

**!! Continuations from Page 1 !!  
Cloudburst, landslide in...**

girl from the rubble and frantically searching for missing persons.

The landslide triggered by rains also hit Changda villages under the jurisdiction of Kathua police station and Dilwan-Hutli in Lakhanpur police station area but there was no major report of damage.

The heavy rains have led to a sharp increase in the level in most of the water bodies with the Ujh river flowing near the danger mark, the officials said, adding several low lying areas were submerged with flood water entering homes and shops.

The district administration is closely watching the situation and has requested people to stay away from water bodies for their safety.

Police in Kathua also asked the people especially living in hilly areas to stay at home and not to move close to the water bodies as there is every apprehension of flash flood owing to heavy rains. "For any emergency please contact to nearest Police Station or call on helpline numbers: 9858034100 or 112," the police said.

Train traffic has been disrupted along the Jammu-Pathankot rail line following the cloudburst, prompting authorities to cancel local trains and short-terminate others.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on the cloudburst in Kathua and assured all support from the

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Union Minister Jitendra Singh have expressed grief over the loss of lives in the incidents.

Meanwhile, the weather office has forecast light to moderate rain and thunder showers at many places with intense showers or heavy rains at few places in Jammu division, especially Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Samba and Kathua district with moderate intense showers over Doda, Kishtwar; Ramban till August 19.

The Army deployed helicopters and several columns in the cloudburst-hit Jodh Ghati village of Kathua district, officials said.

The calamity struck the village and Janglote amid heavy overnight rains, leaving seven persons dead.

Several army columns were inducted into the operation in the affected areas to rescue stranded people and evacuate the injured to hospitals, the officials said.

An Army helicopter deployed for rescue operations in Ghatti airlifted 15 people to hospital, they added.

The Dhruv helicopters airlifted injured to a hospital in Pathankot in Punjab.

Troops from Rising Star Corps are working on the ground with police, SDRF and locals to rescue families, providing food and medical care, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Train traffic has been disrupted along the Jammu-Pathankot rail line following a cloudburst in Kathua district.

"Due to heavy rains, water is flowing above the danger level through bridge number 43 between Kathua-Budhi. In view of this, temporarily till the water level subsides, up-line movement has been suspended, and in the meantime, up trains are being moved via a temporary single line through the down line track," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Railway Division, Uchit Singhal said here.

He said a few trains have been short-terminated and short-originated, including the cancellation of local passenger trains.

**LG briefs Union...**

and execute rescue and aid efforts in the affected areas and ensure on-site medical assistance. My thoughts are with bereaved families and praying for the swift recovery of those injured."

**Names of 65...**

Officers (EROs), who are SDM-level officers, prepare and finalise the Electoral Rolls (ER) with the help of Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

EROs and BLOs undertake the responsibility for the correctness of Electoral Rolls, it said.

After the publication of the draft electoral rolls, their digital and physical copies are shared with all political parties and put on the EC website for anyone to see.

Following the publication of the draft electoral rolls, a full one-month period is available with the electors and political parties for the filing of claims and objections before the final ER is published, he explained.

The draft electoral roll was published on August 1 in Bihar and it will be available till September 1 for claims and objections under which parties and individuals can seek inclusion of eligible citizens or exclusion of those they believe are ineligible.

The CEC defended the SIR at the press conference on Sunday and said it is a matter of grave concern that some parties were spreading "misinformation" on the exercise.

The Chief Election Commissioner said instances of a person holding multiple voter identity cards arise due to migration or administrative lapses and the poll authority is working to rectify such mistakes.

Kumar also said the 'House number zero' issue flagged by political parties also arises as several voters do not have a home or their homes have not been given numbers by the panchayat or their respective municipality.

Kumar said the Commission had also addressed the issue of the same voter identity card number allotted to different persons in different states and corrected three lakh such instances.

"Even if a person has votes in two places, he goes to vote at only one place. Voting at two places is a crime and if any person makes a claim of double voting, then proof is required. Proof was asked but was not given," the CEC said.

Kumar said knowingly or unknowingly, some people have ended up having multiple voter identity cards due to migration and other issues, and exercises like the special intensive revision (SIR) would rectify such discrepancies.

**CM announces immediate...**

of lives and destruction caused by heavy rains and landslides in parts of Kathua, including Janglote, Juthana and Ghatti.

Calling it a moment of profound grief, the Minister extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength and healing for those affected. He also wished a speedy recovery for the injured.

Expressing the grief, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology and Transport, Satish Sharma conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He prayed for peace to the departed souls and speedy recovery of the injured.

"The loss of precious lives in Jodh Khad, Juthana and adjoining areas is an irreparable tragedy. The government is committed to providing all necessary help and ensuring that the victims and their families do not face hardships," the Minister said.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo said that this heart-breaking tragedy has shaken every conscious soul of J&K and left several families devastated. She extended her heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, praying for their courage and strength to bear the irreparable loss. She also prayed for speedy recovery of injured souls.

"Words fall short in moments of such grief. My thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost their loved ones", Sakeena said.

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, has expressed grief over the loss of lives, saying, "This sad tragedy has shaken every conscious soul of Jammu & Kashmir and left several families devastated."

"The Government stands with the affected families and remains committed to ensuring their timely relief and rehabilitation," he added.

Meanwhile, following the calamity in Jode (Jakhole) and Bagra (Janglote) areas of Kathua district in the early hours of Sunday, the Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, visited the affected sites to assess the situation.

At Jode in Jakhole, where five lives were lost, the Deputy Commissioner accompanied by ADC Kathua Vishvajet Singh, ACR Vishav Partap Singh and Tehsildar Vikram Kumar. He personally monitored rescue and relief operations jointly carried out by the Army, Police, SDRF and Civil Administration, including evacuation of the injured and provision of immediate assistance.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner, along with DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, visited GMC Kathua to enquire about the condition of the injured persons shifted from Bagra village of Janglote, where two lives were lost and several houses were damaged. He assured the injured and their families of full support from the administration. The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation and maintain coordination with all line departments for effective emergency response. He informed that the District Administration has set up an Emergency Operation Centre in view of prevailing weather conditions for round-the-clock monitoring and response. CPO Kathua, Ranjit Thakur, has been designated as Nodal Officer, and people can contact 01922-238796 or 94191-40916 for emergency assistance.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the public to remain vigilant, avoid vulnerable areas and follow safety advisories issued by the administration.

**Kishtwar cloudburst: Search...**

bridge to restore connectivity to Chisoti village and the Machail Mata shrine and further intensify the rescue efforts.

With the recovery of another body from the debris, the officials on Sunday said the death toll has risen to 61.

The cloudburst struck Chisoti, the last motorable village en route the Machail Mata temple, on August 14, leaving over 100 injured, other than the fatalities.

The number of missing persons has come down to 50, while the bodies of three persons still remain unidentified.

The flash floods triggered by the cloudburst left a trail of destruction, flattening a makeshift market, a langar (community kitchen) site for the Machail Mata Yatra, damaging 16 houses and government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre-long bridge, and more than a dozen vehicles.

The rescuers conducted three more controlled explosions within a span of 45 minutes to blow up giant boulders hampering the search operation, especially near the worst-hit larger site, the officials said.

Despite overcast conditions, the joint teams of police, Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), civil administration, and local volunteers are continuing the rescue efforts.

The rescuers are utilising more than a dozen earth-movers and other heavy equipment, while the NDRF has mobilised its resources, including dog squads, to speed up the rescue operation.

The work on the bailey bridge is going on at full speed and was only halted when the rescuers went for controlled explosions to detonate the huge boulders, the officials said.

General Officer Commanding of the Army's counter-insurgency Delta Force, Major General A P S Bal, said Army engineers conducted a survey of the area after the need for a bridge was felt.

"We need a 17-metre bridge, which will be installed to facilitate smooth movement across the river," the officer said, adding that the structure will be completed by Sunday evening.

He also said the Army responded to the disaster within 45 minutes after getting the information.

"We are here because of the people. As you know, our country's policy nowadays is a whole of nation approach. So, if there is any security issue, not just physical security but all kinds of security, the whole of nation approach has to be followed," the GOC said.

"Besides saving lives, we are also providing the affected people with medicines, food, and all kinds of things that we can provide," he said.

**Administration, forces holding...**

the minister wrote, adding, "My sincere condolences to the families of the deceased." Singh said Deputy Inspector General of Police Shiv Kumar Sharma, along with his team, is camping at the spot and is in constant touch with him.

Further assistance will be arranged as and when required, he added.

**INDIA bloc leaders...**

nominee for the post of vice-president, the second-highest constitution position in the country.

Radhakrishnan hails from Tamil Nadu, which will go to polls in 2026.

While the ruling BJP feels that the nomination of Radhakrishnan, a seasoned BJP leader with an RSS background, will elicit support from the wider opposition, especially the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, it remains to be seen what stand the opposition parties take on Monday.

**NDA picks Maharashtra...**

following a meeting of the party's parliamentary board, which included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and consulting the party's allies.

Nadga appealed for unanimous election of Radhakrishnan (67), an OBC leader and two-time former member of Lok Sabha, to the constitutional position, saying the BJP leaders had spoken to the opposition parties last week and will continue to do so.

The opposition leaders had told the BJP interlocutors that they can make up their mind only after being told of the ruling alliance's nominee, Nadga said, adding that his party will reach out to them again.

Due to the comfortable majority of the BJP and its allies in the electoral college, comprising Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members, Radhakrishnan's election is all but certain, and the party hopes that his elevation will help it make fresh inroads in Tamil Nadu, where elections are due next year.

Radhakrishnan belongs to the influential Gounder caste, an OBC community, in Tamil Nadu. Nadga emphasised on his nearly 40 years in public life, noting that he is well regarded in different parties and commands respect among various sections of society. "He is considered a statesman," Nadga said of the former Coimbatore MP who was made the Jharkhand governor in 2023 and then shifted to Maharashtra in July 2024. Unlike his predecessor Jagdeep Dhanekar, who was also a governor like him before being named as the NDA's vice-presidential nominee in 2022, Radhakrishnan has refrained from cultivating a public profile on political issues and skirted any controversy.

**Radhakrishnan focused on...**

of the alliance. "In his long years in public life, Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji has distinguished himself with his dedication, humility and intellect," Modi said in a post on X. "During the various positions he has held, he has always focused on community service and empowering the marginalised," the prime minister said

Earlier, the BJP parliamentary board nominated Radhakrishnan as the NDA candidate for vice-president.

Announcing the nomination, BJP president J P Nadga said a meeting chaired by the prime minister decided Radhakrishnan's name after extensive deliberations.

Nadga hoped the opposition parties would support the NDA candidate. The vice-presidential election, necessitated by the resignation of incumbent Jagdeep Dhanekar last month, is scheduled for September 9. The last date for filing nomination is August 22.

**MBBS/BDS admissions...**

( Documents required for MBBS admission session 2024 : Bank Guarantee for Rs. 19,80,000 lakhs (OM/HM), Rs. 1,71,600/- lakhs (P&B) and US Dollars 86,088 (NRD) towards Tuition Fee for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th year or 04 (Four) No's FDR's of Rs. 4,95,000/- lakhs each for (OM/HM), 04 (Four) No's FDR's of Rs. 42,900/- each for (P&B) and 04 (Four) No's FDR's of US Dollar 21522 each pledged to ASCOMS as guarantee). No doubt the reference of Management seats could be found in the quotes but as per sources that too was said to be like Om/ HM seat. In case the competent Authority has also allowed private medical colleges to adopt such mode of collection of fee then that is really unfair and should be amended . And in case such collection has not been allowed by competent authority then government must immediately issue advice to college managementsfor not collecting advance fee in the fair cause of innocent and less resourceful candidates opting for MBBS degree seats in UT of J&K, since process is already on. (5)Government may kindly relook at the academic eligibility criteria for the Poor & Backward ( family income not more than Rs.5833/ per month ) as regards min academic merit and such seats may be also kept in government medical colleges.

Omar Abdullah Government has always been expressing commitment to the cause of common man , particularly the meritorious but less resourceful ( socially , administratively and financially ) who aspire for better settlement in life but have acute economic limitations in the present times where many other people in competition have the advantage of buying better education, support in the form of tuition/ special coaching and living conditions upto the level of 10+2 education. (The writer is Sr Journalist and social activist & analyst J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com 9419796096).

**JKBOSE postpone Bi-annual...**

Ladakh. New dates will be announced separately, while centre superintendents and jurisdictional SHOs have been asked to ensure proper intimation.

The decision has been taken purely in the interest of student safety given the inclement weather and cloudburst situation in Kathua.

**14-year-old girl's body found in Ganderbal Distt**

**CM terms killing as 'inhuman, reprehensible'**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Body of a 14-year-old girl was found on Sunday in the Ganderbal district, officials said.

Local residents found the body in the bushes at Batsar-Sehpora in the district, the officials said.

They said the locals informed the police, after which senior police officers of the district visited the spot and assured the locals of speedy investigation into the matter.

Further details are awaited, the officials said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep anguish over the tragic killing of a minor girl in Ganderbal, describing the incident as "inhuman and reprehensible." Conveying his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, the Chief Minister said such heinous acts shock the collective conscience of society.

He stressed that the perpetrators of this crime deserve the severest punishment under the law.

**J&K Police establishes emergency helpline in view of inclement weather**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

HANDWARA: In view of ongoing adverse weather conditions, with forecasts of heavy rainfall, lightning, hailstorms, strong winds, cloudbursts, and thunderstorms in the police district, Handwara Police has set up a dedicated emergency helpline service to assist the general public and ensure prompt responses to any distress or emergency. Distress calls can be made 24x7 to the following numbers at PCR Handwara: 9906767076, 7051404201, 01955262295.

In addition, citizens are urged to use the following contact numbers in case of emergency. SSP Handwara 7051404200, ASP Handwara 7006562758, SDPO Handwara 7051404202 and 9797448883, DySP DAR Handwara 9906643510, DySP PC Handwara 9796012012, Dysp PC Kralgrund 9906043688, SHO PS Handwara 8899933367, SHO PS Vilgam 9797290222, SHO PS Qalamabad 9797890670, SHO PS Kralgrund 9541445223, DO Langate 6005009265, DO Chogul 9906939711, DO Magam 7006684500, DO Zachaldara 6005908622 or PCR Kashmir on dial 112. J&K Police remains committed to serving the public. Stay safe and reach out for assistance whenever needed.

**Bukhari calls on LG Manoj Sinha, pressing public issues**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari called on Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha today at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.

According to a press release issued here, Mr Bukhari met the Lieutenant Governor to discuss a range of issues. They also deliberated on the prevailing political and security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari apprised LG Manoj Sinha of several pressing public issues and grievances, and held discussions with him on the prevailing political and security situation in Jammu and Kashmir," the press release said.

**Jasrotia visits cloudburst-hit areas, announces ex-gratia from his CDF**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: MLA Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia, has expressed deep shock and sorrow over the devastating cloudburst that hit Jodh Ghati village in Kathua district, resulting

in the loss of at least seven lives and injuring several others. Addressing media person over this unfortunate natural calamity after visiting the cloudburst-hit areas, witnessing firsthand the extent of the destruction and assessing the needs of the affected families, Jasrotia informed that the incident, which occurred late Saturday night, triggered landslides, flash floods, and large-scale disruption, causing widespread destruction and chaos. The cloudburst snapped access to Jodh Ghati village, where floodwaters swept through homes and agricultural fields, leaving families stranded. Several connecting roads were washed away, and a bridge collapsed, worsening the situation, added Jasrotia.

Jasrotia announced a compensation package from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for the affected families, including Rs 1 lakh for fully damaged houses, Rs 50,000, for severely damaged houses and Rs 25,000 for partially damaged houses. Jasrotia informed that helicopter evacuations have been launched, and multiple agencies, including the Army, NDRF, SDRF, and police, are working tirelessly to restore connectivity and assist victims.

Jasrotia urged the government to implement long-term flood protection measures, including improved embankments, real-time weather alerts, and a review of building norms in vulnerable areas. He said authorities are working to restore essential services, including power, water, and road links, to the affected areas. Jasrotia appealed to the authorities to ensure that the rescue and relief operations are carried out with utmost speed and efficiency. He also emphasized the need for long-term measures to mitigate the impact of such disasters in the future.

While the state government has sought central assistance, Jasrotia urged long-term flood protection measures. This includes improved embankments, real-time weather alerts, and a review of building norms in vulnerable areas. Connectivity and services slowly being restored Authorities are now focused on restoring essential services, including power, water and road links, added Jasrotia.

**SKUAST-J convened training cum awareness camp**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: The SKUAST-J team from Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, F.V.Sc. & A.H., SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, organized one day training and Awareness program at village Badoli, Kathua. As informed, the team organized the event under the patronage of Professor Bhupendra Nath Tripathi, Honorable Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J, in the supervision of Dr S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu. The event was organized under the mandate of the DBT funded Government of India project "Socio-Economic Upliftment of Poor Farmers through Animal Husbandry using Scientific Interventions in Jammu Province" under the horizon of SKUAST-Jammu.

The team had Dr Nrip Kishore Pankaj, Head, Veterinary Pharmacology & Toxicology, F.V.Sc. & A.H., SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, Dr Sharad Kumar, Professor, VGO, F.V.Sc. & A.H., SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, Dr Minakshi Rani, Project Associate-I, and Dr Siddharth, VMD scholar and others.

Mrs. Sudesh Rani, Sarpanch Badoli, and Sri Kamal Singh, former Sarpanch, Badoli along with other ladies and farmers welcomed the SKUAST-Jammu team at Kishan Khidmat Ghar (KKG). Badoli and acknowledged the frequent visit of the team. The farmers also appreciated the team prompt intervention since last three years to improve the productivity of the livestock. He said that the farmers of village Badoli are beneficiary under the project, they need to think towards entrepreneurship. The SKUAST-Jammu is always there to offer scientific help to farmers.

The main query from the farmers were the issues of ectoparasites, endoparasites, mastitis among livestock. Dr Sharadprescribed treatment to counter anestrus among cattle and buffaloes. He also stated the precautions in connection with the managerial aspects of rearing the animals to avoid the anestrus and repeat breeding among livestock. Further, he stressed the farmers for timely, regular vaccination against infectious diseases like FMD, H5N1, BQ etc., to sustain in the livestock venture.

Dr. Pankaj informed the farmers about the hazards of toxic weeds and fodder in the vicinity. He also talked about the precautions to avoid any toxicity among the livestock. The team informed the farmers about toxic fodder like maize, chari and weeds like Gajar gansh, Panchfool buti, jangli pudina etc. He also said that backyard poultry, cattle, and goat farming can be profitable if considered as entrepreneurship by local. The villagers were glad about the visit and appreciated the regular visit of the scientists from SKUAST-Jammu to Badoli, Kathua.

The farmers were worried for the weakness of the cattle. The team prescribed the medication to treat the problem. The team also distributed the ectoparasitic and endo-parasitic drug, mineral mixture, and appetizer for livestock. The farmers acknowledged the event and requested more such events, including clinical camps, in the future. They also expressed gratitude for the regular visits of the team from SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, Jammu.