

Medicos from S'kulam stranded in Ukraine

Students say they are located 500 km away from Kyiv, all markets, transport and ATMs remain shut down

SREENU BABU PATIVADA @ Srikakulam

TWO students from the district sought government assistance for evacuation from Ukraine after Russia invaded the country.

N Kumara Swamy Naidu of Kambarivalasa village in Veeraghattam mandal and S Vamsi Krishna of Palakonda mandal headquarters are in their fifth year pursuing medicine at the Bukovinian State Medical University in Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

Speaking to TNIE over the phone, Kumara Swamy said, "At least 1,000 Indian students including 70 from both Telugu states study at the University. Among them, we two are from Srikakulam district. As of now, we don't have any problems as the bombing has begun in the western part of Ukraine which is 500 km away from Kyiv city. But the situation is getting worse by the hour. All transportation, markets and ATMs are closed. So, we are facing issues with regard to getting essential commodities. It seems like the situation might worsen in the next 48 hours."

"My parents are afraid of the prevailing situation. So, I request the Indian Embassy as well as the government to evacuate us as soon as possible. Indian embassy officials have directed us to safe places (nearby bomb shelters) according to Google maps list as Ukraine is under mar-



Kumara Swamy Naidu Vamsi Krishna

Ukraine crisis: Power outages, Wifi issues add to parents' woes

S TRIMURTHULU @ Kakinada

PARENTS of students from the State pursuing education at various universities in Ukraine are anxious as their children are stranded in the country that Russia has invaded.

The flights, which left for Ukraine from India to evacuate those stranded, were forced to return as all the airports in Ukraine were shut in view of the air strikes.

BVV Satyanarayana of Penuguduru village in Karapa mandal of East Godavari district is distressed as his daughter, Rishita, is stranded in Kharkiv city of Ukraine. It is one of the cities that was bombed by Russian forces.

Rishita is pursuing her second year in medicine at Kharkiv National Medical University.

Rishita returned to Kharkiv on January 7 after Christmas holidays, said her father Satyanarayana and mother Hymavathi, who are deeply worried for the safety of their child. Her

My daughter was supposed to be on the flight which was forced to return due to air space restrictions in Ukraine. I urge the government to bring back my daughter safely

BVV Satyanarayana, Rishita's father

younger brother studying class X in Kakinada is also worried about his sister's safety in the war-torn country.

Satyanarayana, a businessman, said he tried multiple times to contact Andhra Bhavan for help, but in vain.

He said due to lack of proper guidance by the University authorities, several students are now stranded.

When he spoke with his daughter last time, she told him that there would be power outages in the city. Rishita also informed her father that the WiFi had al-



BVV Satyanarayana

'Govt in constant touch with MEA to evacuate students'

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"We have appointed two officers who are in touch with Telugu students. There is much concern in the wake of cancellation of flights. The AP government is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs to reach out to the stranded Telugu students in Ukraine," he explained.

Assuring that all steps are being taken to bring back the stranded Telugu students to AP from Ukraine, the Minister said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had already written a letter to the Union Minister for External Affairs in this regard.

"We are requesting parents not to worry about their children's safety in Ukraine. The State government is in constant touch with the Ministry of External Affairs and evolving steps to bring back the stranded students to AP in special flights once the situation improves," Education Minister Suresh said.

State adds 220 new Covid cases, 2 deaths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE State has reported another 220 new Covid-19 infections taking the overall cases reported in the State so far to more than 23.17 lakh. These 200-odd cases emerged from the more than 17,500 samples tested in the past 24 hours ending Thursday 9 am. So far, over 3.30 crore samples have been tested.

According to the media bulletin released by the State Command Control Room, West Godavari reported the highest of 43 new infections followed by 40 in Krishna. Six districts logged less than 10 new cases with the lowest of two each in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

Only four districts - Krishna, Nellore, Srikakulam and West Godavari - reported more number of infections compared to Wednesday. The four Rayalaseema districts reported 28 new infections while three north coastal Andhra districts logged 24 fresh cases.

Another 472 patients recovered from the virus taking the overall recoveries to above 22.97 lakh. The caseload came down to less than 5,000

Table with District-wise break-up showing New cases, Total cases, New deaths, and Total deaths for various districts.

GET COVID INFO

WhatsApp Chatbot - Message Hi, Hello, Covid to 8297104104

In case you don't have a smart phone, dial 8297104104 and get Covid related information through IVRS

104 - 24x7 toll free number for any medical assistance

https://esanjanvani.com/ - for video call to doctor to get medical assistance

Download Covid app from https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.entrolabs.apcovid19

Covid dashboard - http://hmfw.ap.gov.in/covid_dashboard.aspx

with East Godavari accounting for more than half of the active cases. The active cases in the district stand at 2,781. Two more—one each from Chittoor and Krishna—succumbed to the virus taking the tally to 14,720.

HDFC Home Loans advertisement featuring a woman and text: 'HDFC Home Loans @ 6.70% p.a. onwards. Because your first-ever loan should be easy on your pocket.'

All stores run out of stocks as people resort to panic buying

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"We are hearing sound of bomb explosions and blasts causing panic to us," she said.

There are nearly 3,000 students from India in four university hostels in Oleksivska and of them about 800 are Telugus. "We are in touch with Indian embassy officials, but they are in a hapless position as international flights have been suspended," she said.

Explaining the situation there, she said, "All departmental stores ran out of stocks as people resorted to panic buying. We do not have sufficient food. I have some biscuits and cakes and two bottles of water with which I have to sustain now. I have no idea how long we will be in bunkers," Sreeja said.

She booked a flight ticket to Delhi from Kyiv for Saturday to return home. "All the flight tickets were booked by students from my university. But flights have been cancelled. My parents back home are a worried lot. The Indian embassy should take steps for our safe return to India," she pleaded.

Sreeja said those who were supposed to catch Thursday flight left for Kyiv on Wednesday. But their flight was cancelled and they were stranded at the airport, she said. "Like many other students, including those from Andhra Pradesh, we are in a state of de-

spair. We do not know what to do. We urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to bring us back to India by military flights if civilian flights are not allowed," she urged. Though there is no need not to give up hope, the tense situation in Ukraine is a cause for concern. "I never thought that I would be caught in such a situation. I came here in December with a lot of hope to study MBBS and return to India as a doctor," Sreeja said.

Her father Reddi Arjun told TNIE that his daughter is very intelligent and wanted to study MBBS. "We sent her to Ukraine for medicine due to much delay in NEET and no clarity on the exam schedule. Not to forego one academic year, we preferred Ukraine," he said, adding that Kharkiv National Medical University is one of the best varsities in Ukraine.

Arjun, who runs a cement shop, said they were trying to bring Sreeja back to India for the last 15 days. However, due to delay in getting transit visa, she could not come back before the cancellation of flights. After getting the visa two days ago, she booked Saturday's flight ticket to Delhi. Sreeja and other students had gone to Ukraine with temporary visa, which was supposed to be renewed after 3 months. "However, there was delay in renewal and they had to depend on temporary visa."

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