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Banquets & Conventions

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National Highway, Near Thandi Khul, Jammu  
Contact: 9866035550, 9866035551

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**SOWING SKILLS**

**SHAPING INDIA**

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Chief Justice visits Bandipora, reviews functioning of District Court

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Volleyball Association of J&K celebrates National Sports Day across J&K UT

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J&K Powerlifter shines at Senior National Championship

LG sets up 3-member panel to inquire into landslide on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi track

Yatra remains suspended for 4th day due to rains

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday constituted a three-member committee to inquire into the reasons behind the recent landslide along the pilgrim route leading to the Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta Hills in Reasi district, officials said.

The committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Jal Shakti, will submit its report within two weeks to Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, an official order said.

Thirty-four pilgrims were killed and 20 others injured after a landslide struck the pilgrim route on Tuesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, heavy rain lashed Katra region, as the pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi shrine remained sus-



ended for the fourth consecutive day following a recent landslide.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), which manages the Yatra, suspended the pilgrimage on Tuesday until further orders.

"Inclement weather condi-

tions still persist, so a decision has been taken to continue the suspension of the Yatra in view of pilgrim safety," an official said.

Katra and Trikuta hills, on which the Vaishno Devi Shrine is located, have been witnessing heavy rain since Friday morning. The down-

pour didn't stop till reports last came in.

The landslide triggered by a cloudburst struck the pilgrim route to the shrine at Adhkuwari in the Trikuta hills on Tuesday (August 26), killing 34 people and injuring 20.

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BJP will keep its promise to make country free of infiltrators: Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUWAHATI: Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the BJP will keep its promise to make the country free of infiltrators.

Addressing a programme in Guwahati on the birth centenary of Assam's first non-Congress CM Golap Borbora, he said the high-power demography mission, announced by PM Narendra Modi on Independence Day, is a definitive step towards studying the demographic pattern of the country and identifying infiltrators.

"We had made a promise to Assam, but we have not been able to fulfil it in 10 years. But we will keep our promise and make Assam and the entire country free of illegal foreigners," he said.

"I am among those people who believe that not a single infiltrator should stay in our country," he added.

Shah recounted how Borbora, who led a Janata



Home Minister likely to visit Jammu on Sunday

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to arrive here on a two-day tour of Jammu region on Sunday to review the situation in the aftermath of the recent record rain that left more than 110 persons, mostly pilgrims, dead and 32 others missing, officials said on Friday.

It will be Shah's second visit to Jammu in three months after he visited the region on May 29-30, nearly three weeks after the Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor to avenge the Puhalgam attack that killed 26 persons on April 22. The officials said Shah is likely to reach the Raj Bhavan in Jammu on August 31, where he

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Party government from March 1978 to September 1979 in the state, had undertaken a drive to cleanse the voters' list when by-elections were necessitated for the Mangaldai Lok Sabha seat.

"Even in the absence of computerised electoral rolls, Borbora's government detected names of 36,780 illegal foreigners, and this cleansing of the voters' list can be deemed as the origin of the Assam Agitation," he said.

"The Election Commission is cleansing the voters' list through the SIR now, but some parties are opposing it. It shows the moral degradation in today's politics," he said.

Shah claimed that if Borbora was alive, he would have come out in protest against these parties that are opposing the SIR exercise.

He lauded the state government for its actions against "infiltrators", especially

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Cop caught on camera slapping civilian in Srinagar; probe ordered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An inquiry has been ordered against a traffic policeman for allegedly slapping a person in the Bemina locality here, an officer said on Friday.

A video purportedly showing the policeman slapping made rounds on social media and prompted the inquiry.

The video, caught on mobile phone by a passerby, showed the traffic police having a heated argument with a civilian while checking his vehicle documents and within moments slapping him.

The video showed the

policeman trying to stop the person from recording and taking a swing at him, prompting the person to say, "look at this 'gunda gardi' (hooliganism)."

The incident got people raising questions on social media about the conduct and accountability of the police.

"Taking suo motu cognisance of the viral video where a traffic cop is seen slapping someone, a fact-finding enquiry has been initiated," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic City Srinagar Aijaz Ahmad said.

PM Modi, Prez Xi likely to meet twice on SCO summit sidelines

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BEIJING: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to hold two bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin on Sunday, as both nations look to strengthen ties amid global trade tensions sparked by US President Donald Trump.

Prime Minister Modi, who will arrive in Tianjin on Saturday evening from Japan, will have a bilateral meeting with President Xi around Sunday noon and a possible second one before the official banquet of the



SCO summit, according to sources.

On Monday, the Prime Minister will take part in the SCO Summit and is likely to have a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir

Putin before leaving for home.

The summit of the 10-member bloc is regarded as significant and most consequential from the point of view of India-China relations

in the current context of a sudden downturn in India-US ties after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on Indian exports.

This will be Modi's first visit to China in seven years, perhaps the most significant.

Though Modi is expected to have bilateral meetings with several leaders, his meeting with Xi will be the most watched one, not simply in India and China but all around the world.

The outcome of the meeting was expected to set the tone for the future course of bilateral relations, which,

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Rs 88 lakh land fraud case: HC denies anticipatory bail to Tehsildar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz, accused of playing a key role in a well-planned conspiracy involving fraudulent land mutations worth over Rs 88 lakh in Srinagar.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, while pronouncing the order, held that given the gravity of allegations, the stage of investigation, and the nature of offences-including cheating, criminal conspiracy and corruption-the petitioner was "not entitled to concession of anti-

ciptatory bail."

The case stems from a complaint by Dilafroz Buch of Rawalpura, who alleged that she purchased 5 kanals and 4 marlas of land at Balhama in 2012 through bank payments and exchange of land. However, after the sale deeds were returned for "updatation," the documents were allegedly tampered with by revenue officials in connivance with private parties.

Investigations by the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch) Srinagar revealed that a false mutation (No. 2163/1) had been illegally inserted in

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NSG holds counter-terror exercise in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Security Guard (NSG) conducted a three-day joint counter-terror exercise here, officials said on Friday.

The drill was held from August 27-29 in the mountainous terrain of Anantnag in collaboration with the Special Operations Group (SOG) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police to strengthen multi-agency anti-terrorism capabilities in Jammu and Kashmir; they said. The exercise validated multi-agency aerial insertion operations to neutralise terrorists in inaccessible areas, an officer said.

Cloudburst in Gurez; no one hurt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A cloudburst hit the Gurez Sector of Bandipora district on Friday, officials said. No casualties were reported. The cloudburst hit the Tulail area of the frontier Gurez Sector in the north Kashmir district. The sudden heavy rain caused panic among the people. Further details were awaited, officials said.

**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**

Max: 33.2°C Min: 25.1°C

**Humidity**

Max: 87 Min: 69

**Temperature (Srinagar)**

Max: 30.7°C Min: 16.6°C

**Humidity**

Max: 87 Min: 60

Sunset : 19:02 Hours

Sunrise : 06:02 Hours

Kejriwal creating distraction while Punjab suffers at AAP's grave mismanagement : Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Friday slammed the AAP government in Punjab for not coming to the help of thousands of people suffering due to floods.

In a statement, Chugh said the Bhagwant Mann government has abjured all its constitutional and moral responsibility to come to the rescue of the marooned people.

He launched a sharp attack on AAP Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM

Bhagwant Mann, stating that while Punjab reels under devastating floods, AAP leaders have fled from



their responsibilities and abandoned the people of Punjab in this hour of crisis. Instead of saving lives and delivering relief, Kejriwal

and Mann are busy playing political theatre, he added.

Chugh said that Kejriwal falsely projects himself as the "only honest leader," but if he already knew that the Gandhi family was deeply involved in the National Herald scam, why did he repeatedly forge alliances with the Congress? This exposes the duplicity and hypocrisy at the core of Kejriwal's politics-where principles are invoked only as a cover for deception and power, he said.

He pointed out that Kejriwal's latest outburst

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Shailendra Kumar promoted to Apex Scale

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday promoted A G M U T cadre IAS officer Shailendra Kumar to the Apex Scale.

"In pursuance to the recommendations of the Screening Committee, Shailendra Kumar, IAS (AGMUT995), currently posted in the cadre, is promoted to the Apex Scale (Level-17 in the Pay Matrix) with effect from September 1, 2025 or



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No appointment without genuine habitation: DB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a writ petition filed by Maisara, a resident of Handwara, who sought her appointment as an Education Volunteer under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), holding that her claim was "misconceived" as the Education Guarantee Centre (EGS) she relied upon was sanctioned for a non-genuine habitation.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal upheld the order of the Central Administrative

Tribunal (CAT), which had rejected Maisara's claim in September 2023. The court observed that the alleged "Hajam Mohalla, Kachloo"-for which the petitioner claimed the post-was in fact a self-created locality established by her father and a few residents, and not officially recognized.

The petitioner argued that she had been selected at the top of the panel in 2005 after due process, with her certificates verified and approval granted by the Chief Education Officer, Kupwara. However, despite sanction, a formal engagement order

was never issued.

The Education Department, on the other hand, submitted that as per SSA guidelines, an EGS Centre can only be set up in school-less habitations with at least 15 children above five years of age, located one kilometre away from the nearest school. In Kachloo, the officials found a middle school and another EGS Centre already functioning, leaving no scope for creating a new one.

The Bench held that the claim was not sustainable as the habitation itself

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Army engineers construct 110-ft Bailey Bridge over Tawi River in less than 12 hours

Traffic on vital Bhagwati Nagar bridge restored

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Army engineers, in a 12-hour-long operation, laid a 110-foot Bailey bridge connecting the flood-hit Tawi bridge to restore vehicular traffic on the vital link in Jammu city.

Heavy rain in Jammu had damaged the road near the fourth Tawi bridge as the river swelled, causing vehicles to get stuck on the broken stretch on August 26.

"Engineers of the Tiger Division began work this morning to connect the road with the Tawi bridge," an army officer said.

He said that severely damaged by floods, the eastern span of the Tawi bridge was revived, as engineers laid the



110-foot Bailey bridge constructed by army connecting flood-hit Tawi bridge. (Pic by Ashok Anand)

Bailey bridge in just 12 hours, overcoming washed-out approaches and limited workspace, and restoring vehicular movement under

challenging conditions.

By this evening, traffic was restored, he said. Thousands of people use this bridge to commute

daily.

In the 2024 floods, the bridge had suffered damage at the same spot and was later repaired.

2 fraudsters booked for land fraud

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch Kashmir on Friday registered two separate land fraud cases against two alleged fraudsters, an official said.

The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) has registered cases against Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, resident of Nowgam here, and Shabir Ahmad Wani, resident of Lasjan area of the city, for deceitful property sales, cheating, forging revenue documents and criminal breach of trust, a Crime Branch spokesperson said.

He said one case has been registered upon a complaint submitted by a woman who alleged that Bhat sold her a piece of land measuring one kannal and five Marlas situated at Moza, Balhama, against a payment of Rs 25

lakhs.

However, no land was provided to her; instead, the said land has been sold to some other person. The cheques issued by the accused as repayment were dishonoured, the spokesman said.

The second case has been registered upon a complaint received from an individual who alleged that Bhat and Wani sold the complainant a patch of land measuring one kanal and 10 Marlas situated at Balhama, Patha Chowk here, against a payment of Rs 73 lakhs for which a sale deed was also registered, the spokesperson said.

However, the accused individuals, in connivance with Revenue Department officials, fabricated records and sold the said land to some other person, thus

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