

02 Jawan injured in Pulwama encounter

03 Jammuites hold massive protests against frequent power cuts, block several roads

10 Schools must act as sports-schools to fetch Olympic medals: JKPS Principal

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Ramzan Mubarak



J&K logs 8 new COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir reported eight new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, taking the infection tally to 4,54,021, officials said.
Of the new cases, three were from Jammu district and two each from Srinagar and Budgam, they said.
There are 58 active cases of COVID-19 in the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army-run school stokes Hijab controversy in Kashmir; mainstream leaders react

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: An Army-run school in Baramulla district has stoked a controversy by asking its staff to avoid wearing hijab during school hours, prompting criticism by the mainstream political parties.
In a circular dated April 25, the principal of the Dagger Parivar School Baramulla, a school set up under the aegis of the Army and the Indrani Balan Foundation, asked the teachers to avoid wearing hijab during school hours "so that students can feel comfortable and are forthcoming to interact with teachers and staff".

However, on Wednesday, the school issued an amended version of the circular, replacing the word hijab (head cover) with niqab' (face veil).
The April 25-dated circular was been widely shared on social media.
Efforts to seek comments from the school management, including the principal, did not materialise.
Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti strongly condemned diktat.
"I condemn this letter issuing diktats on hijab. J&K may be ruled by BJP but

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Mughal road reopens for one-way traffic

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The historic Mughal road, connecting the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was reopened for one-way vehicular traffic on Wednesday after remaining closed for over four months due to heavy snowfall during the winter, officials said.
A traffic department official said the traffic on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Omar welcomes SC decision to list petitions on Art 370 for hearing
■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court's announcement that petitions regarding the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution would be listed after the summer vacation

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 40.0°C Min: 21.7°C

Humidity
Max : 39 Min : 20

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 28.1°C Min: 10.4°C

Humidity
Max : 66 Min: 31

Sunset : 19:10 Hours
Sunrise : 05:50 Hours

GoI allocates 207 MW additional power to J&K

Order to come into effect from midnight; additional supply by today

Availability of power to increase substantially: Nitishwar Kumar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In order to meet the increasing electricity demand in Jammu & Kashmir, the Union Government has allocated 207 MW additional Power to the Union Territory.
Principal Secretary, to the Lt Governor & PDD, Nitishwar Kumar said that the order issued by the Union Ministry of Power will substantially increase the availability of power in J&K.
Pertinently, the Union Government has allocated additional power from the unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations of Northern Region Pool to Jammu & Kashmir.
The order in this regard will come into the effect from midnight and the UT is expected to receive the additional supply by tomorrow.
J&K's Power Development Department is also making dedicated efforts on all fronts to meet the rising demand for the power supply in the UT,

exploring practical and viable solutions to address the needs of the end consumers.
It was informed that, between 1st to 25th April, the Power Development Department allocated additional Rs.52 Crore to purchase power from the open market, also known as Energy Exchange, however, due to increased number of bidding, electricity worth only Rs.10.41 Crore could only be supplied to the Union Territory of J&K.
Owing to the early onset of summer and an unprecedented heatwave in the month of March and April, experienced for the first time in the last 122 years and 50 years respectively, the Power Development Department took the decision to place maximum bid at the energy exchange to meet the shortfall amidst the surging power demand. Eventually, the additional allocation was made in March to ensure maximum power supply.

The Power Development Department is also ensuring optimal output from available power sources. However, it is pertinent to mention that thermal plants account for 70% of the country's power generation capacity. Thermal and Hydropower contribute 50%-50% to meeting the demand of the Union Territory of J&K. Hydropower plants operate at reduced capacity during the month of March and April due to the accumulation of snow which starts melting only in the month of May.
In April 2021, the power demand for Jammu division was 830 MW per day. The demand has increased to 900 MW this year. The Power Development Department is using all its resources including purchases from the Energy Exchange to ensure 770 MW, which is being supplied to the people of Jammu division.
Between, 1st to 26th April of this year, only 6.17% less

power units have been supplied in comparison to the same period in 2021. The PDD officials are bidding at the Energy Exchange on an hourly basis to ensure that even this gap is bridged.
In the light of the increasing power demand in Jammu and Kashmir Division, Nitishwar Kumar is reviewing the position of power availability on an hourly basis.
A meeting was also held earlier today in which senior officials of PDD and Engineers were present. It was noted that as compared to April 2021, energy consumption this year for the same period has increased.
After detailed deliberations in the meeting, Nitishwar Kumar directed the deployment of middle management level officers at grid stations to monitor the power schedule. It was advised that the area-wise curtailment schedule be communicated to the public using all available platforms.

BSF launches intensive drive to detect possible cross-border tunnels from Pakistan: Officials



BSF men during massive drive to detect cross-border tunnels along IB in Samba sector.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Following the recent detection and killings of two Jaish-e-Mohammed's suicide bombers, who infiltrated the country from Pakistan, the Border Security Force has launched a massive drive to detect cross-border tunnels along the International Border in the Jammu sector.
The BSF said it is alive to the threat posed by the enemy forces and anti-national elements and is maintaining robust domination and surveillance to keep the borders and the people of the country safe.

Two heavily-armed JeM terrorists, wearing suicide vests, were eliminated in a fierce gunfight by security forces after they attacked a

bus carrying Central Industrial Security Force personnel in the Sunjwan area on the outskirts of Jammu on April 22 and

killed an assistant sub-inspector.
Nine security personnel, including two policemen, were also injured in the gunfight which ensued amid the heightened security two days ahead of the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
The subsequent investigation led to the arrest of three conspirators, including a truck driver and his helper, who had transported the Pashtu-speaking terrorists from the Sapwal border in Samba district to Jammu in the middle of the night a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Gap between 2nd dose of COVID jab, precaution dose to be reduced to 6 months soon
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government is likely to soon reduce the gap between the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and the precaution dose from the current nine months to six months, official sources said on Wednesday.
A recommendation on lessening the gap is expected to be made by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) which is set to hold a meeting on April 29, they told PTI.
Studies at ICMR and other international research institutions have suggested

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi flags higher tax on fuel in opposition-ruled states

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Flagging higher fuel prices in many opposition-ruled states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called it "injustice" to people living there and urged the governments there to reduce VAT in "national interest" to benefit the common man.
Modi raised the issue of many states not adhering to the Centre's call for reducing the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel after his government slashed excise

duties on them in November last, and asked them to work in the spirit of cooperative



federalism in this time of global crisis. Higher prices in some states were also harmful for neighbouring states, he added.

The prime minister

focussed a big part of his concluding remarks in his meeting with chief ministers to review the COVID-19 situation on the issue of rise in fuel prices which have been a matter of public debate and a cause behind the surge in inflation.
Boosting cooperative federalism is necessary for strengthening Indian economy in the global scenario impacted by the war, he said, in an apparent reference to the Russian attack

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

10 JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday transferred ten JKAS officers.
According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Akhtar Hussain Qazi, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kishtwar has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Doda; Rishi Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Assar, Doda as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Padder, Kishtwar. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Padder in addition to his own duties. Varunjeet Charak, JKAS, Sub-Divisional

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Crime Branch verifying signatures of Anita Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Crime Branch wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police is investigating the signatures of Anita Sharma, wife of Shiv Kumar Sharma, resident of 23-B/C, Gandhi Nagar who applied before Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for approval of blueprints for house number 84/110-A.



The investigations revealed that Anita Sharma, wife of Shiv Kumar Sharma applied fraudulently vide application no: 2890 on December 28, 2019 whereas she had already sold the house to one Shaguna Gupta, wife of Rakesh Gupta vide two sales deeds executed on December 26, 2015 and September 28,



Anita Sharma & Shiv Kumar Sharma

stay was granted by the Court to maintain status quo. It is surprising that though the whole building compris-

ing ground floor and first floor were constructed illegally, the JMC perhaps to favour Anita Sharma raised

objection only for one room and setback.
Later, when the honest JMC Commissioner Avny Lavasa came to know about violations in the case, she constituted a committee to look into the matter, which reported that ground floor and first floor is new construction. After the purchase of land, Anita Sharma erased the old building to ground and constructed the new building illegally, whereas the challan was only for one room and setback.
Surprisingly even after the confirmation by the inquiry committee that ground floor and first floor are new construction, the whole department is keeping a criminal silence and no action has been taken so far on the report of committee and no

action has been taken against Khilafwarzi officer, for the violations of whole building instead of minor violation as mentioned in earlier notice by JMC.
A municipal official on the condition of anonymity said that Anita Sharma and her husband Shiv Kumar Sharma are chronic offenders and habitual of violating municipal laws and disclosed that Shiv Kumar Sharma has constructed another building at 313-A Apsara Road, Jammu where no honour has been shown towards setbacks and no municipal laws have been observed.
The official further added that our department seems to be on the payroll so no action had been and is being taken against these habitual offenders of municipal laws.