

03 Court frames corruption charges against former SDM, Forester, others

09 Woman charred, 4 injured in devastating fire at Jamalata

10 U19 WC COVID-hit India stroll into QFs after beating Ireland

Record 5,992 fresh COVID cases in J&K, 7 more die

Complete restriction on non-essential movements from every Friday 2 PM to Monday 6 AM ordered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: While Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 5,992 fresh coronavirus cases, biggest single-day spike in infections so far, pushing the tally to 3,78,661, the Government ordered complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire Union Territory from every Friday 2.00 PM to Monday 6.00 AM, henceforth.

According to officials, seven deaths due to the disease were reported in the past 24 hours, five in the Jammu Division and two in the Valley.

In view of surge in the cases, the Government has ordered complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire UT of J&K from every Friday 2.00 PM to Monday 6.00 AM, henceforth.

"In continuation to the

63 pc healthcare, 58 pc frontline workers; 39 pc above 60-yr received COVID precaution jab: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: About 63 per cent eligible healthcare workers, 58 per cent frontline workers and 39 per cent of people above 60 years of age with comorbidities have received their precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine, the health ministry said on Thursday.

Responding to a question, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said about 22.66 lakh out of 35 lakh healthcare workers have received their precaution dose, accounting for 63 per cent of such people.

He said there are 33 lakh frontline workers who were



A healthcare worker collecting nasal swab sample for COVID test in wake of surge in Coronavirus cases in Jammu.

COVID-19 containment measures ordered vide Government Order No. 04-JK (DMRRR) of 2022 dated January 14, 2022 and in reference to the task force meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief

Secretary, J&K (Chairman State Executive Committee) along with the ACS (Finance), ACS (Health and Medical Education), Principal Secretary to the Government PWD (R&B) & other Senior Health func-

tionaries on January 20, 2022 regarding an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the entire J&K and the presence of variant of concern (Omicron), the State Executive Committee, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 orders that there shall be a complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire UT of J&K from every Friday 2.00 pm to Monday 6.00 am, henceforth," reads an order issued by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, who is also Chairman State Executive Committee.

"Pregnant women employees will be exempted from physical attendance and they shall be allowed to work from home," it stated and added. "These directions

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LeT terrorist arrested in Budgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Security forces on Thursday arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist in Budgam district and seized arms and ammunition from his possession, police said.

A police official said security forces launched a search operation in the Chadoora area of Budgam in the morning after learning about the presence of an ultra there. He said during the

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Missing youth who joined terror ranks arrested with arms, ammunition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
PULWAMA: Police on Thursday arrested a missing youth, who had recently joined terror ranks along with arms and ammunition in Pulwama.

At a checkpoint established at Pachahar Rajpora Pulwama, Police along with 44RR and 183Bn CRPF intercepted a suspicious person, who was challenged by naka party but he tried

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High-end security system in J&K

CAG raps Home Deptt for failing to utilise PMDP funds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has pulled up the Jammu and Kashmir home department for failing to utilise over Rs 500 crore funds sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) to procure high-end security system to maintain law and order in the union territory.

The CAG, in its report, has taken a serious note of the home department's single-vendor purchases without ascertaining the reasonability of rates and avoidable expenditures in purchase of the high-end security system.

Under the PMDP, the central government had sanctioned over Rs 500 crore for procurement of high-end security system to maintain law and order in

Jammu and Kashmir in 2016-2017, of which only 52 percent of funds were utilised by 2019, the report said.

"During the period from 2016 to 2019, the government of Jammu and Kashmir released Rs 501.86 crore, out of which an expenditure of Rs 261.96 crore (52 per cent) was incurred by the (home) department," the CAG said.

The report further said that the percentage of expenditure vis-a-vis funds available during the period ranged between 50 and 85 percent, respectively.

"The unspent balances increased from Rs 2.77 crore as of April 2017 to Rs 79.78 crore at the close of March 2019.

Further, during the year 2019-20 an amount of Rs 119 crore was sanctioned by the GoI under the project and an expenditure of Rs 29.77 crore had been

incurred by the department, leaving a balance of Rs 89.23 crore unutilised as of 31 March 2020," it said.

The CAG said that during the year 2020-21 (up to August 2020), an amount of Rs 25.15 crore was released by the Union government against which no expenditure had been incurred (till August 2020).

The government audit body pointed out that under the project 56 items and works were to be procured and installed and out of which the procurement of 33 items and works (59 per cent) was completed by the department as of August 2020.

It further lambasted the home department for its failure to take up the integrated command centers and its linked components for

Back-deep into snow, Jawans patrol forward areas to check infiltration in Poonch



Army personnel carrying out patrolling in forward areas of Poonch on Thursday.

pads across the border ready to sneak into this side, if they get slightest opportunity on the surveillance front.

"Snowfall or no snow--

chilly winters or dangerous gorges--threat of attacks - our morale is high to keep round the clock

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Fresh snowfall in Gulmarg, Pahalgam in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature dropped slightly in most parts of Kashmir where the tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam received fresh snowfall, officials said on Thursday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, settled at a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius half-a-degree down from the previous night, they said.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 5. degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a

low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, they said.

The officials said Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minimum of 0.7 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.1 degrees Celsius.

The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office has said the weather will remain partly to generally cloudy in J-K with the possibility of a spell of light rain or snow during January 22-23.

Thereafter, the weather is likely to stay mainly dry till the end of the month

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Omar targets Centre over its plan to appropriate powers of transferring IAS, IPS officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the Centre's plan to appropriate powers of transferring IAS and IPS officers will be "another nail" in the coffin of the country's federal structure.

He was reacting to media reports that the Union government is planning to acquire for itself overriding powers to transfer IAS and IPS officers through central deputation, doing away with the requirement of taking the approval of the state governments.

"This would be another nail in the coffin of India's federal structure. How would CM Modi react if PM Modi summarily removed his DG or CS? J&K lost all its powers of appointment in 2019, now it looks like the rest of India's states will go the same way," Abdullah tweeted.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 13.2°C Min: 8.5°C

Humidity

Max : 97 Min : 93

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 7.9°C Min: 2.2°C

Humidity

Max : 94 Min: 69

Sunset : 17:53 Hours

Sunrise : 07:32 Hours