

Vol. 30 Issue 109 • Jammu • Monday • April 21, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00 Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Dr Jitendra interacts with IAS 2023 batch UU trainees, hails 41% women representation

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Metabolic Syndrome-the silent catalyst of cardiovascular catastrophes: Dr Sushil

J&K U-19 Boxing team leaves

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

# Three killed, over 100 rescued as heavy rain wreaks havoc in Ramban



Devastation in Ramban District: Incessant Rains & flash floods leave National Highway destroyed, vehicles buried and houses washed away. (More Pics on Page 3)

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAMBAN/JAMMU: Three people were killed and more than 100 rescued after heavy rain triggered flash floods at different places in Ramban district early on Sunday, offi-

The incessant rain also triggered landslides and mudslides at nearly a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, prompting traffic to be suspended, they said.

The officials said a cloudburst struck the Seri Bagna village of Ramban, resulting in the deaths of three persons, including brothers Aqib Ahmad and Mohd Saqib.

The rescue operation in the village was continuing when the last reports were received they said

With the latest fatalities, five people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents in the Jammu region in two days. Two people, including a woman, were killed and

another woman injured when they were struck by lightning in the Arnas area of Reasi district late on Saturday.

The officials said about 40 residential houses were damaged after a flash flood hit Dharam Kund village. Ten houses were fully damaged while the rest suffered partial

More than 100 trapped villagers were rescued by police personnel who rushed to the spot despite the continuous downpour and cloudbursts, they said and added several vehicles were swept away in the flood caused by a stream

A senior government official said there had been massive damage in the entire district due to heavy rain, cloudbursts, high-velocity winds, landslides and hailstorms.

"We are monitoring the situation and an assessment will be carried out later to provide assistance to the affected population. Our pri-

safeguard lives." said the senior official, wishing not to be named.

department A traffic spokesperson said vehicular movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was stopped from both sides due to landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at multiple places between Nashri and Banihal.

He said the rain was continuing along the highway and commuters were advised

till the road weather improved and the road cleared.

The officials said hundreds of commuters were left stranded on the 250-kilometre highway, the only allroad linking weather Kashmir with the rest of the country, following its closure.

A stretch of the road near Panthiyal was also swept away, the officials said and added all the stranded people were moved to safety.

#### He said the district administration, State Disaster Response Force and rescue teams were on the job to ensure

bereaved families in this hour of orief!

LG, CM grieve rain-related deaths

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the loss of three

lives due to flash floods triggered by incessant rain in Ramban

Sinha said in his message, "Deeply anguished by the tragic loss of precious lives due to the flash floods triggered by inces-

sant rain in Ramban. My heartfelt condolences to the

"All possible assistance is being extended to the affected

families," Sinha said. In a post shared by the Chief Minister's Office on X. Abdullah said he ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Search operation underway in Kathua



### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Security forces on Sunday launched a search operation after getting information about movement of three suspected persons near a forest area in Kathua district, officials said.

A priest noticed three per-

### All schools in Kashmir to remain shut today amid heavy rains

### STATE TIMES NEWS

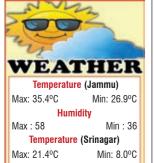
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Sunday directed closure of all schools in the valley on Monday in view of heavy rain, an official

"In light of the continuing severe weather conditions and forecasts, it has been decided that classwork in all schools of the valley shall remain suspended for one day on April 21," Education Minister Sakina Ittoo said in a post on X.

She said the decision has been taken as a precautionary step.

"This decision has been taken as a precautionary step to ensure the safety and well-being of all students," she added.

Kashmir valley has been lashed by heavy rains over the past 48 hours even as the weather office has forecast more precipitation over the next 24



Sunset: 19:04 Hours

Sunrise: 05:55 Hours

Min: 87

Max: 89

sons with backpacks moving towards the forest area of Rasana around 3.30 am and alerted the police, the officials said They said a special opera-

tions group of local police along with army and

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JAMMU: Chief Secretary,

Atal Dulloo, on Sunday

chaired a high level meeting

to review the status of school

education across the Union

Territory, with a special focus

on improving learning out-

comes and implementation of

different schemes aiming

upgradation of the education

The meeting besides ACS,

Department was attended by

MD, Samagra Shiksha;

Director, School Education,

Kashmir/Jammu; Special

Secretary, SED, Secretary,

JKBOSE; Director, SCERT

Education

system across J&K.

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### DGP reviews security forces' operational preparedness in south Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief Nalin Prabhat on Sunday reviewed the operational preparedness of the police and security forces in south Kashmir during a two-day visit to the region.

A police spokesperson said that during the tour, the Director General of Police (DGP) visited forward operational bases at Aripal and the Special Operations Group (SOG) camp at Tral in Pulwama district.

The purpose of the visit to the south Kashmir region was to review the operational

CS maps out modern makeover plan for

schools to achieve excellence in education

along with other officers of

emphasized the need for inte-

grating Artificial Intelligence

(AI) into the learning ecosys-

tem. He directed the School

Education Department to

develop an AI-based learning

Chief

the department.

CS Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

Secretary



DGP Nalin Prabhat during visit to District Police headquarters Kulgam on Sunday.

preparedness of the police and security forces, he said.

module that would offer cus-

tomized lessons to students

based on their individual

addressing their weak areas

more effectively. He suggest-

ed seeking technical assis-

assessments,

operational preparedness of the force in the Pulwama,

## in Udhampur

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

road accident

JAMMU: Six Army personnel were injured after their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a roadside  $\operatorname{ditch}$ Udhampur district Sunday, officials said.

The accident occurred near Chopra market in the town, 65 km away from Jammu, when a bus carrying the soldiers was on its way to a nearby camp, the officials said.

They said a rescue operation was immediately launched and six injured soldiers were rushed to Awantipora districts.

"The visit provided an opportunity for the DGP to assess the on-ground security preparedness. spokesperson said.

The DGP focussed on strengthening the existing security grid, ensuring seamless coordination between different security agencies, and bolstering the counterterrorism efforts in the

He emphasised the importance of proactive measures and public-friendly policing in maintaining peace and the spokesperson

# School teacher held for demanding

### sexual favours from student in Doda STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A school teacher was apprehended for allegedly alluring and demanding sexual favours from a minor student by threatening to fail her in the internal examination in the Doda district, police said on Sunday.

The action against the teacher, posted at the Government Secondary Bhaderwah, was taken following registration of a complaint on April 16, a police

He said the complainant alleged that the accused sent messages to the student, seeking sexual favours for

spokesman said.

the medical stream in a Punjab college and claiming that he had already done so with some other girls as well. He allegedly threatened the student not to disclose it to anyone, otherwise she would

never pass the internal exam-

facilitating her admission in

ination, the spokesman said. A case under sections 74 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) 75 (sexual harassment) and 78 (stalking) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and relevant sections of the Protection Of Children  ${
m from}$ Offences (POCSO)

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### Modi-Vance talks today; Vances to visit Akshardham temple

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DELHI: Minister Narendra Modi will host a dinner for US Vice President J D Vance and Indian-origin Second Lady Usha on Monday evening after holding talks with the American leader on a range of key issues, including trade, tariff, regional security and ways to expand the overall bilateral engagement.

The US Vice President, his wife Usha and their three children -- Ewan, Vivek, and Mirabel -- are scheduled to land at the Palam airbase at 10 am on Monday on a four-



Vance's first visit to India comes weeks after US President Donald Trump imposed and then paused a sweeping tariff regime against around 60 countries,

New Delhi and Washington are now holding negotiations to seal a bilateral trade agreement that is expected to address a variety of issues. including tariff and

## Pilgrimage sites in Rajouri-Poonch align with emerging commercial tourism hubs

et us have a brief look into the pilgrim tourism & commercial tourism potential and the scope for value resorts that exist on this side of Jawahar Tunnel including that in the Pir Panchal region in Rajouri- Poonch stretches of J&K worth drawing the attention of GOI to immediately reverse the decision for dropping the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch rail line the survey of which was completed by 2018 sand take up the said rail line estimated to cost around INR 25000 cr for execution of which a good portion will also directly or indirectly add to the economic health of local population even during construction of the project). The local population otherwise also is required to be additionally compensated for the short fall in economic development over the years which has been more due to fair treatment

not given to these areas. Most of the backword and difficult areas of UT of J&K lie outside

Kashmir valley. These areas do have good pockets / spots worth development as tourist resorts/for developing as regular tourist destinations for summer/winter tourist too although the visitors may enroute face a little rough climate during summers in comparison to Kashmir valley but instead this region is blessed with more of pilgrimage places near to worth exploitation through adequate development as potential tourist destinations. This way there exist multi dimensional scope for carrying the visitors / likely tourists/ pilgrims in and around areas of Jammu region where a good number of adventure sports as well as cable car projects too could be promoted worth boosting the economy of local areas since inspite of there being some rough areas still a high order pilgrim as well as commercial tourism could be promoted. But that did not happen even after 1990. Governments of Maharajas of J&K of pre 1947 times with limited financial resourcesin

technologies available could still lay construct many difficult links like (a) The Banihal Cart road

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A Look through the Mist

Zorawar Singh in 1936/ 1941 ), (f) Bhadarwah linked with Chamba

lowed by General

>> Unjustified to drop Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch rail line from National Projects lists merely on financial grounds

▶ In 2012, Centre decided to list long pending Jammu- Poonch Rail Link as National Project entitled for priority with special financial provisions

(BC Road - the Banihal Tunnel has been added in last six decades by India), (b) Jehlum Valley Road (132 miles connecting Srinagar with Kohala), (c) link with Rawapindi via Uri (then in Muzaffarabad), (d) Poonch was well linked with Uri/ Baramullah/ Valley. (e)Route to Ladakh via Kishtwar- Paddar-

in Himachal by road and g) One bridle road connecting Srinagar with Leh via Yojila pass and a pacca road to Gilgit, ( h ) Bandipur-Galgit road was running over Burzila pass and was 193 miles long ( it was a bridle road in 1941 and state maintained 165 miles and rest was maintained by the British India government).

pied most of the northern part of J&K State including part of Ladakh and Burzila & Yojila passes. General Thimayya planned an offensive and light tanks were carried to Srinagar and from there to Yojila pass at a height of 11000 ft on the road tracks laid by the earstwhile princely state of J&K and Indian troops could take complete control of Yojila pass. Where as in the Independent India the neglect of the farflung rural areas over last over 55 years was exposed (Feb 2005) when even the minimum communication infrastructure was found badly missing during February 2005 snow carnage in Doda / Rajouri areas ( the real ground situations of some areas were known to the district administration after more than a month). Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar,

Bhaderwah, Udhampur-Reasi, Kathua districts of Jammu region have many ex[oitable cool and pleasant spots along routes but even

nearly 8 decades of independence there are no meaningful / workable road infrastructure & facilities for recreation of tourist, joymaking, advanture, health tourism and holidaying there in even Pir Panchal and Chenab Valley regions Appreciable/ notable attention worth making good the shortfall has still to be paid to these areas. The status even in 2025 of proposed Basoli Bhaderwah road project ( under execution) and present status on development of the high potential summer / winter tourism sites along the alignment that have enough unexploited potential for commercial as well pilgrim tourism speaks well about the neglected meted to the areas around. Similarly the areas in Rajouri and Poonch districts too have unimaginable large potential for pilgrim tourism and commercial tourism (Baba Budda Amarnath Ji Mandi , Ram Kund in Mandhir Poonch, Nangli Sahib Gurudawara, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9