

E BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 30 Issue 259 • Jammu • Friday • September 19, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

CSR funds amplify societal & economic impacts: LG Kavinder

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Is Rahul dancing to tune of 'Deep State': Chugh

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

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh Antriksh of J&K wins bronze in **Oman Roll Ball event**





₹70,000 SAVINGS ON A CAR OF UP TO 1500CC **MORE THAN 1500CC CARS** ALSO GET CHEAPER

MORE THAN



Reopening of closed tourist destinations in Kashmir will be taken up with HM: Omar

STATE TIMES NEWS GULMARG: Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah on Thursday assured tourism stakeholders and players that he will take up their concerns with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and request for opening up of several closed destinations in tourist Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said this while addressing the Annual General 17th Meeting (AGM) of the Travel Association of Kashmir (TAAK) at the Gulmarg Convention Centre.

"On one hand we promote tourism, but on the other, many destinations remain closed. This is one of the biggest challenges in our difficult circumstances. When half of Kashmir is shut for tourism, promotion becomes



CM Omar Abdullah addressing 17th AGM of TAAK at Gulmarg Convention Centre on Thursday.

meaningless. What do we tell the tourists- that you can ride the Gondola but the ATV grounds are closed? That you can go to Tangmarg but not to Drung, or that you can come to Pahalgam but not visit Aru and Betab Valley? Even in the worst times we had not kept these areas closed. So I assure you I will speak to the

Home Minister and request him to open these destinations. This will build confidence and help us attract more tourists," Omar said.

The Chief Minister said that when tourists are told certain destinations are closed, it creates a negative perception about the overall situation in Kashmir. "We must come on one page with

the central government, otherwise our efforts at promotion will not succeed," he added.

Congratulating newly elected TAAK President Farooq A. Kuthoo, Omar Abdullah assured the association of full support of the government. "Mr. Kuthoo has a strong foundation to

Govt urges employees to opt for UPS before Sept 30 state times news

NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry on Thursday asked government employees to opt for shifting to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) well before the September 30 deadline and also permitted

physical submission of opt-in

From April 1, 2025, the government has introduced UPS as an option under the National Pension System (NPS) for central government employees. UPS will provide assured payouts to the employees.

In a statement, the ministry said the last date for eligible employees and past retirees under NPS to opt for UPS is September 30,

"All eligible employees are urged to exercise their option well before the deadline to

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Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra resumes after brief halt, registration starts

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA/JAMMU Registration for the pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi resumed on Thursday morning after authorities decided to give a go ahead for the yatra that was briefly suspended due to inclement weather.

After a 22-day suspension due to a landslide and heavy rainfall, the pilgrimage to the shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi resumed district Wednesday.

However, it was halted on Wednesday evening due to inclement weather.

With the weather improving, the yatra resumed this morning.

Officials said the yatra was progressing smoothly, they

The Shrine Board has made announcements askino

pilgrims wanting to use heliservice to book tickets for

Devotees thronging Katra, the ase camp of Mata Vaishnodevi temple, said they were happy that the yatra has resumed.

"We are happy that the yatra has begun after a long suspension. We had wished to pay obeisance at the lotus feet of Mata, but the situation here prevented us for over a fortnight due to the suspension. Now as registration has begun again, we are confident of having her darshan and seeking blessings," Tribhavan Deka, a pilgrim from Assam. said.

Deka, who is on a pilgrimage to the shrine with a seven-member group, said,

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Verification of EVMs for Chenani LA constituency begins

STATE TIMES NEWS

assembly constituency com-

the National Panthers Party, who unsuccessfully contested last year's polls from this seat in Udhampur, they said

such exercise of checking and verification of EVMs in the country this year. Ten candi-

dates who unsuccessfully JAMMU: The verification of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for the Chenani

menced on Thursday under tight security, officials said. This initiative follows a request from Harsh Dev Singh, the state president of

This is possibly the second

Mukesh Singh appointed ADG in ITBP

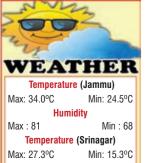
STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre IPS officer Mukesh Singh has been appointed as Additional



Director General (ADG) in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), officials said. "Mukesh Singh, IPS (AGMUT:1996), Inspector Indo-Tibetan General, Border Police (ITBP) has been appointed as Additional Director General (Level-15 in the Pay Matrix), ITBP, against existing vacancy from the date of assumption of charge of the post and upto October 17, 2028

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Sunset: 18:33 Hours

Sunrise: 06:16 Hours

Min: 38

Max: 72

contested last year's Maharashtra assembly polls had applied for the checking and verification of EVMs. and the machines were found to be flawless on July 31, 2025, officials noted. September

Udhampur District Election Officer (DEO) Saloni Rai set September 18 and subsequent days for the scheduled verification of EVMs in the Chenani assembly segment. Speaking to reporters ahead of the

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Special NIA

Judge, Jammu, Sandeep

Gandotra today dismissed

the bail application of

Tanveer Ahmed Wani, former

President of the Line of

Control (LoC) Traders

Association, who is accused

of channelising funds from

Pakistan to strengthen the

Wani, a resident of

Pulwama and an ex-terrorist,

was arrested in February

2020 after the arrest of

Hizbul commander Syed

Hizbul

terrorist outfit

Mujahideen.

Infiltration will be rampant if INDIA bloc comes to power in Bihar: Amit Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS

BIHAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asked BJP workers in Bihar to counter the INDIA bloc's "false narrative" of vote theft by cautioning the people that rampant "infiltration is likely" if the opposition coalition comes to power.

tore into the Congress, RJD, and the Left combine while addressing a saffron party workers' conclave here, about 50 km from the state capital,

Court denies bail to Ex-President LoC Traders

Association in Hizbul Funding Case

Naveed Mushtaq and others.

The National Investigation

Agency (NIA) has alleged

that Wani acted as a key con-

duit for terror funds received

through hawala and cross-

crores among active terror-

According to the NIA, Wani

Pakistan-based Hizbul lead-

ership and personally handed

over cash to militants. He

also allegedly facilitated

meetings and maintained an

OGW (Over-Ground Worker)

network to route money for

ists in the Valley.

trade, distributing

strong links with

LoC

had



weeks ahead of the assembly elections.

terror activities. Special

Public Prosecutor K.S.

Pathania opposed the bail

plea, stressing that release of

the accused could lead to wit-

ness intimidation and ham-

Wani's counsel, Advocate

I.H. Bhat, sought bail on

grounds of prolonged cus-

tody of more than five years

and claimed parity with co-

accused Waheed-ur-Rehman

Para. The Court, however,

observed that the material on

record prima facie estab-

lished Wani's involvement

per trial proceedings.

Shah asked the cadre to

aim at "not just a simple vic-

tory but a massive two-thirds majority" in the upcoming

Police attaches property in narco-terror case

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Police in district on Anantnag Thursday attached immovable property worth lakhs of rupees in a narco-terror case, an official said.

"The property attachment has been carried out in connection with FIR No. 57/2024, registered under Sections 7/25 of the Indian Arms Act, 13, 18, 39 of the UA(P) Act, Section 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, and Section 8/20 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Mattan," a police spokesperson said

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assembly.

Referring to the "Voter Adhikar Yatra" of Rahul Gandhi, which concluded last month, Shah alleged, "You (BJP workers) know what was its aim? It was to protect infiltrators Bangladesh.

polls to the 243-strong Bihar

"Should the infiltrators ave the right to vote in our country? Should they have access to all the benefits that the citizens enjoy?," asked the home minister.

AAP MLA Malik detained under PSA STATE TIMES NEWS condoned under any circum-JAMMU: Senior advocate

Senior Adv recuses from representing

Nirmal K Kotwal on Thursday recused himself from representing AAP MLA, who was recently detained under Public Safety Act (PSA), citing certain videos where the politician purportedly claimed that Jammu and Kashmir is not a part of India while praising terrorists Burhan Wani and Masood Azhar.

"The unity and sovereignty of India are non-negotiable, and any act or statement undermining them cannot be

stances," Kotwal, who is also president of the Jammu wing of the High Court Bar Association, said in a statement here.

"It has come to my notice that certain videos are in circulation wherein Malik has allegedly stated that Jammu and Kashmir is not a part of India. In the videos he also praised militant Burhan Wani (of Hizbul Mujahideen) and terrorist Masood Azhar (Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad founder).'

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ACB court convicts 2 engineers in bribery case

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Court (ACB) on Thursday convicted two PWD engineers for demanding and accepting a bribe of

Rs 45,000 in Doda district. In 2011, the ACB arrested junior engineer Raja Faisal while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs 45,000 in the presence of independent witnesses in Doda city.

The investigation further revealed the involvement of assistant executive engineer Sved Ikhlaq Hussain Peer, an ACB spokesperson said. Judge Archana Charak,

convicted the two engineers

under the Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC and 161 (punishment for public servant) of the repealed IPC section by the PC Act.

The court sentenced each accused to rigorous imprisonment for one year along with a fine of Rs 10,000 under Section 120B RPC. rigorous imprisonment for one year and a fine of Rs 10,000 under Section 161 RPC, and rigorous imprisonment for one year and a fine of Rs 10,000 under the Prevention of Corruption

The case was registered on the complaint of a contractor who had completed blacktopping work on the Doda-Ganeka road.

While 75 per cent payment has been released, the accused officers demanded illegal gratification of Rs 45,000 for the release of the remaining amount, thereby harassing the complainant, the ACB spokesperson said.

A trap was accordingly laid in Doda city, during which Faisal was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs 45.000 in the

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I have licence to Abuse!

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PROF. NUTAN K RESUTRA

JAMMU: It is a matter to be proud of. for, someone to become famous, a national figure. Not because he did something great by contributing towards to the sufferers and needy' Not because he became the so-calledpublic representative by having steered through the electoral process. Friends: I have purposely used the words "so-called". Also, not because I take up cuddles against social evils and problems. And definitely not because I raise genuine public issues amongst authorities, guiding and assisting them politely, respectfully in finding their proper solutions in harmony with them. No Sirs, not at all. It is a matter to be proud for me that I use abusive language and habit of threatening public servants, and other opposition leaders I reportedly want

to become a national hero! I have been discussed on different national TV Channels and finds precious space in many leading papers. Senior journalists are seen too busy talking about whether the Public Safety Act slapped on me is right or not; or rebuked in assembly or Parliament giving me even a more unwanted coverage. And I salute them for this.

I am reminded of a couplet recited by nationally acclaimed Urdu Poet Munnawar Rana, that too again in a TV programme. He advised someone

Kitni jaldi khud ko mash hoor kar liya hum ne, Kisi bade aadmi ko badi si gaali de kar! I am perplexed to witness this new culture in public life. Many people abuse seems to have the easiest way of gaining name and fame. And this is not a new thing. I start with 2014 when Chaiwala jibe was used against Modi Ji by Mani Shankar Ayyar. This seemed to lay the foundations of Gaali- Culture in public life. Time and again, Modi Ji became the focal point of increased intensity of abuses of his opponents; each set of abuses giving him more strength as well as more success in his mission. The red-line of decency whatever left was crossed when in UP elections, Raj Babbar abused the respected mother of the Prime Minister of India. I have purposely used the words "Respected Mother". It does not need to say that a Mother is indeed the most respected entity created by God. There goes a famous saying: God could not be everywhere; so He sent Mother! Same is true when we say that Maa ke Kadmon mein Jannat hai. The ensuing Bihar elec-

tions have once again witnessed this most unacceptable trend of again abusing the most respected mother of the highest elected personality of the biggest Democracy of the world. Something to be indeed ashamed of.

I am too amused to make a mention of the Gaali- culture due to the latest incident that has happened in our own Province. The so-called elected Public Representative used the most-foul language not only against a Public Servant's person but also against his personal beliefs. Why? Because the said Public Servant was guilty in their eyes of performing his genuine official duties. And also because that Officer being upright and a no-non-sense-one did not bow to the unreasonable statements of the leader; not to make a mention of other allegations submitted in the ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

NIA Court extends remand of two in Pahalgam terror attack Ghulam Hassan Jother of

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge NIA Act, Jammu, Sandeep Gandotra today extended the judicial remand of two accused in the Pahalgam terror attack case, allowing the Investigation National Agency (NIA) more time to complete its probe into the April 22 massacre at Baisaran meadow, Pahalgam.

Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Gandotra granted extension of custody for Bashir Ahmad Jothatd, son of Lal Din Jothatd of Baisaran (presently Hill Park, Pahalgam, Anantnag), and Parvaiz Ahmad, son of

Batkote, Pahalgam, beyond the statutory 90 days up to 180 days under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The NIA re-registered the

case 02/2025/NIA/JMU) on April 27, 2025, arising out of FIR No. 25/2025 lodged at Police Station Pahalgam. The case pertains to the selective attack on innocent tourists of particular community based on their religious identity at Baisaran meadow. which had sparked widespread outrage. The accused were arrested on

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