only bespeaks of the magnitude of the issue. Till date, Special Investigating Team has not been able to even identify revenue officials to whom missing record was entrusted and how part of same (record) landed so effortlessly in private custody of petitioners. Has this record been systematically grabbed as a consequence of conspiracy is under lens of SIT and same is being investigated. Furthermore, some of the revenue record pertaining to village Paloura and Janipur has also allegedly been seized during raids. This not only expands the remit of investigation but also necessitates deep dig into degree of retrenchment of seemingly an organized group of offenders in securing custody over revenue record of such vital significance and virtually running parallel set-up within State with impunity. Investigation also suggests that whatever has come forth till date is only a tip of ice-berg and with every step forward that investigation is making, fog is getting denser. If SIT has not been able to identify, leave alone round up, the smaller un-scrupulous characters involved in the conspiracy of offences involved in the FIR in question, laying hands on bigger sharks then appears to be a distant possibility in this seemingly well-oiled nexus. Some of the record alleged to have been seized is said to be in dilapidated condition. Investigation indeed prima facie supports charge of offences under sections 380/477/120-B of IPC against petitioners. Merely because it is yet to be established

as to whom the lost/missing revenue record was entrusted originally is yet to be established during investigation - would not ipso facto mean that said record has been misplaced without the involvement/connivance of concerned revenue officials," the C/JM Jammu observed.

The Court further observed, "Unless law is not robustly applied by those who are duty bound to do so, public faith in the process of law cannot be sustained. Only in a system which is marked by anarchy does it happen that public record is available not in the public offices but is found in the private residences of likes of petitioners and other hitherto un-traced culprits. "This aspect indeed is an egregious set back to faith of public at large in the majesty of law. Grant of bail to petitioners at this stage in the given facts and circumstances of the case would only send a very discouraging message to public at large as well." With these observations, the Court rejected the bail applications.

Recoveries made from...

- parat patwarNo. 24 to 44.
- » Original ROR register of village Chak Chimna, Teh Bishnah for the year 2008-2009.
- »Original Mutation register Chak Bhagwana, 65 to 82.
- »Fresh Jamabandhi of village Chak Bhagwana for the year 2018-2019, along-with parat Sarkar mutations.
- »Three Register Khasra Girdawari of village Chak Shibbu Khasra No. 1 to 478, 479 to 961, 962 to 1209.
- »Original Register ROR village Chak Shibbu for the year 2006-2007.
- »Computerized massavl of village Chak Chimna Tehsil Bishnah, signed utpTehsildar.
- »Girdawari register of village Chak Chimna Tehsil Bishnah, for the year 2010 to till date, Khasra No. 1 to 1166.
- »Original mutation register of village Chak Chimna Tehsil Bishnah, No. 88 to 138.
- »Register Khasra Girdawari of village Saidgarh, Khasra No. 1 to 1393, for the year 2012 to till date.
- »Register Khasra Girdawari of village Saidgarh, Khasra No. 1394 to 1515, for the year 2012 to till date.
- »Computerized massavi of village Saidgarh Tehsil Bishnah upto Set officer Jammu.
- »Computerized Jamabandhi of village Chak Chimna Tehsil Bishnah unsigned,
- »Newly written incomplete Jamabandhi of village Patli Tehsil bari-brahmana.
- »Newly written incomplete Jamabandhi of village Chak Chimna Tehsil Bishnah alongwith parat Sarkar mutations.
- »RoR of village Saidgarh Tehsil Bishnah computerized for the year 2010-2011.
- »Newly Jamabandhi computerized of village ChakBhagwana Tehsil Bishnah.
- »Photocopy of Jamabandhi/Khasra Girdawari of village Channi Himmat, Teh Bahu.
- A 18 PLANDA:**
- »One original latha of village Chak Kalu dilapidated condition.
- »Original mutation parat Sarkar of village Gharota No. 2448 u/s 121.... land revenue Act.
- »Original mutation parat Sarkar of village Gharota No. 2471 u/s 121 land revenue Act.
- »Eight piece of trace paper having some Khasra numbers without the name of village and without the signatures of anyone.
- »Four pieces of Photocopy of Map of village Khanna Chargal, Tehsil Jammu.

India COVID active...

was recorded at 0.99 per cent.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,23,53,620, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.20 per cent.

The cumulative Covid vaccine doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 178.02 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 last year and three crore on June 23.

Among the 142 fatalities reported in a day, 96 were from Kerala and 12 from Karnataka.

In total, 5,14,388 deaths have been reported so far in the country with 1,43,706 from Maharashtra, 65,597 from Kerala, 39,969 from Karnataka, 38,009 from Tamil Nadu, 26,127 from Delhi, 23,468 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,178 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.

46 new COVID ...

officials said. The officials said Jammu district recorded a maximum of 22 new COVID-19 cases, followed by 16 in Srinagar district. Fourteen of the 20 districts in the Union Territory did not report any fresh cases.

There are 463 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries stands at 4,47,923, the officials said.

The death toll due to the pandemic remained unchanged at 4,748 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 16 fresh Covid cases in a day which took the tally of infections in the Union Territory to 28,061 while the number of active cases has declined to 138, officials said.

No death was reported in the Union Territory in the last 24 hours.

It has so far recorded 228 Covid-related deaths of which 168 were reported in Leh and 60 in Kargil, officials said.

As many as 22 patients have recuperated from the disease and were discharged from hospitals in Leh. With these, the total number of recoveries has reached 27,695.

Of the 16 fresh cases reported in a day, 15 were from Leh district and one from Kargil, officials said, adding 618 samples in Ladakh were found Covid negative.

Leh has 137 active cases of COVID-19 and Kargil has one.

JU's Urdu Deptt organises 'Prof Manzar Azmi Memorial Lecture'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Department of Urdu, University of Jammu in collaboration with National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Ministry of HRD, Govt of India organised 'Prof Manzar Azmi Memorial Lecture', which was delivered by Prof Ibn-e-Kanwal, from University of Delhi on topic 'Importance of Non-fictional Prose'. Prof Rajni Dhingra

Dean Research Studies of Jammu University presided over the function while former HoD Urdu Kashmir University, Prof Qudus Javed was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. At the very outset, Prof Mohd Reyaz Ahmed informed that Manzar Azmi memorial lecture was sanctioned by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language to the Department in 2009. He also threw light on the life and personality of Prof Manzar Azmi who served the department for more than 35 years.

In his lecture, Prof Ibn-e-Kanwal described Prof Manzar Azmi as the gem of the Urdu world, who contributed a lot to development of Urdu language and literature. He said that non-fictional prose cover an almost infinite variety of themes, and they assume many shapes including political and polemical writings, biographical and autobiographical literature, religious writings, and philosophical, and letter writings.

While speaking on the topic, Prof Qudoos Javed highlighted development of Urdu prose and described post-modern prose in different parts of country on

basis of language, narration and style of post-modern.

In his presidential address, Prof Rajni Dhingra described Prof Manzar Azmi as a man having high thoughts. Prof Manoj Kumar Dhar said that the Urdu department had a great history of towering Urdu personalities like Prof Gian Chand Jain, Prof Sham Lal Kalra, Prof Jagan Nath Azad and Prof Manzar Azmi. She congratulated department of Urdu for organising lecture in memory of great scholars, which will be a real tribute to the legendary Urdu writer:

Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik also paid tributes to Prof Manzar Azmi and appreciated lecture delivered by Prof Ibn-e-Kanwal. Dr Farhat Shamim conducted the proceedings while a vote of thanks was presented by Dr Chaman Lal. Besides students, scholars and faculty members, a number of members of civil society also attended the lecture, which included Khalid Hussain, Aseer Kishtwari, Khurshid Kazmi, Aslam Qureshi, Dr Abdul Rashid Manhas, Dr Chaman Lal, Dr Farhat Shamim, Dr Ajaz, Dr Shahbaz, Dr Raza and Dr Qayyoom.

GDC Purmandal hosts Nukkad Natak 'Changi Matt'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

PURMANDAL: Purmandali Dogri Dramatic club of GDC Purmandal performed Nukkad Natak on "Changi Matt" at Purmandal Bus stand on Thursday. The students of the college performed Nukkad Natak to spread awareness amongst local people of the area about the value of education specially education of girl students. There was a clear cut message through 'Changi Matt' that when a girl is educated, the whole society gets educated. There was huge response from all the segments of the society. The play attempted to dispel doubts and misconceptions about the Higher Education of girls. The message was that every girl has the right to develop her individuality. The play stressed upon that unhesitatingly parents should come forward in enrolment of their daughters in college which is established in Mandal Block. Another issue that was raised in the play was about gender inequality and how to treat girls at par with boys for the welfare of the society. Today's event was attended by large number of spectators and they were over-

whelmed with the performance of 'Purmandali Dramatic Club'. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the people, some of whom even pledged to further spread the message being given by the students of 'Dramatic Club'. Local Panchayat members of block Purmandal were also present in the event.

The whole programme was given wide coverage by the Take One Channel and JK Updates present over there. Local Police also supported

the event. All the staff members were the members of the organizing team. The whole programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Deepika Mehra H.O.D (Convener Purmandali Dramatic Club). Principal of the college Prof. Seema Mir while speaking on the occasion laid emphasis on the importance of education and expected full support and encouragement from the people of the Block Purmandal.

Students of engineering colleges hold protest at JU, demand online examinations



Students staging sit-in protest at Jammu University.

of the protesting students said.

The protesting students demanded amendment in the

JU notification wherein it was conveyed that varsity has decided to conduct all examinations via offline mode.

