

02 500 kg poppy straw seized from truck

03 Dr Jitendra launches 'Amrit Grand Challenge' to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations

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Will change dev scenario in J&K, Ladakh in next 2 years: Gadkari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: Over Rs one lakh crore is being spent only for tunnels in Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir and in the next two years the Centre will change the development scenario in the two Union territories, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

The Union minister for road transport and highways inspected the eastern portal of the under-construction Zojila tunnel and said the work is being carried out on a war footing and the tunnel will be an economic corridor for Ladakh and Kashmir.

"Within two years, we will change the scenario of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. We will provide more infrastructure facilities within two years. Availability of funds is not a problem, we need cooperation for land acquisition and other works," he said.

The minister said the centre is spending more than Rs



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inspecting progress work of Z-Morh and Zojila tunnels.

one lakh crore only for tunnels in Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir and in the next phase another project worth Rs one lakh crore would be sanctioned.

Accompanied by the Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, Gen V K Singh (retd), Gadkari inspected the pace of ongoing works of the tunnel.

"Zojila tunnel is supposed to be the longest tunnel in Asia and this is the first time that the Centre under the

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to start its work," Gadkari said.

He said the tunnel construction work at Zojila is very difficult.

"When Ladakh and Kashmir get good roads, good tunnels, it will kickstart the socio-economic progress of this area. It is going to create employment," the Union statement said.

"We are going to create more employment potential for the local youth of Ladakh

and Kashmir. We will give the highest priority for employment to local people. It is going to eradicate poverty. It would be a great socio-economic transformation," he said.

Gadkari said apart from financial audit, the performance of any project is very important. "People who are working fast and in a time-bound, result-oriented and corruption-free manner, we will give them a priority for allocating more work."

"But we need speed, quality and use of best technology. We do not want to compromise with the quality and also want to reduce the cost," the Union minister said.

Gadkari said his ministry is also building 20 tunnels of a total length of 32 km in Jammu and Kashmir and 11 tunnels of a total length of 20 km in Ladakh.

The cost of building these 31 tunnels in Union territories of Jammu &

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J&K Govt constitutes Poplar Commission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday constituted Poplar Commission in the Union Territory of J&K.

"Sanction is accorded to the constitution of Poplar Commission in light of the recommendations made by the Committee constituted vide Govt. Order No. 470-JK(GAD) of 2020 dated April 14, 2020, on various aspects of introduction, cultivation, utilization and

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56 SDRF personnel promoted to next ranks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In the recently held Departmental Promotion Committee (DOC) meet of HG/CD & SDRF J&K, 56 SDRF personnel have been promoted to next ranks.

A notice issued in this regard on Tuesday said that a Departmental Promotion Committee met on September 23, 2021 at Headquarters of HG/CD & SDRF J&K, which

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Anti-infiltration operation in Uri: Pak terrorist captured, another killed



Arms & ammunition recovered from infiltrators who were killed by Army along LoC during Uri Operation.

Pakistani intruder held along LoC in Rajouri

JAMMU: A Pakistani intruder was apprehended along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Tuesday, officials said.

Army troops guarding the LoC picked up the movement of a person who attempted to sneak into this side from across the border in Keri sector, the officials said. They said the infiltrator was challenged and taken into custody for questioning. Nothing incriminating was recovered from his possession, the officials said, adding further details are awaited.

foliage and retreated back into PoK. The remaining two sneaked in.

"One of the infiltrators was

killed in the encounter on the morning of 26th while another one pleaded that his

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38 Tehsildars transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday transferred 38 Tehsildars. According to the order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, Mohd Majed, Tehsildar Nazool, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Tehsildar, in the Office of Regional Director, Survey & Land Records, Rajouri (RDSLR); Rajinder Singh, Tehsildar, Marmat Doda as Tehsildar, Tehsildar Nazool, Jammu; Zahir Rana, Tehsildar RTI Jammu as Tehsildar, Marmat Doda; Faridoon Khatana, Tehsildar Gund as Tehsildar, HQA in the office of DC Pulwama; Javid Iqbal, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of

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Centre extends nationwide COVID-19 containment measures till Oct 31

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday extended the nationwide COVID-19 containment measures till October 31 in view of localised spreads of the virus in a few states and the disease continuing to be a public health challenge in the country.

In a communication to chief secretaries of all states and union territories, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla also cautioned against the possibility of COVID-appropriate behaviour not being adhered to strictly during the upcoming festival which may

lead to a surge in cases again.

Despite a decline in COVID-19 cases, it is critical to enforce guidelines that allow regular festivities in a cautious, safe and COVID-appropriate manner, he asserted.

He said the daily COVID-19 cases and the overall number of COVID-19 patients in the country are decreasing steadily but there are still localised spreads of virus in a few states and COVID-19 continues to be a public health challenge in the country.

"Utmost vigil has to be maintained in respect of

mass gathering events, so as to avoid any possibility of a surge in COVID-19 cases.

"Consequently, large scale gatherings in fairs, festivals, and religious events and functions may lead to afresh surge in COVID-19 cases in the country," the communication said.

The home secretary said states and UTs, on a regular basis, should closely monitor case positivity, hospital, ICU beds occupancy of every district falling under their jurisdiction.

"The state governments and UT administrations concerned, having high positivity

in their districts, should take proactive containment measures so as to effectively arrest the spike in cases and to contain the spread of transmission," he said.

Bhalla said it is important to identify warning signs of potential surges early on and to take appropriate measures to curb the spread.

"This would require a localised approach, as has been mentioned in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare advisory dated September 21, 2021," he said.

The home secretary said there should be a

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J&K records 95 fresh COVID cases; Ladakh 5

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 95 fresh Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 3,29,220 on Tuesday, while the death toll remained at 4,422 as no new fatality was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Twenty-eight fresh cases were reported from the Jammu division and 67 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said.

There are 1,420 active cases in Jammu and Kashmir, while 3,23,378 people have recovered from the infection so far, the officials said.

Meanwhile, there are 46

confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory and no fresh case has been reported since Monday evening.

Meanwhile, Ladakh recorded five fresh cases of the novel coronavirus on Tuesday, pushing the infection count to 20,786, while the number of active cases in the Union Territory reached 148, officials said.

Ladakh has registered 207 coronavirus-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

Thirteen COVID-19 patients recovered from

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Petrol, diesel prices hiked

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol price on Tuesday was hiked by 20 paise per litre and diesel by 25 paise as international oil prices neared USD 80 per barrel mark for the first time in three years.

The price of petrol was hiked to Rs 101.39 a litre in Delhi from Rs 101.19 and to Rs 107.47 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Diesel rates went to Rs 89.57 a litre in Delhi and Rs 97.21 in Mumbai.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

This is the first price increase in petrol in more than two months and the fourth in case of diesel.

The increase followed international oil prices rising for the fifth consecutive day and global benchmark Brent heading for USD 80 per barrel. Tuesday was the first increase in petrol price

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No need for toll-free number for vaccination registration, walk-in facility available: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that there is no need for a toll-free number for registration for COVID-19 vaccination as the Centre has already started walk-in vaccination, where people can go for jabs without prior enrolment.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Vikram Nath, and BV Nagarathna said that prayers in PIL filed by one Bibhuti Bhushan Mishra have become infructuous.

Your petition was filed in the month of May seeking setting up of a toll-free num-

ber for COVID-19 vaccination registration. Since then lots of development has taken



place and after our June 1 order, the government has started a walk-in facility for vaccination. Now people, who

are not registered can go to these centres and get themselves registered and vaccinated. The prayer in the petition has become infructuous, the bench told Mishra, who was appearing in person.

The petitioner said that a toll-free number will take care of the difficulty people in rural areas face in registration.

The bench said people who are not registered on the CoWIN portal can simply go to these walk-in centres and get themselves registered and take the vaccination for COVID-19. "The petition

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Sacking employees on grounds of terror links only to cause more problems: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday warned the government against sacking employees on the grounds that they had links to militants, saying the move will create more problems.

"The government should stop it. The militancy will not reduce, it will only increase and create more problems for them (government)," Abdullah told reporters here.

He was responding to questions about the sacking of government employees on various grounds,

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Punjab going to dogs due to messy Congress: Chugh



months the state governance has gone to dogs", said Chugh while lambasting the AICC high command for bringing Punjab on the brink of crisis.

Chugh said for days there could not be a decision on the successor of Capt Amarinder

Singh and then subsequently it took the AICC high command took another one week to decide on the cabinet ministers and their portfolios.

He said Punjab had never seen this kind of administrative vacuum ever in the past. He squarely held AICC president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi for ushering in dark days in Punjab.

"In the coming Assembly election the people of Punjab would deliver a crushing defeat to the party for the sins it has committed in the state by the administration slave to various mafias", Chugh said.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.5°C Min: 25.0°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 30.8°C Min: 15.8°C

Humidity
Max: 78 Min: 49

Sunset: 18:22 Hours
Sunrise: 06:25 Hours

Shah Faesal IAS: Why affairs related to 'Kashmir, Kashmiri' are handled with no different a policy even in 2021?

■ DAYA SAGAR

IAS officer Shah Faesal hit the media lines with prominence when he qualified UPSC Civil Service Exam 2009 with rank -1 in May 2010 and even then the Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh congratulated him in person in New Delhi on 26th May 2010, 2nd when he was reported to have submitted his resignation on 09-01-2019, 3rd on 17-03-2019 when he floated a political party (Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement) and 4th time when he resigned from 'his' political party on 10-08-2020 and speculations started emerging immediately thereafter that Shah Faesal may withdraw his resignation (11-08-2020). Speaking to Outlook, Faesal says that the period of detention has brought in him a transformation and offered him a "ringside view" of Kashmiri politics) / may be allowed to withdraw resignation by government of India (some media also reported on 06-02-2021 such likelihood with indirect reference of a MOS in Union Government who was said to have expressed that there should be no objection in case there is a change of "heart").

Faesal submitting resignation had hit even the

international media which was much less for his being just from IAS Cadre but was more for the air that he had been given for standing first in UPSC CSE exam 2009 and that too for being from Kashmir Valley(why was he given so much of AIR by the people outside J&K was not understandable as he was not the only of the class since even in 1982 in the UPSC 1981 CSE Er. Khurshid Ahmad Ganai- M. Tech IIT Delhi- had stood 2nd in the list) & much above that for the 'reasons' he had given for resigning from service of GOI.

Government of India not disposing of the resignation of Shah Faesal even after 30 months of his making a submission for his quitting 'Superior most' service class from among the Government of India Services with reasons looking more like , rather no less than, what even the people who have been talking of issues like 'Kashmir issue', J&K not being a unit of the union like other Indian States, atrocities committed on the common man (Kashmiri) by State agencies and aspirations of the common people (Kashmiri), unfair treatment with the Indian muslims and like surely makes those who have some informa-

tion about the contents of resignation letter / allegations contained in resignation letter feel at loss to understand the strategies held by even the present NDA government for handling J&K affairs.

What Shah Faesal has (who still appears at Sr:36 of the list of J&K IAS officers (jkgad.nic.in/leftMenu/CivilList.aspx) said in his resignation letter of 09-01-2019 would have normally moved any government for immediate

Part-II

action worth removing any possibilities of innocent common man of Indian state like that of J&K (Kashmir region in particular) further getting pushed more into myths & controversies regarding J&K being a normal 'state' of Republic of India but that has not happen. Mr. Shah had gone to the extent of reasoning his resignation "To protest against the unabated killings in Kashmir and lack of any sincere reach-out from the Union government; the marginalization and invisibilisation of around 200 million Indian Muslims at the hands of Hindutva forces reducing them to second-class citizens; insidious attacks on the special identity of the J&K state and growing culture of intolerance and hate in the main-

land India in the name of hyper-nationalism.....". Enough of the material is available on social media, print media and electronic media for any one who wishes to know more about what he has been saying before August 2020 and what regrets he has said since August 2020 which surely can not be accepted as simple clarification or regret or self realisation worth treating him as ordinary defaulter and treating his resignation as routine resignation worth processing the same in terms of normal service rules/ conduct rules related to submission & withdrawal of resignation since the reasons mentioned in the resignation do not fall short of even some thing that falls under 'sedition laws'.

And there is a need for even issuing a white paper in this regard explaining why delay on the part of DoPT, what action is being taken against the 'officer' other than any other administrative action required under conduct rules since some media reportings saying that Faesal may withdraw his resignation and government may allow him to do that have already done enough damage to the process of undoing the ideological pollution that prevailed

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