

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Omar calls for...

Chief Minister directed the district administration to prioritise restoration works. He called for undertaking permanent restoration of Public Health Engineering (Jal Shakti) infrastructure, given its direct impact on public health. He gave directions for coordinating water tanker services and other relief measures with MLAs to prioritise the most affected areas and strengthening coordination among departments such as PHE, PDD, and R&B to ensure seamless restoration of utility services.

The Chief Minister also called for the constitution of special teams to assess damages so that detailed proposals can be taken up with the Government of India for compensation to the affected people. He instructed officials to assess damages to agricultural land, horticultural crops, and stranded fruit-laden trucks stuck on highways, and to submit their reports in this regard.

Highlighting the importance of long-term planning, Omar Abdullah emphasized the need to explore the viability of a flood channel, dredging of rivers & streams, setting up dewatering pumps, and strengthening of river embankments.

The Chief Minister also visited Kulgam district to personally take stock of damages, restoration works, and the challenges faced by the people.

His visit, marked by interaction with affected families and on-ground review of damaged infrastructure, underscored the government's commitment to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the public in this testing time.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan, SSP Kulgam Sahil Sarangal, and other senior officers also joined the Chief Minister during his tour to several affected areas including Khudwani, Aadigatnoo, Gudder, Laisoo and adjoining localities.

He assured the people that his Government would take every possible step to provide timely relief and assistance.

The Chief Minister directed the district administration to accelerate restoration works on foot watering while ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential services in affected areas.

Later, at a meeting convened at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the Chief Minister about the early evacuation undertaken to safeguard lives and presented details of damage to roads, bridges, and public utilities.

He also outlined the steps initiated for fast-track restoration of services.

The Chief Minister lauded the proactive efforts of the district administration in carrying out timely evacuations.

He instructed departments including PDD, Jal Shakti, and Irrigation & Flood Control to work in a mission mode for the restoration of essential services.

Emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers, Omar Abdullah directed immediate assessment of crop and horticulture losses, including damages caused during transportation and due to road blockages, so that compensation can be considered by the Government.

Expressing concern over illegal mining in the district, the Chief Minister ordered strict enforcement to ensure a complete ban on the practice.

He reiterated the government's commitment to extend every possible support to the affected families.

2 trains to...

service remained suspended for the third day on Saturday after a landslide blocked the track between Ramnagar and Manwal along the Jammu-Udhampur section.

The shuttle service started on September 1 and was scheduled to run till September 15 but had to be cancelled due to the landslide triggered by heavy rain.

Authorities are trying to clear the track and restore the service on the stretch, the official said.

After Trump describes...

nothing to worry about," the US president said.

Asked about his social media post on Thursday suggesting that the US was losing India to China, Trump said: "I don't think we have. I have been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil...from Russia."

"And I let them know that, we put a very big tariff on India -- 50 per cent tariff, very high tariff. I get along very well with Modi as you know, he was here a couple of months ago."

"In fact, we went to the Rose Garden, the grass was so soaking wet, it was such a terrible place to have a news conference. We had a news conference on the grass, it was my last news conference we had on the grass."

In his social media post on Thursday, Trump said it appeared the US was losing India and Russia to "deepest, darkest China".

The post came days after the bonhomie among Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention.

In the last few days, several Trump administration officials including White House trade advisor Peter Navarro have used offensive language to target India.

India's big oil lobby has turned the largest democracy in the world into a "massive refining hub and oil money laundromat for the Kremlin", Navarro said last week.

India on Friday rejected Navarro's remarks describing them as "inaccurate and misleading".

Over the last few weeks, India-US ties witnessed severe strain after over two-decades of close cooperation.

The tension began after the negotiations for a trade deal hit a roadblock as well as Trump's repeated claims that he resolved the military conflict between India and Pakistan in May.

India has been maintaining that the conflict ended following direct talks between the two sides.

Over the last few months, India and the US held several rounds of negotiations for a bilateral trade deal but it could not be sealed in view of sharp divergences in certain critical areas including agriculture and dairy.

The bilateral trade between India and the US was around USD 130 billion last year and there was a projection of upward mobility in the volume.

The US has also been targeting India for its energy ties with Russia.

Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics.

India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022.

Consequently, from a mere 1.7 per cent share in total oil imports in 2019-20, Russia's share increased to 35.1 per cent in 2024-25, and it is now the biggest oil supplier to India.

IAF airlifts 2...

Hospital Udhampur, while the other was admitted to Government Medical College Udhampur for specialised treatment, the official said.

The district administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring that all possible assistance, including emergency medical support, reaches people stranded in remote and inaccessible areas due to recent heavy rains and landslides.

Hazratbal row: NC...

"What was the need for this plaque? Was the work done not enough? Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah gave shape to this shrine... Even today, people remember his work, even though he did not use a stone in his name. There was no need to use a stone," the chief minister said.

The controversy escalated when Andrabi, a BJP appointee, called for legal action, including booking the "hooligans" under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), for vandalising the emblem.

Abdullah condemned Andrabi's response, saying that the board "played with the sentiments of the people" and is now using threats.

"First, at least, they should have apologised for it. They should admit the mistake. It should not have happened," the CM said.

He said that nowhere in the country is the national emblem used on any religious place. "Google search and you will find that the national emblem is only used in government functions," he said.

Abdullah's National Conference (NC) demanded Andrabi's dismissal and the registration of a criminal case against her for allegedly violating the State Emblem of India Act.

The party stated that the emblem is a symbol of unity and integrity, but its misuse should not be tolerated.

"What happened in Hazratbal is unfortunate. We are against violence in any form," said NC's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, who was flanked by a dozen MLAs. However, he stressed that the Waqf Board chairperson's actions had hurt the religious sentiments of the people.

Sadiq, while condemning the vandalism, said the Waqf Board chairperson's actions were "unfortunate" and asked why she would use the emblem in a religious function when the Prime Minister and Lieutenant Governor do not.

NC's MLA from Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, expressed apprehensions that it could have been a deliberate ploy to exploit the situation in the run-up to the Bihar elections.

"I think this was pre-planned. The situation may be exploited for the Bihar elections. It could be used as a fodder for right-wing activists," he claimed.

People's Conference chief Sajad Lone said the use of the national emblem on the renovation plaque at the shrine was "regrettable".

Torrential rain hits...

tonight or early next morning.

Barring this four-lane highway stretch, which is completely buried under a moving hill, the rest of the highway - the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country - has been cleared for two-way traffic, the official said.

The highway was closed for traffic amid heavy rain across the Jammu division early this week, following multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting stones from the hillocks overlooking the road besides washing away of road patches at different places between Udhampur and Banihal.

The closure of the highway led hundreds of vehicles, mostly trucks, stranded on both sides, officials said.

A traffic department official said the Mughal Road -- an alternate link connecting Poonch and Rajouri districts with south Kashmir's Shopian district -- is open for light motor vehicles. The Kishitwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road, another alternate link, remained closed for the fourth day despite a massive road clearance operation.

A meteorological department spokesperson said rain or thundershowers are likely at a few places on Saturday. Light rain or thundershowers at scattered to many places across J&K with a possibility of moderate rain or thunder over a few districts of the Jammu division towards late night or early morning on September 7 and 8.

The weather office has also forecast a brief spell of rain or thundershower activity at a few places between September 9 and 12.

"Overall, there is nothing significant till September 12," the spokesperson said.

Search ops launched...

Police were also informed and a joint search operation was launched to ensure that there was no airdropping of weapons or narcotics, the officials said.

Chugh demands CBI...

natural flood situation has worsened into a man-made tragedy. Sand mafia was protected while Punjab was pushed into devastation. Today, over 4 Lakh acres of land are submerged and nearly 1800 villages across all 23 districts of Punjab are struggling. Villagers in Sasrali had lodged complaints months ago, but the AAP government chose silence over action."

"The Dhussi Bandh was a visionary project of then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and CM Sardar Parkash Singh Badal. AAP leaders admitted on the floor of the Vidhan Sabha that Rs. 200 crores were spent on repair and maintenance. Where did that money go? Punjab deserves an answer," Chugh questioned.

Highlighting the Centre's commitment, he said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is standing shoulder to shoulder with Punjabis. Rs. 11,000 crores have already been released to NDRF, and our Armed Forces have saved over 15,000 lives - including a mother and her newborn child. While the Army, NDRF and central agencies are working tirelessly in Punjab, the state government is nowhere to be seen. The so-called 'Super CM' Kejriwal and his deputy are roaming around, wasting Punjab's taxpayers' money instead of saving lives."

On CM Bhagwant Mann's health, Chugh said: "I wish him a speedy recovery so that he can return to his office at the earliest and ensure that Punjabis, who have suffered a severe financial setback due to this disaster, are compensated fairly and timely."

Water supply restored...

In the remaining localities, alternate arrangements like deployment of water tankers, bore-well supplies and temporary water stations are functioning efficiently to meet public demand.

Jal Shakti Minister has lauded the cooperation extended by private water suppliers during the period and acknowledged their contribution in stabilizing the situation during this critical phase.

As private operators resume their services, they are expected to operate in accordance with applicable guidelines, safety protocols and quality standards. The Government will continue to closely monitor the water supply scenario to ensure there is no disruption or exploitation of services.

Jal Shakti Department reaffirms its commitment to providing safe, reliable and adequate drinking water to every resident and expresses gratitude to the public for their support, patience and cooperation throughout the period of difficulty.

Court allows jailed MP Engineer Rashid to vote in VP election on Sep 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A court here on Saturday allowed Lok Sabha MP from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, Engineer Rashid, to vote in the September 9 election for the Vice President.

Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit allowed Rashid's plea seeking permission to vote. Rashid was earlier granted custody parole by the court between July 24 and August 4 to attend the monsoon session of Parliament.

The jailed MP's counsel, Vikhyat Oberoi, said that Rashid has to furnish an undertaking that he will make payment of the travel costs, subject to the outcome of his appeal which is reserved for orders by the Delhi High Court.

The appeal is against an order by authorities asking him to pay several lakhs of rupees as travel expenses for attending Parliament on a custody parole.

Rashid has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror funding case.

The Baramulla MP, who defeated Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is facing allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the NIA's FIR, Rashid's name cropped up during the interrogation of businessman and co-accused Zahoor Watali.

After being chargesheeted in October 2019, a special NIA court framed charges against Rashid and others in March 2022 under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government), and 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code and for offences relating to terrorist acts and terror funding under UAPA.

Lone seeks special leave for Muslim employees on Eid Milad-un-Nabi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Peoples' Conference chief Sajad Lone on Saturday appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir government to sanction a special casual leave for Muslim employees in the Union territory on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad.

The festival is being celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday according to the Islamic calendar; however, the official holiday was observed on Friday, as per the holiday calendar issued by the Lieutenant Governor's administration at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, the administration did not reschedule the holiday. "It is a request to the government of the day to sanction special casual leave for Muslim employees across J&K today, given the mismatch between the declared holiday and actual festival date. It is a routine practice in case of restricted holidays," Lone said in a post on X.

The Omar Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday criticised Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's administration for not rescheduling the holiday for Eid Milad-un-Nabi "despite repeated requests" to align it with the Islamic calendar.

Chief minister Abdullah described the "deliberate" decision by the unelected government not to shift the holiday as "inconsiderate and designed to hurt the sentiments of the people."

DC Reasi withholds salary of Naib Tehsildar for unauthorized absence

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik has taken strong note of negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of Naib Tehsildar JR Chakalhawalan, Tehsil Thakrakote.

"It has come to the notice of this office that, despite widespread heavy rains, thunderstorms, landslides and flash floods causing extensive damage to public and private infrastructure in the district, the said officer was not present at his station and failed to promptly report the damage in his jurisdiction. The duty of the officer was to actively carry out damage assessment for facilitating relief disbursement, but his absence led to delays in the process," the DC noted.

Taking a serious view of the lapse, the officer has been served a show-cause notice directing him to explain why disciplinary action should not be initiated against him. He has been given two days' time to respond, failing which action as warranted under rules shall be taken. Meanwhile, his salary has been withheld until further orders.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that during adverse weather conditions such as heavy rains, landslides, and thunderstorms, the physical presence of field officers and immediate reporting are mandatory to ensure timely response and relief measures. She reiterated that dereliction of duty in times of crisis will not be tolerated and that officers must remain vigilant and responsive to safeguard the interests of the public.

Public intoxication offenders sentenced to community service

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark application of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Jammu Police, Police Station Khour, secured the conviction of an individual for public intoxication and disorderly conduct. The Hon'ble Court delivered its verdict on 06-09-2025, marking a progressive step toward reformative and community-based justice.

The convicted individual has been identified as Vipran Kumar, S/O Romesh Chander, R/O Kartyal Simbla Khour, Tehsil Khour, District Jammu.

The incident occurred on 05-09-2025 within the jurisdiction of Police Station Khour, where the accused was found intoxicated and creating a public disturbance. Following the incident, he was arrested, medically examined, and presented before the Learned Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Akhnour.

In a significant departure from traditional punitive measures, the Court sentenced the accused to community service under Section 355 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) instead of imprisonment. He has been directed to render seven hours of community service on 08-09-2025 at the Munsiff Court Complex, Akhnour.

Meanwhile, Jammu Police in PP Sidhra has led to the conviction of one individual namely Ashwani Kumar S/O Ashok Kumar R/O Near Peer Baba Sidhra Housing Colony Distt Jammu for public intoxication and disorderly conduct. The Court delivered the verdict 06-09-2025 marking a progressive step towards reformative justice.

The incident took place on 05-09-2025, within the jurisdiction of PP Sidhra where the accused were found intoxicated and creating a public disturbance. He was promptly arrested, subjected to a medical examination, and presented before the JMFC Munsiff Jammu

Rather than imposing traditional imprisonment, the court opted for community service as a corrective measure. The accused was convicted for commission of offence U/S 355 BNS and shall render Community service from w.e.f 07-09-2025 to 10-09-2025 at Kol Kandoli Temple Nagrota.

Youth apprehended with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: In a significant action against drug trafficking, police personnel from Police Station Bishnah apprehended a person during naka duty at Deoli, Bishnah, recovering a heroin-like substance from his possession.

The accused has been identified as Sachin Choudhary, son of Hakumat Raj, resident of Morchapur Camp, Bishnah, aged 24 years. During a routine check, the police party intercepted Choudhary and conducted a personal search, leading to the recovery of 11.97 grams of a heroin-like substance.

Following the recovery, a case under FIR No. 96/2025 has been registered at Police Station Bishnah under sections 8, 21, and 22 of the NDPS Act. Further investigation is currently underway to ascertain the source and intended destination of the contraband.

Doda police prevents suicide attempt, rescues woman, two children

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a swift and compassionate intervention, Doda Police averted a tragic incident by rescuing a woman and her two children who were about to jump into the Chenab River. Acting on timely information, a team from Police Station Doda, led by the SHO, rushed to the spot and successfully prevented the suicide attempt, thereby saving three precious lives.

The woman was resident of Golibagh, Doda. She was subsequently handed over to the Women Police Station Doda for counseling and necessary legal assistance.

This prompt action underscores the crucial role of law enforcement in protecting vulnerable individuals during moments of crisis. To support women and girls in distress, Doda Police have established Women Help Desks at every police station, in addition to a dedicated Women Police Station, ensuring accessible avenues for counseling, assistance, and legal recourse.

Speaking on the matter, SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta-JKPS urged women facing domestic disputes or other difficulties to approach the Women Help Centers, already functional across all police stations, instead of resorting to extreme steps. He reiterated that help and support are always available.

Bovine smuggler booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police under the leadership of SSP Jammu, Sh. Joginder Singh, JKPS tightening noose against bovine smugglers under Operation Kamdhenu Jhajar Kotli police apprehended one another notorious bovine smuggler from Jhajar Kotli area & booked him under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA).

Pertinent to mentioned here that 04 PSA slapped against Bovine Smugglers and 01 booked under PIT NDPS Act in the year 2024 and during the current year 05 PSA warrants executed against bovine smugglers in Sub-division Nagrota shows the commitment of Jammu Police towards ensuring the peace and harmony in Jammu area.

The detail of PSA detenu is as under Mohd Kaleem S/O Yousaf Mohd R/O Village Tarah Tehsil Dansal and District Jammu. Following his repeated engagement in criminal/bovine smuggling activities due to which the sentiments of particular community have been hurt badly. Multiple FIR's have been registered against the accused for indulging in bovine smuggling. The warrant of said accused executed by PSI Tanveer Sharma of P/S Jhajar Kotli. The relentless efforts of SHO P/S Jhajar Kotli, SDPO Nagrota under the close supervision of SP Rural Jammu resulted in execution of this warrant. The support from District administration in this regards is exemplary.

Two bovine lifters arrested, stolen cow recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting swiftly on a complaint of cow theft, Police Station Bishnah arrested two persons involved in the incident and recovered the stolen bovine.

On 24/08/2025, a written complaint was lodged by Harshdeep of Chak Chimna regarding theft of his cow. Accordingly, FIR No. 88/2025 was registered and investigation was entrusted to PSI Darshan Singh.

A special team, constituted under the supervision of SHO Police Station Bishnah, Inspector Rakesh Singh conducted raids and arrested the accused persons: 1. Altaf Hussain @ Bue, S/o Ibrahim, R/o Kheri Bishnah & 2. Rehman Ali @ Remu, S/o Gamm, R/o Kheri Bishnah

During the course of investigation, the stolen cow was recovered from Kheri and handed over to its rightful owner. Further investigation is underway.

Drug peddler held in Pulwama, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession in Pulwama district on Saturday, officials said.

A team of Awantipora police station arrested a suspected drug peddler Shakeel Ahmad Lone, a resident of Lethpora at a checkpoint., a police spokesperson said.

They recovered 2.9 grams of heroin-like substance from his possession, he said. A case has been registered and investigation has been initiated, he added.

SPO dies after falling into stream in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: A 47-year-old special police officer (SPO) died after falling into a stream from a hillock in Ramban district early Saturday, officials said.

According to officials, SPO Snatter Singh lost his balance after being hit by a shooting stone and fell down into the stream, some 200 feet from his minority post, at his Laroo village in Ramsu area. His colleagues along with locals rushed to the scene and after several hours of search, recovered his body which was later handed over to his family for last rites. The post was set up in the area more than two decades ago for the protection of the minority community, the officials said.