

Offers Magrib prayers at Hazratbal Shrine

CM prays for peace, prosperity, communal harmony in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday joined the devotees at the revered Hazratbal Shrine here on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).
The Chief Minister offered Magrib Namaz (evening prayers) at the shrine, which houses the sacred Moy-e-Muqaddas (Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad, PBUH).
After the prayers, he was blessed with a glimpse of the Holy Relic, along with the congregation of devotees.



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah joined the devotees to offer prayer at Hazratbal Shrine.

Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, and MLA Zadibal

Tanvir Sadiq also participated in the congregational prayers at the shrine.
On this spiritually significant occasion, Omar Abdullah prayed for everlasting peace, communal harmony, and the well-being and prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.
The Chief Minister extended warm greetings to the people on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), urging them to uphold the noble teachings of the Prophet (SAW) as a guiding light for unity, compassion and service to humanity.

China refusing BRI funds to Pakistan



Tara Chand demands relief, compensation, accountability in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Former Deputy Chief Minister and Working President, Tara Chand demanded the immediate release of relief-both in cash and kind-for families affected by the recent flash floods in Jammu.
Speaking at a joint monthly meeting of the Block Congress Committee Bhalwal Brahmana and Block Congress Committee Akhnoor held at Dhok Khalsa of Akhnoor Constituency, Tara Chand criticized the government's slow response. He said that while governments are meant to support citizens during crises, the current administration's approach to assessing losses appears to be mere formality. He added that assessment teams are visiting accessible areas along main roads, while the worst-affected regions remain unreachable due to washed-away roads.
Tara Chand also demanded that free ration be immediately distributed among the affected families, noting that many are now penniless and that their crops and agricultural fields have been destroyed by floods. He emphasized that administrative negligence has deepened public discontent, and urgent action is required to prevent further suffering.
During his address, Tara



Former Dy CM, Tara Chand speaking at public meeting.

Chand highlighted developmental work carried out during his tenure and recalled the significant relief and rehabilitation efforts undertaken during the pre-2014 floods. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir still remember the proactive support provided during those challenging times. He further criticized the current administration for rising inflation, lack of development, and apathy toward public welfare, urging the Union Territory government to provide immediate compensation and ensure transparency and accountability in governance.
Tara Chand also directed Congress party colleagues to fan out into their respective blocks and Mohallas to interact with every household and properly assess the ground realities. He stressed that citizens are facing extreme hardships and there is an urgent need for assistance.
Prominent Congress leaders present at the meeting included Capt. Kali Dass (Block President), Pt. Som Parkash (Incharge), Rashpaul Singh, Suraj Singh, Anil Manhas (Block President), K.K. Bhagat, Bodh Raj Sharma, Puran Singh Manhas, Ex. Sarpanch Raj Kumar, Capt. Mohan Lal, Ex. Sarpanch Om Prakash, RTD Isp. Tara Chand, Hans Raj, Kamal Sharma, Tarsem Bhagat, Rohit, Vipin Lachotra (PYC), Suraj Verma, Issar Dass, Capt. Romesh Kumar, and others.
Tara Chand concluded by reiterating that Congress stands firmly with the people and will continue to raise their concerns at every platform until relief and justice are delivered to those affected by the floods.

Hazratbal Vandalism: BJP warns against political mischief, calls for strict action
National symbols must be respected, and no one is above law: Sunil Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP today strongly condemned the attempt to damage the national emblem at the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, calling it a deliberate effort to defame national symbols and disrupt peace in the region.
Addressing a press conference, BJP Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi, along with party leaders Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, Ajay Bharti, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Dr. Hari Dutt Shishu and others, expressed deep concern over the incident and called for strict action against those directly involved as well as those who incited the attack.
The spokesperson described the issue as highly sensitive and dangerous, warning that such acts are aimed at reviving extremist sentiments in Kashmir, similar to those seen in the 1990s.
Sethi praised the efforts of the Waqf Board, particularly its Chairperson Dr. Darakshan Andrabi, for the renovation and beautification of the Hazratbal Shrine, which is now considered one of the most beautiful religious sites in South Asia.
However, he pointed out that certain political forces have tried to exploit this development for their narrow agendas.
The incident in question involved attempts to damage the national emblem, the Ashoka Chakra, installed on the inauguration stone outside the shrine complex.
Sethi condemned those behind the controversy, arguing that the national emblem represents the pride of every Indian, regardless of religion, and that any attack on it is an insult to the entire nation.
He slammed attempts by political actors, particularly from the National



BJP Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi addressing a press conference at Jammu on Saturday.

Conference, to inflame passions by tweeting provocative messages and spreading misinformation.
"The national emblem belongs to every Indian. It cannot be politicized or used to stir unrest," he stressed.
He further urged the government to take strict action not only against those who physically attacked the symbol but also against those who incited and justified it, including political figures who supported or attempted to normalize the offense.
Sethi also cautioned against attempts to create unrest under the guise of religion or politics, suggesting that such provocations

are orchestrated to destabilize the region and give space to anti-national elements.
He warned that Pakistan and other hostile forces may seek to exploit the situation to further their agenda, but expressed confidence that the people of Kashmir, having seen past manipulations, will not fall prey to such tactics.
The BJP leader emphasized that the recent efforts to disrupt peace threaten the tourism sector and development in the region, which has only recently begun to recover from earlier violence.
He called for swift and decisive action to reassure citizens across India that

national unity and law and order will be upheld.
The party reiterated its demand that the government go beyond merely registering an FIR and ensure that those who instigated and supported the attack face strict penalties.
"An example must be made - national symbols must be respected, and no one is above the law," Sethi declared.
He called for action, asserting that the defense of national integrity must be a shared responsibility, and that the BJP stands firmly against any attempt to tarnish India's values or disturb the peace in Kashmir.

LG Kavinder asks officials to ensure transparency, time-bound public service delivery

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday inaugurated the newly constructed Office Building, Residence, and Patwar Khana of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) at Kharu.
Built at a cost of Rs 20.58 crore, the state-of-the-art complex is expected to significantly strengthen the revenue administration in the sub-division and provide better facilities for both officials and the public.
The Lt Governor said the upgraded infrastructure would make revenue services more accessible, efficient, and citizen-friendly. He



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta inaugurating Office Building of SDM at Kharu.

emphasized that prompt redressal of public grievances must remain a top priority and directed revenue officials to ensure that services are delivered in a transparent and time-bound manner. Such measures, he observed, would strengthen public trust and bring governance closer to the people at the grassroots level.
The Lt Governor also underlined the importance of responsive governance and asked the officers to remain sensitive to the needs of citizens, ensuring accountability in every service delivery.
He expressed confidence that the modern facilities

will help improve coordination among field functionaries and enhance the overall quality of public services in the region.
Later, the Lt Governor inspected the Geothermal Heat Pump-based Space Heating System installed at the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Thiksey.
The system has been developed jointly by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Alfen Alfa Group on a pilot basis to address the pressing challenge of heating requirements during Ladakh's extreme winters.
Highlighting the significance of the project, the Lt Governor said that if the pilot proves successful, the eco-friendly heating model could be scaled up across health centres, schools, and

government institutions in Ladakh.
He noted that such sustainable solutions not only reduce the dependency on conventional fuels but also provide a cost-effective and reliable means to improve infrastructure in remote and high-altitude areas.
The Lt Governor reaffirmed the UT Administration's commitment to making Ladakh a carbon-neutral Union Territory and said that the adoption of clean technologies is integral to achieving this goal.
He stressed that initiatives like the geothermal heating project will play a crucial role in protecting the fragile ecology of the region while simultaneously improving public service delivery and healthcare infrastructure.

LG assures of thorough inquiry into Chittisinghpura massacre



35 SSWO Chittisinghpura delegation calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A delegation of 35 Shaheed Singhs Welfare Organization (SSWO), Chittisinghpura led by its Chairman S. Jagjeet Singh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Saturday.
The members of the delegation demanded a fresh probe into Massacre of 35 Sikhs at Chittisinghpura Anantnag by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists on 20th March 2000. They further put forth various welfare issues of the Next of Kins of the martyred civilians including compassionate

appointment under SRO-43, extension of benefits at par with non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits; reservation in admissions in different courses in Government universities/ Colleges, and financial assistance for the construction of memorial at Chittisinghpura Anantnag.
The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his commitment to deliver justice to families affected by terrorism in Jammu Kashmir. He assured that a thorough inquiry will be conducted and justice will be served.
He said the issues and

grievances of families of the civilians martyred in the massacre will be addressed with the utmost sensitivity and on priority. He assured that the eligible family members will receive Compassionate appointments, and also financial assistance for self-employment.
Meanwhile, a joint delegation of Shree Sadhu Ganga Asthapan (SSGA) Trust, Kandi Khass and Sharda Asthapan (SA) Trust, Gund Gushi Kupwara called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Div Com inspects protection works on Ravi River embankment at Lakhanpur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing protection works along the Ravi River embankment near Lakhanpur, which has suffered severe damages amidst the recent spell of torrential rains.
He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, SSP Kathua, Project Director NHAI, senior officers of Punjab Irrigation Department and representatives of the Indian Army.
During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner held threadbare discussions with all stakeholders including Kathua District Administration, Punjab Irrigation Department, NHAI and Army authorities to devise a multi-pronged strategy aimed at diverting the water flow, pro-



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar inspecting ongoing protection works along Ravi River embankment.

tecting critical assets and minimizing risk to life and property.
DC Kathua briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the emerging situation and the measures being undertaken to safeguard vital installations including the Office of the DDC Chairman, Animal Husbandry Check Post and adjoining government buildings. He informed that men and machinery have been mobilised and are working round the clock to raise crates and carry out strengthening works on vulnerable stretches of the embankment.
The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to maintain constant coordination and ensure timely completion of protective works. Stressing on the urgency, the Div Com called for deployment of adequate resources, regular

monitoring of the situation and immediate plugging of weak points along the embankment.
The Div Com further emphasized upon exploring long-term measures to provide permanent protection against any threats caused by changes in river course. He urged close liaison between J&K and Punjab authorities to evolve a joint mechanism for flood management in the Ravi River basin.
Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the relief and restorations measures ongoing in the affected areas of the District. He asked the district administration to expedite the restoration works of road connectivity that were severely affected during the heavy rains. He directed for complete restoration of Power and water supply, wherever pending in the affected areas, if any.

Desecration of National Emblem at Hazratbal an attack on India's sovereignty, unity: LoP Sunil Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, has strongly condemned the disgraceful incident at the revered Hazratbal Dargah, where anti-social elements attempted to deface and uproot a plate bearing the National Emblem of India.
Sharma said this act is "not merely vandalism but a direct assault on the dignity of the National Emblem, and by extension, on the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of the nation."
He further added that the Emblem represents India's pride and identity, and any attack on it is "a vile and cowardly



act that has deeply hurt the sentiments of every Indian."
The Leader of Opposition also criticized the irresponsible remarks made by a National Conference MLA linking the incident to religion. "The National Emblem has no connection with religion. Such statements are an attempt to shield the culprits and embolden miscreants," Sharma said.
He urged the Lieutenant Governor to ensure that all those involved in this disgraceful act are identified, prosecuted, and given the strictest possible punishment so that no one dares to insult the National Emblem of India in the future.