

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

**08** AIIMS Jammu with HUDCO's CSR support inaugurates 10 Electric Golf Carts to boost green mobility, patient care

**09** Stakeholders appeal for extension of PMGSY Tenders in Jammu Division

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## CM reviews rain situation in J&K, directs admin to intensify ground response



CM Omar Abdullah reviewing situation following incessant rains across J&K on Wednesday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday convened an emergency meeting to review the situation arising from incessant rains across

Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister Sakina Itoo and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani briefed him on the latest situation in the Kashmir Valley, while Ministers Javed Ahmad

►► Schools shut in J&K

►► NH closed amid rising water levels

►► Various KU exams postponed

Rana and Satish Sharma reported on conditions in the Jammu division, including flash floods, road blockages and vulnerable habitations near riverbanks and landslide-prone areas.

The Chief Minister directed the administration to intensify ground response, clear waterlogged areas, ensure supply of essential services such as power, water and healthcare, and ensure timely evacuation of residents from critical zones.

He instructed divisional and district administrations to work in close coordination with disaster response agencies, police and health departments, and to maintain readiness for any eventuality. CM directed that ade-

quate stock of ration, fuel, medicines and drinking water be made available in vulnerable areas, with emergency medical teams kept on standby.

Chief Minister has been taking hourly updates on rising water levels in Jhelum and its tributaries, status of power & water supply, road connectivity and has directed concerned departments to ensure that advance warnings are issued to the general public about any eventuality and for administration to provide timely help and assistance to people.

Appealing for public cooperation, the Chief Minister urged people to follow advisories, avoid unsafe areas, and report emergencies

promptly. He assured that the government is closely monitoring the situation and committed to mitigating hardships.

"The safety and well-being of our citizens is our top priority. I appeal to the public to stay vigilant, extend cooperation to the administration. Together, we will overcome this challenge," CM Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister directed officials to provide regular updates and reaffirmed that all possible measures are being taken to ensure relief and safety of the affected families.

Authorities announced the closure of schools and colleges across the Kashmir Valley for the day, as the weather department has forecast more rainfall over the next 24 hours, they said.

"Hon'ble Ministers @JavedRanaa and @satishsharmajnk briefed

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## LG takes stock of situation in wake of incessant rain, flood



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has spoken to senior officials and taken stock of the situation in the wake of excessive rainfall across the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

He was briefed on rescue and relief measures by Army, Air Force, CAPFs, district administrations, NDRF and SDRF teams on the ground to ensure the well-being of those affected by heavy rain and flood.

He was briefed that people affected by flood in Akhnoor were evacuated to safety by BSF,

### Sinha expresses gratitude to Modi, Nadda for increase in MBBS seats in J&K

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda for approving an increase in MBBS seats across Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Ji for increasing MBBS seats across Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of J&K, taking total MBBS seats in GMCs from 1,185 to 1,375", LG posted on X.

"Under Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji's leadership, the number of additional MBBS and PG Seats has increased significantly over the last few years and he has ensured accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for all in the UT", Sinha further wrote.

NDRF & Police. People from around 67 villages in Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama were moved to safer locations and nomadic families in Pulwama and Shopian were provided shelters by the district administrations. In Srinagar city,

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## Dy CM attaches 2 DMOs on public complaints

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking serious note of the complaints by general public, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary attached District Mining Officer (DMO) Kupwara to the office of Director Geology & Mining Jammu and DMO Samba to Directorate of Geology and Mining Srinagar.

An order issued in this regard read that pending into various complaints against the District Mining Officer Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad, who has additional charge of DMO Bandipora, is here by attached with immediate effect in the office of Director,

Geology & Mining Jammu.

Similarly, District Mining Officer Samba, Mohd Sharfraz has been attached in Directorate Geology & Mining Srinagar with immediate effect. It is also ordered that DMO Kathua shall hold additional charge of DMO Samba in addition to his own duties.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked the officials to prioritize public service as it is the prime motto of the Omar Abdullah led government. He cautioned that complaints against the officers shall be taken seriously and immediate action will be initiated against them.

## GST Bonanza: Tax rates slashed from roti/paratha to TVs as GST Council approves overhaul of rates

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Common use items from roti/paratha to hair oil, ice creams and TVs will cost less, while tax incidence on personal health and life insurance will be brought down to nil after the all-powerful GST Council on Wednesday approved a complete overhaul of the tangled Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

The GST Council approved limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent effective from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

Almost all personal-use items will see rate cuts as the

government looks to boost domestic spending and cushion the economic blow of the US tariffs.

Briefing reporters after a marathon day-long GST Council meeting, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said all decisions were taken unanimously, with no disagreement with any state.

The panel approved simplifying the GST from the current four slabs - 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent, to a two-rate structure - 5 and 18 per cent.

A special 40 per cent slab is also proposed for a select few items such as high-end cars,

tobacco and cigarettes.

The new rates for all products, except pan masala, gutkha, cigarettes, chewing tobacco products like zarda, unmanufactured tobacco and bidi, will be effective September 22, she said.

While daily use food items will continue to attract nil tax rate, tax rate has been slashed to nil from 5 per cent on ultra-high temperature milk, chena or paneer, pizza bread, khakra, plain chapati or roti.

Nil will also be the tax on paratha (currently charged at 18 per cent). Common use food and beverages ranging

from butter and ghee to dry nuts, condensed milk, cheese, figs, dates, avocados, citrus fruits, sausages and meat, sugar boiled confectionery, jam and fruit jellies, tender coconut water, namkeen, drinking water packed in 20-litre bottles, fruit pulp or fruit juice, beverages containing milk, ice cream, pastry and biscuits, corn flakes and cereals, and sugar confectionery are likely to see a cut in tax rate to 5 per cent from current 12 per cent or 18 per cent.

Erasers, maps, pencil sharpeners and

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## J&K gets 190 additional MBBS Seats

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to medical education in Jammu & Kashmir, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has on Wednesday issued Letters of Permission (LoP) for 190 additional MBBS seats across five Government Medical Colleges of the Union Territory.

The approvals include 50 additional seats each for Government Medical College Baramulla, Government Medical College Doda, and Government Medical College Kathua, while Government Medical College Jammu and Government Medical College

Srinagar have been allotted 20 seats each. With this development, the total MBBS intake in Government Medical Colleges of J&K has now jumped from 1,185 to 1,375 seats.

This timely enhancement will significantly increase opportunities for aspiring medical students from J&K, reduce competition pressure, and contribute to the long-term strengthening of the healthcare delivery system by producing more trained doctors. Officials have further indicated that more seats are expected to be

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### BDO among 3 officials issued show cause notice for unauthorized absence

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three officials in Reasi district, including a block development officer and an assistant executive engineer, have been issued show-cause notices for being absent from duty contrary to government directions.

The General Administration Department (GAD) on August 27 explicitly said that no leave shall be sanctioned to any officer or employee due to inclement weather and incessant rains in the region.

Additional District Development Commissioner of Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal, issued show-cause notices to the block development officer of Chassana, Mahore, Gulabgarh, an assistant executive engineer of the PWD, Mahore, and a senior assistant of the department.

"You are hereby directed to submit a written explanation within two days from the date of receipt of this notice, through the assistant commissioner development,

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## GST Council meet: Omar seeks central support for terror-hit economy

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Highlighting the devastating impact of the Pahalgam terror attack on the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday sought the Centre's support to deal with the situation.

The Union Territory was facing a severe fiscal crisis as its public revenues had "collapsed" in the aftermath of the April 22 terror attack in which 26 people were killed, he said.

Abdullah, who also holds the finance portfolio, told the 56th GST Council meeting

here, that major economic sectors including tourism, handicrafts, agriculture and horticulture had come to a standstill after the attack.

Proposed GST reforms could further reduce the UT's revenue by 10 to 12 per cent, the Chief Minister said.

He was of the view that the GST Council could go ahead with rate rationalisation proposals, but suitable mechanisms should be devised to compensate states as well as UTs.

The Centre's support to Jammu and Kashmir to deal with the fiscal crisis was critical, Abdullah emphasised.

"The major sectors of the economy, like tourism, transport, construction, and automobiles, have come to a standstill post April 2025. The proposed reform can further reduce our GST revenues by 10-12 per cent.

"Hence as the Finance Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, I am of the opinion that establishing suitable mechanisms and safeguards for the fiscal stability of States and UTs is critical," he said.

He highlighted the devastating impact of the event on the Union Territory's

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### Woman gives birth to baby boy onboard train

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: A 21-year-old woman gave birth to a baby boy onboard a train near Banihal in Ramban district on Wednesday, officials said.

Akhtera Bano, a native of Sumber village, had boarded the Sangaldan-Baramulla train with her husband Mohd Ashraf to go to a government maternity hospital in Sherbagh in Anantnag district, they said.

However, she went into labour while still on the train. A midwife, a fellow traveller, helped Akhtera in delivering her first baby. Railway Station

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## Landslide hits Vaishno Devi shrine track, no casualties

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A landslide on Wednesday hit the track of the suspended pilgrimage to the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said, adding that no casualties were reported.

Authorities have also vacated the accommodations of officials as a precautionary measure in the wake of heavy rainfall and the threat of landslides, officials mentioned further.

The landslide occurred at the Sammar Point of the track, thereby blocking the route to the shrine. However, there was no loss of life or



injury to anyone in the incident, as there were no pilgrims. Efforts are on to clear the debris.

The pilgrimage remained suspended for the ninth day on Wednesday, leaving the Katra base camp deserted in

the absence of devotees.

Meanwhile, shuttle services of four trains that were introduced to help locals and stranded passengers travel between Jammu and Katra - the base camp of the

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## Two killed in house collapse near Sunderbani, LG conveys condolences

### Multi-agency ops underway to prevent flooding near 4th bridge in Jammu

**45 trapped villagers saved by BSF choppers in Akhnoor**



Rise in water level in Tawi River after heavy rain pound Jammu on Wednesday, while BSF rescuing stranded villagers in Akhnoor sector.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Heavy rains across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday

left a woman and her daughter dead while 45 persons were trapped in a flooded village in Akhnoor, officials

said. A police team led by Neeraj Choudhary SHO Khour rescued flood affected people.

Officials said the incessant rains claimed the life of a mother-daughter in Kangri village of Sunderbani in

Rajouri district. The two died after the roof of their house collapsed.

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### Three of family narrowly escape house collapse in Pacca Danga

JAMMU: A ventilator of a house turned out to be a lifeline for three members of a family who were stuck in a room after the house collapsed due to incessant rains here on Wednesday.

With the help of police, local leaders and neighbours, the trapped inmates were pulled out through the ventilator amid intense rains in Pacca Danga area in the heart of the city, officials said. The old house in the densely populated Kali Jhani locality collapsed around 7.15 am, trapping an elderly woman, her son and grandson, the

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### Over 4,000 affected people housed in 90 shelter camps

JAMMU: Authorities have housed over 4,000 people in over 90 shelter camps across Jammu region after evacuation from vulnerable areas following incessant rains, flash floods and landslides.

Heavy and continuous rains across the Jammu region have triggered a series of landslides, flash floods and land sinking incidents, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes and seek shelter in safer locations. "Over 4,000 affected people have been housed in 93 camps across

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 21.6°C Min: 20.4°C

**Humidity**  
Max : 98 Min : 96

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 20.9°C Min: 14.0°C

**Humidity**  
Max : 96 Min: 75  
Sunset : 18:53 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:06 Hours