

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Flash floods, landslides ...

had forecast improvement in weather later in the day. Schools in many parts of the valley were closed due to the heavy rains which resulted in waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Many houses in Benina, Rambagh and Rajbagh areas of the city were affected due to water-logging.

A group of 14 trekkers was stranded near Tarsar Lake in south Kashmir and a rescue team was rushed to the spot from Pahalgam.

The snowfall in the upper reaches and rains in the plains have sent the mercury nose-diving and Srinagar witnessed its coldest June day in almost 50 years, according to available data.

Srinagar on Tuesday recorded a maximum temperature of 15.0 degrees Celsius, which was 14.2 degrees lower than normal for this time of the year.

An incident of house collapse was also reported from Ramban district, while five people trapped in flash floods in river Ans in Reasi district were rescued by the police, officials said.

The Doda district administration has declared high alert in several areas in the mountainous district.

"We have been forced to declare high alert in areas close to river Chenab and its tributaries, and also on slopes and slide-prone areas of Ramban and Doda districts," an official said.

The traffic on Mughal Road, an alternative link connecting the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was also suspended due to landslides en route, they said.

Besides Doda, the deputy commissioners of Ramban and Kishtwar districts have also ordered the closure of all educational institutions up to higher secondary level including private schools for the day, an official said.

"All schools across Ramban district, including higher secondary schools, shall remain closed today in view of the heavy rainfall and overflowing of nallahs and mudslides at several locations," Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mussarat Islam said in a tweet.

Officials said one kutecha house in Daachhan collapsed but all its occupants were safe.

"As a part of advisory in view of hostile weather conditions and reports submitted by tehsildars, I have directed CEO Kishtwar to close all educational institutions in District Kishtwar today. We will assess the situation later in the day for further decision," said District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Ashok Sharma.

"As of now, there is no report of any damage from any part of the district," the DDC said.

The deputy commissioners of these districts have issued advisories asking people to remain indoors in view of the flood-like situation developed in the mountainous belts.

According to a weather office forecast, heavy rain is predicted in Kishtwar district which may cause temporary disruption of air and surface traffic mainly on the national highway and hilly roads, besides land landslides and shooting stones in vulnerable spots of the highway, according to the advisory issued by the district administration. "District police Kishtwar has established a help desk and people are advised to stay at home and not to venture out of their home unnecessarily," it said.

The district administrations have also issued helpline numbers in case of any emergency.

### Section of Jammu...

officials said. The traffic on the Mughal Road, which connects the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was also suspended due to landslides, they said.

"The shuttering of under-construction Peerah bridge was washed away due to heavy rains (on highway)", police official said, adding that the one which is normally used for traffic is safe.

In Udhampur district, a 150-foot stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar highway was washed away on Wednesday near Toldi Nallah, 16 kilometers away from Udhampur town, they said. Many machines were involved in the work to restore the road patch swept away in the flash floods in the Tawi river.

"Chances of road opening today are minimal. There are no reports of any loss of life", they said."The Jammu-Srinagar highway is blocked due to fresh shooting stones and landslides at several places in Ramban district," a traffic official said.

There are over 33 landslides, mudslides and incidents of shooting stones reported on the 270-km highway in Ramban and Udhampur districts, they said. The highway was closed for traffic due to shooting stones at Panthiyal on Tuesday. Work is on to clear the highway, the officials said.

The situation at Battery Cheshma on the highway is bad as a lot of mud is to be cleared to ensure that heavy vehicles trapped in it are cleared, they said.

The road connecting Khari to Mahoo and Khari to Nachlana blocked due to mudslide and shooting stones and part of the road sank at Hirnihaal, they said, adding the people are again advised not to venture out. According to some reports, over 1,000 vehicles are stranded at various places along the highway.

As the highway continues to be closed for traffic, stranded passengers were provided with food and medical facilities, they said. It is still raining in the Ramsao-Ramban sector as of now, the officials said.

### 1 killed, 4...

belt, resulting in on-the-spot death of one person and injuries to four others, the officials said. They said divisional administration sought the help of Indian Air Force (IAF) authorities for airlifting the injured by a helicopter.

A Police team also traversed a long distance to reach the victims and provided assistance before they were evacuated to hospital by IAF, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the District Administration Anantnag this afternoon launched a rescue mission to rescue a group of 13 people who were on an expedition to Tarsar lake.

It was revealed that of these 13 people a tourist and a guide are feared dead and efforts are on to locate their bodies while 11 others have reached back safely.

As per official sources, as soon as inputs regarding the tourists were received, a special team of rescuers comprising trained personnel from Revenue, Police and NDRF were pressed into service. The group of people had been sightseeing at Tarsar when they were washed away on a makeshift bridge due to a strong current.

The two missing persons are Dr Mahesh from Uttarakhand and Shakeel Ahmad from Gagangeer Ganderbal.

### ACB files chargesheet...

fraudulently showing fake and fictitious competition in the tendering process,"

spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the investigations conducted by ACB revealed that the accused Executive Engineer has invited quotations vide NIT No. 1776-82 dated June 17, 2009 for supply of various furniture/furnishing items for MLA Hostel Kupwara, without obtaining Administrative Approval from the competent authorities and without advertising the same in print/electronic media even as the tendering process was also fabricated by preparing fake and forged quotations of purported participating Quotationers to show the fake competition in order to favour the accused supplier MS Wani Furnishing House represented by Latief Ahmad Ganie.

It said that all the other participants fraudulently shown to have participated in the tendering process had denied that they ever participated in the tendering process and the documents prepared by the officials are fake/forged to facilitate the issuance of supply order in favour of the supplier.

It was also found that the said accused Executive Engineer by abusing his official position under a well knit conspiracy with other officials and the accused supplier Latief Ahmad Ganie arbitrarily fixed the rate of Furnishing / furniture items without conducting any market survey and fixed the contract for supply of said item in favour of the accused blue eyed supplier Vide supply order No. 80/AG of 09/2009 on highly exorbitant rates without obtaining Administrative Approval and also affected purchases in favour of the supplier at exorbitant rates, added the ACB.

"The investigation conducted by ACB has proved that the accused officials in their capacity as public servants have abused their official positions by entering into conspiracy with the supplier and under a well knit conspiracy have resorted to manipulation/forger of tendering records and purchased the furniture items on huge exorbitant rates thereby illegally /fraudulently giving undue pecuniary benefits to accused supplier and causing loss to state exchequer."

The chargesheet was presented against Mohammad Shafi Bhat, the then Executive Engineer; Mohammad Sultan Sheikh, the then Executive Engineer; Abdul Gani Bhat, the then Head Draftsman, Noor Mohammad Ganai, the then camp clerk of R&B Division Kupwara and Abdul Latief Ganai, the supplier son of Abdul Hamid of Kalaroos Kupwara accused beneficiary for commission of offences under various sections of IPC/PC Act svt 2006 before Anti Corruption Court Baramulla and the next date of hearing has been fixed on August 9, 2022.

### Guidelines issued for...

to strict disciplinary action. In addition to above, it is further provided that in the event of visit by any Chief Justice and Judge of High Court, no Judicial Officer shall be assigned duty as Liaison Officer and that only a senior non-Judicial Administrative Officer will perform services of a protocol officer unless such an officer is not available in which case preferably Mobile Magistrate/Traffic Magistrate or Leave Reserve Officers, if any, will be assigned duties as Liaison Officers and no Judicial Officer or District Judge shall receive or see off the Chief Justice or other Judges of Court during court hours at road-side or Highways or at any other place, it further added.

### 2 RDD employees...

different locations, while the payment of Rs. 3.90 lakh was drawn against the non-existing Community Sanitary Complex.

### Maha crisis: Thackeray...

if a Shiv Sainik succeeds him. Breaking his silence over the revolt led by Shinde, the Sena strongman from Thane, Thackeray said he was ready to step down if the rebel leader and MLAs supporting him, all camping in Guwahati in the BJP-ruled Assam, declare that they don't want him to continue as CM.

In an 18-minute live webcast in the evening which was delayed by 30 minutes, Thackeray, who has tested positive for COVID-19, admitted to being inexperienced and clarified that a spine surgery late last year kept him away from meeting people.

The CM said he was ready to give up the post of party president as well if Shiv Sainiks feel he isn't capable of leading the outfit which is heading the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, which also includes the NCP and the Congress.

"Why make statements from Surat (where rebels headed first on Monday night) and other places. Come and tell me on my face that I am incompetent to handle the post of Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president. I will resign immediately. I will keep my resignation letter ready and you can come and take it to the Raj Bhavan," he said.

Recalling the events of November 2019 when the MVA took shape, Thackeray said he agreed to become CM despite his political inexperience after NCP president Sharad Pawar suggested him to take up the job.

Thackeray said he was shocked at the ongoing political developments in the state, which started on Monday night when Shinde (58) raised a banner of revolt and landed in a hotel in Surat, around 280km from Mumbai, with a bunch of disgruntled MLAs.

"If my own people do not want me, I don't want to stick to power. I am ready with my resignation letter even if one rebel comes and tells me face to face that he doesn't want me as chief minister. I am also ready to quit as Shiv Sena president if Shiv Sainiks tell me so. I face challenges head on and never turn my back on them," he said.

The CM reiterated his party's commitment to Hindutva. "Hindutva is Shiv Sena's breath. I was the first CM to speak about Hindutva in the Legislative Assembly," Thackeray said. Showing no signs of backing down from his revolt, which has threatened the existence of the two-and-a-half-year old Thackeray government, the rebel leader said MVA was an "unnatural" alliance and it was imperative for the Shiv Sena to walk out of the coalition for its own sake and that of party workers.

The Sena strongman said the MVA, formed in November 2019, was beneficial only to alliance partners the Congress and the NCP, while ordinary Shiv Sainiks have suffered the most in the last two-and-a-half years of the coalition's existence.

"It is necessary to quit the unnatural alliance for the sake of Shiv Sainiks and the Shiv Sena. It is important to take a decision in the interest of the state," Shinde, who is camping in Guwahati along with rebel Sena MLAs, tweeted.

Shinde maintained that while the NCP and the Congress were growing stronger in the MVA alliance, the Shiv Sena, which heads the governing bloc, and its workers were getting systematically weakened.

Shinde has claimed the support of 46 MLAs, including Independents.

He has given a letter to the deputy speaker of the legislative assembly, signed by 35 Sena MLAs, replacing Sunil Prabhu with Bharat Gogavale as the chief whip of the Shiv Sena legislature party.

The urban development minister got a shot in the arm when two more MLAs Yogesh Kadam, minister Gulabrao Patil, independents Chandrakant Patil and Manjula Gavit joined the dissident camp.

Congress and NCP leaders held meetings with their legislators and also called on Thackeray to discuss the prevailing situation. Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath spoke to Thackeray over the phone while NCP chief Sharad Pawar met him at 'Varsha'.

Shiv Sainiks gathered at 'Varsha' as well as 'Matoshri' to show solidarity with Thackeray.

### Presidential poll: Murmu...

candidate requires a set of 50 proposers and 50 seconders for his or her nomination. At least four sets of nominations may be filed in Murmu's support, BJP sources said.

BJP president J P Nadda also held a meeting with party leaders involved in the polling process.

They will be travelling across the country to spearhead Murmu's campaign as she will be reaching out to the members of the presidential electoral college, which is made up of MPs and MLAs, for their support.

With the Opposition fielding former Union minister Yashwant Singh as its candidate, the election will be held on July 18.

Numbers heavily favour Murmu, a tribal leader from Odisha, more so after the BJP's support to her, ensuring that she already has the majority support with the BJP expecting some other regional parties like the YSR Congress and the ALADMK to back her as well.

Nadda on Tuesday announced her name as the NDA's presidential candidate following a meeting of the party's parliamentary board, which included the prime minister and other senior leaders.

Murmu (64), a former Jharkhand governor, will be the first person from Odisha and the first tribal to occupy the top constitutional post if she is elected, a strong possibility.

### Afghanistan quake kills...

for the Taliban-led government, which seized power last year as the U.S. planned to pull out from the country and end its longest war; two decades after toppling the same insurgents in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

Rescuers rushed to the area by helicopter Wednesday, but the response is likely to be complicated since many international aid agencies left Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover.

Reaching rural areas even in the best circumstances remains difficult in Afghanistan, a landlocked nation just smaller than Texas with rutted mountain roadways that may now have sustained significant damage.

Neighboring Pakistan's Meteorological Department said the quake's epicentre was in Afghanistan's Paktika province, some 50 kilometers southwest of the city of Khost.

Buildings were also damaged in Khost province, and tremors were felt some 375 kilometers away in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

### India ready to...

agency reported. Officials warned that the already grim toll may still rise. "India stands by the people of Afghanistan in their difficult times and is ready to provide all possible disaster relief material at the earliest," Modi said.

### Terrorist held as...

Gul who has been actively radicalising, motivating and recruiting youths of J&K to undertake violent activities in J&K and other parts of India", it said.

The NIA registered the case suo motu on November 18 last year.

### LG invites country's...

participation of girls is being ensured in the talent development program. We are treating the entire process as a movement to groom the future generation," he further added. The Lt Governor said the Nehru Park's Water Sports Center, inaugurated last year, is equipped with world class infrastructure for kayaking, canoeing and rowing. He urged sportspersons to take advantage of the world class infrastructure with a focus on medals in the international arena.

"Every day around 400 children including girls are being imparted specialized training through this Water Sports Center. In the last three years, our players have won 100 medals in national level competitions in kayaking and canoeing and many players have also represented the country in international tournaments", the Lt Governor added.

A water sports center like Srinagar is also being built in Basohli in Jammu division, which will be equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities.

No one else will decide your success or failure. You are the master of your own fate. Move forward and be the leader of tomorrow, Lt Governor told the participants.

Rajlaxmi Singh, President Rowing Federation of India while speaking on the occasion extended gratitude to Lt Governor for his support in organising the National Rowing Championships-2022 in J&K. She said that the region has an immense talent pool in the field of sports with many sports persons making their mark at the international level. Dal Lake has the potential to host international level water sports events, she added.

Motivating the participants, Singh said that Rowing rewards patience, humility and hunger to succeed and asked them to give their best during the championship.

S.A. Watali, Organizing Secretary, delivered the welcome address.

On the occasion, Oath was also administered to the participants to abide by the spirit of the game. The teams will compete in different categories in the course specially made for the championship in Dal Lake.

Dilbag Singh, DGP; SJM Gillani, ADGP Armed; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Myr Sriram Secretary General RFT; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Arjuna & Dronacharya Awardees, Olympians, coaches, participants from across the country, technical officials, Officers of RFT besides others were present on the occasion.

### Munir-ul-Islam...

Other Construction Workers Welfare Board to the Super Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service in pay level 14 (Rs. 144200-218200), with effect from May 13, 2022," reads and order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

### Bhardwaj nominated as...

the Government of Jammu & Kashmir under Section 15 (1) of the State Finance Corporation Act, 1951, Vivek Bhardwaj, IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department is hereby nominated as Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) in place of Atal Dulloo, IAS, for a period not exceeding three years," reads the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department. "In exercise of powers vested in the Government of Jammu & Kashmir under Section 10 (a) of the Financial Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2000, Kusum Badyal, JKAS, Secretary, in the Industries & Commerce Department is nominated as Director on Board of Directors of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation," reads another order.

### J&K IAS officer says 'cyber criminal' using his details to defraud colleagues, friends

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Senior IAS officer Shahid Choudhary said on Wednesday that a cyber criminal was using his mobile number to defraud colleagues and friends.

The officer took to Twitter to inform about the matter and requested the Jammu and Kashmir Police to take strict action against the culprit.

He said a cyber criminal was using mobile number 8105819214 and his picture to send messages to his colleagues and friends seeking financial help.

Choudhary, a 2009-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is tribal affairs department secretary and chief executive officer of the Mission Youth Jammu and Kashmir. He won the prime minister's award for

excellence in public administration in 2015. In a tweet, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Kashmir said, "General public is advised to remain cautious and follow precautionary measures to deal with fraudsters using fake WhatsApp display pictures to impersonate as high-profile government officers or dignitaries."

It also shared an advisory on fake WhatsApp DP scam issued by the Cyber Police Kashmir. It has advised people not to reply to messages received from unknown WhatsApp number and not to transfer money or purchase online gift vouchers. It also asked people not to share banking details and, install any remote access app and click on any suspicious link.

Cyber criminals have recently used a photo of the Chandigarh Police chief to seek "Amazon gift cards" from his friends. According to sources, some other senior officials in the Jammu and Kashmir administration have also been targeted by the cyber criminals in a bid to extract money by hacking into bank accounts.

## Union MoS takes stock of medical facilities for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PAHALGAM: Reviewing the arrangements for medical facilities during the conduct of Shri Amarnath Yatra with focus on the setting up of base hospitals, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Health and Family Welfare (H&FW), Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar on Wednesday expressed satisfaction over the measures taken in this regard and stressed that no stone should be left unturned for providing better facilities to holy yatris.

During the meeting, the MoS was informed by the Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather that all the

arrangements are in place and up-gradation of facilities have been made this year besides the routine facilities which used to be available en route the yatra have been established.

The Director informed the MoS that this year two DRDO hospitals are being made operational for yatris so that they don't face any kind of problem besides good number of doctors and paramedics within and outside the UT will be put into service for the yatra.

It was also informed that 24/7 control room has been established by the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

### Army to raise 'porter company' for multifarious support in Ladakh

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Army will raise a 500-men 'porter company' for multifarious support to the personnel in Ladakh, officials said on Wednesday.

"The porter company for 2022 is being raised from July 1 under the aegis of the headquarters of the 14 Corps as sanctioned by the central government for the areas in Leh district," Commandant Col V S Malhan said.

The recruitment process will be held at an Army service corps (ASC) company located opposite to the Hall of Fame (museum) in Leh from June 29 to July 1, he said. Of 520 porters to be recruited, 400 will be employed in general category and 120 in reserved categories, Col Malhan said.

