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7 of family among 11 devoured by landslides in Reasi, Ramban vil-lages

(55) was missing. Rescuers were searching for her till late in the evening but were yet to find any trace of hers. Meanwhile, a massive landslide hit the Khuni Nallah area of Ramban, blocking the flow of the Bichalri river. A video of the landslide went viral on social media. "Authorities are monitoring the situation closely, but the risk remains high," officials said.

The record rainfall has left a trail of devastation in Jammu region, with hundreds of properties damaged and dozens of roads and bridges washed away.

Due to massive floods, the 4th bridge on Tawi river in Jammu city and a bridge on Devak river on the Jammu-Kathua stretch of the National Highway near AIIMS, Vijaypur, were also damaged.

Large tracks of farmland & low-lying areas were inundated in the rain waters. Several city & village roads, and streets had turned into waterways, causing traffic jams and water entering homes.

The heavy downpour triggered a massive landslide near Interprastha Bhojnalaya at Adhkunwari, where several pilgrims had gathered, at about 3 pm on August 26, resulting in the death of at least 35 pilgrims. Several were rescued and admitted to hospital.

Moderate to heavy rains likely

Samba and Udhampur, with rains expected between 4 am and 11 am.

Authorities have warned of the possibility of cloudbursts, flashfloods and landslides, urging people to stay alert. For any emergency, residents have been advised to dial 112.

Meanwhile, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which was closed due to landslides at multiple places and caving in of 60 mt stretch near Udhampur, was today thrown open to vehicular traffic after four days.

More than 2,000 vehicles were said to be stranded on the highway since the August 26 rainfall, which triggered landslides in hilly areas & flooded low-lying areas, leaving a trail of death & destruction in Jammu region.

After the clearing of landslides by the authorities concerned, stranded vehicles were allowed to move on both sides in a regulated manner, officials said.

Efforts were on to ensure early reopening of the highway for normal traffic, the officials added.

Vaishno Devi yatra remains suspended for 5th day

Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, which manages the yatra, keeping in view the safety of pilgrims.

"Inclement weather conditions still persist, so a decision has been taken to continue the suspension of the yatra," an official said.

The death toll, which stood at seven on the day of the tragedy, mounted to 35 the next day, with the rescuers pulling out 28 more bodies from under the debris.

The incident had occurred 12 days after the deadly August 14 Chisoti cloudburst that left 65 dead. Scores were still missing there.

JE (civil) exam postponed

rescheduled for September 7, 2025, is hereby postponed due to prevailing weather conditions."

The fresh date of the said examination would be notified separately in due course of time, it says further.

LG takes stock of rescue, relief operations in Reasi, Ramban distts

tance to the affected families.

"Anguished by the cloudburst and rain-triggered landslides in Reasi and Ramban districts. Condolences to the bereaved families. Spoke to senior officials and took stock of the situation. Rescue and relief operations are underway. All possible assistance is being provided to the affected," the LG said in a post on X.

Modi lands in China; all eyes on his talks with Prez Xi

Indian classical music and dance.

The prime minister is also expected to hold bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and a number of other leaders on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

Ahead of his trip to Tianjin, Modi said it was important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order.

In an interview with Japan's The Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi said stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

"Given the current volatility in the world economy, it is also important for India and China, as two major economies, to work together to bring stability to the world economic order," Modi said in the interview published on Friday.

Modi's trip to China comes less than a fortnight after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India.

Following Wang's wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the two sides unveiled a series of measures for a "stable, cooperative and forward-looking" relationship between the two sides.

The measures included joint maintenance of peace along the contested frontier, reopening border trade and resuming direct flight services at the earliest.

In the last few months, both sides have initiated a series of measures to reset their ties that came under severe strain following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

The prime minister last visited China in June, 2018 to attend the SCO summit. Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India in October 2019 for the second "informal summit".

The eastern Ladakh face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised on October 21 last year.

Spl trains to ferry stranded passengers

stranded passengers.

"To facilitate the movement of stranded passengers, the railways have decided to run two reserved special trains from Jammu today," PRO Railways, Jammu division, said.

He informed that the first train, Jammu Tawi-Dr Ambedkar Nagar reserved special, will depart at 3 pm, while another train, Jammu Tawi-Chhapra reserved special, will depart at 5 pm.

The first train has 700 reserved seats vacant, while the second has 900 reserved seats vacant.

On Thursday, Northern Railways operated two special

unreserved trains from Jammu station, carrying around 3,000 stranded passengers to their destinations following unprecedented monsoon havoc in the Union Territory.

Referring to multiple queries about the status of Katra-Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat trains, the PRO said that services are normal on this route.

"Passengers stranded due to landslides and cloudbursts can use these services between Katra-Srinagar-Katra," he said.

Scores of people, especially pilgrims, were stranded as heavy rains lashed the Jammu region since August 26, severely disrupting rail and road traffic. A landslide that struck near the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra claimed 34 lives. The Jammu region recorded its heaviest rainfall since 1910, at 380 mm by Wednesday.

The Northern Railways has cancelled 46 incoming and outgoing trains from Jammu, Katra and Udhampur railway stations on Saturday.

Train traffic has remained suspended for the past five days following heavy rains and flash floods in the Jammu region on Tuesday.

With suspension of rail traffic between Kathua and Udhampur due to misalignment and breaches at multiple locations, trains are being cancelled, an official said.

A list of cancelled trains released by the PRO, Railways Jammu division, also includes five trains with short-origin and short-termination arrangements.

Azad grieved over Ramban, Reasi tragedies

"These tragedies have caused unbearable pain to the affected families. My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families and I pray for the safety of those still missing," he said and added as more rainfall had been predicted in the coming days, people in vulnerable areas must remain alert and cautious.

Azad urged the government to make proper arrangements for the victims and stressed the need for immediate relief and assistance to the flood-affected families in Jammu region.

He also lauded Army, police and SDRF for their timely efforts in rescuing people and for constructing a Bailey bridge in Jammu to restore connectivity amid the crisis. He said their service and dedication in these testing times deserved high appreciation.

As Jammu faces water crisis, govt restrains operations of pvt tankers

danger to public health and safety. Therefore, in exercise of the powers vested in me under the said provision and in the interest of public health & safety, I, Rakesh Minhas, district magistrate, Jammu, hereby restrain all private water tankers operating within the territorial jurisdiction of the district from independently supplying or selling water to any household/commercial establishment, with immediate effect," says the order.

"All such private water tankers are requisitioned by the district administration and placed at the disposal of Jal Shakti department, Jammu, for regulated and equitable water distribution," it adds.

"All private tankers, operating within JMC municipal limits, shall report, along with drivers to Company Bagh AEE Vineet Nanda immediately upon issuance of this order. Those operating outside the municipal limits shall report immediately to Kulwant Singh Chib, Xen, mechanical (rural division), Jammu, upon issuance of this order. The fuel charges for the requisitioned tankers shall be borne by the district administration/JMC/Jal Shakti departments," the order says.

The private borewells drilled in Jammu district were also requisitioned for filling of tankers and placed at the disposal of Jal Shakti (PHE) department, Jammu, with immediate effect.

All the SDMs of Jammu district were directed to provide a list of minimum 25 borewell filling stations which had been requisitioned within their respective jurisdictions to the technical officer to Superintendent Engineer, PHE (Urban Circle), Jammu, AEE Harpreet Singh immediately upon issuance of this order and not later than 6 pm on Saturday. The SDMs were also directed to identify within their respective jurisdictions individuals/establishments running private tankers and to immediately handover the same to Jal Shakti (PHE) department, Jammu.

The SSP traffic (Jammu city) was directed to impound the private tankers found plying without duty slip issued by the Jal Shakti (PHE) department, Jammu, in violation of this order.

All SDMS, concerned Xens, tehsildars and SHOS were directed to ensure strict enforcement of the order within their jurisdictions.

Any person, firm, or agency found violating this order shall be liable for penal action under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and other applicable laws, says the order.

The order was issued ex-parte in view of the emergent situation and in the larger public interest. It would remain operational till further orders.

Rajnath pushes for indigenous security systems

border in case of any future military confrontation between the two countries.

Singh said the shifting geopolitics has also made it clear that external dependency in the field of defence is no longer an option. "In the current situation, self-reliance is essential for both our economy and our security," he said.

"Today, the defence sector is not only the foundation of national security but has also become a pillar in strengthening our economy and securing its future," the defence minister said.

"It is not just about the safety of people, the protection of land, or the defence of borders, but it is also becoming a responsible sector for the protection and security of our entire economy," he said.

The defence minister, at the same time, said self-reliance and indigenisation should not be seen as "protectionism".

"In the defence sector, self-reliance is not an issue of protectionism at all; rather, it is an issue of sovereignty. It is an issue of national autonomy. It is an issue of self-confidence," he said.

J&K will get back statehood soon: Athawale

a time-frame, he said, "I believe it will happen soon."

Talking to reporters, Athawale said, "I think J&K should get back its statehood as soon as possible, and there is a demand for that also."

He said that when the Assembly elections took place in J&K last year, more than 60 per cent voting was recorded

- which was more than many other states in the country.

"I thank the people of J&K for that, for not succumbing to fear. When Union Home Minister Amit Shah abrogated Article 370, he stated that J&K will soon get its statehood back and I think the Government of India can take that decision soon in future," he said.

Responding to a question about the recent floods in the Jammu region, Athawale said the Centre would do everything possible to help and support J&K.

"There have been huge losses in Jammu due to heavy rains and floods. The UT government will do an assessment first and the central government will do everything possible to help and support J&K," Athawale said.

He said India taught Pakistan a lesson through Operation Sindoor after it tried its best to derail the economy in Jammu and Kashmir by Pahalgam attack.

"The way tourism was booming here after the abrogation of Article 370, Pakistan tried its best to derail the economy here by attacking our people and 26 persons were killed. But we have taught Pakistan a lesson through Operation Sindoor and all the terrorists were neutralised. Our government gave them a befitting reply. Now, we want peace, we do not want violence. Pakistan should not send terrorists here and Kashmir as well as Jammu should remain peaceful," he said.

He said India halted Operation Sindoor as it achieved its objective of neutralising terrorists in Pakistan, and it was not stopped because of US President Donald Trump.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission was the destruction of terrorists and their infrastructure, which was achieved through Operation Sindoor.

Less than 50 weapons fired to end conflict: Air Marshal Tiwari

tion Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

The Vice Chief of Air Staff also elaborated on the sequence of events relating to Operation Sindoor and showed certain graphic details of India's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Air Marshal Tiwari said India was not willing to escalate the situation following its strikes on Pakistani terror infrastructure on the early morning of May 7.

"We expected a response and still kept it calibrated, and we engaged only military targets. But when the main attack came on the night of May 9-10, that was the time we decided that we needed to go and send the right message. We hit them pan-front," he said.

"There were targets which were taken out, which were not even taken out during the 1971 war. That is the kind of extent and damage to capability that we had caused to them," he said, adding that the IAF restricted its strikes to only military targets.

The senior IAF officer said the idea behind the strikes was to take out Pakistan's capability and send out the "right message".

He acknowledged that the use of such long-range vectors to hit enemy targets involves risks but the IAF executed the mission with perfection.

"The precision targeting from this range is very very essential as it is very risky because the longer the vector, you feel that there are more chances of collateral (damage)."

"But to the credit of our planners and credit of people who executed the missions, we were able to take out each target precisely. We were able to ensure there was no collateral damage. This is not an easy game," he said. Best video game consoles

"You may have a long-range vector, but the work that goes behind making that vector or that weapon hit a target accurately is actually an effort of the whole team, not only the pilots who fired them. There are a lot of people on the ground who make that happen," he said.

After the strikes at the terror infrastructure, India informed Pakistan that it does not want to escalate the situation and the strikes were aimed at terrorist bases.

But as Pakistan launched a military retaliation, India responded to it very strongly.

'Terrorists' sighted near LoC, ops launched

The operations were underway in Behra Kund, Potha Jungle, Surankote, Peer Tanora, Sangla, Mohalla Lohar Chandimarh, Kandi, Kangra, Keri Galthuta, Mughal Marah Mohalla Muri and Poli Wala Dhok areas of Mendhar, Mankote and Surankote, officials said.

While searches were continuing when reports last came in, forces were yet to find any clue to the whereabouts of the suspects, the officials added.

Civil-Military fusion vital for Ladakh's development, security: LG Kavinder

and the vision of civil society come together to ensure both security and progress," he said while addressing the valedictory session of Civil-Military Fusion Capsule at Shaitan Singh Auditorium, Karu, here.

The LG commended the joint initiative of the defence establishment and the civil administration in organising the interaction programme, describing it as a forward-looking model of teamwork.

"The idea of Civil-Military Fusion is not optional but essential for India's growth, particularly in Ladakh, where the geography is unique, the environment fragile, and the security challenges significant," he said.

He emphasised that the Army in Ladakh has always played a role beyond guarding the borders-acting as the first responder in calamities, a partner in development, and a source of strength for the people in remote villages. At the same time, the civil administration has been leading renewable energy projects, education reforms, healthcare initiatives, and eco-tourism efforts that complement the Army's contribution, he said.

The LG asserted that together, the Army and civil administration form two engines of progress-one ensuring security, the other ensuring development. He also stressed the need to institutionalise such cooperation through regular joint exercises, structured platforms for dialogue, and capacity-building initiatives.

He called for innovation and modern technology-including renewable energy, drones, telemedicine, and climate monitoring-to be adopted in Ladakh to serve both national security and local communities. He added that all efforts must keep sustainability at their core to protect Ladakh's delicate ecosystem while ensuring rapid growth.

Gupta said the Civil-Military Fusion Capsule is not merely an event but the beginning of a mission to make Ladakh a model for balanced development in border areas. "Ladakh must emerge as an example where the strength of the Army and the energy of civil society come

together to build a secure, prosperous, and self-reliant future," he remarked, urging all stakeholders to carry forward this spirit of partnership.

Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, GOC of 14 Corps, chief secretary, UT Ladakh, Pawan Kotwal, DGP S D Singh Jamwal, Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphele, Administrative Secretaries - Bhanu Prabha & Rudra Goud P T, DC Leh, Romil Singh and SSP Leh Shruti Arora along with Army and UT administration personnel were among those present on the occasion.

The LG also felicitated the speakers and panelists who took part in the five-day event.

Earlier, the chief secretary gave a detailed presentation on Vibrant Village Programme Phases I & II, stressing its role in reversing migration in Eastern Ladakh by creating livelihood opportunities through tourism, cultural heritage promotion, skill development and entrepreneurship. He also underlined the need to improve living conditions in border areas to encourage villagers to stay, and called for an institutionalised mechanism for regular Military-Civil Administration meetings to address issues of land, law and order.

GOC, 3 Infantry Division, Maj Gen Arindham Saha, in his presentation, highlighted the role of the Indian Army in nation-building in Ladakh.

Similarly, Brigadier Sachin Gehlawat, Commander 3 Army Brigade, gave an update on the Military Civil Fusion Capsule seminar aimed at addressing Army-Civil Administration issues and enhancing border infrastructure, communication, and tourism for Ladakh's economic growth. He outlined key outcomes, including Army's role in promoting tourism, dual use of infrastructure, education development, welfare of veterans, community upliftment, forward area development, benefits under Operation Sadbhavana, and the proposal for its annual conduct.

GOC 14 Corps, Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, in his vote of thanks, highlighted initiatives taken by the Army to address issues such as stray dogs and sustenance of military personnel. He stressed the importance of strengthening Military-Civil Administration cooperation for building a resilient future for Ladakh and the nation.

Birla asks states not having legislative committees on SC, ST welfare to constitute them

fare of the marginalised communities, Birla said.

To a question that the Opposition was not treated fairly in Lok Sabha, the speaker said its members are allowed to make their points and often speak during discussions for more than the allotted time.

However, he added, the House must function in accordance with rules.

"Disagreement is the strength of democracy, but it must be expressed in a dignified way," he said, criticising the practice of the opposition parties, whom he did not directly name, to resort to deliberate disruptions of the House during the recent Monsoon session.

He also said that India has undertaken wide-ranging reforms to strengthen the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to ensure that they are in tune with present-day aspirations.

Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati also addressed the conference.

He said the welfare of these communities is not merely a question of policy but also a measure of the country's progress, as democracy is built on the pillars of equality, dignity, liberty and fraternity.

Their empowerment is not any charity but an essence of democracy, the governor added.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W), Friday following

**SRINAGAR, AUGUST 30:** In view of the forthcoming religious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W), Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday convened a meeting of officers to ensure elaborate arrangements at prominent religious places including major mosques & shrines.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir division, Commissioner SMC, SSPs, SSP Traffic Rural, senior officers of all the civil departments including KPDCL, PHE, FCS&CA, PWD, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, LCMA, Wakf Board, Health department, Police and religious leaders of various Shrines.

Div Com reviewed the availability of basic civil amenities at major shrines across Kashmir division including Hazratbal shrine, Jenab Sahib Soura, Aasar-i-Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i-Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag, Pethmakhama Budgam, Dargah e Aaliya, Bara-mulla and at all other mosques and shrines where large numbers of devotees gather for night prayers.

On the occasion, Div Com took a detailed review of arrangements for the congregational & night prayers at Hazratbal shrine, where over one lakh devotees are expected to observe Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W)

Div Com directed CE KPDCL to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity at Hazratbal Shrine with a backup plan for DG set so that the shrine management may not face any inconvenience. Besides, he instructed postponement of any scheduled power shutdown on the occasion of Milad.

Further, he instructed PHE for the installation of an adequate number of drinking water posts with a standby plan of water tankers in the proximity of the shrine.

Regarding hassle-free transportation of devotees to & fro Hazratbal shrine, Div Com directed SSCL, RTC & ARTO for the deployment of enough buses and e-autos for transportation of people till late night of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi & Friday following. Also, he enjoined Traffic Police Srinagar for framing route plans for the visitors of different districts for smooth transportation.

Meanwhile, SSP Rural was directed to ensure deployment of traffic personnel on the routes leading to shrines and share deployment orders with concerned Deputy Commissioners.

While laying strong emphasis on the installation of tents in the premises of prominent places, Garg directed Wakf officers to make advance arrangements for tents at all the designated locations before September 04.

Besides, Garg directed Commissioner SMC for carrying out a comprehensive sanitation and cleanliness drive at Hazratbal Shrine.

Moreover, he instructed for the constitution of joint market checking teams to ensure food hygiene & quality in the market and near religious places and emphasized on deterrent action against erring traders for violation of quality parameters and over-charging.