

03 Tarun Chugh condemns grenade attack on civilians at Amira Kadal

09 COVID restrictions to continue in J&K as per guidelines

10 Indian women crush Pakistan by 107 runs, begin World Cup campaign on high note

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31 fresh COVID cases reported in a day in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday recorded 31 fresh COVID cases taking the infection tally in the Union Territory to 4,53,245 while no death due to the disease was reported, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 15 were from the Jammu division and 16 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said.

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PDD gives relaxation in age, qualification bar to PDLs/TDLs for regularisation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Power Development Department (PDD) conveyed grant of relaxation in age/qualification bar of PDLs/TDLs for regularization as per Recruitment Rules of the corporations of Power Development Department which are consistent with the Recruitment Rules of Power Development Department prior to unbundling. Earlier Administrative Council which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor approved the proposal of the Power Development Department for grant of relaxation in age/qualification

bar of these PDLs/TDLs. The recommendations for grant of relaxation in favour of incumbents had been made in the Departmental Promotion Committee meetings held in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir had earlier approved the Recruitment Rules of the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited after same were vetted by Department of Law, J&K PA. With this long pending issue/demand has been settled.

Kashmir acid attack case
Police lucky to get evidence from crime scene

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir Police was lucky to get evidence from the scene of crime of the February 1 acid attack on a woman as someone had "inadvertently" cleaned the area with water, according to the charge sheet filed in the case.

The victim, whose identity is not to be disclosed as per a court order, was attacked by two people, including a juvenile, who wanted to "teach her a lesson and take revenge" on her for spurning a marriage proposal.

"Immediately after this incident, the scene of crime was minutely examined by SHO of police station Nowhatta, and it was found that the place of occurrence was already cleaned inadvertently by one lady...by washing it with water.

"However, some stains were noticed at the gate of a nearby house which were

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 24.2°C Min: 14.0°C

Humidity
Max: 76 Min: 68

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 16.5°C Min: 5.8°C

Humidity
Max: 77 Min: 53

Sunset : 18:33 Hours
Sunrise : 06:53 Hours

Civilian killed, 24 hurt as terrorists hurl grenade at SFs in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A civilian was killed while 24 others, including a policeman, were injured after terrorists hurled a grenade at security forces in the Hari Singh High Street locality of the city here on Sunday, police said.

"At about 4:20 pm, terrorists hurled a grenade upon police and security forces deployment at Hari Singh High Street," a police official said.

He said a policeman and 24 civilians received splinter injuries in the explosion.

The injured were rushed to the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital, where a civilian succumbed to his injuries, the official added.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Aslam Makhdoomi (70), a resident of the Nowhatta area of the city.

The Hari Singh High Street area has been cordoned off and a hunt



Locals evacuating injured to hospital.

JeM module busted; 4 terrorist associates arrested

LeT terrorist arrested in Ganderbal District

SRINAGAR: While Police on Sunday busted a terror module of proscribed terror outfit JeM in Avantipora and arrested 4 terrorist associates, an ultra of Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) was apprehended in Ganderbal district.

According to a police spokesperson, arrested four terrorist associates have been identified as Umar Farooq Dar son of Farooq Ahmad resident of Shahbad, Soraj Manzoor Malik son of Manzoor Ahmad Malik resident of Midoora, Irshad Ahmad Lone son of Ghulam Mohd Lone resident of Midora and Afnan Javed Khan son of Javid Ahmad resident of Shahbad. During preliminary

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launched to nab the attackers, the official said.

Inspector General of Police Kashmir said that police is working hard for identification and arrest of the

involved terror criminal involved in the grenade attack and will smash this module at an earliest. He also said that Police have got some vital clues and investigation is rigorously going on in the right direction.

Regarding the incidents, Police have registered cases under relevant sections of law in respective Police Stations and investigation have been initiated.

The leaders of various political parties, including two former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers -- Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti -- condemned the attack.

"I condemn this deplorable attack in the strongest possible terms. May the deceased find place in Jannat & may the injured make a complete and speedy recovery," Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

"Condemn this tasteless attack. People of J&K have been paying with their

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Putin says Ukraine's future in doubt as cease-fires collapse

■ AGENCY
LVIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Saturday that Ukrainian statehood is in jeopardy and likened the West's sanctions on Russia to declaring war, while a promised cease-fire in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed amid scenes of terror.

With the Kremlin's rhetoric growing fiercer and a reprieve from fighting dissolving, Russian troops continued to shell encircled cities and the number of Ukrainians forced from their country grew to 1.4 million. By nighttime Russian forces had intensified their shelling of Mariupol, while dropping powerful bombs on residential areas of Chernihiv, a city north of Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said.

Bereft mothers mourned slain children, wounded soldiers were fitted with tourniquets and doctors worked by the light of their cellphones as bleakness and desperation

pervaded. Crowds of men lined up in the capital to join the Ukrainian military.

The government has ordered men between the ages of 18 and 60 to stay and be available to fight. Some, like Volodymyr Onysko, have volunteered.

We know why we are here. We know why we defend our country, Onysko told Britain's Sky News. We know what we are doing, and that's why we will win.

Putin continued to pin the blame for the war squarely on the Ukrainian leadership and slammed their resistance to the invasion.

If they continue to do what they are doing, they are calling into question the future of Ukrainian statehood, he said. And if this happens, it will be entirely on their conscience.

He also hit out at Western sanctions that have crippled Russia's economy and sent the value of its currency tumbling.

These sanctions that are being imposed, they are akin to declaring war, he said during a televised meeting with flight attendants from Russian airline Aeroflot. But thank God, we haven't got there yet.

Russia's financial system suffered yet another blow as Mastercard and Visa announced they were suspending operations in the country.

Ten days after Russian forces invaded, the struggle to enforce the temporary cease-fires in Mariupol and the eastern city of Volnovakha showed the fragility of efforts to stop the fighting across Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials said Russian artillery fire and airstrikes had prevented residents from leaving before the agreed-to evacuations got underway. Putin accused Ukraine of sabotaging the effort. A third round of talks between Russia and

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BJP President Nadda to visit Jammu today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP president J P Nadda is reaching here on Monday in his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and its bifurcation into two union territories in August 2019. J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina on Sunday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the bike rally being taken out by the party's youth wing, BJYM, to receive Nadda at the Jammu airport, a party spokesperson said.

The rally will be taken out from Jammu Airport to the party headquarters at Trikuta Nagar, he said.

Raina said the visit of the



BJP national president assumes significance as the elections to the Jammu Kashmir assembly is expected to take place later this year after the finalisation of the delimitation commission report. He said he is fully satisfied with the arrangements made by Bharatiya Janata

Yuva Morcha (BJYM) to welcome the party chief.

BJP's J&K vice-president Yudhvir Sethi said Nadda's visit will instil new passion and synergy within the BJP cadre in the Union Territory.

The visit of Nadda to Jammu on March 7 will redouble the enthusiasm among the party cadre as their leader is coming for the first time after the nullification of Articles 370 and 35A, he said.

He said the occasion will give ample space to the party workers to know more about the party ideology and groom themselves to become resolute public representatives in the coming times.

One killed, two injured as vehicle falls into gorge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: A man was killed and two others seriously injured when a car skidded off the road and fell into a 300-foot gorge in Doda district on Sunday, officials said.

The accident took place near Hambal Nullah when the driver of the vehicle lost control over it while going from Hambal to Goha village, the officials said. They said local rescuers recovered the body of 40-year-old Parvinder Katoch and evacuated the injured, Nitu Ram (30) and Suresh Kumar (44). The injured were taken to a government medical college hospital in Doda.

1.36 lakh candidates take Acctts Asstt recruitment test in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Around 1.36 lakh candidates appeared for the written examination conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for accounts assistant posts in the union territory on Sunday, an official said.

The facility of CCTV surveillance, used for the first time in the UT to monitor the exam, helped detect some candidates using unfair means and an invigilator indulging in undesirable practices, a JKSSB spokesperson said.

The JKSSB successfully conducted the optical mark

recognition-based objective type written examination for the post of accounts assistant (finance) at 722 centres set up across 19 districts, he said.

Out of nearly two lakh candidates who had applied for 972 posts, about 1.36 lakh (70 per cent) took the test, the spokesman said.

To enhance transparency and fairness during the examination process, the official said, the JKSSB introduced the facility of live CCTV surveillance and capturing of bio-metric attendance. About 722 magistrates, as many

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Modi attributes 'Operation Ganga' success to India's growing influence



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
PUNE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attributed the success of Operation Ganga to evacuate citizens stranded in war-torn Ukraine to India's growing influence in the global arena.

He said while big countries of the world are finding it

Over 15K Indians flown back home

NEW DELHI: India has brought back its over 15,920 nationals on 76 flights under evacuation mission 'Operation Ganga' that was launched following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, officials said on Sunday, while around 700 students are still trapped in Sumy, waging a grim battle for survival with supplies depleting fast and exit routes to safety blocked by fierce fighting.

Melting snow to slake their thirst and fast running out of food, hundreds of Indian students stand on roads every morning hoping "today is the day" when they will be rescued from the savagery of the war that has engulfed the nation.

The wait, however, has got longer as fierce fighting blocks their way to safety across the Russian border.

They have abandoned the idea of undertaking an arduous journey to the Russian border on foot amid fusillades of artillery fire and missile barrages, a

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(evacuation of people from Ukraine) difficult, "it is the growing influence of India that we have brought thousands of students back to our homeland".

"We are evacuating thousands of Indians safely from the war zone through Operation Ganga, Modi said after inaugurating the golden jubilee celebration of Symbiosis University here in Maharashtra. He also inaugurated Aarogya Dham of Symbiosis University.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister inaugurated a metro project in Pune city and also took a 10-minute ride on the train after buying a ticket from a kiosk.

The inauguration of the 12-km stretch of the total 32.2-km long route took place at the Garware metro station, from where Modi boarded

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Liquid explosives return to terror theatre in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI: Liquid explosives appear to have returned to the terror theatre of Jammu and Kashmir after 15 years with a consignment of three bottles of a white liquid recently being air-dropped by drones entering from Pakistan along the international border in Jammu, officials said on Sunday.

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh, during his recent interaction with the media in Jammu, had hinted at the recovery of some chemical explosives and the same being sent to a forensic laboratory.

Preliminary examination indicates it could be trinitrotoluene (TNT) or nitroglycerine, generally used in dynamites, but a final report was awaited, the officials said.

The liquid explosive material, white in colour, was packed in three one-litre bottles and was part of the consignment dropped by drones, which had taken flight from neighbouring Pakistan, on February 24.

After a thorough search, police recovered improvised explosive devices (IEDs), arms and ammunition, and these three bottles, along with detonators, the officials said, adding that the consignment was meant to be

smuggled into Kashmir for terrorists or for possible use at a crowded market of Jammu.

They said Jammu has been a target of terrorist groups operating from Pakistan who want to trigger a communal clash in the city. So far, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has been able to thwart four such attempts.

The officials did not rule out the possibility that such explosives may have found their way into the Kashmir valley as some drone droppings, according to intelligence reports, could have succeeded. Pakistan's external swooping agency,

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PAGD constituents owe answers for mayhem, miseries they brought to J&K: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Describing People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) an amalgam of divergent constituents having convergence to safeguard their self-interest under the pretension of public interest, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Sunday said they owe answers to those who they subjected to an era of unprecedented misery and despair during their rule. Their selective politicking has hurt the Kashmir psyche more than unrest unleashed by proxies from the neighbouring country, he added.

Addressing a gathering in Panchayat Baran of Block Bhalwal along with Pradesh Vice President Sham Lal Sharma this afternoon, Rana blamed the opportunist constituents for adding to the mayhem and miseries across the Valley during their misrule, laying trails of agonies.



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana & Ex-minister Sham Lal Sharma along with other party leaders during a programme on Sunday.

On the occasion, Sarpanch Baran Saudagar Singh along with his supporters joined BJP.

Without naming People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), Rana said the convergence of divergent political actors is not in the pub-

lic interest but to secure the self-interest. Otherwise, the public memory is not that short to forget the contradictions within the major partners. The choicest injectives like 'Gandhi Nali Ke Keede' for the Congress, then led by Mufti

Mohammed Sayeed, are still echoing the valley. He said the amalgam partners have exploited the people of the Valley more than discriminating the Jammu region.

Referring to the peace and calm prevailing in the Valley for the past three years, Rana said calls for bandhs and acts of stone pelting have now become the horror of the past. This is because of the sagacious handling of the situation by the administration and realization dawning on the people of the Valley, he said, adding the semblance of normalcy is hurting the exploitative politicians the most because it does not fit in with their sinister scheme of things. The people of Kashmir who are traditionally secular and peace loving by conviction now understand the difference in the governance and significance of peace, he observed. Hailing

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COVID: Govt panel recommends permission for phase-3 trial of Covovax as booster dose in adults

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of Covid vaccine Covovax as a booster dose in adults, official sources said on Sunday.

The Drugs Controller General Of India (DCGI) has already approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28.

It is yet to be included in the country's inoculation programme.

The Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had on Friday recommended giving permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of the

single-dose COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik Light as a booster dose.

In February, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India, Prakash Kumar Singh had sought from DCGI nod to conduct a phase-3, observer-blind, randomized, controlled study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of Covovax as a booster dose in adults who were vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin at least 3 months ago, an official source had said.

Singh had stated many countries have already started administering booster doses to their citizens considering the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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