

INBRIEF

SC quashes FIRs against CJP; march ‘called off’

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed all FIRs registered against students who participated in the Cockroach Janta Party-led protests across the country between July 20 and 25, prompting the group to call off its September 5 march in the national capital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant also directed the Centre to provide within three months compensation to families of students who ended their lives over the NEET paper leak.

Closing the **► P11**

Nepal flood death toll “crossed” 1,000 mark

KATHMANDU: The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal rose to 1,003 on Tuesday, with security forces recovering more bodies from eight districts of the country, officials said.

Rescuers struggled to trace those stranded amid intermittent rainfall and a fresh flood alert as water levels rose in rivers across eastern, central and western Nepal.

Around 4,000 people, including 583 foreigners and several security personnel, still remain missing, while nearly **► P11**

India projects 13 outcomes from SCO Summit SCO must confront countries using terrorism as state policy tool: Modi



BISHKEK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to confront countries using terrorism as an instrument of state policy and reject “double standards” in the collective fight against terror financing and recruitment, remarks widely viewed as a direct swipe at

Pakistan.

In the presence of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chinese President Xi Jinping and many other global leaders, Modi said that “we cannot remain confined to an action-reaction approach” in the fight against terrorism as terrorist activities continued to pose a serious **► P11**

PM credits people for 7.8 percent GDP growth

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday applauded the country’s people for the 7.8 per cent GDP growth rate, calling the feat particularly impressive, coming against the backdrop of global turmoil, geopolitical conflicts, and supply chain disruptions.

In a video message on Instagram, the prime minister also **► P11**

137 JKAS officers shifted in Admin

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday ordered the transfer of 137 officers, including Sports Council secretary Nuzhat Gul, as it carried out a major rejig of middle-rung bureaucracy.

“In the interest of administration, Nuzhat Gul, secretary, J&K Sports Council, is transferred and posted as secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Development of kisans, with immediate effect,” an order issued by the General Administration Department said.

It said the officer shall be deemed to have been relieved immediately **► P11**

Sinha reviews security scenario in J-K Maintain pressure on terror networks, emerging digital threats: LG to officials

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting with senior officials and assessed the security apparatus and strategic preparedness across the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department; S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Dr Mandeep K. Bhan-



dari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; M.K. Sinha, ADGP, CID; Sujit Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Tejinder Singh, IGP Jammu; Sarah Rizvi, IGP, Crime

Branch; Divisional Commissioners; DIGs and other senior officials.

The Lieutenant Governor instructed the senior officials to maintain sustained

pressure on terror networks and enhance ground-level operational synergy, calling for an aggressive area domination strategy to decisively eliminate emerging **► P11**

IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar calls on CM Omar interacts with deputations, newly inducted IAS officers of J-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday met several officers, deputations and other individuals at the Civil Secretariat here.

A group of newly inducted IAS officers, including Babila Rakhwal, Shabnam Shah Kamili, Rachna Sharma, Leena Padha, Rajinder Singh Tara, Munir ul Islam, Sajjad Hussain Gani, Anoo Malhotra, Nitu Gupta, Prediman Krishan Bhat, Bhawani Rakhwal and Anuradha Gupta made



a courtesy call and met the Chief Minister. The officers were recently inducted into the Indian Administrative Service.

The Chief Minister con-

gratulated the officers on their induction into the country’s premier civil service and wished them a successful tenure. He expressed hope **► P11**

CM revamps J&K CTMFP

SRINAGAR: In a major leap forward for public healthcare and social welfare, the Chief Minister led government has announced a comprehensive overhaul of the landmark Cancer Treatment & Management Fund for Poor (CTMFP) to ease the out-of-pocket financial burden on poor and vulnerable **► P11**

SC asks states to consider 62 years retirement age of Judicial Officers

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked all states and Union territories to consider enhancing the age of superannuation of judicial officers in the district judiciary to 62 years.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said that enhancing the age of retirement would not create an additional financial burden on states as they are already in service.

Rejecting the submissions against the **► P11**

Citizens’ Cooperative Bank Crisis: Save The Institution, Fix The Accountability



The restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on The Citizens’ Co-operative Bank Ltd. (CCBL), Jammu, should concern us for reasons extending far beyond one bank.

There are depositors whose savings are affected. There are shareholders who collectively own the cooperative institu-

“If J&K Could Recapitalise Three Distressed Cooperative Banks, Why Should Jammu’s Citizens’ Cooperative Bank Not Get a Transparent Revival Assessment?”

tive Bank be revived, and has every reasonable possibility of revival actually been examined?

For Jammu & Kashmir, that question assumes particular significance because the Union Territory already has a major precedent for government-supported reconstruction of distressed cooperative banks.

Three District Central Cooperative Banks — Jammu Central Cooperative Bank, Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank and Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank — were provided a combined recapitalisation package of

The financial condition of some of these institutions was extremely serious.

Around March 2021, available government data indicated Gross NPA ratios of approximately:

Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank — 17%; Jammu Central Cooperative Bank — 38%; and Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank — an extraordinary 59%

Against this background, CCBL’s reported Gross NPA position of approximately ₹18.38 crore, or 21.26% of advances as of December 2025, deserves careful examina-

Bank	J&K share	GoI/NABARD share	Total
Jammu Central Cooperative Bank	₹111.28 cr	₹68.86 cr	₹180.14 cr
Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank	₹88.07 cr	₹32.22 cr	₹120.29 cr
Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank	₹56.36 cr	₹10.14 cr	₹66.50 cr
Total	₹255.71 cr	₹111.22 cr	₹366.93 cr

tion. There are employees whose future is connected with it. And there is the larger question of public confidence in Jammu and Kashmir’s cooperative movement.

RBI has acted as a banking regulator and its concerns cannot simply be dismissed. If there are weaknesses in liquidity, capital, asset quality, governance or compliance, the regulator is duty-bound to protect depositors.

But regulation answers only one part of the question. The other question is one of public policy: Can Citizens’ Coopera-

approximately ₹366.93 crore.

The distribution was substantial:

The purpose of the exercise was not to reward successful banks. It was precisely the opposite.

These institutions required intervention because their financial condition had deteriorated and they needed recapitalisation and restructuring to move towards regulatory viability.

That distinction is fundamental to the present CCBL debate.

SOME OF THE RESCUED BANKS HAD EVEN HIGHER NPAs

Twenty-one per cent Gross NPA is undoubtedly serious.

But the experience of the three DCCBs demonstrates something important:

A high NPA ratio did not, by itself, cause the Government to abandon a cooperative bank.

Baramulla DCCB, despite an NPA ratio reportedly approaching 59%, was provided a reconstruction opportunity.

Jammu Central Cooperative Bank received approximately ₹180.14 crore; Anantnag received approximately ₹120.29 crore; Baramulla **► P11**

Rajesh Gupta seeks ‘rescue plan’ for crisis-hit Citizens’ Cooperative Bank

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Rajesh Gupta, President Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UTs,) has raised concerns over the future of the Citizens’ Co-operative Bank Ltd., Jammu, its employees, depositors and business account holders following the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI’s) decision to impose comprehensive operational restrictions on the bank, while questioning whether adequate support and intervention had been extended by the Cooperative Department and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

In a statement, Rajesh Gupta said that the RBI,



through directions issued on August 25, 2026, imposed restrictions on the bank with effect from the close of business on August 27 for a period of six months, subject to review.

Under the RBI directions, the bank has been barred, without prior written approval, from grant-

ing or renewing loans and advances, making investments, accepting fresh deposits, incurring fresh liabilities and undertaking several categories of payments or disposal of assets. The RBI has also fixed a withdrawal ceiling of ₹1.25 lakh per depositor, while permitting essential day-to-day expenditure such as salaries, rent and electricity charges.

The RBI action, according to the statement, followed concerns over the bank’s liquidity position and the absence of adequate corrective measures despite prolonged supervisory engagement.

Gupta said that the bank had already **► P11**

POLITICS OF GHERAO NC to protest at BJP HQ, Oppn party to hold demonstration at Secretariat

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is set to witness the politics of gherao on Wednesday as both the ruling National Conference and the BJP have decided to hold protests over various issues.

While the NC said it will gherao the BJP headquarters in Jammu and Srinagar over statehood issue, the BJP plans to gherao the civil secretariat here over the Omar Abdullah government’s alleged failure to fulfil its electoral promises.

The NC announced that it will gherao the opposition BJP headquarters in Jammu and Srinagar, demanding accountability for the promises the Union government made in Parliament and the Supreme Court regarding the restoration of

statehood.

The NC’s protest announcement comes in response to the BJP’s secretariat gherao plan for Wednesday to protest against the alleged failure of the Omar Abdullah government to deliver on the promises made by it during the election campaign in 2024.

The principal opposition party in Jammu and Kashmir had originally planned its secretariat gherao on July 20 but postponed it due to NC holding a peaceful sit-in at Jantar Mantar in Delhi to press for restoration of statehood to J&K.

A BJP spokesperson said the youth of J&K are asking questions which the NC government must answer.

“On September 2, we shall raise the concerns over alleged backdoor

appointments, job outsourcing, unemployment, corruption and unfulfilled commitments outside the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar,” he said.

The spokesperson said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir deserve jobs and transparency in the appointments.

In a post on X, the NC said, “The National Conference will peacefully gherao the BJP headquarters in Srinagar and Jammu tomorrow, demanding accountability for the promises made by the Union Government in Parliament and before the Supreme Court of India.”

“Our demands are clear: Constitutional guarantees, restoration of statehood, clearance of the reservation file, and justice for the people of J&K. The **► P11**

J&K Assembly goes paperless with NeVA Portal from Autumn Session

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has directed all administrative departments to transition all legislative work to the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) portal ahead of the Assembly’s upcoming Autumn Session starting September 21.

Under a circular issued by the Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, government bills, legislative proposals, assembly questions from MLAs, and official replies will now be submitted, tracked, and processed digitally to ensure completely paperless functioning.

To facilitate a smooth rollout, departments have been instructed to access their accounts daily, appoint dedicated NeVA nodal officers, and verify all dig-



ital submissions before the session begins.

The circular states that questions submitted by MLAs have already been forwarded to the concerned departments, and login credentials for departmental access to the NeVA portal have been created. “All Administrative Departments are, therefore, requested to access their respective NeVA login accounts on a daily basis and ensure that Legislative Business con-

cerning their departments, including Government Bills, legislative proposals and amendments, replies to Assembly Questions, assurances, notices, references and other related documents, is submitted, received and processed through the NeVA Portal in accordance with the prescribed procedure and timelines,” it reads.

The government departments have been directed to upload **► P11**

ACB detains two police officers for taking bribe

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested two police officers here for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15000.

According to the ACB, a written complaint was lodged, alleging that PSI Karanjeet Singh, who was investigating an FIR at the Ram Munshi Bagh police station, demanded an illegal gratification of Rs 15000 for closing the case as “not admitted”.

Singh allegedly asked for the bribe through Sub Inspector Ravi Jee Bhat.

“On receipt of the complaint, the ACB conducted verification of the allegations, which prima facie established the demand for illegal gratification.

Accordingly, Case FIR No. 12/2026 under Section 7, Section 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 & Section 61(2) BNS was registered at police station ACB Srinagar and an investigation was taken up,” the ACB said.

It said that during the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted which allegedly caught the accused Bhat red-handed while accepting the bribe of Rs 15000 on Singh’s behalf from the complainant.

“The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the accused in the presence of independent witnesses and he was taken into custody in accordance with law, and his co-conspirator PSI Karanjeet Singh was subsequently arrested by the bureau,” the agency said.