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Jammu Rain Mayhem: 10 dead, including 6 in landslide on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi route



Torrential rains wreak havoc in Jammu on Tuesday, bridge collapse, Tawi river flows above danger mark, vehicles submerged.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Rivers overflowed, the raging waters flattening everything in their way, and boulders, trees and rocks hurtled down slopes across Jammu region on Tuesday, killing at least 10 people, including six pilgrims struck by a landslide on the Vaishno Devi route.

Relentless heavy rain led to havoc not just in Jammu, which saw flash floods, landslides and the pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi shrine being suspended, but also in Kashmir Valley. Infrastructure was severely damaged with bridges collapsing and mobile towers and electricity poles breaking like virtual twigs.

"In an unfortunate incident of landslide at Adhkwari, 5 people have lost their lives and 14 others have been injured. Rescue operations underway," the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board said in a post on X.

All government and private schools in the Jammu division were directed to close till August 27. The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education also suspended all examinations for Classes 10 and 11 that were to be held on Wednesday.

Director of School Education (Jammu), Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, in an order, said, "In view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and the

- ▶▶ Schools, offices to remain closed today
- ▶▶ J&KBOSE suspends all examinations for Classes 10, 11 today
- ▶▶ Recruitment campaign for constables in different security organisations, including BSF halted for day in Jammu
- ▶▶ Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar Highway, other major road suspended
- ▶▶ Rail traffic in Jammu disrupted, 18 trains cancelled
- ▶▶ Call, mobile internet outage across all service providers in J&K amid heavy rains
- ▶▶ Restrictions imposed on movement of people during night hours in Jammu
- ▶▶ Bhagwati Nagar Tawi River bridge collapsed

occurrence of flood-like situations at various places across the region, it is hereby ordered that all government and private schools in the Jammu Division shall continue to remain closed on August 27."

Besides, the recruitment campaign for constables in different security organisations, including the BSF, was halted for the day in Jammu.

In a post on X, the Border Security Force (BSF) said, "The ongoing recruitment drive for constable (GD) Exam-2025 at Shaheed Veer Singh Stadium, BSF Paloura Camp, Jammu, is suspended for the day today (August 26) due to inclement weather, in the interest and

welfare of candidates.

"Candidates scheduled for today can now appear on September 3," it said.

The direct recruitment is being held for the Central Armed Police Forces, the Special Security Force and the Assam Rifles.

"Physical Efficiency Test (PET) and Physical Standards Test (PST) are being held at BSF Paloura Camp, Jammu, using RFID technology to ensure transparency and accuracy. All systems are functioning as per the established protocol," the BSF said.

Telecom services collapsed in large parts of the union territory, leading to

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Rivers, streams flow in spate as rains lash most parts of Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Rains lashed most parts of Kashmir on Tuesday, causing rivers and streams to flow in spate and prompting authorities to urge people to refrain from venturing in and around the hill slopes and water bodies.

The water level in the Sheshnag Nallah in the Betaab Valley of Pahalgam breached its all-time highest level of 5.68 feet and was flowing at 6.02 feet, officials said. While the flood alarm level for the stream is 4.59 feet, the danger mark is 5.09 feet.

According to officials, the sudden rise in the water level in the stream suggests that a cloudburst or very heavy rainfall might have occurred in the upper reaches of the region.

While the rains brought down the day temperatures by several degrees across the Kashmir Valley, officials said there is a chance of the Jhelum river water level rising till Tuesday evening due to continuous rainfall.

After that, the water level in the river will start coming down, they said, and asked people residing in low-lying areas to remain vigilant.

The meteorological department has said light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places with moderate to heavy showers over

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Omar says situation in Jammu serious, reviews flood mitigation measures



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the situation in various parts of Jammu was "quite serious" following heavy rain and directed the administration to maintain high alert.

He chaired an emergency meeting to review the flood-like situation in the Jammu

division, an official spokesperson said.

Abdullah's office said in a post on X that the chief minister directed officers to maintain high alert and take all necessary measures.

In a post from his personal X handle, Abdullah said the situation in many parts of Jammu was "quite serious".

"I'll be taking the next available flight from Srinagar to Jammu to personally monitor the developing situation," he said.

"The relief and restoration works will proceed strictly as per SDRF norms. However, wherever additional requirements arise beyond

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CBI arrests Asstt Com DFSO for taking bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The CBI on Tuesday arrested an official of the Food Safety for allegedly taking a bribe to grant exemption from inspections in Rajouri district, an official said.

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) spokesperson said that an Assistant Commissioner (AC), posted in the Drug and Food Control Organization (DFCO) in Rajouri, was arrested following a complaint that he was demanding Rs 10,000 as a bribe to refrain from collecting samples from the complainant's shop.

He would also grant an exemption from inspections for a year so that the complainant could run his business without any problem.

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LG expresses grief over deaths; briefs Amit Shah on rescue, relief ops



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the loss of lives due to landslide triggered by incessant rain at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, on Tuesday.

He also briefed the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji on rescue and relief operations.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his condolences to the bereaved families. He has directed the officials to provide immediate assistance to the affected families and best possible medical care to the injured. The Lieutenant Governor is continuously monitoring the situation arising in various parts of Jammu Division due to heavy rain. He

urged the people to stay safe, follow advisories and take all essential precautions.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Deeply distressed to know that an unfortunate landslide triggered by incessant rain claimed lives of devotees at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. My condolences to the bereaved families and I pray that the injured recover quickly. Directed officials to provide immediate assistance."

Continuously monitoring the situation arising in various parts of Jammu Division due to heavy rain. Emergency responders and district authorities have been mobilized on war footing in all districts. Urging everyone to stay safe, follow advisories and take all essential precautions."

Bhagwan, Main Hi Doshi Hoon!

■ PROF NUTAN K RESUTRA

That's right; I am the culprit. I am responsible for the rain havoc being caused everywhere! People feel the so-called "Wrath of God" when they find their homes and belongings and savings submerged in water and debris of the nallahs. In most of the cases of cloud bursts, they do not get a chance to even save their lives, not to talk of the valuables etc. And the instances of cloud bursts have also become very common and manifold. Even the Meteorological Department has started issuing warnings that read like this: "Heavy to very heavy rain is expected in next thirty-six hours in all districts of Jammu Provinces with apprehensions of cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides with water logging at vulnerable places. People are advised not to take journeys if not very necessary. Stay alert." This follows yellow or orange rain alert, which sometimes becomes red alert also.

Earlier, these alerts and messages of the IMD were hardly taken seriously; more so by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We always thought these landslides and cloudburst are something very rare and are a phenomenon belonging to either Uttarakhand or Himachal Pradesh and no such thing can ever happen here. We always brushed aside such warnings and



the tragedies of Dhrali or Thrali or Chamoli or Kedarnath that seemed just headlines of news to be either watched or just discussed among others. But with the tragedy striking in Chashoti of Kishtwar during the Annual Machail Yatra, suddenly everyone seems to have woken up to the alerts of the IMD; the Department of School Education swinging into action and promptly closing down all educational institutions, lest some untoward happens. Highly appreciable on the part of the Department to do so. Perplexed people are asking: why is this happening? And I say,

I am the culprit!

Let me narrate you the latest incident. While I was writing this piece, I heard that just eight kilometres from Udhampur on the Srinagar Highway, a massive landslide occurred at a place called Tharad and the whole of the Petrol Pump has been buried underneath. Also, Tawi River is flowing above the danger mark in all areas; approach road to the Fourth Tawi Bridge has caved in; many other bridges have also given way to the fury of different rivers and nallahs.

Let me quote one case only. The incident

of landslide at Tharad Petrol Pump goes back to even before the work on the four-lane of the Udhampur Srinagar project had started. There used to be a bowl at this spot with drops and drops always trickling down from the hills, and its sweet water quenching thirst of all passers-by. I too happened to sit there some couple of times along with my family for small picnics. But when the road widening work started, the bowl became the first casualty and it was buried somewhere under the man-made project of road and petrol pump. Fair enough. But did anyone ever

thought where would the trickling water from the hills go? Frankly, no one bothered about that bowl, least of all thinking of providing a proper outlet to that perennial water flow. And the outcome is the landslide with massive debris engulfing the whole of the petrol pump. After all, the trickling water did find its outlet after so many years.

These incidents have become such regular features in Uttarakhand that it appears Dharm Government makes more use of the NDRF and SDRF than law enforcing agencies. I find a typical statement of the Chief Minister in the news: "I am in touch with the authorities of the calamity area!" And rescue and relief operations have become so common that they hardly find a place on the national platform.

I cannot miss to talk about the water entering houses of people especially of Lower Roop Nagar, Talab Tillo and other low-lying areas in Jammu during last two days. It is indeed painful to learn about their plight when their clothes and electrical equipment and other belongings become unworthy of use because those are covered with mud and debris of the adjoining nallahs. Everyone who hears of it is pained. But again, the same thing: I am the culprit.

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 21.9°C Min: 19.9°C

Humidity
Max: 96 Min: 88

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 20.0°C Min: 15.6°C

Humidity
Max: 93 Min: 52

Sunset : 19:04 Hours
Sunrise : 06:01 Hours