

**03** Some myths about J&K State related issues cultivated over years had also been dismantled set aside by Constitution Bench Judgement of Dec 11, 2023

**09** Actor Priti Sapru, others call on LG

**10** Jammu Veterans clinch championship trophy of 1st J&K Veterans Cup

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## Rains pound Jammu again; rivers flow near alert level, Bhagwati Nagar bridge closed

**Schools, colleges to remain closed today, JKBOSE postpones exams**



Water level rising in Tawi River after rain pounds Jammu on Tuesday. (Pic by Ashok Anand)

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The water levels of most rivers and streams in the Jammu division are flowing near their alert levels as torrential rains pounded the region throughout the day, plummeting the day temperature 10 degrees below the average.

Police and SDRF personnel instructed people living in low-lying areas near the river to relocate to safer places amid the prediction of rain continuing till Wednesday afternoon.

People have also been asked to remain cautious and stay away from the swollen water

bodies and vulnerable areas prone to landslides.

Authorities extended the closure of all government and private schools on Wednesday. The Board of School Education announced the postponement of exams of Classes 10 and 11

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### Traffic suspended on Jammu-Srinagar NH

JAMMU: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was suspended again on Tuesday as torrential rain led to mudslides and boulders sliding off slopes at several places on the 250-km road linking the Valley to the rest of the country.

The traffic on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was suspended after mudslides and shooting of stones at various places between Samroli and Banihal sector, officials said.

A traffic department official said vehicular movement could not be allowed as a precautionary measure in view of the bad weather and heavy rain forecast. In a forecast issued on

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### Search operation underway in Poonch

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR/JAMMU: Security forces on Tuesday launched a cordon and search operation in several villages of Poonch district, officials said.

The joint search operation by special operations group (SOG) of local police and CRPF was underway in Soyian Katha, Banjola forest,

Jallian-Azamabad, Khanetar Mohalla, Kalsan and Dupriana following specific information about movement of some suspected persons, the officials said.

They said SOG along with troops of Rashtriya Rifles also conducted searches

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## Court frames charges against Naib Tehsildar, others in DA Case

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major anti-corruption case, the Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu, Hag Nawaz Zargar, has ordered framing of charges against former Naib Tehsildar Sher Singh and his family members for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

The case, registered vide FIR No. 11/2014 by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), revealed that Sher Singh, who began his career as a Patwari in 1987, had accumulated immovable and movable assets worth over Rs

1.87 crore-356% more than his legal income. The assets include palatial houses in Reasi, Katra and Jammu, commercial buildings in Rehari, and large tracts of land in Katra and Reasi, many of them acquired through benami transactions in the names of his wife, brother-in-law and in-laws.

During proceedings, Advocate S.K. Bhat and Surekha Bhat, appearing for Sher Singh, argued that several properties were family gifts.

Similarly, Advocate A.P. Singh, representing co-accused Kanta Kumari and

Amar Chand, contended that the prosecution had ignored crucial financial details.

Opposing them, APP M.A. Almansoor, appearing for UT of J&K, maintained that the ACB probe had conclusively exposed the trail of disproportionate assets and benami deals.

Rejecting the defence's submissions, the court held that even grave suspicion at this stage was sufficient to proceed. It observed that Sher Singh and his family had prima facie amassed illegal wealth far beyond lawful income.

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### State Taxes Deptt establishes dedicated Helpline Numbers to assist taxpayers

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir, State Taxes Department (STD) has established dedicated Helpline Numbers to assist taxpayers with issues related to the E-Way Bill system.

For any queries related to E-Way Bills, taxpayers can reach out to the dedicated support team on these helpline numbers for assistance with issues like errors in E-Way Bill generation, system glitches or clarifications on compliance requirements.

The dedicated helplines will operate during official working hours and is staffed by trained professionals well-versed in GST and E-Way Bill regulations.

The helpline numbers for Enforcement Jammu (Central) are 9419157257, 9419126915, 7006963445, 9419187455, 8494000145 & 7889800627.

Similarly, for Kathua (HQ Lakhanpur), the helpline numbers are 7780938794, 7006473528,

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 23.4°C Min: 21.5°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 98 Min: 64

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 25.4°C Min: 16.0°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 88 Min: 57

Sunset : 18:55 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:06 Hours

## Pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi suspended for 8th consecutive day

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The otherwise bustling Katra base camp and route leading to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine wore a deserted look as the pilgrimage remained suspended for the eighth straight day on Tuesday.

Fresh rainfall was witnessed in Katra and Trikuta hills, the abode of the shrine, on Tuesday.

The yatra has been suspended as a precautionary measure in the wake of adverse weather conditions, officials said, adding the tracks have been closed for all movement.

Although necessary repairs have been completed, the decision to resume the pilgrimage will depend on



improvement in weather conditions and the safety of pilgrims, they said.

With the suspension of the yatra, Katra and the path to the cave shrine -- once bustling with devotees chanting 'Jai Mata Di' -- now wears a deserted look.

"The suspension has left the base camp and adjoining areas deserted, as devotees

wait for the resumption of the pilgrimage," local businessman Arvind Kumar said.

He said hotels are mostly vacant, restaurants have almost no visitors, and transport remains idle due to the suspension of the yatra, a period that otherwise witnesses heavy pilgrim rush.

As compared to the

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## Dulloo reviews restoration measures, stresses on urgent action on HM's directions

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the aftermath of the visit of the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah to Jammu yesterday to personally assess the extent of damage caused by the recent flash floods, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with

Administrative Secretaries and Divisional Administration to review the swift and time-bound implementation of the directives issued by the visiting Minister.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need for seamless inter-departmental coordina-

tion to bring immediate relief to the affected people and ensure early restoration of essential services, including power supply and potable water, in the shortest possible time frame.

Placing particular emphasis on connectivity, he directed that all efforts be undertaken on a war-footing to restore damaged road links at the earliest, as road connectivity forms the backbone for other relief, rehabilitation, and restoration measures.

He instructed the respective Divisional and District administrations to prepare a comprehensive action plan

for the restoration of damaged infrastructure across the flood-affected areas, ensuring strict adherence to timelines.

Highlighting the importance of public health, the Chief Secretary directed that all water sources be tested for contamination prior to supply, so as to prevent any outbreak of water-borne diseases.

He further instructed the Health Department to organize health camps in all affected villages, with medical teams conducting vital health checks and ensuring the availability of

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## Omar thanks Delhi, Haryana CMs for flood relief support

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the chief ministers of Haryana and Delhi for extending support to the Union Territory's flood relief efforts.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini contributed Rs 5 crore towards the relief fund, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta called Abdullah to offer her government's support for the flood-affected Union territory.

"Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Haryana Government @NayabSainiBJP for contributing Rs 5 Cr. to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund," according to a post shared by the official X account of the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister.

Abdullah said this generous support



will strengthen ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Earlier in the day, Abdullah expressed gratitude to Gupta for offering support for the flood victims.

"Chief Minister thanked Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, @gupta\_rekha Ji, for

her call expressing solidarity with the flood victims of J&K and for extending her generous offer of support from the Delhi Government," the J-K CM's office said on X.

Abdullah said, "Such gestures of cooperation and goodwill strengthen our resolve in these difficult times."

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented monsoon onslaught with more than 130 people killed and 33 missing in cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in Kishtwar, Kathua, Reasi and Ramban districts since August 14.

The dead include 34 pilgrims who were hit by a landslide en route to the Vaishno Devi shrine on August 26.

Record rainfall on August 26-27 caused flash floods in low-lying areas in Jammu and other plains, causing heavy damage to infrastructure.

## Police bust Pak-linked drug syndicate smuggling narcotics through drones in J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police have busted an inter-state drug syndicate involved in smuggling narcotics from Pakistan through drones with the arrest of four men in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Another case also came to the fore when police arrested five drug peddlers and seized heroin from their possession.

In the first case, among the four arrested, two are

employees of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) project, posted in Samba district, the police said.

On July 29, a joint party of police and BSF near the International Border in Chhan Tanda village in the Hiranagar sector recovered nearly half a kg of drone-dropped opium packets, Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Shobhit Saxena said.

A case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was registered at Police Station Hiranagar.

Two people, Sukhwinder Singh and Arshdeep Singh, who were assigned the task of picking up the drone-dropped consignment, were arrested, the officer said. They were working on

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## 2 booked for cheating, criminal conspiracy

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch Kashmir on Tuesday booked two people for cheating and criminal conspiracy over fake contract promises, a spokesperson of the agency said here.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch registered a case against Kumail Ansari and Yetsen Kumar, following a joint complaint alleging cheating and criminal conspiracy, the

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