

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM reaffirms social...

only on privileged sections fails in its duty," Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister emphasized that from the beginning of his tenure, his cabinet-particularly Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Itoo-worked with sincerity to prioritize the weaker and disadvantaged sections. "We knew we could not change everything overnight. But as the saying goes, drop by drop becomes an ocean. Our effort has always been to start where the need is greatest," he added.

The Chief Minister underlined the government's paradigm shift from charity-driven welfare to a rights-based approach, ensuring that benefits reach those who need them the most. He said that social protection measures are not favours, but the rightful entitlements of citizens facing socio-economic challenges.

The Chief Minister highlighted several flagship initiatives of his government, including enhanced marriage assistance for girls belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), an increase in pensions for over 10 lakh beneficiaries, and the provision of free public transport facilities for women to promote mobility and safety.

He also spelled out about the upgradation of 500 Anganwadi Centres into Saksham Centres and Bal Vidyalayas, designed to provide integrated child development, education, and nutrition services. In addition, new facilities such as Shakti Sadans and Vatsalya Sadans established to extend institutional care and protection to women and children in need.

Omar Abdullah also called for greater corporate participation in welfare efforts. Referring to schemes like distribution of scooters and assistive devices, he admitted that financial limitations sometimes delay benefits but stressed that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from big businesses could complement government efforts.

Another major challenge, he said, was the lack of awareness about government schemes in remote areas. "It would be unfair if people in one district enjoy a scheme while those in another remain deprived. The government belongs to all districts and all communities of J&K. Welfare benefits must reach every corner of the state," the CM asserted.

He highlighted the success stories of education loans and scholarships that have enabled many students to pursue higher education, with some even becoming doctors. "This is what we must strive for-using schemes to improve the daily lives of ordinary people. That, I believe, is the highest responsibility of any government," Omar Abdullah remarked.

The Chief Minister inaugurated an exhibition showcasing social welfare initiatives and schemes, and felicitated achievers who have made remarkable contributions in their fields. He also sanctioned loans in favour of women and disadvantaged groups, besides handing over prosthetic aids and scooters to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive empowerment.

He distributed keys of motorized cycles, sanction letters, and appreciation plaques to beneficiaries and achievers.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Itoo said that under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, special focus was laid on addressing the needs of weaker, downtrodden, and elderly citizens. She recalled that during his previous tenure, old-age and widow pensions were enhanced significantly, and the same was further increased in the current tenure. She also highlighted women-centric schemes that have empowered women and made them self-reliant, while stressing the need for awareness campaigns in far-flung areas so that people-centric schemes percolate to the most deserving sections. Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary SWD Sarnad Hafeez, several MLAs from Srinagar and other districts (via video conference), and senior officers of the Social Welfare Department participated in the programme.

## Hope SC sets...

chief minister today".

"The elections in J-K were possible only when the SC set a deadline. Unfortunately, the SC did not set a deadline on statehood and that is why we are being dragged so much.

"I hope when the issue comes before the SC on October 10, it would set a deadline and our statehood is restored immediately," he said.

To a question about a protest led by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti seeking the transfer of prisoners from jails outside the J-K, Abdullah while there was nothing wrong in the protest, but the decisions on the matters of security are taken in Delhi.

"We all are worried about it. But nothing can happen by doing anything in Srinagar. The decisions on the security in Jammu and Kashmir are taken in Delhi, in the Home Ministry. So, better is that she should go to Delhi, meet the Home Minister and raise this issue with him the way we did," he said.

The CM said his government placed the issue before Union Home Minister Amit Shah because the decision has to be taken there. "If they (PDP) are doing it just for a show, then let them do it. No one will have any objection to it," he added.

Asked about the signature campaign announced by him during his Independence Day speech to garner support for the restoration of statehood, Abdullah said that is going on. "When we complete that, we will take that to the Central government and the SC".

## LG exhorts youth...

and extended his best wishes. "Life is a continuous journey of learning. It is a constant thirst for knowledge. It means there is always something new to be discovered, something more to be invented. A convocation isn't just an end; it's a new beginning. It marks the conclusion of one journey and the start of a new one. This new journey provides a different set of skills through professional experience," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor observed that the challenges are essential for building a person's integrity, honesty, and overall character. Our culture teaches us that new discoveries are the most significant achievements of life. The adventurous journey to discover and learn something new drives personal growth and fosters curiosity and creativity. The same enthusiasm and curiosity you had in the classroom should continue with you throughout your life, he said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to the prominent luminaries, revolutionaries, social reformers and great personalities of Bihar. After a long time, Bihar is reclaiming its intellectual and cultural glory, and a modern, strong, and progressive Bihar will make significant contributions to Viksit Bharat. The youth must now pledge to make Bihar and India number one. The steps being taken for self-reliance and innovations are unlocking the country's true potential and nothing can stop India from becoming a global economic power," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also congratulated the women students, who were conferred with gold medals for academic excellence and said that our daughters are breaking barriers and achieving success in all fields. This is a proud moment for the university, for Bihar and the entire nation. These achievements demonstrate the strength of our Nari Shakti and it reflects the bright future of society, he further said. Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai, Vice-Chancellor, Babasaheb Bhumrao Anbedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur; Prof. Dr. Samir Kumar Sharma, Registrar; Heads of Department, Faculty, staff and students of the University were present at the Convocation ceremony.

## ACB arrests SgCt...

team after following due process of law. Moreover, search was also conducted in the residential house of the accused public ser-

vant, official said adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on.

## J&K bans pen...

department data classification policies.

"Failure to adhere to these instructions shall be viewed seriously and may invite disciplinary action under relevant rules governing official conduct, IT usage and administrative responsibility," the order said.

It also said the directions have issued with the approval of the competent authority and shall come into force with immediate effect. "All the departments are advised to accord top priority to the implementation of these guidelines in the interest of secure and safe e-governance," it said.

## Custodian land 'grab'...

and corruption related to custodian land (belonging to evacuees from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) in Jammu since 2022, official sources said. The money laundering case stems from an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

## Rs 2.62 Cr...

Nasir Ahmed, resident of Narayana Mohallah (Ustad Mohallah), Jammu on the written complaint of Sobia Malik, wife of Ab. Kabir Bhat, resident of Ward No. 01 Batote District Ramban, alleging therein that accused duped her of total amount of Rs 15.00 lakh and 45 tolas of Gold worth Rs. 44.10 lakh total duping amounting to Rs. 59.10 lakh on the pretext of providing government job as Professor/Lecturer in Education Department, official said adding that history sheeted Govt. Teacher Jameel Anjum is hardened fraudster; currently under suspension & lodged in jail in another case and as many as twelve (12) cases are registered against him.

Yet another FIR has been registered on two written complaints from nine victims against notorious female fraudster of Ramgarh Samba and Daleep Singh, son of Dayal Singh, resident of Gurha Brahmana Bantalab Jammu and others alleging therein that accused duped them of an aggregate amount of Rs. 1.27 crore on the pretext of providing government jobs, official further said adding that it is second case registered against the accused in Crime Branch for job scam.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tsh confirmed that four separate cases viz. case FIR No. 51/2025, case FIR No. 52/2025, case FIR No. 53/2025 and case FIR No. 54/2025 have been registered at Police Station Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu on the basis of the contents of the complaints and preliminary verification reports and in-depth investigations are underway.

## Vehicular movement restored...

agencies were immediately deployed to carry out a thorough structural inspection.

After detailed road and bridge safety checks, the engineers gave clearance late on Monday evening, paving the way for the resumption of vehicular traffic.

"Only after a proper inspection and safety assurance was the bridge reopened. Every precaution has been taken to ensure that vehicles can pass through without risk," officials confirmed. During the suspension period, the district police and traffic authorities created alternative travel routes to minimize inconvenience to commuters. Posters and announcements were shared across the region, guiding travelers through diversion points and ensuring smooth traffic management despite the highway closure. The temporary disruption had led to traffic congestion on adjoining roads, but with the reopening of the bridge, authorities expect travel between Jammu, Kathua, and Pathankot to normalize. Four members of a family, including two women and a child, were rescued after they were washed away by a flash flood in Ravi river in Kathua district on Monday, police said.

Mohammed Shafi (60), his wife Reshma (50), daughter Parveen (28) and a two-year-old grandchild were caught in a flash flood near Shahpur Kandi. The flood was caused by heavy rainfall in hilly areas, a police spokesperson said. He said the civilians, hailing from Their village of Lakhapur, were rescued in a joint operation led by Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police Shobhit Saksena. Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with NDRF and SDRF teams, Punjab Police and civil administration, swung into action immediately on getting information about the incident, the spokesperson said. The police advised the public to stay away from water bodies as continuous rains have led to increase in water levels.

## SC refuses to...

incorporated in the Indian Constitution in 1949 to grant special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was a temporary provision. Last year, a separate plea was filed in the top court seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of statehood within two months.

## Pressure might increase...

Referring to Operation Sindoor, India's military response to the Pahalgam massacre, and in an oblique reference to Pakistan, he declared India no longer spares terrorists and their masters.

"Operation Sindoor embodied the bravery of our soldiers and determination of Sudarshana Chakradhari Mohan's India. Today, we do not spare terrorists and their masters, no matter where they are hiding," the PM told the gathering. "For Modi, interests of farmers, cattle rearers and small scale industries are paramount. Pressure on us may increase, but we will bear it all," the PM affirmed as the August 27 deadline for 50 per cent US tariffs on Indian imports nears.

## Our soldiers did...

was needed did not come."

He said that today's children can acquire information from an app about the entire world. "In our time, science meant only the blackboard," he said. Singh said that the visible difference in the education sector is India's real strength. "This is the real change and this is the future of India.

"This will take our country to even greater heights," he said. Elaborating on India's history, he said that when people in other parts of the world were living in caves, Indian sages were writing the Natya Shastra.

## Police attaches house of drug peddler in Doda

DODA: A double-storey house of an alleged drug peddler was attached under relevant sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Doda district on Monday, police said. The house of Shakeela Begum alias Tayya, currently in Bhaderwah jail, was attached at Sadeeqabad locality, a police spokesperson said. "The accused faces four FIRs for illegal drug trade and the attached house was identified as being acquired from proceeds of illicit narcotics trade," he said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda, Sandeep Mehta said the police is fully committed to wipe out the menace of drugs from the district. "Our approach is not limited to arrests; we are determined to dismantle the entire ecosystem of drug trafficking by targeting both the perpetrators and their unlawfully acquired wealth. We will continue to take strict legal action against all those involved in this nefarious trade," he added. The SSP appealed to the general public, especially youth, to stay away from drugs and support police by sharing information about peddlers and their activities, assuring that the identity of informers will be kept confidential.

## Missing person traced, reunited with family

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: In a prompt action, the Gharota Police successfully traced a missing person and reunited him with his family.

On August 20, 2025, wife of Pawan Kumar, resident of Jandyal, Thathi, Tehsil Bhalwal, approached Police Station Gharota and lodged a written complaint regarding the missing of her husband. Acting on the complaint, the police registered a missing report vide DD No. 24 dated 20/08/2025.

After continuous efforts and coordinated teamwork, the missing person, Pawan Kumar, was traced from the jurisdiction of Police Station Gharota. Following completion of all legal formalities, he was handed over safely to his family members.

## Notorious bovine smuggler booked under PSA

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In a significant move to curb criminal activities in the District, Udhampur Police have booked and detained Zakir Hussain S/O Makhan Hussain R/O Tringla Batote, Ramban, a habitual bovine smuggler under the J&K Public Safety Act (PSA). The detention order was issued by the competent authority.

Zakir Hussain has been involved in several bovine smuggling cases registered in the district. Despite multiple FIRs and previous arrests, he continued his illegal activities, posing a serious threat to public peace. Consequently, he has been booked under the PSA and lodged in jail.

His persistent criminal behavior has disrupted the peaceful atmosphere of the region, prompting the authorities to take strict action under the Public Safety Act.

## Drug peddler arrested with 4.16 grams heroin

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and recovered 4.16 grams heroin like substance from his possession.

A Police party of Police Station Bari Brahmana while performing naka duty opposite Pahalwan Restaurant, intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration No. HP54B-4481 for checking. During checking, 4.16 grams approximately heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of the rider.

The drug peddler identified as Sagar Rana S/o Sukhbinder Singh R/o Barote Distt. Kangra (H.P.) A/P near Railway Station Bari Brahmana has been arrested. The contraband item and the vehicle have also been seized.

A case FIR No 119/2025 u/s 8/21/22/2025 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

## Vehicle involved in illegal Khair wood smuggling seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: During routine naka checking and night patrolling

conducted by Gharota Police on the intervening night of July 24/25, 2025, a significant seizure was made in the Sujval Gaink area. A silver Scorpio vehicle (Registration No. JK02AA-9090) was signaled to stop by the patrolling team. However, the driver attempted to flee upon noticing the police presence and managed to escape under the cover of darkness.

Upon inspection, the vehicle was found to be illegally transporting approximately 15 logs of Khair wood, weighing about 8 to 10 quintals, intended for unauthorized commercial gain. The vehicle, along with the seized Khair wood, was taken into police custody.



Upon noticing the police presence and managed to escape under the cover of darkness.

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## DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range pins ranks to promote officers

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In a solemn ceremony held at the Range Police HQ Udhampur, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, Ms. Sarah Rizvi IPS, pinned ranks on the newly promoted officers of RPHQ Udhampur.

On this occasion, Dy.SP Sanjay Koul along with newly promoted Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) Pawan Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Romesh Kumar and Mohd Shamim were formally adorned with their new ranks.

The event was attended by Addl. SP Udhampur, Dy.SP HQ Udhampur, Dy.SP PC Udhampur, Dy.SP DAR Udhampur, family members of the promotee officers and

staff of RPHQ Udhampur, making the ceremony both official and memorable.

Congratulating the officers, the DIG expressed her appreciation for their dedica-

tion and service. She emphasized that promotions not only enhance the stature of officers within the department but also bring along greater responsibilities and challenges. She urged the officers to carry out their new roles with passion, integrity and unwavering commitment towards public service.



## Chowki Choura Police observes Thana Diwas

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an effort to strengthen police public relations, Police Post Chowki Choura observed "Thana Diwas" at its premises.

Around 60-70 prominent citizens, including ex-sarpanches and panches, participated in the programme. During the interaction, participants raised various issues of public importance. Police authorities assured that genuine grievances related to policing will be addressed on priority. Emphasis was also laid on

community cooperation in maintaining law and order, curbing drug abuse, illegal mining, and other social crimes. The meeting was presided over by SDPO Akhnoor, Shri Virender Gupta, accompanied by SHO Akhnoor, Insp. Rajesh Jasrotia, and Incharge Police Post Chowki Choura.



## Udhampur Police organizes awareness programme on cyber safety, drug abuse

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Udhampur Police organized an awareness programme at Panchayat Ghar Kharooni, near Battal Ballian focusing on cyber safety and drug abuse prevention.

ASI Subash Raina from the DPL Udhampur sensitized the participants about cyber crimes such as online scams, phishing attacks, misuse of personal data and fraudulent social media activities. He advised the gathering to adopt safe browsing practices, use strong and unique passwords and remain alert while conducting online transactions.

Ravi Kumar from the Drug De-Addiction Centre, District Police Lines Udhampur, interacted with the participants on the serious issue of drug abuse. He explained the common signs of addiction, underlying causes that lead individuals towards drugs and the treatment facilities available. He highlighted the importance of early counselling, community support and rehabilitation for those affected.



## LG Kavinder calls for GIS, Remote Sensing Tools to Address Climate Change in Ladakh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Climate change poses a grave threat to high-altitude regions like Ladakh, and timely interventions through remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) would be crucial in addressing the challenges of temperature variations, shifting agricultural patterns, and disaster preparedness.

This was stated by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, while virtually addressing the gathering on the occasion of the release of the LAMA (Ladakh Specific Modelling and Space Application) Web Portal at the University of Ladakh campus.

The event was jointly hosted by the University of Ladakh, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, and the Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO Ahmedabad. The launch also marked the release of the LAMA Project Report, a University publication, along with the screening of a special documentary on the project. The LAMA Web Portal is designed

to integrate space-based applications for Ladakh, enabling advanced environmental monitoring, scientific research, and data-driven decision-making. The initiative is



expected to benefit the region significantly while positioning Ladakh on the global scientific map through ISRO's upcoming space missions. LG emphasized that the portal would play a pivotal role during emergencies and natural disasters, while also providing timely scientific data to assess climate impacts and manage Ladakh's fragile ecosystem.

Appreciating the commencement of the Centre for Space Science & Allied Subjects at the University of Ladakh, LG highlight-

ed a recent point raised by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, in Parliament. On behalf of CEC and the Council, Executive Councillor, Ghulam Mehdi, congratulated ISRO scientists and the University team, stating that the LAMA initiative will connect Ladakh with cutting-edge space technology and open new avenues for regional progress. Dr. Mehul R. Pandya, Principal Investigator of the LAMA Project and Group Director, SAC-ISRO Ahmedabad, expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor, LAHDC Leh, and the University of Ladakh, noting that the portal is designed to serve as a knowledge-sharing platform with practical applications. He urged departments to actively adopt its demonstrations and provide continuous feedback for improvement. The event also featured remarks from Dr. Nilesh M. Desai, Director, SAC-ISRO, and Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Deputy Director, EPSA SAC-ISRO, who joined virtually as Guests of Honour and hailed the initiative as a model for region-specific space applications.