

03 Several organisations condemn Aap Shambhu incident, seek action

09 Cabinet okays raising retirement age of doctors to 65

10 Benia Min of JKP bags Bharnara Dangal title

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Petrol price hiked by 5 paise a litre, diesel by Rs 1.26
AGENCY
NEW DELHI: Petrol price was marginally hiked on Wednesday by 5 paise a litre and diesel by Rs 1.26 a litre, the fourth increase in rates in six weeks.
Petrol will cost Rs 65.65 a litre in Delhi from midnight of Wednesday as compared to Rs 65.60 per litre currently, Indian Oil Corp, the nation's largest fuel retailer.
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Centre sanctions Rs 258 cr for damaged police infra
AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Centre has sanctioned Rs 258 crore for restoration of infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir Police that was damaged during the 2014 deluge.
The decision was taken following a request by the Jammu and Kashmir government to the Home Ministry, official sources said.
The proposal for seeking one-time budgetary support of Rs 286.57 crore under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) for the restoration of infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir

Police damaged during floods in September 2014 was sent to the central government about a year ago.
Subsequently, the proposal was deliberated by the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance.
Now, the Ministry of Finance has recommended release of 90 per cent of the amount i.e. Rs 258 crore and remaining 10 per cent will be contributed by the state government, the sources said.
However, the central assistance will be restricted to Rs 258 crore with any additional or escalation in the costs or cost components to be

Govt looks to rein in dal prices through imports, buffer stock
AGENCY
NEW DELHI: With prices soaring to as high as Rs 170 per kg, the government on Wednesday went into a huddle at the top level and decided to import pulses from Myanmar and Africa and beef up buffer stocks to check the spike.
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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 36.7°C Min: 29.3°C
Humidity
Max: 100 Min: 45
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 32.4°C Min: 19.5°C
Humidity
Max: 66 Min: 39
Sunset : 19:40 Hours
Sunrise : 05:23 Hours

Trouble in Jammu over temple 'desecration', CM appeals for calm
STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Some incidents of stone-pelting were reported on Wednesday as Jammu city witnessed a near total Bandh in protest against alleged desecration of a temple here last night, an issue which resonated in the State Assembly as well.
Fearing a flare-up, the government suspended mobile Internet services and deployed police in strength to maintain law and order.
Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti appealed for calm, saying, "Jammu and Kashmir is the most secular place" and it should not be "hijacked by extremist forces".
She said some elements were "hell-bent" on creating communal tension in the region but the people of Jammu, irrespective of their religion, must unite and fight

the nefarious designs of such forces.
She warned that communal politics in Jammu region could have a disastrous effect as the State was already facing separatism in the Kashmir Valley.
"Separatism and communalism are the two faces of a same coin and they ultimately divide the society and the country," she said while addressing a function at Jammu University.
The city on Tuesday night saw protesters setting on fire three vehicles and resorting to stone pelting on police after the alleged desecration of an ancient temple situated in Roop Nagar area apparently by a "mentally disturbed" person.
Today, a few incidents of stone pelting were reported, barring which the situation

across Jammu region remained by and large normal.
Even though no political or social organisation had called for Bandh, the businessmen and transporters decided to observe a shutdown in protest against the desecration of the temple.
Most of the shops and business establishments remained closed whereas traffic remained off the road.
"The situation right now is normal barring a few incidents of protests by local residents. We have deployed adequate number of police personnel," Jammu Deputy Commissioner Simrandeep Singh said.
He said that even as the mobile Internet services have been snapped, no curfew or Section 144 is in force in

districts of Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi also remained tense as large number of protesters blocked National Highway at several places to register their protest over desecration of famous temple. Fuming with anger, the local residents in Samba and Kathua had

Temple desecration: 22 agitators released; unrest spreads in neighbouring districts
STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Even though the State administration on Wednesday claimed to have cooled down tempers of agitated residents following vandalisation of famous Aap Shambhu temple in Roopnagar area of Janipur, tension prevailed in parts of Jammu city as police and civil authorities continue to struggle to contain rumour mongering and spread of video clipping exposing identity of the youth dubbed as 'mentally ill' by the State government so far.
Senior BJP Minister Bali Bhagat who was specially flown in from Srinagar to establish contact with the local representatives of the protesters leading the demonstrations also managed to broker a peace deal after ordering a thorough probe into the matter and ensuring release of all 22 youth detained by the Janipur police in connection with violence late Tuesday night.
The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Dr Pawan Kotwal, IG Jammu Range Danesh Rana, DC Jammu Simrandeep Singh

and other senior police/civil officers.
On the other hand mobile internet services remained suspended throughout the day on Wednesday. They were suspended late Tuesday night to prevent spread of rumors flying thick and fast on the social networking sites.
The situation across the neighboring



Deserted Jewel Chowk as Jammu observed complete Bandh.

districts of Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi also remained tense as large number of protesters blocked National Highway at several places to register their protest over desecration of famous temple. Fuming with anger, the local residents in Samba and Kathua had

Ex- GM DIC, others booked for allowing illegal power to rolling mill
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) on Wednesday registered a case against the then General Manager DIC Pulwama, Proprietor Mir Steel Rolling Mills and others for misleading the government for illegal sanction of power load.
Vigilance Organisation Kashmir (VOK) has registered a case under Prevention of Corruption Act on outcome of a verification conducted by the agency into the allegations that M/s Mir Steel Rolling Mills IGC Lassipora has blatantly misled the government for illegal sanction of power load, obtaining sanction for new induction furnace and other equipments on the pretext of obtaining machinery for expansion and modernization of rolling mill, etc.
During verification, it was revealed that the General Manager District Industries Centre Pulwama instead of rejecting the project report with a criminal intent in violation of rules forwarded the case of beneficiary unit holder to the Director Industries and Commerce with a recommendation for favour for further process. Verification has further revealed that General Manager DIC Pulwama namely Jalal-ud-din Ganaie

and the field staff in the year 2015 under the garb of processing the project report of the beneficiary unit holder allowed him to install induction furnace in utter violation which has also resulted in the usage/overload of power required for running of the said Induction Furnace. In this way the beneficiary unit holder in active connivance with the officers / officials of DIC Pulwama and Electric Sub Division Pulwama has been running the Induction Furnace by consuming extra and illegal load.
By acting in this manner, the officers/officials of DIC Pulwama and Electric Sub

Division have abused their official position and have illegally conferred undue pecuniary advantage upon the beneficiary unit holder thereby causing corresponding loss to the state exchequer.
Accordingly, FIR 15/2016 under Section 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) J&K P.C. Act, Svt. 2006 and 120-B RPC was registered in Police Station Vigilance Organisation Kashmir against Jalal ud din Ganie, the then General Manager DIC Pulwama, Mohammad Yousuf beneficiary and Haji Ghulam Mohi ud din Mir Proprietor Mir Steel Rolling Mills and others.
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Two grenade attacks in Shopian, two civilians hurt
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Militants on Wednesday carried out two grenade attacks within a span of 10 minutes in Shopian District of Kashmir, resulting in injuries to two civilians, police said.
The first attack took place at 5:30 PM when militants lobbed a grenade at the police station building complex in Shopian town, a police official said.
The grenade exploded in the compound of the police station without causing any damage, he said.
In the second attack, the ultras hurled a grenade at Batapora Chowk, about

Attempts being made to vitiate atmosphere in State: Omar
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said attempts were being made to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the State and appealed to people to maintain communal harmony, a day after protests broke out in Jammu over desecration of a temple.
He said it was the government's responsibility to strengthen the administration so that such incidents do not take place.
"The Chief Minister is in Jammu and we have been told that she is monitoring the situation on the ground. We will wait for her to make

a statement.
We will listen from her on what policy she has to make the situation peaceful again in the State," he told reporters here on the sidelines of a party function.
Omar appealed to people to maintain communal harmony.
He said attempts were being made to vitiate the atmosphere in the State but the government has not come up with the right response yet to deal with it.
"Attack in Anantnag, on national highway, then an attack on the other side of the tunnel in Kud, then the

Cong MLC protests against SMVDSB Narayana Super Specialty Hospital fleecing patients: Jugal
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Senior Congress leader and MLC Jugal Kishore Sharma alleged that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital opened at Kakrayal near Katra in Reasi is charging hefty amount from the patients thus killing the very purpose of providing affordable health services to people of the State.
He made the revelation while speaking at the floor of Legislative Council here on Wednesday. Going a step

further while leveling serious charges of deep rooted conspiracy, he raised a question that when entire edifice and funds to commission this medical health facility in the State were raised and offered by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) then how 'Narayana Health' came into picture?
He asked for probe into the matter that how a private entity viz 'Narayana Health' is being allowed to fleece the gullible
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Scuffle breaks out between Indian, Chinese troops at LAC
AGENCY
NEW DELHI: A scuffle had broken out between troops of Indian Army and Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) when the 276 Chinese personnel entered the Indian side from four different border points in Arunachal Pradesh last Thursday, according to an official account of the incident today.
The incident occurred at 'Shankar Tikri' on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) of Yangtze area in Arunachal Pradesh with the PLA claiming the area belonged to China.
The area, which is being

guarded by the Indian Army, was immediately covered and army moved in its men to prevent the aggressive PLA troops from crossing the perceived LAC in the region.
An estimated 215 PLA troops reportedly tried to push their way at 'Shankar Tikri' and simultaneously 20 each from 'Thang La' and 'Mera Gap' and another 21 from 'Yanki-I' of Arunachal Pradesh made similar attempts.
During the normal banner drill, the PLA troops striking an aggressive posture tried to attack the Indian army personnel physically but were overpowered immediately, official sources said on Wednesday.
The sources said the army has officially reported that there was only a "mild scuffle" between the Army and PLA at east of 'Shankar Tikri'.
Tensions reportedly eased only after four PLA officers accompanied by an interpreter met Commanding Officer of the Indian army formation in the area and presented him with two packets of chocolates and one gift packet to the in-charge of Yanki-I post.
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New civil aviation policy: Rs 2,500 for one-hour flights; 5/20 norm scrapped
AGENCY
NEW DELHI: Airlines will soon charge only Rs 2,500 for one hour flights and will get tax incentives for operating on unserved routes even as fliers will have to pay additional levy towards regional connectivity fund under the civil aviation policy unveiled on Wednesday.
The government has scrapped the controversial 5/20 norm and now any domestic airline can fly overseas provided they deploy 20 planes or 20 per cent of their total capacity for domestic operations.
Amid concerns over an earlier proposal to auction additional bilateral rights, the government has now decided that a final call on additional rights would be taken by a committee headed by the

Mehbooba flags-off evening flight from Srinagar
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In a significant development which would go a long way in boosting tourism and help expansion of economic activity in J and K, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday flagged off maiden evening flight from Srinagar International Airport.
Operated by private airliner, GoAir, the flight will take off at 6.40 pm daily from Srinagar International Airport for New Delhi.
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Cabinet Secretary.
Besides, the Civil Aviation Ministry will come out with initiatives to develop new air-ports, separate regulations for helicopters and measures to boost skill development in the aviation sector.
Airlines will also get tax incentives for operating on unserved routes.
The new policy was



CM Mehbooba Mufti flagging-off evening flight from Srinagar.

approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday and the much talked out regional air connectivity scheme is expected to be operational in the current quarter ending September.
"The aim is to ensure affordable, convenient and cheap flying" for the people, Civil Aviation Secretary R N Choubey said.
There has been a high decibel debate over the continuance of 5/20 norm—whereby only local airlines having at least five years of operational experience and a fleet of minimum 20 aircraft are allowed to fly overseas.
About the decision to scrap the rule, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "A questionable legacy has been thrown into the dustbin."
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85 CAPD officials facing corruption charges
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: As many as 85 officials of Jammu and Kashmir Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) Department are facing corruption and embezzlement charges for over a decade.
The officials, who are facing investigations, include 16 retired employees, five who have been pre-maturely given retirement by the government and five died in the last 10 years, CAPD Minister Zulfikar Ali said in a written reply in the State Assembly here.
"While 38 officials are facing investigations in the Valley, the number of officials against whom cases are pending in vigilance organisation and Crime Branch Jammu stands at 43," he said.
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