



**03** BJP Govt empowering villages for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat': Sukhnandan

**09** Prerna designated as Commissioner/Secretary, IT Deptt

**10** Indian senior women's team leaves for 3rd AVC Volleyball Challenge Cup in Thailand

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## Flash floods, landslides lash J&K; schools shut in several districts; Jhelum crosses danger mark in Anantnag

Five people rescued from flash floods in Jammu; 25 tourists rescued in Kokernag

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Heavy rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, triggering flash floods and landslides, with authorities forced to shut schools in several districts including Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban and evacuate people from low-lying areas, while the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained blocked for the second day leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded.

Five people were trapped in flash floods in River Ans in Reasi district this afternoon and rescued by SDRF personnel, officials said.

On receiving information that some people were trapped, a team of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel rushed to the spot and carried out the rescue operation.

In Anantnag, a joint rescue operation, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, was launched by administration of Sub Division



Under construction Peerah bridge collapsed; NH stretch washed away near Samroli & water level increased in Tawi river after incessant rains on Wednesday.

Kokernag (Revenue, Police and NIIDCL) and Administration of Sub Division Chatroo (Revenue and police) to rescue half a dozen vehicles carrying 25 tourists, locals, supplies etc who were stuck near sinthan top road.

The rescue operation was conducted under the supervision of SDMs Kokernag and Chatroo.

Meanwhile, 19 RR was on standby for the rescue operation.

In Kashmir, the Jhelum crossed

the danger mark at Sangam in Anantnag district and the water level was rising in other rivers also, officials said.

A high alert has been sounded in areas close to river Chenab and its tributaries, they said.

Snowfall in the higher reaches including the holy cave shrine of Amarnath has brought down the day temperature substantially, the officials said.

Police rescued 50 passengers

travelling in ten vehicles which were trapped due to snowfall and heavy rains in the high-altitude area in Kishtwar district on Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

"Snowfall and heavy rains triggered flash-floods in Simthan top area following which 50 passengers, including some women and children, were stranded. The police got the track cleared and after a lot of hard work rescued all

the passengers, an official said.

The water level at Sangam in Anantnag district was measured at 21.60 ft, marginally above the 21-feet mark for flood declaration, they said.

Vaishov stream, which flows mainly through Kulgam district, was flowing dangerously above the flood alert mark. However, the water level has started receding since 10 am, the officials said.

A breach was reported in a temporary diversion along the banks of Vaishov stream as Chamgund in Kulgam, they said adding many areas of the district have been flooded.

Authorities have started moving people from low-lying areas to safer locations, they said.

The Doodhganga stream was also flowing close to flood alarm level at Barzulla in the heart of Srinagar's civil lines area. The weatherman

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Section of Jammu-Srinagar NH washed away

BANIHAL/UDHAMPUR/JAMMU: Flash floods triggered by heavy rains washed away the shuttering of an under-construction bridge and a 150-foot section of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway even as landslides in Ramban and Udhampur districts forced closure of the strategic road for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded.

### 1 killed, 4 injured in lightning strike at Udhampur

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: One person was killed and four others injured on Wednesday when they were struck by lightning in Udhampur district, officials said. The lightning hit a remote village in Dudu-Basantgarh

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### 2 RDD employees suspended for misappropriation of funds

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: Two employees of Rural Development Department (RDD) were on Wednesday placed under suspension with immediate effect for alleged misappropriation of funds.

According to an official spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner Development Doda, Phulial Singh ordered the suspension of Kashif Nadeem, the then VLW and Zubair Alam, the then GRS of Panchayat Dhara-A, on the basis of the findings of an Inquiry Committee constituted after the local public filed a complaint against the accused employees of swindling funds drawn for non-existing Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) proposed for Ward No 06 (Chatta) of the Panchayat.

As per the Rural Development Department, the Committee was constituted by BDO Doda (Ghat) on the directions of Assistant Commissioner Development to ascertain the facts. The inquiry Committee ascertained that the Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) shown to cost Rs. 3.90 lakh has not been constructed at the proposed site and instead 2 toilet units were shown to be constructed at two

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Guidelines issued for Subordinate Judiciary regarding visits of Chief Justice, other Judges of High Court

No Judicial Officer shall receive, see-off or visit visiting Chief Justice/ Judges during Court hours

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court laid down guidelines for Subordinate Judiciary regarding visits of Chief Justice and other Justices of High Court.

According to a circular issued by Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, no Judicial Officer shall receive, see-off or visit the visiting Chief Justice, Judges during Court hours. "During official visits of Chief Justice/Judges, a senior non-Judicial

Administrative Officer will receive and see-off and provide protocol services to them as per norms. If visiting Chief Justice/ Judge wants to hold a meeting or address Judicial Officers, it will be done either before or after Court hours. If visiting Chief Justice/ Judge wants to call Judicial Officer for official purposes, he will be called either before or after the Court hours. No Judicial Officer will visit visiting Chief Justice/ Judge unless called for official purpose. If arrangements in connection with an official visit of Chief

Justice/ Judges are required to be made by District Judge or the Chief Judicial Magistrate, all bills shall be raised in the-name of High Court and the payment shall be made directly by the High Court to the extent permitted and no personal funds will be used by any Judicial Officer for the purpose," the circular reads. No Judicial Officer shall arrange any private trip including any excursion trip or visit to a religious place for visiting Chief Justice/ Judges.

No Judicial Officer will arrange hotel, food or transport for visiting

Chief Justice/ Judge, their staff members and security personnel. No Judicial Officer or Court Servant will offer or provide any gift or hospitality to Chief Justice/ Judges. No function will be organized by the Judicial Officer(s) during the visit of the Chief Justice/ Judges except official functions which will be organized on written direction and at the cost of the Government. Any violation of these instructions will be considered as gross misconduct rendering the concerned Judicial Officer

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### ACB files chargesheet against R&B official, others in misappropriation case

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against Mohammad Shafi Bhat, the then Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Kupwara and others accused of purchasing of furniture items for MLA Hostel Kupwara at exorbitant rates.

As per an ACB spokesman, the instant case FIR No 08/2015 was registered at Police Station Vigilance Organization Kashmir (now ACB) in backdrop of a verification conducted into the allegations that officers/officials of R&B Division Kupwara in connivance with

others have misappropriated government funds meant for purchase of various furniture items for MLA Hostel Kupwara.

"It was also alleged the then Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Kupwara Mohammad Shafi Bhat in furtherance of criminal conspiracy hatched by him with the supplier Abdul Lateef Ganai and other officials of the R&B Division Kupwara have misappropriated government funds meant for the purchase of various furniture items for MLA Hostel Kupwara in year 2009-10 by dishonestly and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Bhardwaj nominated as Chairman J&K & Ladakh Finance Corporation; Kusum as Director on BoDs

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Department has been nominated as Chairman and Kusum Badyal, Secretary, in the Industries & Commerce Department as Director on Board of Directors of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation. "In exercise of powers vested in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Munir-ul-Islam promoted to Super Time Scale of JKAS

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday promoted Munir-ul-Islam to the Super Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS).

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of Munir-ul-Islam, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary, J&K Building and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 32.5°C Min: 18.7°C

Humidity

Max: 45 Min: 77

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 17.7°C Min: 11.0°C

Humidity

Max: 91 Min: 71

Sunset : 19:42 Hours

Sunrise : 05:26 Hours

### Afghanistan quake kills 1,000 people, deadliest in decades

**AGENCY**  
KABUL: A powerful earthquake struck a rural, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan early Wednesday, killing 1,000 people and injuring 1,500 more in one of the deadliest tremors in decades, the state-run news agency reported. Officials warned that the already grim toll may still rise.

Information remained scarce on the magnitude 6.1 temblor near the Pakistani border, but quakes of that strength can cause severe damage in an area where homes and other buildings

### India ready to provide all possible relief: Modi

NEW DELHI: Expressing anguish at the loss of lives and devastation caused by an earthquake in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that India is ready to provide all possible disaster relief material at the earliest.

India stands by the people of Afghanistan, he said. "Deeply saddened at the news of the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan today. My deepest condolences on the loss of precious lives," he said in a tweet.

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■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Presidential poll: Murmu likely to file nomination on June 24

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu is likely to file her nomination on June 24, and is expected to be accompanied by its top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi, several Union ministers and chief ministers, and key leaders of some other supporting parties like the Biju Janata Dal will join her during the nomination-filing as a show of support, sources said, adding that the prime minister is expected to be the first proposer. A presidential

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Maha crisis: Thackeray vacates CM house after offering to resign, Shinde says Sena must quit MVA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI/GUWAHATI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday night vacated his office residence, hours after reaching out to Shiv Sena dissidents with an emotional appeal and offering to quit, while rebel leader Eknath Shinde remained defiant and insisted the party should walk out of "unnatural" ruling alliance MVA and claimed support of "enough number" of MLAs.

The CM moved out of 'Varsha', his official residence in south Mumbai, and shifted to Matoshri, the private bun-

galow of the Thackeray family in suburban Bandra, amid high drama even as the Shiv Sena asserted he will not resign in the wake of rebellion by Shinde, a Cabinet member camping with rebel MLAs in Guwahati.

Sena leaders like Neelam Gorhe and Chandrakant Khaire were present at 'Varsha' when Thackeray was leaving the official residence. Party workers raised slogans and showered petals on the CM as he left his official house along with his family members at around 9.50 pm. He reached outside

Matoshri at around 10.30 pm. However, it took another 40 minutes for the CM to cover a short distance from outside Matoshri to inside his residence.

Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut asserted Thackeray will not resign following the rebellion and maintained the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will prove its majority in the Assembly if required.

Earlier in the day, Thackeray reached out to rebels with an emotional appeal and offered to quit, saying he will be happy

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### First-ever National Rowing Championship inaugurated

### LG invites country's sports fraternity to enjoy spectacular games, hospitality in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday extended his invite to each member of the sporting fraternity from across the country to enjoy the warm hospitality and the spectacular games in Jammu and Kashmir.

After inaugurating the first-ever National Rowing Championship in J&K UT, the Lieutenant Governor while addressing the participants at the inaugural event at SKICC, observed that the National Rowing Championship will provide a unique opportunity for young sportspersons from all over the country to display sporting excellence and share the camaraderie and sportsmanship.

After the First Chess Olympiad Toreh Relay on Tuesday, this is another historic sporting moment for UT of J&K.

He said that under the guidance of



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the inauguration ceremony of National Rowing Championship at Srinagar on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's golden sporting era has truly begun. The PM has fuelled the athlete's individual aspirations with the hopes and dreams of 130 crore countrymen, he added.

Initiatives like Target Olympic

Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Khelo India have given wings to the young generation. It has given the perfect opportunity to the players to target Olympic medals, the Lt Governor said.

Lauding the leadership of the

Prime Minister for establishing a vibrant sports culture across the country, the Lt Governor said that in the last two years, the UT Government has paid special attention to developing sports infrastructure and providing sports facilities to youngsters in rural areas. Our aim is to harness the talent, nurture it and provide the best training and exposure, he further added.

The Lt Governor observed that Sports institutions were established in blocks, districts and divisions to channelize the unlimited energy and potential of our youngsters.

"Earlier, one lakh players used to get the opportunity to play in a year. Last year the number increased to 17 lakh and this year 35 lakh players are expected to participate in different disciplines of sports across the UT. In order to ensure equal opportunity, 50%

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Terrorist held as NIA raids multiple locations in Kashmir in TRF conspiracy case

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A terrorist, closely associated with The Resistance Front (TRF) commander responsible for the recent targeted killings, was arrested on Wednesday as the NIA carried out searches at multiple locations across Kashmir in a terror conspiracy case, an official said.

Mudasir Ahmad Dar, a resident of Nowpora-Kharpora village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, was arrested for providing logistical support and transporting arms and ammunition, a spokesperson of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said.

The official said the searches were carried out at a total of 11 locations in Srinagar, Kulgam, Pulwama and

Ganderbal in connection with the TRF conspiracy case.

"He (Dar) was closely associated with the TRF commander responsible for the recent targeted killings across Kashmir and was also involved in radicalisation and recruitment of impressionable youths at the behest of the group, the spokesperson said.

The NIA said incriminating materials, including digital devices, have been seized during the searches and further investigation in the case is underway.

The case relates to activities of "TRF, an offshoot of proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and its self-styled commander Sajjad

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9