

Vol. 30 Issue 247 • Jammu • Sunday • September 7, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27 19 National symbols must be respected, d and no one is above law: Sunil Sethi

Antriksh represents India in Roll Ball C'ship at Oman

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

Commr Secy YSS reviews performance, functioning of JKSC

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Visits flood-hit areas of Anantnag, Kulgam

Omar calls for comprehensive damage assessment, long-term planning to prevent recurrence of floods



CM Omar Abdullah during visit to flood hit Kulgam area on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday visited various flood-affected areas of Anantnag district to take stock of the damages caused by recent heavy rains and floods.

He interacted with the affected families and assured them that the Government stands firmly with them in

these testing times, pledging all possible measures for their relief and rehabilita-

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo and Javed Ahmad Rana, his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, and con-

During his visit, Omar Abdullah inspected the flood-hit localities of Mehandi Kadal, Janglaat Mandi, Deva Colony, Ashajipora Bridge, and other areas of the district. Residents of Ganjiwara raised demands for the early completion of the flood shed pump, along with repairs of interior roads and

The Chief Minister chaired a highlevel review meeting in Anantnag, attended by the Deputy CM, Ministers, Advisor to the CM, concerned MLAs, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, SP Anantnag, district officers from all line departments, and other officials.

He also briefed the CM about waterlogging issues, people affected due to floods and future planning to mitigate similar situations. Addressing the meet-

Waqf Board should apologise

for the "mistake," asserting

that the national emblem is

meant for government func-

tions, not religious institu-

While parties like the NC,

PDP and the CPI(M) said

the use of Ashoka emblem in

the mosque was "provocative"

and "blasphemous", the BJP

slammed the defacement of

the plaque, claiming the inci-

dent was an attempt to revive

"terrorism and separatism"

The plaque was placed

inside the Hazratbal shrine,

in the Valley.

2 trains to run between Katra and Sangaldan to ferry stranded passengers ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu division of the northern railways has announced that a pair of local passenger trains will ply between Katra and Sangaldan railway stations for five days from September 8 to ferry stranded passengers, an official said on

Saturday. The normal train traffic has been disrupted in Jammu and Kashmr since August 26 after rain and flash floods struck the Union

So far, the northern railway have announced the restoration of 21 trains.

Many passengers have been stranded in Reasi and Ramban districts due to closure of roads

The two local passenger trains will connect the Katra and Sangaldan stations via Reasi, Bakkal and Dugga stations and back from September 8 to September 12, a railway official said. Meanwhile, the Jammu-

Katra shuttle train

Waqf Board should apologise for mistake: Omar

After Trump describes India-US ties as 'special', Modi reciprocates American president's positive assessment

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday "fully reciprocated" US President Donald Trump's "positive assessment" of the India-US partnership and his appreciation of the "special" relationship between the two nations, signalling an intent by both the sides to check the downturn in their ties.

Modi's comments on social media came hours after Trump said at a news conference in White House that he will always be "friends with Modi" but added without elaborating that he didn't like what the Indian leader was doing at this "particular moment".

"Deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties," Modi said.

"India and the US have a very positive and forwardlooking Comprehensive and

"Mosques, shrines, temples

and gurdwaras are not gov-

ernment institutions. These

are religious institutions and

government emblems are not

used in religious institu-

tions." Abdullah also ques-

tioned the need for the

plaque itself, noting that the

shrine's founder, Sheikh

Mohammad Abdullah, had

completed his work without

seeking personal credit. He

said the Waqf Board should

have apologised for the inci-

dent instead of resorting to

Strategic Partnership," he noted on X. It was the first exchange of

conversation on June 17. The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a major downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India described the US action as "unfair, unjusti-

views between the two lead-

ers after they held a phone

Earlier, responding to a question on the possibility of the US resetting relations with India, Trump said both countries have a special relationship and there is "nothing to worry about".

"I will always be friends with Modi, he is a great prime minister, he's great. I'll always be friends but I just don't like what he's doing at this particular moment," he said. "But India and the United States have a special relationship. There is

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage likely to resume next week

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district is likely to resume next week after a fresh review of the weather advisory, officials said on Saturday.

The yatra remained suspended for the 12th consecutive day on Saturday with the weatherman forecasting the possibility of moderate rain or thunder showers over a few districts of Jammu division towards late night or early morning hours on September 7 and 8. "A decision to resume the

Water supply restored in around 80 pc affected areas of Jammu city STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After significant improvement in the water supply situation across Jammu city, private water tankers have been permitted to resume independent operations with immediate effect.

The services of private water tankers had earlier been placed under the regulatory control of the Jal Shakti Department, following directives issued by the Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, in response to a severe water shortage affecting several parts of the district.

This temporary measure was aimed at ensuring equitable distribution, price regulation and uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all residents during the

With the dedicated and coordinated efforts of the Jal Shakti Department, supported by district authorities and ground staff, normal water supply has now been restored in approximately 80% of the affected areas. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER Max: 33.4°C

Max : 83 Temperature (Srinagar) Max: 30.9°C

Max: 84 Min: 46 Sunset: 18:51 Hours Sunrise: 06:08 Hours

yatra will be taken next week. The track is cleared of the debris and is getting a

others injured. The suspension is the longest since the COVID-19 restrictions, with authorities prioritising pilgrim safety and conducting restoration work on the damaged track and commercial structures in

claimed 34 lives and left 20

facelift after the recent damage due to landslides triggered by heavy rains," an official of the shrine board said. The yatra was suspended hours before a landslide along the old track at Adhkuwari on August 26

cerned MLAs of the district.

drainage works in Eidgah Colony.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag presented a detailed account of the damages caused by the floods and measures taken, including rescue operations, setting up shelter homes for evacuees, mobilising resources, deploying sandbags at vulnerable embankments, and initiating immediate restoration works.

Hazratbal row: NC seeks dismissal of Waqf **Board Chief, registration of FIR**

IAF airlifts 2 critically ill patients from remote village in Udhampur multiple landslides, the road

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: The Indian Air

Force (IAF) on Saturday airlifted two critically ill patients from the flood and landslide-hit remote region in Udhampur district, an official said.

The district administration of Udhampur, in collaboration with the IAF, airlifted the patients from Latti-Marothi tehsil for urgent medical intervention, the official said.

The two patients -- Shiv Lal of Sira and Diwan Chand of Latti -- were in a critical condition requiring immediate medical attention.

connectivity between Tehsil Latti-Marothi Udhampur remained disrupted, making air evacuation the only viable option, the official said.

Upon receiving information from the Chief Medical Udhampur, Officer of District Magistrate Udhampur Saloni Rai promptly coordinated with the IAF under the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief framework to ensure timely evacuation.

As part of the operation, one patient was shifted to Military

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

PM committed to help marooned Puniabis

removal.

Chief

Chugh demands CBI probe in Punjab mining mafia operations Irresponsible AAP Govt has wreaked havoc on

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A massive con-

troversy is raging in Jammu

and Kashmir after a plaque

with the Ashoka emblem was

vandalised in the Hazratbal

shrine as parties on Saturday

accused Waqf Board chief

Darakshan Andrabi of hurt-

ing religious sentiments by

using the national emblem in

the mosque and demanded

registration of a criminal

case and her immediate

Abdullah, while on a tour of

flood-affected areas, said the

Minister Omar

STATE TIMES NEWS LUDHIANA: BJP National

General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday squarely blamed the Bhagwant Mann government for failing in undertaking flood protection measures in time and for doing cheap politics on Bhakhra waters to put Punjab in a manmade disaster.

Interacting with ple in Sasrali village in Ludhiana, Chugh strongly condemned the Bhagwant Mann government's failure to take action on an FIR registered against illegal mining

gang members.

There's complete con-



gang with the mining mafia which must be investigated

by the CBI, he said. Chugh said had Punjab heeded BBMB advice on

Police launch drive against violations of food

would have been not that Chugh metvillagers,

NDRF teams, and Indian Army personnel working day and night to save the Dhussi bundh, and offered Ardas for the safety of the people of Punjab and the brave hearts protecting the embankment.

Chugh declared, "Due to rampant state-sponsored illegal mining across Punjab that happened right under the nose of this failed AAP government, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

viduals after Friday prayers, prompting police to register a case against unknown peo-"I have never seen an emblem being used in this Search ops launched after

which holds a relic of Prophet

Muhammad, on Friday,

sparking outrage among

devotees who argued that

placing any figure or symbol

inside a mosque is against

the Islamic principle of

monotheism. The plaque was

subsequently vandalised and

removed by unidentified indi-

way in any religious place,' Abdullah told reporters.

suspected Pak drone movement in Samba **STATE TIMES NEWS**

 ${\tt JAMMU: A \ search \ operation}$ was launched after a suspected Pakistani drone was spotted hovering over vital installations in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

The drone was noticed at an altitude of over 700 metres moving from west to east over a military garrison in the Bari Brahmana area around 9.35 pm on Friday, they said.

An alert was immediately sounded and quick reaction teams of the Army were acti-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Due to incessant rains and ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Torrential rain hits restoration work on Jammu-Srinagar NH

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An early morning downpour on derailed the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) efforts to restore traffic on the 270-km $\,$ Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which remained closed for the fifth consecutive day, a senior official said.

NHAI Project Manager, Ramban sector, Shubam said efforts are going on at a war footing to clear the 250metre stretch of the highway at Thard in Udhampur district which was buried under



ing the day on Friday was washed away by intense halfan-hour rainfall this morning... we have mobilised the men and machinery and ensure early reopening of the arterial road as soon as possible," the official told PTI.

He said they are expecting to clear the road later

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Bank hands over dividend cheques to LG Sinha

safety rules in Anantnag, 12 FIRs lodged STATE TIMES NEWS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Police has

registered 12 FIRs against violations of food safety regulations and public health norms in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, an official said on Saturday.

Police have launched a massive drive against restaurants and shopkeepers found violating food safety regulations and public health norms, a police official said.

This was part of a continuous effort to uphold public health standards and ensure the safety of food being served and sold, he

Police said several establishments were found to be operating in contravention of prescribed guidelines.

Strict legal action has been initiated by various police stations across the district and 12 FIRs have been registered in this regard, he

"All the cases have been registered under the relevant provisions of law applicable to food safety, public health, and hygiene standards," he added. The official said further

way and defaulters will be dealt with strictly as per legal provisions. J-K Police urges all food business operators to strictly adhere to the norms laid down by the Food Safety and Standards

(FSSAI) and other regula-

tory bodies, the official

of India

Authority

investigations are under-

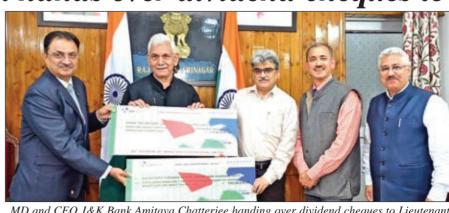
SRINAGAR: Initiating the payment of dividend to shareholders, Managing Director and CEO J&K Bank Amitava Chatterjee on Saturday presented two dividend cheques of Rs 122.85 Crore and Rs 7.92 to the Crore Administration

Financial Year 2024-25. The dividend cheques handed over to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Bank's promoter and major

shareholder - for the

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D Vaidya; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, and Mohammad Shafi Mir, Company Secretary J&K Bank were present on the



MD and CEO J&K Bank Amitava Chatterjee handing over dividend cheques to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Srinagar on Saturday

opment.

occasion.

The dividend pay-out which followed the Bank's approval of 215% dividend at its 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM), underscores both the Bank's financial strength and its pivotal role in supporting the region's economic devel-

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the entire team of Jammu Kashmir Bank and urged the Bank to continue to drive sub-

enterprises for manufacturstantial and sustained ing and services. growth and serve the people He also observed that with excellence. The Lieutenant Governor

J&K Bank had witnessed complete turnaround after

said that J&K Bank should

continue its focus on finan-

cial inclusion by connecting

people and it should pro-

mote small and micro-

2019. The Bank was in loss of Rs. 1139 Crore in the year 2019-20, however it was transformed and within 4 years it reported a profit of Rs. 1700 Crore in the year 2023-24.

Amitava Chatterjee. Managing Director and CEO, J&K Bank outlined the Bank's performance and roadmap ahead. He reiterated the J&K Bank's commitment to offering the best banking services while actively contributing to Mission YUVA for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economic growth across J&K.

It was informed that J&K Bank has performed a hat-trick of historic earnings capped by its highest-ever net profit of Rs 2082 Cr in FY 2024-