

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Torrential rains trigger...

bridge. Officials said water levels in major rivers and streams, including Basantar in Samba, Ujh and Ravi in Kathua, Chenab in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Jammu and Tawi in Udhampur and Jammu rose sharply, prompting the administration to put disaster response teams and local police on alert.

So far, there have been no immediate reports of casualties, but the rains have triggered landslides at several places in Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region and Gurez in north Kashmir, the officials said.

In Jammu region, Udhampur recorded the second highest 144.2 mm of rainfall followed by Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, at 115 mm and Samba (109.0 mm) and Kathua (90.2 mm).

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams have been conducting extensive disaster management operations in various areas of Jammu, following heavy rains that led to water logging and disruption of normal life.

The SDRF teams, equipped with specialized equipment and trained personnel, have been working tirelessly to rescue stranded people in affected areas.

During the rescue operations SDRF teams have rescued numerous people trapped in waterlogged areas, including homes, roads and other Residential Facilities in and around Jammu city.

SDRF personnel under the supervision of DSP SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu Dinesh Gupta rescued about 45 students trapped in IIM Hostel using inflatable boats and life saving jacks.

SDRF teams have been deployed in different areas of Jammu, including areas of Tawi River at different locations including Talab Tillo, Lower Bakshi Nagar etc.

Teams have also been working in coordination with local authorities, including the district administration, police, and other agencies.

Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu (SSP) Zahid Naseem Manhas, while talking to the media persons said "The SDRF teams are committed to support those affected by the heavy rains. We are working tirelessly to ensure the safety of the people in the affected areas."

In the wake of incessant heavy rainfall causing waterlogging and damage in several parts of the city, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Jammu (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav carried out a comprehensive inspection of the affected regions to assess the situation and ensure immediate redressal measures.

The Commissioner visited several low-lying and rain-affected areas including Gangyal, Digiana, Gandhinagar, Kalika Colony, Bahu Fort, Janipur, Roopnagar, Chhinor, Bantalab, Talab Tillo, Bhagwati Nagar and other vulnerable localities that faced the brunt of heavy rains. During the visit, Dr. Yadav interacted with local residents, listened to their grievances and assured them that all possible measures were being initiated to mitigate the situation.

Dr. Yadav instructed the Engineering, Transport and Sanitation wings of JMC to undertake immediate restoration work on a war footing. He directed the teams to expedite the drainage of accumulated water, deploy additional manpower and necessary machinery including suction pumps and dewatering units to clear stagnant water and inspect drainage channels, storm-water lines and culverts to identify blockages and remove debris obstructing water flow. He further directed the officers to ensure round-the-clock monitoring of flood-prone zones to avoid further damage and inconvenience to the residents.

Dr. Yadav appealed to the residents of Jammu to exercise utmost caution during this spell of heavy rainfall. He urged citizens to refrain from visiting low-lying areas unnecessarily, stay away from overflowing rivers and drains and avoid dumping waste into drainage systems, which aggravates waterlogging.

The Commissioner reiterated JMC's commitment to provide continuous support and relief to the affected areas in coordination with other line departments and the district administration. He stated that additional teams have been kept on high alert to respond promptly to any emergency and helplines are active to receive public complaints. Dr. Yadav also emphasized the importance of long-term preventive measures, stating that the corporation is working on strengthening the city's drainage infrastructure and implementing sustainable solutions to minimize the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation has urged to all residents to cooperate with the ongoing efforts, stay vigilant and report at these helpline numbers (9419027458, 9469300005, 9419156769) in case of any emergency or rush to the nearest JMC office for prompt assistance.

District Magistrate Samba Ayushi Sudan undertook an extensive tour of the rain-affected areas in the district, including Bedheri, Manohar Gopala, Mananu and Chak Manga to take firsthand stock of the situation arising out of incessant rainfall.

During the visit, the District Magistrate personally interacted with the local residents, patiently listening to their grievances and concerns. She assured the people that district administration stands firmly with them in this hour of difficulty and that every possible measure is being taken to mitigate their hardships.

The DM directed the officers of line departments to immediately initiate damage assessment of houses, crops and public infrastructure, and to prioritize restoration of essential services in the affected habitations. She stressed upon prompt coordination between Revenue, PWD, PHE, Power and Rural Development Departments to ensure swift redressal of issues being faced by the public.

Sudan also visited the Community Hall, Samba, where several families displaced due to the rains have been temporarily accommodated. She reviewed the relief arrangements including food, drinking water, bedding, medical aid, sanitation facilities and issued on-the-spot directions for ensuring that all basic needs of the affected families are met without delay.

Highlighting the importance of preparedness, the District Magistrate emphasized that disaster response is not only about immediate relief but also about long-term resilience. She asked officials to keep close vigil on vulnerable locations, maintain readiness of machinery and ensure public advisories are disseminated widely to avoid any untoward incidents.

The summer capital Srinagar recorded 13.5 mm of rainfall, the officials said.

## LG visits GMC...

Along with relief and rescue, the Government of India and J&K Administration is working on ensuring quick rehabilitation of the families affected by the tragic natural calamity. Search and rescue operations are underway on war footing to trace the missing persons," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further advised the people to take all necessary safety precautions. Advisory was issued today on inclement weather. NDRF and the SDRF are prepared to respond to emergencies, he said.

## Ex-CRPF DG...

(IPS) officer from the Manipur cadre, retired from service in December 2024.

He brings extensive experience to the role, having served for nearly 30 years in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) before heading the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and most recently, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

According to officials, Singh will be in charge of internal affairs of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, and Naxal and Northeastern insurgency, as the deputy NSA.

Former RAW chief Rajinder Khanna is the Additional NSA, while retired IPS officer TV Ravichandran and former IPS officer Pawan Kapoor are the two serving deputy NSAs.

During his tenure as CRPF chief, Singh was instrumental in a number of key initiatives, such as CRPF's strides in combating Naxalism, establishing over three dozen forward operating bases, and introducing four new battalions in the Left-Wing Extremism-affected areas.

He also oversaw the CRPF's role in ensuring security during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the first Assembly elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Internally, Singh initiated a comprehensive realignment of over 130 CRPF battalions - the first such restructuring in eight years, which is aimed at improving operational efficiency and providing troops with more "family time," reducing the average distance between units and their parent centres from 1,200 km to 500 km.

He also introduced "samvaad" (dialogue) sessions with company commanders to gather feedback, a move widely appreciated within the force.

The appointment comes alongside the Union government's approval of granting honorary ranks to retiring personnel of the central armed forces, a policy Singh championed.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued an order approving a policy aimed at boosting the morale of subordinate officers in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles.

The proposal for this policy was originally moved by Singh himself with a reasoning to overcome the long-standing issue of stagnation in promotional avenues, with some constables waiting as long as 20 years for their first promotion.

## PM concerned, no...

The review meeting was attended by Union minister Jitendra Singh, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, senior Army and police officers, among others.

"It is heartening to note that the state administration, Army, NDRF, SDRF, J&K Police have done excellent work during the crisis situation. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Central Government is leaving no stone unturned in providing relief and rehabilitation to those who have been affected by this tragic incident," the defence minister said in his post.

# SSB exams cancelled after paper leak allegations spark outrage

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Allegations of a paper leak ahead of a recruitment test emerged in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, with political parties criticising the ruling National Conference (NC) for "wrecking the future" of the youth, prompting the cancellation of the examination.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) announced the cancellation of the written test and said they would be held afresh.

In an order, the JKSSB stated the OMR-based written examination was scheduled for Sunday from 11.00 am across 35 examination venues in Jammu and Srinagar. However, due to weather-related exigencies, the timings were rescheduled to 12.00 noon. The examination was successfully conducted across 34 venues, but could not be conducted at one venue.

"In view of the above, it has been decided by the Board to cancel the OMR-Based Examination for the posts of Junior Engineer (Electrical), Power Development Department, conducted on 24.08.2025 and shall be conducted afresh," the order said.

The fresh dates for the examination shall be notified separately, it added.

Earlier, social media was flooded with videos purportedly showing candidates outside the examination hall at Kothi Bagh Higher Secondary School attempting to answer questions from the test for the Junior Engineer (Electrical) positions. Many claimed that the question paper was available on social media before the examination.

Subsequently, protests erupted outside the centre against the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB).

Political parties directed their ire at the NC, asserting that the paper leak represented a "blow" to the youth of J-K.

"After banning books and locking schools, the sale of SSB exam papers by the government is yet another blow to J&K's youth. This is the so-called 'youth package' for a region where 65% of the population is under 35," the PDP said in a post on X.

"Scam after scam, and now another SSB paper leak. Students are seen openly trying to solve problems, yet after banning books and locking schools, the government's sale of exam papers is another blow to J&K's youth," PDP leader and MLA Puhwama Waheed Para said.

Itija Mufti, another leader from the PDP, slammed the NC government for "wrecking" the future of the youth who had placed their faith in the party.

"Youngsters across J&K placed an overwhelming faith in the NC, hoping for transparency in recruitment exams after electing them. But I'm appalled at how the NC government is wrecking their future because of their sheer incompetence to even conduct today's JE Electrical Exam at Kothi Bagh Centre," Mufti said on X.

Mufti added that instead of promoting transparency, "today's paper leak suggests that this government is becoming a den of corruption".

Peoples' Conference chief Sajad Lone termed the paper leak as 'brazen daylight robbery' in recruitment.

"We have finally made it. We are top in scams. This is nothing short of brazen daylight robbery in recruitment. Will someone please tell us what is happening?" he said in a post on X.

Lone alleged that candidates for the JE electrical examinations were initially asked to leave the exam halls because the paper was cancelled. He claimed that some students contin-

ued taking the exams, and later, they were all requested to come back in again.

"The paper is on social media well before the aspirants are ready to take the exam. Will heads roll, or will we be dished out yet another round of third-grade fiction?" Lone, who is also an MLA from Handwara, questioned.

Ruling NC Lok Sabha MP Aga Ruhullah commented that this was "yet another collapse" of the JKSSB system, and blamed the Lieutenant Governor's administration.

"This is the direct result of a wrecked setup overseen by an unelected and unaccountable establishment," Ruhullah said in a post on X.

He claimed that the seams that began under the "so-called LG's watch have not stopped".

"Instead of safeguarding the future of our youth, books are being banned and schools taken over; the unresolved issue of reservation is taking a further toll on the future of youth," he said.

The Srinagar MP called on the elected government to reassess its role and approach as "the current path is failing our youth and our identity".

## MLA Marh conducts on-site inspection of rain-damaged areas in constituency

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In response to the recent heavy rainfall, MLA Marh Surinder Kumar conducted an on-site inspection of the damage caused in Ward No. 72, specifically in the Patayali Chak area. During the visit, the MLA interacted with the affected citizens, listened to their problems, and directed the concerned departments to take immediate necessary action.



The MLA assessed the extent of damage caused by the heavy rainfall and identified areas that require immediate attention. MLA engaged with the affected citizens, listened to their concerns, and assured them of prompt relief and assistance. He directed the concerned departments to take immediate action to provide relief and assistance to the affected families. As a representative of the people, it is my duty to ensure that the affected citizens receive prompt relief and assistance. MLA assured that his office will closely monitor the situation and ensure that the necessary relief and assistance are provided to the affected families. MLA assured that rain-affected victims will receive suitable compensation for their losses.

## AYUSH Health check up camp held

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: An AYUSH health checkup camp was organized at at Utterbehani on the eve of Amavasya.

The camp was conducted as per directions from worthy Director JK UT Dr Nuzhat Bashir Shah madam ji and worthy Deputy Commissioner samba Ms Ayushi Sudan and under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Renu Dass, the District Nodal Officer AYUSH Samba.

A medical team from AHWC Moutlian and GAD Salmeri comprising of Dr Sonika (MO AHWC Moutlian), Dr Tabassum (MO GAD Salmeri), Satish Salathia(W&W) and Kanta Devi (ASHA Worker Moutlian) provided essential health services to a large number of beneficiaries. A total of 588 beneficiaries received health services during the camp. The pilgrims expressed their appreciation for the initiative and actively participated in the health education sessions.

## 30 women injured as ceiling of house collapsed in Kupwara

### Bandipora-Gurez road reopened for stranded traffic

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: At least 30 women were injured when the first-floor ceiling of a residential house collapsed during a religious gathering in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

The women had assembled for a religious discourse inside a hall in the house of a preacher at Pohrupeth village when the ceiling suddenly fell down, resulting in injuries to some of them, the officials said.

They said the incident occurred around 2.30 pm and the injured were immediately rushed to the Government Medical College hospital in Handwara for treatment.

"We have received around 30 injured women and fortunately, all of them are stable," Hospital Medical Superintendent Aijaz Ahmad said.

"The doctors are assessing and observing everyone, and there is no need to panic," he said.

Meanwhile in a night-long operation, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened Bandipora-Gurez road in north Kashmir for stranded vehicles after the road was struck by over a dozen landslides, an official said on Sunday.

The multiple landslides, triggered by heavy rains, struck the border road in late Saturday evening, resulting in traffic disruption with a large number of passenger vehicles stranded on both sides, the official said.

The 56 Road Construction Company and 32nd Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) units of the BRO carried out a rescue and clearance operation, deploying heavy machinery and manpower from 8 pm to 4 am.

Dozens of stranded vehicles and passengers were cleared in the eight-hour-long operation, the official said.

However, he said the traffic on the road remained suspended as a precautionary measure owing to the shooting of stones from the hillock overlooking the road at several points.

# J&K authorities probe radicalisation of youths especially girls in Kashmir schools

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir are intensifying their surveillance on several educational institutions, particularly private schools, due to growing concerns over the alleged radicalisation of young minds, especially among female students, officials said here.

The concerns also extend to the alleged widespread use of narcotics, a problem flagged as being particularly rampant in some private schools. Officials familiar with the developments spoke about disturbing information coming from some private schools forcing authorities to quietly warn them against the spread of radical ideologies among youngsters.

The initiative is part of a larger effort to fight back against the transmission of extremist narratives at the ground level.

Apart from security authorities, the surge in radicalisation has even startled

some ex-separatist groups as they are concerned that another religious extremism wave, forced from the other side of the Line of Control (LoC), will destabilise the valley's centuries-old "Suffi" tradition.

There is a palpable concern that radicalisation is still taking place in certain institutions and "unofficial" madrassas.

The sources indicate a sudden surge in pan-Islamist thought among youths, including girls, in the valley as intelligence reports suggest that fanatical clerics are indoctrinating them with a rigid interpretation of Islam that rejects traditional Kashmiri practices, such as visiting and paying obeisance at the shrines of Sufi saints and Rishis.

These customs are being condemned as violations of Islamic teachings, a trend that has been worrying the ex-separatists who did not wish to be named.

The abuse of social media

by terrorists has aggravated the issue, creating new challenges to the security of the state.

The educational system of the Valley has been irrevocably harmed, repeatedly proving incapable of presenting students with a future vision and thus resorting to a strict interpretation of Islam as a refuge, officials said.

Three decades of terrorism and geopolitical turbulence have immensely impacted the psychology of the youths in Kashmir, the weakness of which is also usually manifested when incidents of stone-pelting are analysed, they said

Besides the instability, there is an increase in the uncontrolled expansion of unregulated madrassas compared to conventional educational institutions, and terror groups are taking advantage and spreading propaganda to emphasise the perceived benefit by using religion as a tool, the officials said.

Some people nurturing the

## Over Rs 6.43 Cr collected in fee for 75 NT posts in J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The recruitment for just 75 Naib Tehsildar (NT) posts has turned into a windfall for Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) which has collected over Rs 6.43 crore from aspirants in application fees, according to information obtained through a Right to Information (RTI) query. With each form priced at Rs 600 for general and Rs 500 for reserved category, the money collected shows that over one lakh aspirants had applied for the posts but the deferment of the recruitment process last month has now left these candidates in limbo, RTI activist Raman Kumar Sharma said.

"The sheer scale of the response - over one lakh candidates vying for a meagre 75 posts - speaks volumes about the deepening unemployment crisis.

## Sushani wins women's singles badminton trophy

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a heartfelt tribute to Late Piara Singh Choudhary, former MLA and respected public figure, the Padam Dev Singh Badminton Club, Sainik Colony, organized a badminton tournament that brought together players and enthusiasts from across the region.

The tournament was launched on 23rd August 2025 at the Indoor Complex, MA Stadium, Jammu. However, due to flood-like conditions, the venue had to be shifted today to the Police Lines Badminton Hall, where the finals were held.

The event culminated with the presence of Vikram Randhawa, MLA of Bahu Constituency, who attended the finals as the Chief Guest and distributed prizes to the winners.

In his address, he praised



the organizers for keeping the spirit of sports alive while honoring the memory of a dedicated leader who served the people selflessly.

The finals witnessed some intense matches. In the Women's Singles, Sushani Sharma emerged victorious against Diamond Rajput with a straight-set win of 2-0, showcasing excellent technique and determination. The Men's Singles saw a gripping three-set match where Udhyan Sharma

edged past Navdeep Singh 2-1 in a competitive game that kept the audience engaged.

In the Men's Doubles (90+ category), the pair of Vikas Verma and Balwinder Singh Saini outplayed Mohit Jain and Vikas Chowdhary, winning the match in straight sets (2-0).

Meanwhile, in the Men's Doubles (120+ category), Romesh Sharma and Narinder Khajuria dominated their game to defeat

Ashok Kumar and R.K. Dubey with a 2-0 scoreline.

A total cash prize of Rs 20,000 was distributed among the winners, acknowledging their skills, hard work, and sportsmanship. The event attracted the participation and support of several notable individuals, including Dr. Sandeep Gupta, P.D. Singh, Amit Singh, Pankaj Vij, Ankush Jamwal, Anil Katare, and other respected members of the community.