

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM reviews preparations...

sustainability, he called for efforts to secure a title sponsor for the mega event to ensure financial viability and greater brand visibility.

Taking into account the Delhi Marathon and Diwali festivities, Omar Abdullah instructed that the Kashmir Marathon-2025 be scheduled on November 2 (Sunday), 2025, instead of the earlier proposed 19 October date.

Director Tourism Kashmir briefed about the scale and structure of the event. The second edition will feature Full Marathon (42.19 km), Half Marathon (21.09 km), and a 10 km Run, covering iconic locations of Srinagar including Poloview, Rajbagh, Lal Chowk, TRC, Nishat Garden, and SKICC, offering participants the breathtaking autumn backdrops of Kashmir.

The event will be supported by a professional event management agency, responsible for logistics, branding, athlete facilities, and post-event management.

The marathon will also be featuring a Marathon Expo and a Gala Cultural evening, aimed at engaging athletes, tourists, and locals, while showcasing Kashmiri art, culture, and traditions.

Importantly, the event is being aligned with eco-friendly practices. The marathon will encourage youth involvement through school-level activities and fun runs, while NGOs and local volunteers will be engaged as "eco-volunteers" for route clean-ups and sustainability initiatives.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched the promotional video of Kashmir Marathon-2025 and was presented with his participation certificate from last year's edition, in which he himself successfully completed the half marathon.

Reiterating his government's commitment, Omar Abdullah said the Kashmir Marathon will be positioned as a world-class sporting spectacle that celebrates the Valley's scenic beauty, promotes tourism, and fosters a spirit of health, wellness, and community togetherness.

Omar reviews AIIMS...

of executing agency NCC Ltd, inspected the site and took a detailed review of the project.

Reviewing the status of infrastructure development, procurement of machinery, workforce mobilization and allied works, the Chief Minister stressed that strict adherence to timelines is critical for commissioning this prestigious project. He directed the executing agency to expedite all pending works and ensure their completion within fixed deadlines.

Omar Abdullah emphasized that AIIMS Awantipora must be commissioned as a single integrated unit, with both OPD and IPD services made operational simultaneously for the benefit of the general public.

To facilitate this, he instructed the executing agency to fortnightly review status of the progress of works.

The Chief Minister also called upon the executing agency to mobilize additional manpower and machinery to accelerate the pace of work. He reviewed in detail the physical and financial progress of the project, including the construction of the main hospital building, priority building works, approach road, water supply, final master plan, routes to emergency department and other allied facilities.

He further impressed upon them the need to ensure proper stabilization of the surrounding areas, especially in view of the recent heavy rainfall and the institution's location on hilly terrain.

Earlier, Executive Director AIIMS, Dr. Mohanty, briefed the meeting on the progress achieved so far, informing that MBBS courses are scheduled to commence in July 2026, while OPD and allied services are expected to become functional early next year, with the institution fully operational by the end of the same year.

Later, the Chief Minister inspected the site, the premises and perused master plan of the institution.

Pak intruder arrested...

in Bhalwal tehsil of Punjab province in Pakistan, was seen crossing the border and aggressively approaching the border fence in Suchetgarh tehsil at 9.10 pm on Sunday, the BSF said in a statement issued here.

The intruder was warned by the alert troops but he paid no heed. Sensing a threat, the troops fired at him and later took him into custody, it said.

According to the BSF, two Pakistani currency notes of Rs 20 and 10 were recovered from the possession of the intruder, who has been handed over to police.

"A protest is being lodged with the (Pakistani) counterparts," the BSF said.

The force has intensified vigil all along the IB in the Jammu frontier following damage to border fencing and posts at various places due to the recent flash floods.

Special train on...

to Sangaldan railway station in Ramban, aimed at ferrying hundreds of people stranded in Jammu and Ramban belts due to the highway closure, besides facilitating students, and employees between these areas.

The train track distance between Katra and Sangaldan is 63 km and commuters will be charged only Rs 20.

The two local passenger trains will connect twin stations via Reasi, Bakkal, and Dugga stations, and back, from September 8 to September 12, a railway official said.

"On the request of the administration, the Railways Board decided to run the train service for five days to facilitate stranded passengers, patients with health issues, and others in the area. So the first train left Katra for Sangaldan at 8:40 am," a senior railway official said.

He said on the first day, 464 passengers departed from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi station for Sangaldan railway station, where where train will return at 2 PM.

With roads blocked due to landslides, this five-coach train offers a much-needed lifeline for locals and pilgrims. A large number of passengers have been stranded in Reasi, Jammu, Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar districts due to the closure of highways and roads.

"We thank the railways and administration for running the trains to facilitate our journey home. We were stranded in Jammu for nine days. The highway was closed. Today, we are happy to leave for home in Sangaldan," Rafi Mohammad, a local travelling by the train, said.

Similarly, Zeenat Begum, who was stranded after her surgery in Jammu for over one week, is happy to return home to Banihal. "We are very happy. We thank the railways. It is a great relief for us," she said.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh appreciated the move by the railways, and said on X, "In the absence of road connectivity beyond Udhampur, arrangements have been made to carry essentials via the newly introduced Special Local Passenger Train from Katra to Ramban Sangaldan."

He added that these essentials can thereafter be transported by road to the Doda and Kishtwar districts.

Singh said the weather seems clear, and highway authorities are working round-the-clock to clear the national highway blockade at Thard and Bali Nallah. "Hopefully by late evening, it may be possible to allow traffic movement," he said.

Normal train traffic has been disrupted in Jammu and Kashmir since August 26 after heavy rains and flash floods in the Union Territory. So far, Northern Railway has announced the restoration of 21 trains.

Restoration work on...

assist in clearing further hindrances, officials mentioned further.

"This has been a considerable challenge. However, the road is beginning to clear, and we expect the blocked highway to be opened for traffic soon," officials noted.

Despite these efforts, intermittent rainfall hindered the NHAI's work to restore traffic on the landslide-affected 250-meter Thard stretch on Sunday. While most landslides, mudslides, and debris in Ramban and Udhampur have been cleared, the Thard area remains buried under a hill following the washing away of parts of the highway.

AAP MLA Mehraj...

region. This intimation is being submitted for your kind information and record, as required," the DM's letter to LAS Speaker further added.

The J&K unit of the BJP has welcomed the detention of AAP legislator Mehraj Malik under PSA.

"Some fragile elements have entered politics and are indulging in using abusive and unparliamentary language against the general public and public functionaries. These elements not only cause damage to the social fabric of the nation but also to public sentiments," BJP spokesperson Parimoksh Seth said in a statement.

He said Malik, who is the president of AAP's J&K unit, is a "habitual trouble maker" and has indulged in misbehaviour with doctors and other officials in the past.

His party has failed to take action against him, the BJP leader said, adding it appears that his party, including its convenor and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, support his activities.

"It is high time to deal with all such elements in accordance with the law so that public confidence is upheld in the administration," he said.

Meanwhile, in an official communiqué, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Secretariat informed that "It has been highlighted/reported in some media reports, social media Platforms, X (formerly Twitter) that the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Secretariat has endorsed the slapping of provisions of Public Safety Act 1978 on Mehraj Malik, MLA (52-Doda Assembly Constituency) which is factually

incorrect and baseless as the Secretariat has no role in it."

It further reads that, "However, this Secretariat was under an obligation in terms of Rule 260 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to inform all the Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly about the aforesaid Arrest/detention of the Member."

The Assembly Secretariat clarified that, Rule 260 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly reads as "As soon as may be, the Speaker Shall, after he has received a communication referred to in Rule 258 or Rule 259 read it out in the House, if in Session or if the House is not in Session direct, that it may be Published in the Bulletin for the information of the Members."

Meanwhile, today late evening Mehraj Malik was shifted to Kathua jail.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed his displeasure over Public Safety Act (PSA) slapped on MLA Doda Mehraj Malik, saying there was no justification for detaining him.

He said Malik was not a threat to "public safety", and using this "discredited" law to detain him was wrong. Taking to micro-blogging site X, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said: "There is no justification for detaining Mehraj Malik under PSA. He's not a threat to "public safety" & using this discredited law to detain him is wrong." "If the unelected government can use its powers against an elected representative like this then how does anyone expect the people of J&K to continue to have faith in democracy," he added on X.

Surjeet Singh, Parbhari BJP Minority Morecha (BJPMM) District Jammu, has strongly condemned the objectionable language used by MLA Doda Mehraj Malik against Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh.

In a statement issued here today, Surjeet Singh said that the words used by the MLA were cheap and highly condemnable, and such behaviour is unacceptable from a public representative.

He asserted that leaders are expected to maintain dignity and respect in public life, and such incidents not only tarnish the image of the institution of democracy but also hurt the sentiments of civil society.

"Every responsible and cultured citizen of society strongly condemns this incident. We demand strict action against the MLA so that such behaviour is not repeated in future. A public representative should be an example of discipline and humility, not of arrogance and disrespect," Singh remarked.

IIM Jammu signs MoU...

ceremony was attended by Inman Mehmood, FA/CAO, JKTPO; Naser Ali, Joint Director, M&P, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Jammu; Sourabh Sharma,



General Manager, JKTPO and Vishal Ray, Faculty, JKTPO. Also present were senior faculty members of IIM Jammu, including Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research; Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy; Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Media and Publication Division; Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy; Prof. Pranab Ranjan Das, Chairperson, SBDU; Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Associate Professor; Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Associate Professorand Cmdr. Kesavan Baskkaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, IIM Jammu Prof. B. S. Sahay remarked that hosting the PMU at IIM Jammu will enable a strong knowledge-driven and research-based framework to address real-world challenges faced by MSMEs. He underscored that this collaboration aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, as articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji and reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to nation-building through capacity development, innovation, and entrepreneurship support. He also proposed active involvement of IIM Jammu's students in live projects with industries across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, providing them with valuable hands-on exposure and opportunities to contribute innovative solutions towards the progress and development of the region. This initiative, integrated into the course curriculum and evaluation process, will not only prepare students to become industry-ready professionals but also empower faculty to drive impactful research, consultancy, and knowledge creation in the MSME sector.

Managing Director, JKTPO Sudershan Kumar emphasized JKTPO's role in enhancing global market access for local enterprises through branding, promotion and trade facilitation, particularly for traditional industries such as handicrafts, carpet weaving and horticulture.

Director, Industries & Commerce Jammu Arun Kumar Manhas stated that the MSME Health Clinic will act as a transformative support system, ensuring that small businesses adapt and thrive in a rapidly evolving economic landscape.

Dean, Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu Prof. Jabir Ali stated that this initiative provides a unique opportunity to integrate rigorous academic research with field-level interventions for MSME development. He emphasized that insights generated from this program will not only help rehabilitate distressed units but also contribute toward policy design and knowledge creation in the MSME sector.

The Jammu & Kashmir MSME Health Clinic will serve as a dedicated institutional mechanism to identify early signs of stress in MSMEs and provide tailored solutions through financial and non-financial interventions. A Project Management Unit (PMU), to be hosted at IIM Jammu, will comprise experts in branding, marketing, finance, technology and strategy, supported by young professionals and data analysts.

The primary objective of establishing the Jammu & Kashmir MSME Health Clinic (JKMHCC) under the RAMP Programme is to create a proactive mechanism for the early identification and prevention of stress in Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs). This initiative aims to provide both financial and non-financial support to MSMEs that exhibit signs of stress and are on the verge of slipping into sickness. It is designed as a preventive measure to address the developmental needs of MSMEs, focusing on diagnostic and clinical support exclusively for enterprises showing early signs of stress.

The program has been structured to run over a two-year duration from FY 2024-25 to FY 2026-27, with a total outlay of ₹30.64 crore. It will cover nearly 959 identified MSMEs across Jammu & Kashmir and will be implemented in three distinct phases. Phase I will focus on diagnostic studies and identification of vulnerable enterprises, Phase II will implement financial and non-financial interventions and Phase III will establish long-term monitoring and sustainability frameworks.

Chugh slams AAP...

possible help," Chugh noted.

He accused the AAP government of failing to form special teams or carry out damage assessment, calling its response chaotic and irresponsible.

"In addition, Prime Minister Modi himself has spoken to Bhagwant Mann, the Home Minister has spoken, and assurances of every possible help have been given," Chugh noted.

He accused the Bhagwant Mann government itself has not even conducted a real assessment of the damage, nor has it formed special teams.

IMCT visits Anantnag...

Jal Shakti; Kandarp V Patel, Deputy Secretary FCD and Rakesh Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development.

In Anantnag, Deputy Commissioner, presented a detailed briefing to the team covering the extent of damages, relief measures undertaken like evacuation of vulnerable families, provision of temporary shelters, restoration of connectivity, and health and sanitation interventions as well as the requirements for long-term rehabilitation.

During the meeting, a comprehensive plan for flood mitigation and resilience-building was also discussed to strengthen long-term disaster preparedness in the district.

The IMCT, along with district officials, thereafter conducted a spot visit to various affected areas to assess damages on the ground, including river embankments, roads, nallahs, and public infrastructure, besides reviewing immediate restoration priorities.

The IMCT, during the visit, highlighted that the Union Government is closely monitoring the situation at the highest levels and will extend full financial and logistical support for relief, rehabilitation, and long-term mitigation measures in Anantnag district.

The IMCT also held a review meeting to assess the damages caused by recent floods and incessant rainfall across district Shopian as well as relief and rehabilitation measures carried out by district administration.

Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta, presented a detailed assessment of damages suffered in Shopian district before the IMCT members which included senior officers from NDMA, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Jal Shakti, MoRTH, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Power and Finance.

During the meeting, DC Shopian gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the disaster preparedness framework. He informed the team that Shopian, spread over seven tehsils, although comparatively less vulnerable to floods than other districts,

has suffered damages to public infrastructure including Roads, Bridges, Water Supply Schemes, Power assets and standing crops and houses of lower riparian villages in Zainapora sub division.

DC Shopian also briefed on immediate restoration of services which were disrupted during floods and relief and rescue measures carried out in the district.

DC Shopian informed the IMCT that in Shopian district, 2 out of 6 major 33 KV lines,16 feeders,13 transformers and 19 electric poles were affected and have been restored; 55 out of 92 drinking water supply schemes were impacted and all have been restored, 25 roads were damaged of which 24 stand restored and 1 is under restoration besides PMGSY road length of about 860 metres was damaged.

The DC also apprised the IMCT that Mughal Road at KM 24 witnessed severe damage due to sliding and efforts are on to keep it open 24*7.

It was further informed that 28 villages in low lying areas covering 4284 hectares with a population of 17,200 were impacted, 4 villages namely Hydergund, Zainapora, Melahura/Wandina and Reshipora were directly hit, 21 shelter sheds were established, 129 families evacuated and 644 persons rescued.

The DC also briefed that 11 residential houses have been damaged while crop and orchard losses are being assessed.

The DC informed the team that Shopian administration has already initiated both short-term restoration measures and long-term resilience planning. He added that protective and restoration works like crate bunds, embankments and flood protection measures have been initiated at Hydergund, Zainapora, Safanagri and other vulnerable spots.

At Kulgam, the team took stock of relief, rehabilitation and restoration measures in the aftermath of recent floods in the district.

The team took detailed assessment and review of damages caused by recent floods, cloudbursts, and landslides in the district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; Senior officers of district administration and engineers from key departments like PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, Irrigation & Flood Control, KPDCL, PMGSY, and senior officers of Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, FSC, and Revenue departments.

CS meets IMCT...

with vast stretch of paddy fields and apple orchards bearing the brunt.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary made a strong pitch for immediate central assistance to restore vital infrastructure such as power supply lines, water supply schemes, schools, roads, bridges and other public utilities. He underscored the need of a comprehensive safety audit of critical public infrastructure, particularly schools, healthcare facilities, bridges and roads, to ensure their resilience for their utility for continuous public use.

The Chief Secretary also sought special relief for farmers whose crops or agricultural lands were damaged due to the floods. He proposed that the Central Government bear the farmers' share of premium too under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) so that the affected growers can avail insurance cover for their crop losses.

Highlighting the issue of connectivity, he pressed for immediate directives to central road agencies to undertake swift restoration of damaged roads and support new connectivity projects in flood-hit districts that remain cut off.

Special Crime Wing...

competent court, with the assistance of a Duty Magistrate and local police.

Police said that the case was initially registered at Police Station Ganderbal but later transferred to the Special Crime Wing (Crime Branch) Srinagar for investigation by the Police Headquarters J&K. Further investigation is underway.

LG calls for...

released NIRF-2025 Rankings. While on one hand these rankings should be seen as a revolution, a transformation in the higher education landscape of Jammu Kashmir, on the other, we should critically evaluate our rankings and go back to the drawing board to set new goals," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the process of change in the campus should continue uninterrupted so that the students remain determined, eager to learn and do something new and have the passion to face the future challenges.

"Real world experience bridges the gap between theory and application. Classroom must be transformed into a thinking room, a room full of curiosity and creativity. Experience-based, interdisciplinary, life-skills & project-based education should be our focus to prepare youth for the unpredictable world," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Alumni of the University of Jammu and called upon them to make their valuable contribution to the progress of the University.

NSS and NCC Volunteers, retired teaching and non-teaching staff of the Jammu University were also felicitated on the occasion.

Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (Northern Region Transmission System - II) handed over Light & Sound System to Prof. Umesh Rai , Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The cost of this infrastructure is around Rs 13 lakhs.

"This CSR effort of POWERGRID will augment the safety and security infrastructure of the Jammu University campus. It will not only support emergency response measures but also ensure better crowd management and improved communication during various events and activities on campus. This infrastructure will enhance the university's ability to conduct lec-tures, cultural events, and public gatherings with improved clarity and coordination, while also strengthening campus safety through smart illumination," Tarun Bajaj said. The energy-efficient lighting contributes to sustainability by reducing power consumption and operational costs, directly benefiting over 3,500 students and extending its impact to learners across Jammu District and neighboring regions, he said adding that by upgrading essential infrastructure, POWERGRID continues to empower institutions and foster inclusive growth, lighting the way toward a more secure, efficient, and inspiring learning environment. On this occasion VC Jammu thanked POWERGRID for taking up this CSR initiative for pro-viding this infrastructure which will benefit the University. Justice Tashi Rabstan, former Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director, POWERGRID; Dr. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Prof. J.P Singh, Dean Academic Affairs; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, distinguished alumnus, faculty, staff and students of Jammu University were present.

Highlights...

and help the district administration in relief, rehabilitation of families affected due to recent natural calamities in the UT. It is our shared responsibility to protect Mother Earth and promote culture of environmental awareness at all levels of society.

Cong leader Dina...

in the day. Bhagat won the Chenani assembly seat on a BJP ticket in the 2014 Jammu and Kashmir elections. He resigned from the party in November 2020, accusing it of being "anti-Dali". After a brief stint with the National Panthers Party, he joined the Congress in January 2022. J&K Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma expressed grief over Bhagat's death. Bhagat was very active in politics and social life, Sharma said.

HC donates over Rs 54 lakh to CM's Relief Fund

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a gesture of solidarity and compassion, the High Court on Monday handed over a cheque of Rs. 54,40,500/- to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the rehabilitation and welfare of those who have suffered due to recent devastating floods in the region. The Judiciary took this noble step with an aim to support the people affected by the recent devastating floods in the region.

The cheque was formally presented to the Chief Minister, with an assurance that the contribution, though modest, reflects the heartfelt support of the entire judicial fraternity.

Collective action, the Court emphasized, is essential to rebuild lives and restore normalcy in the flood-ravaged areas. The contribution symbolizes the concern and commitment of the institution towards the larger cause of public welfare. The floods, which left many families displaced and caused significant damage to property and livelihood, have deeply impacted the socio-economic fabric of the Union Territory. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the High Court has expressed its empathy with the affected families and assured that every possible effort will be made to stand by them in this hour of distress. This gesture from the Judiciary of the J&K and Ladakh not only highlights the spirit of compassion but also reinforces the message that during times of adversity, unity and shared responsibility can help overcome the greatest challenges.

