

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Reopening of closed...

take the association forward. In these circumstances, promoting tourism is not easy, but I want to assure you that just as we worked closely with outgoing President Rauf Tramboob, we will work with TAAK under your leadership as well," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that autumn and winter seasons would bring some revival, while preparations should begin in earnest for the spring season.

Highlighting the significance of today's gathering, Omar Abdullah said, "We will always remember that the first programme held at the Gulmarg Convention Centre was the 17th AGM of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir. In future, many prestigious programmes of FICCI, CII, Government of India and Government of J&K will be held here, but the first will always remain with TAAK."

The AGM was also addressed by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, prominent hotelier Mushtaq Chaya, outgoing TAAK President Rauf Tramboob and newly elected President Farooq A. Kuthoo. Members of TAAK from across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh participated in the meeting.

Govt urges employees...

difficulties and to ensure timely processing of their requests. Employees who choose to remain in NPS cannot opt for UPS after this date," the ministry said.

In case a subscriber is unable to submit the UPS request online through the CRA system due to any reason, including non-availability of the online platform or technical issues, they may submit a duly filled physical application form to their concerned Nodal Office on or before the due date, the ministry said in a separate statement.

Around 31,555 central government employees had opted for the UPS till July 20, and the last date to enrol under the scheme is September 30.

Also, the Finance Ministry, on August 25, introduced a one-time one-way switch facility from the newly introduced UPS to the NPS.

The Finance Ministry said it has been decided that a one-time, one-way switch facility from UPS to NPS will be made available to all Central Government employees who have opted for UPS.

"This switch facility may be exercised by UPS optees any time not later than one year prior to the date of superannuation or three months prior to the deemed date of retirement in case of voluntary retirement, as applicable," it added.

The government has extended the benefit of 'Retirement gratuity and Death gratuity' under UPS.

Further, the government employees who opt for UPS under NPS will also be eligible for the option to avail benefits under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, or the CCS (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 2023, in the event of death of the government servant during service or his discharge on the ground of invalidation or disablement. The government has also extended tax benefits to UPS as are available to NPS under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra...

the yatra safe and sound for all her devotees." Like him, Savitri Devi of Uttarakhand, who has arrived in Katra along with 11 members, said, "It was the call of Mata for all of us to be here. For years, we were trying to pay obeisance here, but failed to do so. See, when the situation is bad due to heavy rains, we are here - it is her directive."

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) announced the reopening of the yatra subject to favourable weather conditions from Wednesday morning, much to the relief of hundreds of devotees who were camping in Katra town - the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine.

However, the respite was short-lived, as the shrine board once again suspended the yatra amid inclement weather Wednesday evening after allowing 2,500 pilgrims during the day, the officials said.

Senior Adv recuses...

the senior advocate said. "At the very outset, I wish to state that these videos and statements were never brought to my knowledge by the legal team of the Aam Aadmi Party while briefing me in connection with the matter wherein PSA has been imposed against Malik," Kotval said clarifying his stand on the issues which, he said, came to his knowledge through social media platforms.

He said these utterances, if true, are extremely "insensitive, irresponsible, and detrimental" to the cause of national security, sovereignty, and integrity of India.

"As an officer of the court and as a citizen of this great nation, I place the interest of the nation above all else. In light of the same, and in keeping with my conscience, professional ethics, and commitment to national integrity, I hereby recuse myself from representing Malik in the matter concerning the PSA proceedings," he added.

Infiltration will be...

evoking roars of a resounding "no" from the attendees. Shah alleged, "Rahul baba and company want the infiltrators, who are their vote bank, to be given jobs meant for our youths, pucca houses and free medical treatment we provide our citizens with."

"You (BJP workers) must fan out across the state, visit every house, and tell the people that if they (INDIA bloc parties) come to power, even by fluke, every district in Bihar will be teeming with infiltrators," said Shah, widely regarded as the BJP's principal strategist.

He also termed as a "false narrative" Gandhi's allegation of vote theft, pointing out that "they (opposition parties) had taken recourse to similar tactics earlier when they had alleged that we were out to scrap reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs".

"Have the quotas for SCs, STs and OBCs been tinkered with? I can assure you that as long as there is even one BJP member in Parliament, reservations cannot be scrapped," said Shah.

The remarks may be seen in the backdrop of attempts by the BJP, traditionally seen as "a party of the upper castes", to reach out to the numerically powerful deprived castes.

Shah began his more-than-20-minute-long speech by recalling a conversation he had with a journalist earlier in the day over the telephone.

"I was asked why I was holding a workers' conclave instead of a rally where the common people could come? I replied that this is because, unlike the other parties, which depend on leaders for winning elections, ours is a workers-driven organisation," he said.

Shah said it is only in the BJP that a grassroots worker can aspire to rise to the top.

"I had myself started off as a booth-level worker and went on to become the national president," he said.

The workers present at the conclave were drawn from 10 districts of the Magadh-Shahabad region.

Shah noted with concern that the NDA's performance in the last assembly polls was "not up to the mark" and exhorted the party workers to ensure "an 80 per cent strike rate for ourselves as well as our alliance partners".

Calling upon the party workers to ensure the victory of the

NDA, led in the state by Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, Shah also underscored that Bihar had reaped "the maximum benefits" of schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, like the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and the Jan Dhan bank accounts.

He also lauded the chief minister for recent populist measures like making 125 units of power available free of cost every month.

Shah said, in a veiled reference to Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, "Our leader (Modi) is someone who works for the people without ever going on a holiday. In sharp contrast with others who tend to grow restless unless they enjoy a trip abroad every six months. And you know who I am talking about."

Verification of EVMs...

verification, Harsh Dev Singh remarked, "Today, we have set a precedent by allowing EVMs to be opened for verification. This exercise will unfold here, and if any electoral malpractice has occurred, those responsible will face consequences."

He stated that this is the first time such a process is taking place in this area, suggesting that "this is the opening of doors for transparency. Those who have stolen votes will need to resign from their positions."

Singh also alleged that the Election Commission is collaborating with the BJP to commit these irregularities.

BJP MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, against whose election Harsh Dev Singh filed a review petition in the High Court last year, said, "In a democracy, every candidate who has contested elections and lost has the right to request verification of EVMs if they have any doubts."

"Following this democratic process, our opposition party member has requested checking and recounting of votes at three polling stations, and that is currently taking place," he added.

The verification exercise is being conducted under tight security at the Government Degree College for Boys in Udhampur, from 10 am to 7 pm daily.

The DEO has invited all eligible candidates of political parties of the Chenani constituency to participate in this exercise.

"You are also requested to provide an acknowledgement of this intimation letter to this office for the record," the DEO said. Singh has requested that the results of the Chenani assembly election in 2024 be declared null and void, accusing at least 19 respondents - including the Chief Election Commissioner of India - of widespread electoral law violations and misconduct during the election process.

ACB court convicts...

presence of independent witnesses. After completion of investigation, a chargesheet was filed before the court, which tried both men and handed out the punishment.

Police attaches property...

He said the attached property comprises a plot measuring three kanals and six marlas of land (18,000 square feet) located in Sangam in the Bijbehara area.

"The land is registered in the name of Iqra Mushtaq, the daughter of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, a resident of Hugam in Srigufwara, Anantnag, and the niece of the accused Firdous Ahmad Bhat," the spokesperson said.

He said this action has been taken under due legal process and is part of the ongoing crackdown on individuals and properties linked with unlawful and anti-national activities.

Court denies bail...

in terror financing and rejected the defence plea. Special Judge Sandeep Gandotra noted that the accusations were serious and directly linked to national security. He held that the stage had not arisen to conclude that the accusations were false and that the gravity of charges under IPC and UAPA barred bail at this stage.

NIA Court extends...

June 22, 2025, and remained in judicial custody at District Jail Amphalla, Jammu. Their 90-day remand was set to expire on September 19, 2025.

Public Prosecutor Chandan Kumar Singh submitted that investigation is at a crucial stage, with several witness statements under Section 183 BNSS yet to be recorded. The NIA cited recovery of Pakistani phone numbers from the accused, forensic reports awaited from CFSL Chandigarh and NFSU Gandhinagar, and DNA profiling of seized blankets, shawls, and bedsheets to establish links with slain terrorists. Arms and ammunition recovered in a July 28 encounter were also under forensic analysis.

Defence counsel Ashwani Kumar opposed the extension, arguing that the accused had already been in custody for two months without conclusive evidence, and that the NIA had failed to complete investigation within the time granted.

Rejecting the defence plea, the Court noted that the allegations were grave and directly linked to national security. Citing pending forensic reports and crucial witness statements, the Court ruled that the investigation could not be completed within the statutory 90 days and allowed a 45-day extension of remand. The Judge observed that "a prima facie case is made out for extension of remand and detention of accused beyond the stipulated period," directing the investigating officer to complete the probe expeditiously.

I have licence...

official Dozier that are available in print media. The act of performance of official duties by the Deputy Commissioner made the me lose his temper and he used all those foul words that no reasonable person would dare to repeat or get printed. Besides, I also tried to prevent government officials from performing their statutory duties; again, as stated in the official Dossier like many other leaders of the country.

And this is not the first time that we have used foul language. During the Assembly Session, and Parliamentary sessions, this Public Representative used abusive language against; let me use the often stereo-typed jargon; a particular minority community. Since every public representative has immunity on the floor of the House, nothing happened. This was akin to the behaviour of Arvind Kejriwal who is too famous to use baseless allegations and charges against any one he feels happy about! Later on, Mr. Kejriwal has tendered apologies many times also. But the issue does not end here.

I too have the right to abuse bureaucrats, opposition leaders. Opponents as I am living in a Democratic Country.

(The author is former Principal GGM Science College and former Chairman, J&K BOSE)

Mukesh Singh appointed...

(total 05 years) or until further orders, whichever is earlier," reads an order issued by Chandan Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The Ministry has also requested that the date on which Singh assumes the charge of ADG be formally intimated.

Mukesh Singh, a seasoned officer of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre, has served in multiple key positions across India and has extensive experience in border management, internal security, and counter-insurgency operations. His appointment comes at a time when ITBP is playing a critical role in securing India's northern and northeastern frontiers.

MLA Basohli, delegations, prominent persons call on LG

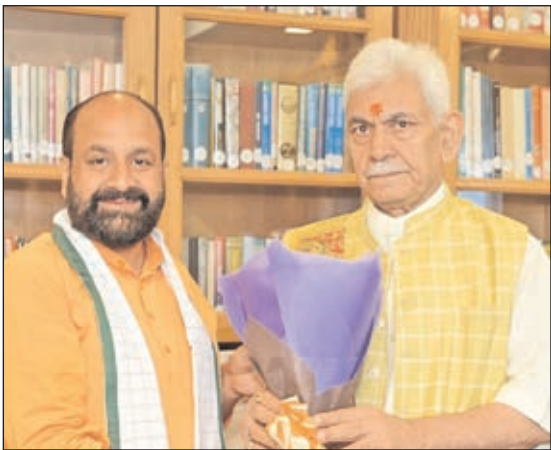
■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Darshan Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Basohli called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

He apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the issues of restoration of road infrastructure damaged due to recent floods and heavy rain and welfare of affected families.

Saima Jan and Anayat Ullah Rather, Members District Development Council from BK Pora, Budgam and Frisal, Kulgam also called on Lieutenant Governor.

Subsequently, a delegation of Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar led by its National General Secretary K.K Sharma, and

members of Magam Civil Society called on the Lieutenant Governor.



Meanwhile, a delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)

Jammu Kashmir unit also called on the Lieutenant Governor and put forth the issue of rescheduling of the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) examinations, in wake of the recent natural calamities in the UT.

Later, Atul Bhai Kothari, National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Uththan Nyas called on Lieutenant Governor. He was accompanied by the officer bearers of Shiksha Sanskriti Uththan Nyas and faculty members of different Universities of Jammu Kashmir.

Women's rights activist Irfana Zargar, popular known as Padwoman of Kashmir called on Lieutenant Governor. She briefed the Lieutenant Governor on her ongoing initiatives for the empowerment of women in the Valley.

Clean drinking water for each household, dev in every village our priority: Omar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

TANGMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inaugurated and dedicated to the public five major water supply schemes of the Jal Shakti Department in Tangmarg, promising that these schemes mark only the beginning of a broad transformation of the Gulmarg-Tangmarg Assembly constituency. Constructed at a cost of Rs 35.67 crore, the schemes will provide clean drinking water through modern Rapid Sand Filtration Plants to 40 habitations, covering 5,473 households and over 10,000 families with a population of 32,838. The projects inaugurated today include Lalpora, Chiehilora, Kralpora, Ferozpora Shrai and Kashipora water supply schemes, executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission by the

PHE (Kashmir FBI Division Tangmarg).

Addressing a large gathering after the inauguration, the Chief Minister said ensuring access to safe drinking water was not a favour but the government's responsibility. "We are only repaying the trust you have placed in us. These schemes will ensure that families no longer have to depend on unfiltered water from rivers and wells, but will now get clean, filtered water right at their doorstep. But with this facility comes a responsibility to use water judiciously and conserve it for the future," the Chief Minister said. Highlighting the hardships caused by erratic weather patterns, Omar Abdullah said Kashmir had witnessed both drought-like situations and devastating floods within a year. He

underlined the need for rain-water harvesting and better water management to safeguard resources for coming generations.

Referring to the massive damage caused by recent floods, including the loss of 330 bridges, 1,500 km of roads, homes, agricultural land and public infrastructure, the Chief Minister praised the engineers and staff of the Jal Shakti Department for completing the schemes despite such difficult challenges. He felicitated the officials for their dedication. Chief Minister also assured the people that his government would not stop at water supply projects but was committed to improving roads, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities in the region.

"This investment of Rs 35

crore is just the beginning. In the next four years, we will change the map of the Gulmarg-Tangmarg constituency. There will be no village where development does not reach, no household where progress does not knock at the door," Omar Abdullah said, reaffirming his promise of inclusive development.

Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana, Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah also addressed the gathering. Senior officers including Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, AEE Tangmarg, engineers, staff and a large number of locals were present on the occasion.

GDC Khour organises plantation drive

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KHOUR: As part of the celebrations of 'SewaParv', the NSS and NCC units of Government Degree College (GDC) Khour, in collaboration with the Social Forestry Department, organized a plantation drive within the college campus. The event was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma, with the primary aim of promoting environmental sustainability and fostering a spirit of community service among students. The drive started with the planting of 25 saplings of various species including



Gulmohar, Peepal, and Amla. Approximately 40 students enthusiastically participated in the initiative, highlighting the growing awareness and commitment among youth toward ecological responsibility.

The plantation drive emphasized the important role of trees in maintaining ecological balance, reducing pollution, and mitigating the effects of climate change. It also served to encourage stu-

dents to take continuous steps toward creating a greener and more sustainable campus. The event was led by Lt. Shivani Sharma (ANO, Senior Division) and Prof. Sunil Kumar (PTI). Dr. Chetan Sharma, HOD Physics and Dr. Anil Kumar Dogra, HOD Botany coordinated the event. Their collective efforts ensured the smooth and impactful execution of the event. The plantation drive not only contributed positively to the environment but also fostered unity, teamwork, and a sense of belongingness among participants.

Absconder arrested

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

AKHNOOR: Police have arrested an absconder in the Akhnoor area who had been evading arrest for the past one year. The accused has been identified as Rakesh Kumar @ Raman Kumar, son of Des Raj, resident of Mawa Brahmana, Tehsil Akhnoor, District Jammu. He was wanted in a criminal case registered under FIR No. 87/2024, under sections 354/341/382/376/511 IPC at Police Station Akhnoor.

A warrant under Section 512 CrPC had been issued against him. Acting on a specific tip-off, a police team from Police Station Akhnoor, led by Station House Officer Inspector Rajesh Jasrotia, apprehended the accused. He was produced before the Hon'ble Court, and as per court directions, has been lodged in District Jail Amphalla.

Hardcore criminal booked under PSA

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Taking stringent action against criminals, Samba Police has booked a hardcore criminal under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) for his continues involvement in criminal activities and lodged him in District Jail Poonch.

The hardcore criminal detained under PSA has been identified as Alex Matoo S/o Kenny Matoo R/o Telli Basti Bari Brahmana district Samba.

In view of repeated indulgence of hardcore criminal Alex Matoo in criminal activities including theft, snatching, assault and gang-related offences in the area, District Police Office Samba prepared and submitted dossier & connected documents to the office of District Magistrate Samba. Accordingly, hardcore criminal Alex Matoo has been lodged in district Jail Poonch after obtaining formal detention order from the District Magistrate Samba.

For his repeated involvement in criminal activities, multiple cases have been registered against the said hardcore criminal at different Police Stations of district Samba and district Jammu viz PS Samba, PS Bari Brahmana, PS Gangyal and PS Bahu Fort.

Samba police seizes 5 vehicles including 3 dumpers for illegal mining

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized five vehicles including three dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Ghagwal and Purmandal which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material. Police teams headed by SHO PS Ghagwal, SHO PS Purmandal, Incharge Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized three dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK02DA-1997, JK21J-8683, JK02CG-2974, a tractor trolley bearing registration No. JK21J-7520 and one tractor trolley without No. which were being used for illegal

transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

Army assists in recovery of skidded civilian vehicle near Jandrola

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: A major mishap was averted on the Sathra-Pindi Gali-Doda Road near Jandrola after a civilian pickup truck skidded off the roadside and rolled down a slope of approximately 100-120 feet.

The vehicle, a one-ton pickup (Registration No. JK12B 6692) owned by Farman Choudhary, was reportedly parked when it slipped, allegedly due to handbrake failure. Fortunately, no one was inside the vehicle at the time of the incident, and no injuries or casualties were reported.

On receiving a request from the vehicle owner, the Indian Army promptly responded. A Light Recovery Vehicle (LRV) of 40 Rashtriya Rifles, along with a Quick Reaction Team (QRT), was deployed under the supervision of an officer from 6 Rajput. The operation, conducted under the aegis of Brigade Poonch, resulted in the safe and successful recovery of the vehicle.

Locals lauded the swift action of the Army, whose timely intervention prevented potential damage and demonstrated their unwavering commitment to civilian welfare and safety in the region.

Body of missing elderly man found near Tala Seri River

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SUNDERBANI: In a tragic development, the dead body of a missing elderly man was recovered from the banks of the Tala Seri river near the village of Tala Seri in Tehsil Sunderbani, District Rajouri, during the midnight hours of September 17, 2025. The deceased has been identified as Sham Lal (62), a resident of village Tutia Ambkhori, Tehsil Bariapattan, District Rajouri. According to reports, Sham Lal had been missing since September 15, and his family had been actively searching for him since his disappearance.

The body was discovered by local residents, who immediately alerted Police Station Sunderbani. Upon receiving the information, SHO Rajeev Sharma along with a police team rushed to the spot and shifted the body to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Sunderbani for medico-legal formalities.

Following the post-mortem, the body was handed over to the family members. A case has been registered, and police have initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of death.