

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
J&K Govt rolls...**

Capacity Building: Organisation of webinars, publication of brochures, radio and social media campaigns to broaden understanding; systematic collection of invoices and voluntary price declarations to document compliance; installation of feedback boxes, operation of helplines, and WhatsApp chatbots to facilitate citizen participation; on-ground inspections, joint anti-profiteering drives, and seamless inter-departmental actions; visual campaigns including banners and community activations highlighting GST benefits; and, routine reviews and performance reporting at DIC and Director levels to ensure sustained vigilance.

Legal Metrology officials are actively monitoring MRP revisions, enforcing transparent labeling, and imposing penalties for overpricing or label violations. The Health & Medical Education Department is engaged in widespread communication campaigns and conducting surprise inspections to guarantee that tax reductions on medicines and health services are fully passed on to patients. The Industries & Commerce Department-through engagement with businesses and a newly established consumer complaint portal-ensures industry compliance and quick redressal of consumer grievances. Described as a "Festival Bonanza" for the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, GST 2.0 represents a historic stride towards price transparency, ease of doing business, and new opportunities for economic growth. The Government reiterates its commitment to rigorous oversight, open communication, and consumer protection, ensuring that the benefits of GST 2.0 rapidly reach every resident in the Union Territory.

J&K BJP to...

in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh will pre-side over the meeting.

However, Raina refused to dwell on the details of the probable candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls.

According to sources, the BJP will formally set the process in motion for finalising its candidates at Saturday's meeting.

"The meeting will discuss the Rajya Sabha polls and the candidates. The names of three-four leaders are expected to come up for discussion," a source in the BJP said.

Some of the names doing the rounds in party circles include former Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh and a woman leader.

The meeting will also discuss other issues, including the political situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the forthcoming Assembly bypolls in Nagrota and Budgam.

The last date for filing nominations for the Rajya Sabha polls is October 13. The counting of votes will be taken up in the evening of October 24, an hour after polling concludes.

Polling for the four Rajya Sabha seats in the Union Territory is being held nearly a year after the Assembly polls.

The seats fell vacant in February 2021, when the terms of then MPs Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Shamsher Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway ended. Since Jammu and Kashmir was under President's Rule at the time and there was no Assembly in place, the polls to the four seats could not be held.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was formed in November last year, after the first Assembly election for the Union Territory, which was established in 2019.

Army Chief warns...

the restraint that it showed during Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will take a step forward and act in a manner that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to remain on the world map or not," General Dwivedi said in a sternly-worded address to soldiers at Anupgarh in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district.

He asserted that if Pakistan wants to retain its place on the world map, it will have to stop state-sponsored terrorism.

The Army chief told the soldiers to stay prepared. "Keep yourselves fully prepared now, if god wants, the opportunity will come soon," he said.

Gen. Dwivedi said India has given evidence to the world of the presence of terrorist hideouts in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Had India not unearthed this evidence, Pakistan would have hidden all of it, he said.

The Army chief said the entire world stood with India when it launched Operation Sindoor in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam attack. He said the Indian military hit nine targets inside Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, of which seven were hit by the Army and two by the Air Force.

"We had identified the targets because we only wanted to harm the terrorists. We had aimed to strike their bases. We have no complaints against ordinary Pakistani citizens, so long as their country does not sponsor terrorists. Because terrorists were being sponsored, those terrorist targets were hit," Gen. Dwivedi said.

Replying to a question about his appeal to those living near the international border, he said, "We consider the border population not as ordinary civilians but as soldiers. That means they stand shoulder to shoulder with us in the battle. This is crucial because the coming struggle is the nation's struggle, not just the Army's."

Azad inaugurates Global...

leaders, academicians, peace activists, and members of civil society from across India.

Addressing the large gathering, Azad emphasized the enduring relevance of Gandhiji's message in today's world.

"Gandhiji's ideology was one that united people. He never indulged in division or discrimination," Azad stated.

"Today, it is the responsibility of the younger generation to carry forward his message - that there should be no violence, no discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, or region. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, we are one. Gandhiji's India can only progress when we stand united and work collectively for our nation."

He highlighted that the youth are the torchbearers of change and must embrace values of truth, non-violence, inclusivity, and justice- the core tenets of Gandhian philosophy. Azad also spoke on the growing need to counter rising intolerance and divisions in society with the strength of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.

The festival featured a range of activities, including panel discussions, cultural performances, youth debates, art displays, and interactive sessions designed to inspire the younger generation to imbibe Gandhian values in both personal and public life.

Also present at the event were Padma Shri S.P. Verma, senior GGP leader and renowned Gandhian, and Ram Mohan Roy of the Gandhi Global Family, along with several dignitaries from the host organisations and civil society. Their presence added immense value and gravitas to the occasion.

In their remarks, the organisers emphasized that the Global Youth Festival is not just an event, but a growing national movement to reconnect India's youth with the ideals that shaped the country's freedom struggle and democratic foundations. The large turnout of young participants from different parts of the country reflected the rising interest among youth in understanding Gandhiji's legacy and applying it in addressing modern-day challenges like inequality, communal disharmony, and violence. The event concluded with a pledge by participants to uphold the spirit of "Ahimsa" (non-violence) and to strive for a peaceful, united, and just India - true to the dream of Mahatma Gandhi.

CM directs departments, districts to be prepared to deal with adverse weather conditions

"Weather advisory should help to prepare a better response & mobilize resources"



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the preparedness of various departments in view of the weather advisory issued by the Meteorological Centre.

MEET has forecast an active Western Disturbance likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir from October 4, bringing rain and snowfall to several areas.

The Chief Minister emphasized that all concerned departments must remain in a state of full readiness to minimize possible damage to fruit crops, ensure uninterrupted supply of essential services and keep all major roads and highways functional during the weather disturbance.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Agriculture, Javid Ahmed Dar; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra; Additional Chief Secretary to

the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Principal Secretary Home and PWD; Secretary Education; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; all Deputy Commissioners; MD KPDCI; Chief Engineers of Irrigation & Flood Control, PHE, Project SAMPARK and BEACON; officers and representatives of NHAI, NHIDCL, and the Meteorological Centre J&K, among others. Outstation officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

Reviewing the arrangements, the Chief Minister directed the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to issue timely advisories to farmers and orchardists and ensure the smooth transportation of fruit to terminal markets, particularly during peak harvesting season.

He asked the Public Works Department and national highway agencies, including NHIDCL, NHAI, SAMPARK and BEACON, to keep adequate machinery on standby for snow and debris clearance at vulnerable spots to maintain uninterrupted

road connectivity. Similarly, the Power Development and Jal Shakti Departments were instructed to deploy quick-response teams for immediate restoration of electricity and water supply in case of disruptions, while the Disaster Management Department was tasked with activating control rooms and maintaining close coordination with the district administrations to monitor the situation round-the-clock.

The Chief Minister also directed police and traffic authorities to regulate vehicular movement on highways and other vital roads, and to issue travel advisories as and when required for the safety of the general public.

Laying special focus on healthcare preparedness, Omar Abdullah instructed the Health Department to ensure availability of ambulances at vulnerable spots and to identify patients requiring urgent evacuation so that necessary steps could be taken without delay in the event of an emergency. The Information Department, he

said, must ensure that timely updates and weather advisories are widely disseminated through all available channels so that people remain informed and can take precautionary measures in advance.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the stock position of ration, medicines, fuel and LPG.

He was informed that sufficient stocks are available till November and supplies are being replenished regularly. Such areas in Jammu division which usually get affected during adverse weather conditions have also been stocked adequately to avoid shortages.

To streamline snow and debris clearance, the Chief Minister directed that different roads be specifically assigned to designated agencies to avoid duplication of efforts and confusion. He called for unified control rooms to be established for better coordination, stressing that clearance operations should be undertaken in a continuous flow to ensure timely restoration of road connectivity.

Underscoring the importance of preparedness, the Chief Minister said: "The government's top priority is to remain fully prepared and responsive to any situation arising from the anticipated weather disturbance. Every department must work in close coordination to safeguard people, prevent loss to crops, and protect vital infrastructure."

Kashmir's higher reaches receive season's first snowfall

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The higher reaches of Kashmir received the season's first snowfall on Friday, with more expected in the coming days, according to the meteorological department.

Affarwat in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Srinth Top in Anantnag district in the south were among the places that witnessed snowfall, officials said. Some places in the plains, including Srinagar city and its adjoining areas, received light rainfall, they said.

The meteorological department said an active western disturbance is most likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining areas from Sunday. "Under the influence of this system, widespread light to moderate rain/snow (in higher reaches) are expected in J&K from 05th October to 07th October, 2025, with peak activity during 05 night to 07th morning," it said in an advisory. The system is most likely to cause moderate to heavy snowfall over higher reaches of Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Srinth Pass, Shopian, Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg and Kupwara-Sadhma Pass, it said. Light snowfall over the middle reaches and moderate to heavy rain over the plains of Kashmir is also likely, according to the advisory.

Huge consignment of drugs seized in Kashmir, 5 held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Five alleged drug peddlers have been arrested and a huge consignment of contraband substances seized in Kashmir on Friday, police said. Continuing its war against drugs, police arrested the drug peddlers from Anantnag, Kupwara, Budgam, and Pulwama districts, and recovered a huge consignment of narcotics from their possession, they said. According to a spokesperson, police in south Kashmir's Anantnag district received information that one Ghulam Nabi Bhat, a resident of Sehgrud Saller, has hoarded a large quantity of narcotics in his house. A police team raided the house, and 24,700 kg of ganja was seized while Bhat was arrested, he said. In the Kupwara district of north Kashmir, police arrested a drug peddler identified as Tariq Sajad Khan, a resident of Keran, Kupwara, during a check. A substantial amount of charas like substance was seized from his possession, the spokesperson said. In the Budgam area of central Kashmir, acting on specific input, a police party established a checkpoint at Hakermulla. Two suspects, attempting to flee on noticing police, were apprehended, the spokesperson said.

They were identified as Mohammad Yaseen Rother, a resident of Nasrullapora, and Muzaffar Ahmad Malik, a resident of Soibagh. During their search, 7.63 grams of a heroin-like substance were seized from the duo, police said. In a similar action in the Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama, police received a tip-off regarding contraband being stored in a house at Cherso. A police party raided the premises and seized 16 kg of bung powder and 26 grams of charas. The house owner, Aqib Rashid Sheikh, was arrested, police said.

J&K Bank contributes Rs 4.10 Cr to CM's Relief Fund for flood-hit families



CEO, J&K Bank Amitava Chatterjee handing over cheque to CM Omar Abdullah.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Friday contributed an amount of Rs 4 crore and 10 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures for the people affected by the recent floods in the Jammu and Kashmir.

The Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, along with

members of the Board of Directors, handed over a cheque of Rs 4.10 crore to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here.

The Chief Minister appreciated the significant contribution of J&K Bank and extended gratitude to its management and employees.

He said such solidarity from institutions reflects the collective resolve to stand by the people in

times of distress and will greatly help in easing the hardships of flood-affected families.

Thanking the Bank staff for their commitment, the Chief Minister remarked that J&K Bank has always been at the forefront of supporting the community in testing times, and this gesture once again demonstrates its deep sense of responsibility towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan lost at least 12 aircraft during Op Sindoor: IAF Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: At least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft including F-16 jets were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes during Operation Sindoor, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said on Friday while describing Islamabad's claim of India's losses as "fanciful stories".

The Air Chief Marshal said that Indian action also damaged several military infrastructure in Pakistan that included hangars in three locations, radars in at least four places, command and control centres in two sites and runways in two places.

Air Chief Marshal Singh was addressing a press conference days ahead of the annual Air Force Day.

On reports that various terror groups are relocating their bases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province following Operation Sindoor, he said it was expected and that the Indian Air Force has the

capability to go deep inside to hit their hideouts with absolutely accurate targeting. "We can destroy them and their hideouts. So, our options have not changed. Our options will remain the same in this matter," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Singh also gave clear indication that India may procure additional batches of S-400 air defence missile systems after their performance during the operation. To questions, he also provided details of Pakistan's losses during Operation Sindoor citing intelligence reports and evidence collected through electronic surveillance.

"What we have gathered from the intelligence report is that because of these strikes, radars in at least four places, command and control centres at two places, runways at two places and then three of their hangars in three different stations have been damaged," he said.

In hangars as well as on tarmac, we have signs of damage to one C-130 class of aircraft, one AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning & Control) class of aircraft and at least four to five fighter aircraft, most likely F-16, he said. The Chief of Air Staff said the IAF has clear evidence of one long-range strike with more than 300 km range hitting an AEW&C or SigNit (Signals intelligence) aircraft, along with five high-tech fighters between F-16 and JF-17 class. "This is what our system tells us," he said. He, however, did not divulge details of losses suffered by India. The Chief of Air Staff said his force struck a large number of Pakistani military installations. In response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan.

JKPSC Exam: DM imposes restrictions around examination centers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In view of exams being conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) on October 07 and 8, 2025 for recruitment of Assistant Professors, the District Magistrate Jammu has ordered imposition of restrictions around the notified centers established in the Jammu District. "In exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), I, Dr. Rakesh Minhas (IAS), hereby impose restrictions on assembly of 5 or more persons within a radius of 100 meters of the notified examination centers. Entry shall be strictly prohibited from 08:00 AM to 06:00 PM (except authorized personnel) on 07.10.2025 and 08.10.2025. Any person who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section-223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Any person who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section-223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Pak must be held accountable: MEA on crackdown on protesters in PoK

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Friday said Pakistan must be held accountable for its "horrific" human rights violations against innocent protesters in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). Several areas in PoK have witnessed widespread protests with people demanding basic rights, justice and an end to what they described as systemic oppression.

"We have seen reports on protests in several areas of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including brutalities by Pakistani forces on innocent civilians," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We believe that it is a natural consequence of Pakistan's oppressive approach and its systemic plundering of resources from these territories, which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation," he said. Jaiswal was responding to a question at his weekly media briefing. "Pakistan must be held accountable for its horrific human rights violations," he said.

Policeman found dead in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: A policeman was found dead in Rajouri district, officials said on Friday.

Constable Shubam Choudhary, who was posted in Poonch, was reportedly returning from Nowshera town to his native village when he died under mysterious circumstances, they said.

The body was found during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday and has been sent for postmortem.

A probe has been launched in the matter.