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MONSOON FURY: Jammu City areas inundated; NH blocked

Army rescues 4 persons in Poonch, schools shut in Ramban; students safely moved out in Muthi-Udheywalla areas



Heavy rains trigger flash floods in Jammu region. Water-logging at many city areas. Houses, roads and bridges damaged.

(pics by Shilpa Thakur)

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Even as the strategic 270-kilometres Jammu-Srinagar national highway was blocked on Thursday due to mudslides and shooting stones in Ramban district early Wednesday, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, the authorities rescued students and teachers trapped in a government

school after heavy rainfall triggered flash floods inundating many areas in the outskirts of the Jammu City, officials said. Dozens of houses and structures were damaged, some bridges washed away and scores of vehicles stuck on roads and highways in various districts of the region, they said. The Jammu-Srinagar

national highway was closed for traffic in the morning due to landslides and shooting stones in Ramban district. In Jammu, police and locals swung into action and rescued students and teachers trapped in a school building due to flash floods in the Muthi-Udhaywala area, the officials said. Several people escaped unhurt when an old building

collapsed due to heavy rains in the Kanak Mandi area. It triggered protests against the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for its alleged failure to bring down old and unused buildings in the old city causing a threat to life to the residents and shopkeepers, the officials said. A wall of another house collapsed in Kalka colony.

Most of the roads and dozens of colonies in Jammu city were inundated due to heavy rainfall gauged over 80 mm in a few hours. As per reports, dozens of houses and structures suffered damage due to rains, flash floods and landslides in Jammu, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Reasi districts. The region recorded heavy

rainfall since early Thursday morning. Worst-affected areas in Jammu due to the rainfall and subsequent flash floods were Keran, lower Roopnagar, Kangrail, Raipur, Kot-Bhalwal, Burn and Ghrota, Paloura, Takab Tillo, Channi Himmat and other low-lying areas where the rainwater entered houses, the officials said.

Iron tunnel on J&K highway gets damaged

BANIHAL/JAMMU: An important iron tunnel passage at a stretch of the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was damaged due to heavy shooting stones Thursday evening, even as the highway continued to remain shut due to inclement weather in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said. "Fresh incident of shooting stones on the highway at Pantiyal has caused damage to the important passage of an iron tunnel set up in the most vulnerable stretch of the strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway," an official said. "People are advised not to travel on the Jammu-Srinagar highway without confirmation," an advisory by the traffic police said. A big boulder rolled down a hill and hit an electric transformer, which was loaded on a truck near Jaiswal bridge in Karool area of Ramban this evening, they said, adding that the transformer fell into the Chenab river.

Power and water supply in parts of the city and other rural areas was affected badly, while water and mud entered many houses and shops in Old Janipur, Bhawani Nagar, Naseeb Nagar, Shant Nagar, Paloura, Lower Roop Nagar, Muthi, they said. The residents of Vasuki Vihar, behind Army Quarters

Rajouri Lines Lower Muthi (Ward-67) Jammu faced a lot of discomforts due to flash floods caused due to heavy rains on Thursday. In statement issued today, Vinod Pandita a socio/political leader has expressed concern on the continuous discomfort, caused to residents due to heavy rains. He

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Green Jammu & Kashmir drive launched

LG exhorts PRIs, civil society to play effective role as partners of Green Mission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Highlighting the role of community participation in ecologically sustainable development, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday urged the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the civil society to play an effective role as partners of the Green Mission. "Two R's - Respect and Restore the delicate balance in nature is the way forward for a Green Future. Citizens must take the lead in the ecological movement for regeneration", the Lt Governor said while launching the

"Green Jammu & Kashmir Drive" here from AIIMS Vijaypur. The target for the current year is planting of 1.5 crore saplings. To mark the day, the Lt Governor felicitated Village Panchayat Plantation Committees for outstanding performance in plantation drives in their respective panchayats. Notified Jammu and Kashmir Social Forestry (Plantation) Rules-2022 were also unveiled on the occasion. Sinha reiterated the J&K government's

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Sinha lays e-foundation of Sky Walk, Gayatri Bhawan, other infra projects of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Says Govt already working on ambitious project to develop religious tourism circuit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday laid the e-foundation of Yatri Queue Management System (Sky Walk), Gayatri Bhawan & other infra projects of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine from Raj Bhavan here. The Lt Governor, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on the occasion observed that the shrine board is taking every measure to provide better facilities and modern amenities to make the pilgrimage conven-



LG Manoj Sinha laying e-foundation of Sky Walk, Gayatri Bhawan & other infra projects of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

ient and hassle-free.

"The Government is already working on the ambitious project to develop a reli-

gious tourism circuit to strengthen the links between pilgrimage and local economy", the Lt Governor added.

Members, SMVDSB, Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand

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Police attaches 5 houses in Srinagar for harbouring terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Five houses here have been attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for being used for terrorism purposes, police said on Thursday. Of the five residential properties, two are in Lawaypora, and one each in Maloora, Batmaloo and Harwan areas of the city, a police official said. The residential houses

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395 non-performers, corrupt officers prematurely retired in 8 years: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As many as 395 non-performing and corrupt Central government officers were prematurely retired from the service between July 2014 and June 2022, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday. "Government is vested with the absolute power to

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ACB nabs Field Supervisor SC, ST Dev Corp red-handed while accepting bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has nabbed one Manzoor Ahmad, Field Supervisor, J&K SC, ST & OBC Development Corporation, Baramulla, red-handed while accepting bribe in Baramulla. As per an official spokesperson, the sleuths of ACB received a complaint against one Manzoor Ahmad, Field Supervisor posted in the office of J&K SC, ST & OBC Development Corporation, Baramulla for allegedly accepting bribe of Rs 15,000 and demanding

Rs 4,000 more from complainant for processing his loan case. The complainant alleged that he is running a Karyana Shop at Baramulla and to expand his business, he had applied for loan from SC, ST & OBC Development Corporation Baramulla about six months ago. As the complainant was eligible for interest rate of 6 per cent and fulfilled all required formalities, concerned field Supervisor, but district officer were not sanctioning loan, said official. "When complainant again visited the office for sanctioning of loan, Field Supervisor namely

Manzoor Ahmad again demanded bribe of Rs 4,000 and told him that new district officer has joined and he will not sanction loan without bribe. The complainant requested the official that he had already borrowed money for giving bribe of Rs 15,000 so the official told him to pay Rs 2,000 more instead of Rs 4,000. Under these circumstances the complainant approached ACB and requested for taking necessary legal action against accused official," he added. The official said that on receipt of complaint,

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J&K Admn names 18 schools after martyrs, eminent persons

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday named 18 schools after martyrs and eminent personalities, officials said. The move is part of the Lieutenant Governor administration's decision to name infrastructure assets after those who gave up their life in the service of the nation. Sanction is hereby accorded to naming of infrastructure assets after the martyrs/eminent personalities, an order issued by Principal Secretary to government, General Administration Department, Manoj

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Amarnath Yatra: Chhari-Mubarak taken to Shankaracharya for special prayers

1,602 pilgrims leave for cave shrine from Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chhari-Mubarak -- the saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva -- was taken to the historic Shankaracharya temple here for special prayers as part of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra. In connection with Swami Amarnath Ji Yatra-2022, Chhari-Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji led by Mahant Deependra Giri was taken to historic Shankaracharya temple located at Gopadri hills for prayers on the occasion of Haryali-Amavasya' (Shravan Amavasya) as per



Special prayers being offered to Chhari-Mubarak in Shankaracharya temple.

the age-old customs, Giri, the custodian of the mace, said in a statement.

He said the sound of conch shells charged the atmosphere and puja' was performed chanting Vedic hymns. Sadhus who accompanied the holy mace participated in the prayers that lasted for more than two hours. Collective prayers were also offered for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir, Giri said. The Chhari-Mubarak will be taken to Sharika-Bhawani' temple, Hari Parbat, here to pay obeisance to the goddess on Friday,

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From Self-Rule to SAARC-Role, irrelevant PDP comes up with another day-dream



SPECIAL REPORT

(while being in coalition under Mufti Mohammed Sayeed and later her daughter Mehbooba Mufti) to create an atmosphere conducive for abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A-a saffron agenda since the times of Syama Prasad Mukherjee. BJP achieved it on August 5, 2019, leaving duplicit politicians of the Valley in the lurch.

Embarrassed cat scratchesing poles, or Khisyanai Billi Khamba Noche' fits well with the politically irrelevant and outdated Peoples' Democratic Party, which has been left to lick dust by the BJP by making it a ladder

SAARC in Kashmir. The Self-Rule basics had envisaged closer ties across the Line of Control, making borders irrelevant and complete connectivity; economic and social integration of the region with focus on regional free trade area and common economic market; innovative institutional arrangements, specifying joint coordination mechanism for project and joint regulatory commission on trade and tariffs; constitutional restructuring by restoring powers of the state assembly and empowering sub regions. The Self-Rule document had proposed a joint currency of India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir, joint control and change in the nomenclature of the Chief Minister as Prime Minister and the Governor as President.

Now, on its 23rd Foundation Day, the unceremoniously ousted Chief Minister of the then Jammu and Kashmir State, Mehbooba Mufti has come up with a new rant, asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare Jammu and Kashmir a peace zone and make it a model of SAARC cooperation by opening all routes across the Line of Control (LoC)

and allowing every member country to invest in the region. She says there is no other option than dialogue to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue. She wants SAARC to open their banks in Kashmir, their handicrafts universities and open all routes for everyone to move freely. She wants Jammu and Kashmir to be free for all. Mehbooba Mufti also wants the Prime Minister to make J-K a gateway to Central and South Asia with Pakistan becoming a part of the CPEC -- a route which goes via the Pakistan occupied Kashmir: "Why don't you open routes through this J-K? Why not make it a gateway to Central and South Asia? Start from Jammu, reach Valley and then Ladakh -- be it Xinjiang, Yarkhand, Kargil-Skardu, Bandipora-Astoor, we are telling you what to do", Mehbooba dares Modi, she goes on advising the Prime Minister sarcastically. The PDP chief also wants Prime Minister Modi to grant general amnesty to all Kashmiri youths languishing in different jails across the country. Mehbooba Mufti poses pointed questions to the Prime Minister by asking how many

mosques will he destroy to make temples. Houses of how many Muslims will he destroy. Names of how many roads or cities will he change. Mehbooba's PDP has some cadres in Jammu, so has the other PAGD partner National Conference. Certainly, the Jammu friends or the factotums of the two parties will never subscribe to what Mehbooba Mufti has been suggesting-earlier as also now--because whatever their compulsions they are proud of their love for the nation. Certainly, NC and Mehbooba's cadres in Jammu would not like to weigh India and Pakistan on the same pedestal, as they consider Pakistan a rogue nation and India a proud democracy of the world. When Mehbooba Mufti and her ilk want Jammu and Kashmir to be helpful in bridging gap between India and Pakistan, the supposedly patriotic cadres of the NC and the PDP won't subscribe to the assertions that Jammu and Kashmir was a bone of contention because they, like the compatriots across the country, believe this part of the nation is a shining symbol of Indian ethos and its inseparable limb.

Box tagged 'TESTED' found with balloon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A suspicious box tied with a balloon tagged with word TESTED' was found in roadside bushes in the Machine Domana area, about eight kilometers from the International Border of India and Pakistan in Jammu City outskirts. A junction plate and some suspicious devices were also found in a white colored thermocol box and a battery was also attached with this device. The suspicious luggage kept inside the box had a tag written "TESTED" on it. The Domana police handed-over the suspected box found with the balloons to the Bomb Disposal Squad and it will be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 30.1°C Min: 25.3°C

Humidity

Max : 94 Min : 72

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 25.4°C Min: 19.4°C

Humidity

Max : 97 Min: 70

Sunset : 19:33 Hours

Sunrise : 05:44 Hours