

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM visits worse...

he trekked several kilometres on foot through rugged terrain to reach Kela Morh, where the cloudburst had triggered flash floods, leaving a trail of destruction. The natural calamity has claimed the lives of three persons, while causing extensive damage to residential structures, vehicles, and critical road infrastructure. Ramban district, often referred to as the lifeline between the Kashmir Valley and Jammu, remained cut off for the second consecutive day due to debris and damage along the National Highway, J&K's primary transport artery.

Interacting with local residents and officials from the district administration, the Chief Minister was briefed on the scale of the damage and the progress of ongoing rescue and relief operations. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and assured that the government stands shoulder to shoulder with the victims of this tragedy.

"The scale of destruction is deeply distressing. Our administration is on the ground, working tirelessly to ensure the safety, relief, and rehabilitation of every affected family," the CM said.

"We will leave no stone unturned in standing by our people during this difficult time," he added.

He further directed the concerned departments to expedite restoration work on the highway to resume vehicular movement at the earliest.

The district administration informed the Chief Minister that clearance operations are in full swing, with teams from the Public Works Department (PWD), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), disaster response units, police, volunteers, and the local population working round the clock to remove mudslides and boulders and restore normalcy in the affected area.

Not a 'national...

the situation, the officials said.

"This is not a national disaster but a localised one. It is a disaster and, accordingly, relief will be provided to the victims for rebuilding their lives," Abdullah told reporters when asked if his government would approach the Centre for declaring the calamity as a "national disaster".

He said the district administration had been directed to assess the damage and submit a detailed report.

"Immediate relief will be provided to the affected population. We will make arrangements on our own for a package and I will also talk to the Centre," he said.

"If the weather permits, I will personally take stock of the situation on the ground in other flood-hit areas of Ramban town and also chair a meeting of officers on Tuesday," he added.

The chief minister, who walked nearly two kilometres over the damaged road and was briefed by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary and officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), said the national highway's restoration was the top priority.

"A number of vehicles are buried under landslide debris. The road has also suffered extensive damage and we have to change its alignment. We have to remove the debris and clear the buried vehicles. The effort is to make the highway trafficable as soon as possible," Abdullah said.

He said this stretch of the national highway was the most difficult and the officials were of the opinion that it would take two to three days to clear it while the remaining section would be cleared in the next 24 hours.

Vehicular movement to...

shall be taken after getting green signal from NHIDCL

Similarly, subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (BRO), only one way traffic for all LMVs with Anti-skid chains followed by HMVs (only six tyres) shall be allowed from Kargil towards Srinagar on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari road.

These vehicles shall be allowed from Minamarg upto 1330 hrs. No vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timing.

Likewise, subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (GREF), LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal road viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa via Poonch. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behrangala (Baffliaz) and Herpora (Shopian) at 0900 hrs. upto 1500 hrs.

The advisory further mentioned cut off timings for LMVs, Passenger/ private cars. The cut off timings from Jammu Side at Akhnoor is 1000 hrs, at Bhambla 1100 hrs, at Rajouri 1300 hrs. The commuters shall cross Manjakote by 1330 hrs, Surankote by 1430 hrs and Behrangala by 1500 hrs at the latest.

The cut off timings from Srinagar Side is 1230 hrs for TRC Srinagar; commuters should cross Nowgam Peaks by 1300 hrs, Pantha Chowk by 1300 hrs, Chandhara Pampore by 1400 hrs, Galandar via Kakapora by 1400 hrs, Marvel Crossing by 1400 hrs, Kandizal (Peaks NH-44) by 1400 hrs, Khudvani by 1400 hrs, Chawalgam Kulgam by 1415 hrs, Keegam NH-44 by 1430 hrs and Herpora by 1500 hrs at the latest.

As per the advisory No vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timings and No vehicle shall be allowed through Thanamandi-DKG-Baffliaz.

For Bhaderwah-Chanba road the advisory said It is still closed due to snow accumulation.

People are advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units viz Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 9419147732, 103), Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103), Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043), Udhampur (8491928625), PCR Kishtwar (9906154100), PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331 and PCR Ganderbal (9906668731).

‘Nagrik Devo Bhava...

25 crore people out of poverty in the past decade and expressed confidence that it will lead to a poverty-free India.

Modi said micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) sector, startups, and young entrepreneurs in India have an unprecedented opportunity amid global changes.

The prime minister said that if a small country provides better ease of compliances to its industries, it could outpace Indian startups, and added that there was a need for India to continuously evaluate its position in global best practices.

He said that while the goal of Indian industries is to create globally best products, the goal of India's bureaucracy must be to provide the world's best ease of compliance environment.

Emphasising the need for civil servants to acquire skills that not only help them understand technology but also enable its use for smart and inclusive governance, Modi said, "In the age of technology, governance is not about managing systems, it is about multiplying possibilities."

The prime minister stressed the importance of becoming tech-savvy to make policies and schemes more efficient and accessible through technology.

Modi also highlighted the need for expertise in data-driven decision-making to ensure accurate policy design and implementation.

Observing the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and quantum physics, predicting a forthcoming revolution in technology that will surpass the digital and information age, he urged civil servants to prepare for this technological revolution to deliver the best services and fulfill citizens' aspirations.

The prime minister stressed the need to closely monitor global challenges in rapidly changing times, highlighting that food, water, and energy security remain major issues, particularly for the Global South, where ongoing conflicts are exacerbating difficulties, impacting daily lives and livelihoods.

Citing climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, and cybercrime threats as critical areas requiring proactive action, he urged India to stay ten steps ahead in addressing these challenges.

Modi underlined the need to develop localised strategies and build resilience to effectively tackle these emerging global issues.

"Every time you prioritise integrity over convenience, innovation over inertia, or service over status, you propel the nation forward," the prime minister said.

He emphasised the privilege civil servants have in being able to contribute significantly to society and urged the civil servants to make the most of this opportunity provided by the nation and its people.

The prime minister emphasised the need to reimagine reforms for civil servants, calling for an accelerated pace and expanded scale of reforms across sectors.

Modi highlighted key areas such as infrastructure, renewable energy goals, internal security, ending corruption and targets related to social welfare schemes, sports and the Olympics, urging the implementation of new reforms in every domain.

Union Minister of State for Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh, Principal Secretary-2 to Prime Minister, Shaktikanta Das, Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan and Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, V Srinivas, among others were present on the occasion.

This year, 16 awards were given by the prime minister in the categories of holistic development of districts, aspirational blocks programme and innovation to civil servants. They were recognised for work done for the welfare of common

citizens through this.

NC dissolves Kashmir...

Gul, Srigufwara-Bijbehara MLA Basheer Ahmad Shah Veeri, Uri MLA Sajjad Shafi and Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan.

Salman Ali Sagar said the party leadership has granted 30 days to form the new bodies of Youth National Conference at provincial, zonal, district and block levels.

"We want to bring fresh faces to the fore. Several of the previous office-bearers have progressed and are now MLAs," he said.

J&K Pride: Kulgam...

Ayushi Sudan for her remarkable leadership making Kupwara a standout district. Athar Aamir Khan, District Magistrate of Kulgam, Jammu & Kashmir, said, "It's a great honour to receive this award from PM Modi. His encouragement has inspired us. Under his vision of 'Viksit Bharat @2047', schemes like PM Mudra Yojana are empowering youth across the country."

In a post on X, Athar expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for receiving the award on behalf of the district Kulgam. He expressed thanks to his predecessor Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat (currently Deputy Commissioner Srinagar) and other officers and citizens of Kulgam for their immense support and cooperation in development of the district.

Final Electoral Rolls...

parties, spanning 4,123 Assembly Constituencies nationwide. The absence of any large scale appeals indicates a broad consensus and acceptance of the updated electoral rolls by all stakeholders. Accordingly, the Electoral Rolls published post-SSR in January 2025 are now to be treated as undisputed.

It may be recalled that the SSR 2025 exercise was conducted with particular emphasis on States and Union Territories slated for Assembly Elections after the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has reiterated its commitment to free, fair, inclusive and transparent electoral processes. It views the smooth completion and acceptance of the SSR 2025 as a major step forward in strengthening the foundations of democracy.

As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the whole exercise was conducted meticulously with not a single first or second level appeal reported in the Union Territory. This accuracy and proficiency ensured in the SSR for J&K is testament to the commitment of Election Commission of India towards ensuring a transparent and efficient electoral process, while upholding the sanctity of a democratic system.

"The lack of appeals following the publication of the electoral rolls is a testament to the transparency, inclusiveness and robustness of the SSR process. With active participation from political parties through their Booth Level Agents, we are confident that the electoral rolls published in January 2025 reflect a high level of accuracy and public trust," said a representative of the Chief Electoral Office (ECI).

Pope Francis dies...

a very different tone for the papacy, stressing humility over hubris for a Catholic Church beset by scandal and accusations of indifference.

After that rainy night on March 13, 2013, the Argentine-born Jorge Mario Bergoglio brought a breath of fresh air into a 2,000-year-old institution that had seen its influence wane during the troubled tenure of Pope Benedict XVI, whose surprise resignation led to Francis' election.

But Francis soon invited troubles of his own, and conservatives grew increasingly upset with his progressive bent, outreach to LGBTQ+ Catholics and crackdown on traditionalists. His greatest test came in 2018 when he botched a notorious case of clergy sexual abuse in Chile, and the scandal that festered under his predecessors erupted anew on his watch.

And then Francis, the crowd-loving, globe-trotting pope of the peripheries, navigated the unprecedented reality of leading a universal religion through the coronavirus pandemic from a locked-down Vatican City.

He implored the world to use COVID-19 as an opportunity to rethink the economic and political framework that he said had turned rich against poor.

"We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented," Francis told an empty St. Peter's Square in March 2020. But he also stressed the pandemic showed the need for "all of us to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."

Sexual Harassment at...

(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013," read an order issued by M Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

RBI permits minors...

that these always remain in a credit balance.

Also, the banks shall perform customer due diligence for opening of deposit accounts of minors and undertake ongoing due diligence, RBI added.

The RBI has asked banks to make new or amend existing policies to align them with the revised guidelines, latest by July 1, 2025.

About dozen villages...

and joint teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), army, police and other agencies are on the ground to improve the situation," he said.

The divisional commissioner said the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway had suffered extensive damage, with certain stretches sunk and washed away while some others were buried under sludge and boulders.

"The highway will take time to get restored, even as our efforts are underway. We will have to check the cracks for stability. The retaining walls have also been damaged," Kumar said, advising the stranded commuters to utilise the alternative Mughal Road and the Sinthan Top road for the time being.

He said efforts were being made to make the Mughal Road, connecting the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu to south Kashmir's Shopian, two-way as soon as possible to allow heavy vehicles carrying essential commodities to the valley.

The Sinthan Top road connects Kishtwar in Jammu with Anantnag in Kashmir but a fresh spell of snowfall forced its closure three days ago. Work is underway to restore the link.

Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma visited the affected villages and said, "We have come to assess the situation and submit a report to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah."

"We want the government to declare it as a national disaster and announce a rehabilitation package for the affected population," Sharma told reporters.

Condoning the deaths of the three persons, he said the BJP was standing with all those who lost their dwellings and would ensure that they were properly rehabilitated by the government.

National Conference MLA Arjun Singh Raju demanded that the tragedy be declared a "national disaster" and said villages in the hilly areas had suffered major damage.

"The full assessment can be made only when the roads leading to the villages in the hills are opened. The administration is making efforts on a war footing and we are hopeful of restoring essential supplies by later this evening," he said.

Ramban landslide: All...

and well-being of the pilgrims, Pandey said in a statement.

"Following the CM's instructions and guidance, the Gujarat State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) immediately contacted the relevant authorities in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safety and security of the Gujarat pilgrims. The bus carrying tourists from Gujarat is in a safe zone, away from the landslide, and all the travellers are safe," Pandey informed.

3 held for...

arrest of the three individuals involved in the incident. The accused have been identified as Mohan Singh, son of Bua Ditta, resident of Marjali; Santokh Singh, son of Late Sandoor Singh, resident of Rati Chappri Barn and Bahadur Singh, son of Chain Singh, resident of Bonal, Tehsil Akhnoor.

The trio allegedly fired multiple rounds from a pistol and a revolver during the celebration held at a palace in the Gharota area. Both weapons have been recovered and seized from their possession.

Police officials have reiterated that such reckless and dangerous behavior, particularly celebratory firing, will not be tolerated. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone found violating the law and jeopardizing public safety.

Six dumpers seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized six dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Vijaypur, Samba and Ghagwal which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

As per report, police teams headed by SHO Police Station Vijaypur, Incharge of Police Posts Mansar and Supwal of PS Samba and Incharge Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal, while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized six dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK08G-8799, JK21G-5586, JK02CR-8169, JK21-8772, JK21G-6049 and JK21-9073, which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The abovementioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

One held with narcotic drugs in Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Continuing it war against drug, Police on Monday arrested one drug peddler and recovered 20 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like substance from his possession in Doda.

While giving details, officials sources said that a Police party of Police Station Doda was deputed for Naka checking duty at Ganpat Bridge on April 20.

At about 23:15 hrs one Motor Cycle which was coming from Khellani side towards Doda was stopped for checking, official said adding that on enquiry, he disclosed his name as Burhan Imtyaz, son of Imtyaz Ahmed, resident of Irfanabad Doda.

On his personal search, 15-20 grams of heroin (chitta) like narcotic substance recovered from his possession, official said adding that accordingly case FIR No. 88/2025 under Section 8/21/22 NDPS Act stand registered at PS Doda and further investigation has been taken up and forward, backward linked are being ascertained.

Missing lady traced, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Police on Monday traced out one missing lady and reunited her with family members.

On April 7, 2025 one person resident of Athoon Tehsil Billawar Distt. Kathua came in Police Station Billawar and lodged a written complaint regarding missing of his wife namely age about 20 years. On receiving complaint a missing report entered at Police Station Billawar vide GD No. 25 dated 07-04-2025 and a team of P/S Billawar led by SHO Zaheer Mushtaq under the supervision of SDPO Billawar Neeraj Kumar searched various places and checked Road side CCTV camera installed and with the help of technical assistance along with timely human intervention, recovered the missing person. After completing all legal formalities the said missing Lady handed over to her legal heirs. Moreover missing report stands closed.

Jammu South Police in action under multiple fronts: 5 vehicles seized in illegal mining, Minor traced

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police, South Zone continues to exhibit strong resolve in tackling illegal mining, tracing long-standing missing persons, and building public trust through engagement and enforcement under the ongoing operations led by SSP Jammu and supervised by SP South.

In the latest crackdown on illegal mining under Operation Ploughing, Police Post Belicharana seized a total of four heavy vehicles for transporting construction material without requisite permissions: Dumper No. JK21F 5282, loaded with crushed stone (bajri); Dumper No. JK02CS 2469, loaded with crushed stone (bajri); Tipper No. JK02CR 2514, loaded with sand and Tipper No. JK02DM 0969, loaded with sand. All vehicles were found operating without valid documents or permissions and have been seized. The District Mineral Officer (DMO), Jammu was informed for further necessary action. Additionally, Police Post Chatha detained one tractor-trolley loaded with sand, operating without Form A, and similarly notified the DMO.

These actions reflect South Zone Police's unwavering commitment to protecting the environment and enforcing mining regulations.

In a major success, Jammu Police recovered a missing minor boy after three years from Ludhiana, Punjab in a kidnapping case registered in 2022 at Police Station Trikuta Nagar. On 06.03.2022, a case FIR No. 70/2022 U/S 363 IPC was registered following a complaint by the boy's father from Poonch (presently residing at Channi Rama), stating that his 15-year-old son had gone missing.

After prolonged and consistent efforts, a joint team led by Incharge PP Narwal and SHO Trikuta Nagar, under the supervision of SDPO East and SP South, successfully traced and recovered the boy. He was safely handed over to his legal heirs after completion of all formalities. PS Bagh-e-Bahu held a PCPG (Police Community Partnership Group) meeting at New Bahu Fort with the participation of prominent citizens, businessmen, and local youth. Public concerns related to law enforcement and civic issues were addressed-those falling under police purview were resolved on the spot, while others will be communicated to the concerned departments. In a continued drive under Operation Cleanup, the same police station detained three suspicious drug peddlers/addicts and booked them under Sections 39/128 BNSS. Additional Enforcement Across South Zone PS Gandhi Nagar: 2 MV Act challans issued; PS Satwari: 1 Istighasa under Section 503 IPC and 1 Istighasa under 39/128 BNSS; PS Gangyal: 3 MV Act challans issued; Police Post Nehru Market: Accused arrested and stolen property recovered in a theft case; Police Post Bathindi: 4 MV challans issued and 1 vehicle seized; Police Post Narwal: 3 MV challans issued and 1 minor missing since 2022 recovered and PS Channi Himmat: 2 Istighasas filed against 3 individuals.

Notorious gangster among 2 arrested in Jammu, pistol recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two persons, including a notorious criminal, were arrested in Jammu city on Monday, and a pistol with live rounds and a dagger were recovered, officials said.

A police team during a routine checking intercepted a scooty on the Fourth Bridge, they said, adding that a pistol with a live round was allegedly recovered from Aniket Mottan alias Babblu of Bishmah, and a sharp-edged weapon was allegedly recovered from his associate Aniket Dutta of Bakshi Nagar; they said.

During sustained questioning, both allegedly confessed that they were on their way to kill a notorious rival from the city area, and they were driven by personal grudges, they said. The arrest of Babblu also turned out to be a major success, as he was "indirectly involved" in the Greater Kailash (Jammu) dacoity case, where he had allegedly destroyed crucial evidence and had been on the police radar since then, they said. In this regard, a case has been registered at the Nowabad police station.

SFs destroy highly explosive mortar shell in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: The Security Forces (SFs) detected and destroyed a highly explosive mortar shell in Rajouri district on Monday evening, officials said.

The mortar shell was recovered at the Manyal village of Thanamandi, where villagers discovered the shell in a field and promptly informed the Army and police, they said. The Bomb Disposal Squad of the security forces safely destroyed the shell, averting a potential major tragedy, they said.

Man wanted in attempt to murder case arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An accused involved in attempt to murder case arrested with sharp edged weapon by Police Station R.S Pura, Jammu within hours.

That on April 19, 2025 PSI Iahthsham Ul Haq returned back from SDH R.S Pura after recorded statement of injured person namely Sham Lal S/o Hans Raj R/o W.No.12, Purana Pind, R.S Pura District Jammu stating therein that the injured person was present in his Karyana shop situated at W.No. 12 Purana Pind, R.S Pura and at about 19:30 pm accused namely Deepak Kumar @ Ajay Kumar S/o Ganesh Lal R/o W.No.12 Purana Pind, R.S Pura District Jammu having Toka in his hand criminal trespass after preparation for assault in his shop and attacked upon him with tokla due to which said Sham Lal got serious injuries.

In this regard, a case FIR No.73/2025 U/S 333/109 BNS 4/25 Arms Act registered in this police station. Acting swiftly upon this accused person namely Deepak Kumar @ Ajay Kumar S/o Ganesh Lal R/o w No.12, Purana Pind, R.S Pura District Jammu got arrested by police station R.S Pura and weapon of offence i.e. Toka also recovered.