

03 CS reviews flagship urban development schemes across J&K

09 Notorious gangster among 2 arrested in Jammu, pistol recovered

10 BBAJK to conduct weighing on April 23

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

CM visits worse-hit areas in Ramban, assures comprehensive relief measures



CM Omar Abdullah during visit to flood-hit areas of Ramban to take stock of situation.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: In a swift response to the devastation caused by the cloudburst in Ramban district, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday undertook a visit to

the affected areas to personally assess the ground situation.

Accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Ramban and senior civil and police officials, the Chief

Minister travelled by road from Srinagar to reach Marog, one of the worst-hit villages. Demonstrating the deep concern and commitment of his government,

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Not a 'national disaster': Omar

RAMBAN: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the devastation caused by flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain and cloudbursts in Ramban district could not be declared a "national disaster", even as he assured adequate relief to the affected families.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters at Kela Morh, a few kilometres from the Ramban district headquarters along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The highway was shut for a second consecutive day due to multiple landslides in the area. Braving fresh rainfall, Abdullah reached Marog around 5:30 pm and later walked towards the worst-hit Kela Morh to personally take stock of

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Vehicular movement to remain suspended on NH today

JAMMU: The Traffic Police Headquarters, J&K issued a traffic plan and Advisory advising people not to undertake journey on Jammu Srinagar National Highway tomorrow as the restoration works in flood hit areas of Ramban is still going on.

"Tomorrow vehicular movement will remain suspended on Jammu Srinagar NHW as the restoration work could not be completed today. People are advised not to undertake journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) till the restoration work is completed and the surface is traffic worthy", it said.

As per the Advisory Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag (NH244) road is closed due to fresh snow fall. Decision regarding the vehicular movement on the road

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‘Nagrik Devo Bhava’: PM’s good governance mantra to bureaucrats



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asked civil servants to follow the principle of "Nagrik Devo Bhava" while redressal of issues of underprivileged people, and emphasised last-mile delivery to ensure inclusivity in development. Addressing the 17th Civil Services Day function here, he said the civil servants should see themselves not just as administrators but as architects of a

developed India.

Modi said that India has become the most populous country in the world and emphasised the prioritisation of saturation in basic amenities and a strong focus on last-mile delivery.

Citing evolving needs and aspirations of the citizens, he said that the civil service must adapt to contemporary challenges to remain relevant.

The prime minister said that the achievements so far must be surpassed manifold, setting higher benchmarks for progress.

He stressed the importance of human judgment in a technology-driven world, urging civil servants to remain sensitive, listen to the voices of the underprivileged, understand their struggles, and prioritise resolving their issues.

Modi invoked the principle of "Nagrik Devo Bhava" (citizens are like god), likening it to the ethos of "atithi devo bhava" (guests are like god) and called on civil servants to fulfill their responsibilities with dedication and compassion.

The prime minister emphasised the need for renewed commitments to improve nutrition for citizens and declared that the ultimate goal must be 100 per cent coverage and 100 per cent impact. He highlighted that this approach has lifted

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Final Electoral Rolls published after SSR 2025:ECI

J&K records meticulous SSR; reports no first, second appeal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Election Commission of India has described as baseless the allegations regarding discrepancies or irregularities in the final electoral rolls after completing the Special Summary Revision, asserting that the Commission is committed to ensuring free and seamless elections with focus on transparency in the entire process

The final Electoral Rolls published on 6th and 7th January 2025 following the countrywide Special Summary Revision (SSR) has witnessed an unprece-

dent level of acceptance, with very few first or second appeals filed under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

These appeals pertained to corrections under Section 22 and inclusions under Section 23 of the Act.

As per the data released by ECI, this comprehensive exercise covered nearly 10.5 lakh polling booths across the country and was conducted with the active involvement of 13.87 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) nominated by the political

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J&K Pride: Kulgam, Kupwara bag PM's Award for Excellence

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, have been conferred with the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 17th Civil Services Day, celebrated on April 21, 2025, in New Delhi.

This award is one of the highest recognitions given to civil servants in India for exemplary and innovative work in public service delivery.

Ayushi Sudan was honoured in the category 'Holistic Development of Districts' in recognition of her outstanding contribution in implementing transformative governance initiatives in the



DC Kupwara Ayushi Sudan and DC Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan receiving PM's Award For Excellence in Public Admn at New Delhi on Monday.

frontier district of Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir.

Her dedicated efforts in promoting inclusive development, enhancing citizen-centric services, education and strengthening grassroots democracy

have significantly improved the quality of life in the district, particularly in remote and far-flung areas.

Meanwhile locals and public representatives of district Kupwara have congratulated

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NC dissolves Kashmir chapter of youth wing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Ruling National Conference on Monday disbanded the Kashmir chapter of its youth wing, with an aim to bring fresh faces to the fore.

"As approved by Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah, province committee, zonal committees, district committees and block committees of Youth National Conference in Kashmir are disbanded with immediate effect," the National Conference announced.

The party said MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar

has been nominated as in-charge president of the Youth National Conference for the time being.

"Consequent upon the above orders, Mr Salman Ali Sagar is nominated as in-charge President, YNC Kashmir, who will consult the senior leaders from Kashmir Province and come up with his recommendation for appointing a new Provincial President," the party said in an X post.

The senior leaders to be consulted include Minister Sakina Ittoo, Habba Kadal MLA Shamim Firdous, Eidgah MLA Mubarak

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3 held for celebratory firing during wedding

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three people were on Monday arrested for firing into the air during a wedding celebration in the outskirts of Jammu city, police said.

Police Station Gharota received information regarding an incident of aerial firing that occurred during the intervening night of April 20-21 at a wedding function in the Gharota area. The act created panic among attendees and posed a serious threat to public safety.

Acting swiftly, Gharota Police took immediate cognizance of the matter and registered an FIR under relevant sections of law. A video of the incident, which surfaced on social media platforms, further confirmed the occurrence of the reckless act.

Under the leadership of SHO Gharota, Inspector Sunil Sharma, a police team launched a prompt investigation using technical surveillance and human intelligence. The efforts led to the successful tracing and

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RBI permits minors above 10 years to operate bank accounts independently

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Monday permitted banks to allow minors above the age of 10 years to open and operate savings/ term deposit accounts independently.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised instructions on opening and operation in the deposit accounts of minors.

Minors of any age may be allowed to open and operate savings and term deposit accounts through his/ her natural or legal guardian, the RBI said in a circular addressed to commercial

banks and cooperative banks.

They may also be allowed to open such accounts with their mother as guardian.

"Minors above such an age limit not less than 10 years and up to such amount and such terms as may be fixed by the banks keeping in view their risk management policy, may be allowed to open and operate savings/ term deposit accounts independently, if they so desire, and such terms shall be duly conveyed to the account holder," the circular said.

Further, on attaining the age of majority, fresh operating instructions and speci-

men signature of the account holder should be obtained and kept on record.

"The banks are free to offer additional banking facilities like internet banking, ATM/ debit cards, cheque book facility, etc, to the minor account holders basis their risk management policy, product suitability and customer appropriateness," the circular said.

The banks will have to ensure that accounts of minors, whether operated independently or through a guardian, are not allowed to be overdrawn and

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Sexual Harassment at Workplace: ADCs

nominated as Distt Officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday nominated all Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) as District Officers under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

"Additional Deputy Commissioners are nominated as District Officers, in their respective Districts, for exercising powers and discharging functions under section-5 of Chapter-III of Sexual Harassment of Women at workplace

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Pope Francis dies at 88

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis, history's first Latin American pontiff who charmed the world with his humble style and concern for the poor but alienated conservatives with critiques of capitalism and climate change, died Monday. He was 88.

Bells tolled in church towers across Rome after the announcement, which was read out by Cardinal Kevin Ferrell, the Vatican camerlengo, from the chapel of the Domus Santa Marta, where Francis lived.

"At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the home of the

Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of his Church," Ferrell said.



Francis, who suffered from chronic lung disease and had part of one lung removed as a young man, was admitted to Gemelli hospital on Feb. 14, 2025, for a respiratory crisis

that developed into double pneumonia. He spent 38 days there, the longest hospitalization of his 12-year papacy.

But he emerged on Easter Sunday - a day before his death - to bless thousands of people in St. Peter's Square and treat them to a surprise popemobile romp through the piazza, drawing wild cheers and applause.

From his first greeting as pope - a remarkably normal "Buonasera" ("Good evening") - to his embrace of refugees and the downtrodden, Francis signaled

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About dozen villages severely hit by flash floods, landslides: Div Com

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The flash-floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain and cloudbursts severely affected nearly a dozen villages in Jammu and Kashmir's hilly Ramban district, a senior government officer said on Monday and added the authorities had mobilised resources to restore essential services and provide relief to the affected people.

Divisional Commissioner (Jammu) Ramesh Kumar also said various teams are on the ground to assess the damage.

Efforts are underway to provide alternative road connectivity through the Mughal Road and the Sinthan Top road to the Kashmir valley as restoration of the Jammu-



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and IGP Bhim Sen Tuti during visit to flood-hit areas of Ramban.

Srinagar National Highway could take time due to the massive damage, he said.

Heavy rain, coupled with cloudbursts and thunderstorms, on Sunday claimed three lives and left a trail of destruction in the district.

Cutting across party lines,

political leaders urged the Centre to declare the tragedy a "national disaster" and provide adequate financial assistance to the families affected to restart their lives.

"About 10 to 12 villages, including Seri, Bagna, Panote and Khari, have suf-

Ramban landslide: All 50 pilgrims from Gujarat safe

GANDHINAGAR: All 50 pilgrims from Gujarat who were stranded in the landslide incident in Ramban in Jammu-Kashmir are safe, Gujarat Commissioner of Relief Alok Kumar Pandey said here on Monday.

Three persons were killed and more than 100 people rescued after cloudburst-induced floods and landslides on Sunday caused massive damage to infrastructure, including roads and residential buildings, in Ramban district in the northern Union Territory.

Upon learning that pilgrims from Gujarat were stranded due to the landslide incident, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel promptly instructed authorities to coordinate with the J-K government and ensure the safety

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fered varying degrees of damage and our teams are on the ground to make a complete assessment so that the affected population are provided relief," the divisional commissioner told reporters.

Kumar visited the affected

villages and was briefed about the situation by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary.

"Restoration of essential services, including water and electricity, is underway

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Search ops launched following suspicious movement near Samba



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Monday launched a search operation following reports that three persons were seen moving suspiciously on the outskirts of Samba district, officials said.

Some villagers saw the three people, who appeared to be outsiders, carrying bags and sitting near a field in Sandi village of the

Purmandal belt, after which they informed the police.

In a swift action, security forces and police launched a search operation in the area after cordoning it off, the officials said.

Searches were underway when reports last came in from the area, they said and advised people to remain vigilant against any suspect activity around them.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 35.1°C Min: 22.1°C

Humidity
Max: 41 Min: 40

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 19.4°C Min: 7.6°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 66

Sunset : 19:04 Hours
Sunrise : 05:54 Hours