

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions
THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

National Highway, Near Thandi Khul, Jammu
Contact : 9086035550, 9086035551

J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJWANI JAMMU
The School with a Difference

SOWING SKILLS

SHAPING INDIA

RNI No. : 66908/96
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Vol. 30 Issue 225 • Jammu • Friday • August 15, 2025 • Pages 14 • ₹ 3.00
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

09 SC seeks Centre's response on plea for restoring J&K statehood

09 DB grants final 4 weeks in PIL on LG's MLA nomination powers, Centre slams 'political stunt'

10 J&K Police secures highest number of Gallantry Medals

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

Cloudburst hits Kishtwar's Chositi on Machail Mata Yatra route 46 dead, 167 rescued so far



Cloudburst wreaks havoc in Kishtwar on Thursday, triggers flash floods; search and rescue ops underway. (More pics on pg-9)

Murmu, Modi, Dr Jitendra, Sinha, Kavinder, Azad express grief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A massive cloudburst struck a remote mountain village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, killing at least 46 people including two CISF personnel, officials said.

The death toll could go up as more people are believed to be trapped, officials said, adding that 167 people have been rescued so far. Of these, the condition of 38 is said to be serious.

The disaster struck Chositi, the last motorable village en route to Machail Mata temple, between 12 noon and 1 pm. A large number of people had gathered there for the annual Machail Mata yatra, which commenced on July 25 and was scheduled to end on September 5. The 8.5 kilometre trek to the 9,500-feet-high shrine begins from Chositi.

Chositi is about 90 kilometres from Kishtwar town.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amit Shah speaks to Sinha, Omar CM cancels 'At Home' ceremony, cultural events

JAMMU/NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday spoke to Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to take stock of the situation following a massive cloudburst in Kishtwar and assured them all possible help needed by the people.

Shah also said that the local administration is conducting relief and rescue operations and teams of the National Disaster Response Force have rushed to the site.

"Spoke with the LG and Chief Minister of J&K on the cloudburst in Kishtwar district. The local administration is conducting relief and rescue operations. NDRF teams have promptly been rushed to the site," he wrote on 'X'.

The home minister said the central government is closely monitoring the situation and stand firmly with the people of Jammu and Kashmir through every situation. "Assured of all possible assistance to the people in need," he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday briefed Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the situation following a massive cloudburst. He said the news is "grim and accurate and verified information is slow in arriving".

"I just spoke to the Union Home Minister @AmitShah Sb to brief him about the developing situation in Kishtwar region of Jammu. "The news is grim & accurate, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army joins rescue operation; 300 troops deployed

Helpline Numbers

The UT administration has set up a control room-cum-help desk. The numbers are: 9858223125, 6006701934, 9797504078, 8492886895, 8493801381, and 7006463710. The district control room numbers are 01995-259555 and 9484217492. Kishtwar Police control room number is 9906154100.

Op Sindoor example of humanity's fight against terrorism: Prez

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday

lauded the nation's decisive response to Pahalgham terrorist attack in Kashmir, highlighting the success of Operation Sindoor and emphasising the country's unity and growing self-reliance in the defence sector. In her address to the nation on the eve of 79th

Independence Day, the President condemned the "cowardly and utterly inhuman"



man" killing of innocent citizens on holiday, asserting that the armed forces had demonstrated "strategic clarity and technical capability"

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

21st century is century of India and J&K: LG

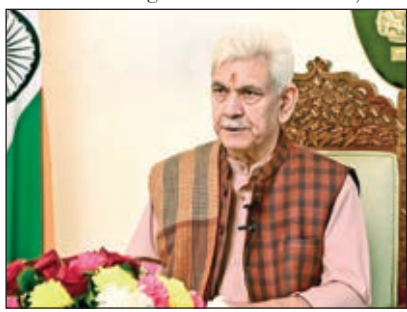
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has

greeted the people of J&K UT on the occasion of 79th Independence Day.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor conveyed heartiest greetings and good wishes to the people, saying: "This is a day we salute our tricolor and feel pride in watching it fly high in the sky. I also join every citizen

in paying homage to all the freedom fighters and founding fathers of the nation, who



made great sacrifices to realize the dream of an Independent

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

79th Independence Day

GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIP/J-4724/25