

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Jammu Rain Mayhem...

millions being cut off from communication and escalating problems, officials said.

Technical teams have been dispatched to locate the faults and rectify them, they said.

Officials said calls are not going through and mobile internet has stopped working across all network service providers due to "fiber cuts at multiple locations".

Fiber services and landline services on state-owned BSNL were also down. The outage caused problems among people as mobiles showed no signals, they said.

Telecom operators said it was a network issue due to "multiple fibre cuts" at various places, including in Jammu, Srinagar as well as Shimla. "We will try to restore the network and services as fast as possible," they added.

Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar and Kishtwar-Doda national highways was suspended and dozens of hill roads were blocked or damaged by landslides or flash floods, they said. Many trains to and from Jammu were cancelled.

The winding route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hill was a picture of devastation. While at least six people were killed when the mountainside literally gave way around 3 pm, 14 people were injured. The toll could go up.

Several people were feared trapped, officials said as rescuers scrambled to pull out those buried under the debris near the Inderprastha Bhojnalaya at Adhkuwari, officials said. The landslide struck at a point about halfway along the winding 12-km trek from Katra town to the hilltop shrine.

There are two routes up to the shrine -- while the yatra had been suspended on the Hinkoti trek route since morning, it was going on on the old route till 1.30 pm when authorities decided to suspend it as a precautionary measure in view of the rain.

Kiran, from Mohali in Punjab, was among those caught in the hail of stones, trees and boulders.

"I was coming down the hill after performing darshan when people started shouting. I saw stones falling down. I rushed to safety but was injured," Kiran told PTI Videos from a hospital bed in Katra.

"We were a group of five out of which three are injured," added another girl, traumatised by her narrow escape.

Many relatives gathered at the hospital and Vaishno Devi base camp in Katra looking for news of their loved ones. Some of the injured have been shifted to the Narayana Hospital in Katra, about 15 km from Jammu.

Three relief columns of the Army were swiftly mobilised in rescue and relief operations in and around Katra, the PRO Defence Jammu said.

"One Column is assisting in saving lives in Ardhkuwari, Katra, One relief column reached the location of landslide on the road Katra to Thakra Kot and one column providing assistance south of Jaurian. Efforts are on to save lives, provide assistance to the needy and take the civilians to safe areas. Close coordination with civil agencies is being carried out," he said in a post on X.

This day of rain havoc comes days after flash floods triggered by a cloudburst struck Kishtwar district's Chisoti, the last motorable village enroute the Machail Mata temple, on August 14, killing 65 people, mostly pilgrims, and leaving more than 100 injured. Several people are still missing.

Twelve days on, the despair returned.

In other rain-related incidents across the Jammu province on Tuesday, at least four people were reported killed in Doda district. Three of these slipped and fell into the river, drowning in the swift flowing waters, while one died in a house collapse.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from low lying areas in the region.

Reports came in of damage to public and private infrastructure from the high altitude areas of Kishtwar, Reasi, Rajouri, Ramban and Poonch districts, the officials said. The real picture of the disaster will emerge only after an assessment of the ground situation, they said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed the situation serious.

He presided over an emergency meeting and ordered district administrators to be on high alert.

"... instructions have been issued to place additional funds at the disposal of the DCs (Deputy Commissioners) to cover emergency restoration work and other exigencies," Abdullah wrote in a post on X.

Abdullah also ordered the administration to provide essentials such as food, water, and medicine to affected families in a timely manner and prioritise relief to vulnerable groups.

The deluge has forced nearly all the water bodies in the area to overflow above the danger mark, inundating low-lying areas and prominent roads.

The overflowing Modhupur barrage on the Ravi river in Kathua crossed the one lakh cusec mark, resulting in heavy flooding in Kathua district.

Major rivers such as Taranah, Ujh, Tawi, and Chenab have also overflowed their danger marks, forcing police and civil authorities to make repeated public appeals for people to shift to safer areas. According to the meteorological department, Kathua district recorded 155.6 mm of rainfall during the last 24 hours ending 8.30 am followed by Bhandarval in Doda at 99.8 mm, Jammu (81.5 mm) and Katra (68.8mm).

The administration issued advisories asking people to stay away from water bodies and landslide-prone areas.

The Meteorological Department held out little relief, predicting sustained moderate to heavy rain with chances of cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides up to August 27.

Authorities issued advisories for citizens to avoid water bodies and places with the risk of landslides.

As authorities worked tirelessly to pump out water from urban areas, the chief minister said assistance must immediately be sought from the fire and emergency services in case of any equipment shortage.

Reports came in of network outages in all service providers in Jammu and Kashmir following widespread damage to optical fibres at various sites.

The communication blackout impeded emergency response measures and caused panic among residents. Telecom operators said technical teams have been deployed to restore services as soon as possible.

The Northern Railway cancelled 18 trains to and from Katra, Udhampur and Jammu railway stations on Tuesday as relentless heavy rain wreaked havoc in the Jammu region, officials said.

A railway official said, "Eighteen trains have been cancelled. Four trains have been subjected to short terminations. This has been done in view of the weather conditions prevailing in the region."

Of the trains cancelled, seven are from Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, two from Udhampur and one from Jammu, the officials said, adding that trains to Katra and Udhampur have also been cancelled.

Train services from Pathankot to Kandrori in Himachal Pradesh have also been suspended due to heavy soil erosion and flash floods on the Chakki river, according to railway officials.

Four trains were short-terminated at Firozpur; Manda and Chak Rakhwalan, they said, adding that movement of trains on the Katra-Srinagar stretch was continuing.

Authorities in Jammu imposed restrictions on the movement of people during night hours as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incident amid heavy rainfall, an

official order said on Tuesday.

District Magistrate, Jammu, Rakesh Minhas issued the order under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

"In view of the incessant rains, weather alerts and prevailing circumstances, it has become necessary to restrict movement during the night hours to prevent any untoward incidents," Minhas said.

He ordered restriction on night movement by any individual from 8 pm on Tuesday to 8 am of Wednesday without any valid reasons or prior permission from the competent authority, except those involved with the essential services.

CBI arrests Asstt...

Subsequently, a trap was laid on August 25, and the officer was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe, he said.

Searches at his residence led to the recovery of incriminating documents, including papers related to properties worth over Rs 1.5 crore, he said.

The seized documents are under scrutiny, the spokesperson added.

Omar says situation...

these norms, I will personally ensure that further provisions are made available," the chief minister told the officers.

According to an official spokesperson, the Chief Minister chaired an emergency meeting to review the flood-like situation in Jammu division following incessant rains across the region.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, along with Deputy Commissioners of all 10 districts, briefed the Chief Minister on the ground situation and preparedness in their respective areas.

The CM was apprised of the highest flood levels recorded at various locations, alert levels, and rising water in rivers, nallahs, and other water bodies.

"The relief and restoration works will proceed strictly as per SDRF norms. However, wherever additional requirements arise beyond these norms, I will personally ensure that further provisions are made available," the Chief Minister told the officers.

The Chief Minister instructed the administration to ensure timely supply of food, clean drinking water, medicines and other essentials to affected families. He stressed that vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and patients, must receive priority assistance.

In urban areas, dewatering operations are being carried out through pumps and other machinery. The Chief Minister directed that wherever there is a shortage of dewatering pumps, assistance must immediately be sought from the Fire & Emergency Services. He also called for ensuring uninterrupted power supply to hospitals and other vital installations.

Omar Abdullah further directed that roads and key connectivity routes should be restored on priority to ensure smooth movement of essential supplies and rescue operations. He instructed Deputy Commissioners to maintain close coordination with Army, Police, SDRF and other agencies for rapid response.

Deputy Commissioners informed that control rooms have been activated, with men and machinery kept on high alert for any eventuality. The meeting was also apprised of damages caused to public infrastructure, including roads, bridges and buildings, as well as to residential houses and agricultural land.

The Chief Minister emphasized that constant communication with the public must be maintained through helplines and information channels so that timely updates and assistance reach the people in need.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Javed Rana, Javid Dar, Satish Sharma, and Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani. Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Principal Secretary Home, Inspector General of Police Jammu, and other senior officers also participated. Outstation officers joined the meeting via video conferencing.

Bhagwan, Main Hi...

My esteemed readers must be wondering how and why I can say this. Simple friends. Let us first of all understand one thing: all these so-called natural calamities are not natural, they are wholly man-made!

Let me accept blame and submit that I am the culprit; because I encroached upon the nallahs by cutting colonies and plots in greed for some quick bucks. The rain water that otherwise had a free flow was stopped by these artificial things. But then water is water. We can stop it for some time, but not forever. With a consistent rain, it breaches all barriers and enters houses that had become its obstruction; thus destroying human property and even human lives. Same thing happened at Gangyal and other areas constructed on the beds of nallas, ultimately either shrinking them or totally vanishing them from the ground. And I do not stop here. The cloud bursts and flash floods are the outcome of deforestation that have resulted into global warming. But then, let us blame nature for our own deeds, rather misdeeds.

In Uttarakhand and Himachal especially, we have attempted to cross all limits by resorting to unstoppable conversion of green jungles into concrete ones. The mad race for tourism money has blinded us paving way for ruthless plundering of mother nature. We come across umpteen news items mentioning so called planting of lakhs and lakhs of saplings along the newly constructed highways or the chopped off trees: even photo shoots of the VIPs planting them are also there. On ground, these prove to be hollow slogans and news items only. One wonders what happened to all those plants? Dharali, the latest case of Uttarakhand was nothing but a town built right in the centre of the rainy nallah. One flow, and everything was washed away. A rush to cut mountains and build roads with scant care for water sources seems to have waken up mountains who have literally started moving, bringing unprecedented chaos and destruction for the mankind.

When we were small children in schools, teachers would slap us whenever we made mistakes. Now, the Mother Nature is slapping us time and again, warning us that we are making mistakes: but are we listening to her? I fear; no. That is why whenever there are such natural calamities, I say: Bhgvan, main hi doshi hoon!

(The author is former Principal GGM Science College and former Chairman, J&K BOSE)

Rivers, streams flow...

the southern parts of Kashmir on Tuesday.

From August 27 to 29, a brief spell of rain is likely to occur at a few places, while from August 30 to September 1, moderate rain may occur at isolated places in Kashmir.

Officials said the authorities here have issued an advisory to people in view of the inclement weather with a forecast of intense rain, cloudbursts or flash floods in parts of the Kashmir Division from August 26 to September 1.

"The people of the Kashmir Division in general and those residing in flood-prone, landslide-prone, and low-lying areas are advised to refrain from venturing in and around the slopes and water bodies until the weather improves," the advisory said. "Tourists, Shikara operators, sand miners, and those operating near Jhelum, other rivers, lakes, and water bodies across the Kashmir Division shall not attempt to cross or operate before verifying the prevailing conditions and situation of these water bodies and their tributaries," it added.

DC Rajouri reviews disaster preparedness; cancels leaves of officials, issues strict directions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the district's disaster preparedness measures in view of the prevailing weather conditions.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed that all leaves of government officials stand cancelled till further orders to ensure prompt response to any emergent situation. He instructed that ADCs and SDMs shall conduct review meetings in their respective jurisdictions and submit detailed reports on any damages caused due to the inclement weather.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for uninterrupted connectivity across the district. The departments of PWD, PMGSY, and BRO have been directed to remain alert and deploy adequate manpower and machinery for road clearance in case of landslides or blockages. SE PWD has been designated as the Nodal Officer to coordinate efforts among these departments.

To ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply, SE PHE has been tasked with closely monitoring all existing water supply schemes and undertaking necessary maintenance on priority. He has also been directed to

keep a close watch on the flow of rivers originating from Thanamandi and Manjakote to preempt any untoward incidents.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rajouri, Chander Prakash; ADC Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa, Dy Controller SDRF, Jabeen Lone and Tehsildar Headquarter, Insha Farash.

Other officers, including ADC Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma; ADC Kalakote, Mohammad Tanvir; ADC Kotranka, Dilmir; SDM Thanamandi, Abid Hussain; CMO Rajouri, Dr. Manohar Lal; Tehsildars; and other district and sectoral officers, participated in the meeting virtually.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Tuesday that common traditions of ancestors bind people living in undivided India since ancient times, asserting that the DNA of those living in the vast landmass for over 40,000 years is the same.

In his address to eminent personalities from different walks of life as his organisation inches towards 100 years of its journey, he defined Hindus in broad outlines of geography and traditions, and said some people know but do not acknowledge themselves as Hindus while some others do not know it.

He was speaking at a programme, themed "100 Years Journey of RSS: New Horizons", being held at the Vigyan Bhawan here.

The content is not geographical, there is devotion to "Bharat Mata" and the tradition of ancestors which is common to all, he said.

"Our DNA is the same as well... Living in harmony is our culture," he said.

The Hindutva organisation head said India could not reach the desired status that it should have in the 75 years of independence, asserting that the RSS' objective is to make the country "vishwaguru" and that the time for

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a humanitarian step, the Railways reached out to stranded passengers at several railway stations and took measures to provide food and lodging facilities in the prevailing bad weather conditions in the Jammu region.

Heavy rains lashing the Jammu region have disrupted rail traffic as Northern Railways cancelled 18 trains, both incoming and outgoing, from Katra, Udhampur and Jammu railway stations on Tuesday, officials said.

"Multiple steps have been taken by Railways in such prevailing conditions to provide facilitation to stranded passengers at railway stations," a senior railway official said.

The Railways, in collaboration with civil society and staff at five stations, provided food, water and other facilities to the stranded passengers.

"Food items and water were arranged in coordination with local NGOs and civil society



for passengers of stranded trains at Chak Rakhwal, Manwal, Sangar, Vijaypur and Gaghwal, with the help of station staff, Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal, said.

Singhal said that help desks were set up at major stations like Jammu, Katra and Pathankot to provide information to passengers.

Loss of lives in Katra Landslide: VHP President expresses grief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) J&K Ladakh, Shri Rajesh Gupta, has expressed profound grief over the tragic landslide that occurred on the Katra route near Adhkuwari, leading to the death of five pilgrims and injuring 14 others.

The incident, which has deeply shaken the region, comes amidst severe and unprecedented rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a heartfelt statement, Gupta said, "The heart-wrenching incident of landslides on the Katra route in Adhkuwari is extremely tragic. I express my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and pray to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji for the speedy recovery of the injured."

Jammu and Kashmir has been battling a crisis of historic proportions, as torrential rains-surpassing records set in 1926-have triggered flash floods, landslides, and widespread infrastructural damage across the region. Several areas remain cut off, with transportation and communication lines severely affected.

Gupta acknowledged the ongoing rescue and relief



operations, assuring that the Vishva Hindu Parishad, along with other organizations from the Sangh Vihar Parivar, is actively participating in providing aid to the affected communities. "Our volunteers are working swiftly on the ground, and I commend the efforts of other affiliated organizations for their dedication during this crisis," he stated.

He also urged the public to stay calm and avoid spreading or believing in rumors. "Please follow official updates and adhere strictly to the instructions of local authorities. Staying away from danger zones is crucial at this time," he appealed.

Lauding the relentless efforts of the administration and security forces, Gupta concluded with a message of resilience and faith: "With the blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and collective cooperation, we will overcome this difficult time."

Two inter-district drug peddler arrested, heroin recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Udhampur Police during patrolling duty apprehended two suspected persons at Circular Road Udhampur.

The accused have been identified as Tariq Ahmed Bhat S/O Ab. Gani Bhat R/O Mangot, Doda and Bilal Ahmed S/O Gulam Nabi R/O Maitra, Ramban

On conducting their personal search, police recovered 3.82 gms and 3.75 gms of Heroin-like contraband substance (including weight of polypacks) from their possession respectively. Both the accused were arrested on spot. In this connection, Case FIR No. 317/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Udhampur.

DNA of people living in undivided India for over 40,000 years same: Bhagwat

India's contribution to the world has arrived.

He stressed the need for social transformation for the country's rise.

"If we have to make the country rise, then it will not happen by leaving the job to someone. Everybody will have a role to play," he said, adding that the role of politicians, governments and political parties is to assist the process.

But the main reason will be the transformation of society and its gradual progress, he added.

Since ancient times, he said, Indians never differentiated among people, realising that

everyone and the world is bound together by the same divinity. The term "Hindu", he said, was used by outsiders for Indians.

Hindus believe in following their path and respecting others, and they do not believe in fighting over the issue but coordination, he added.

Earlier, RSS' national publicity and media head Sunil Ambekar said that during the three-day lecture series, which began on Tuesday, Bhagwat will hold "dialogue" with a diverse gathering of prominent people from the society and present his views on important issues facing the country.

Railways provide food to stranded passengers at railway stations in Jammu division

Pradesh."

Food was also arranged for passengers at Chak Rakhwal. "Tea and samosas were distributed to labourers at the site. The pantry of a train prepared meals for passengers at Sangar railway station. Railway staff and Railway Police at Manwal served food to stranded pilgrims and passengers," Singhal said.

Passengers were also facilitated by the Railway Police and station staff at Vijaypur for boarding local transport from a stranded train, he added.

"Passengers of Train 12919 were accommodated in the ECR of 15655, which is being brought to Jammu. Similarly, passengers of Train 12471 were accommodated in the ECR of 18101, which is also being brought to Jammu," he said.

A langar was also organised by railway staff and civil society for stranded passengers at Katra railway station, Singhal added.

More than 3500 shifted to safety as Jammu faces flood-like situation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a swift multi-agency operation led by the Jammu District Administration, more than 3500 residents have been evacuated to safety following incessant rains that triggered flash floods and waterlogging across the district. Teams from District Administration, JK police, NDRF, SDRF, Indian Army and local volunteers are working on evacuation and relief in the worst-hit areas while authorities are also focussed on restoring critical infrastructure and essential services. Immediate priority has been to move residents from vulnerable pockets to safer locations while ensuring food, clean water and medical care at temporary shelters.

In RS Pura, 85 people were shifted from Balool to secure sites. In Pargwal, 347 residents from Hamirpur Kona and Village Gujral were relocated in Akhnoor and Jammu.

In Jammu North, 160 people were evacuated from Nai Basti and Lower Muthi and are now sheltered at Kailash Resorts, Muthi, where langar facilities have been arranged.

In Nagrota, 100 people were moved to Kondoli Mandir, while restoration teams are clearing debris from highways to reopen routes for emergency services.

In Suchetgarh, two families comprising 15 members were rescued after their houses collapsed in Badyal Quazian and Tibba Bains. In Indra Nagar and Ballol areas of Jammu, 150 residents were shifted to safety, some relocated to Brij Nagar. In Sittiriyala, 45 people were evacuated and a relief camp was established at CHC Jourian. In Satwari, 300 residents were shifted to HSS Satwari where authorities have provided full meals and water supplies through community kitchens. Across Khour and Pargwal, more than 500 people were rescued from Indri, Maan Chak, Bakore, Hamirpur Kona and Gajral, with temporary shelters arranged for the displaced. In Khour, 48 individuals are housed at Government High School Garkhal and another 50 at the Community Hall Garkhal. The district administration has established relief camps at multiple locations, with Youth Hostel Jammu serving as a major temporary shelter. Community kitchens at Muthi and Satwari are providing food, while medical teams are stationed at all major relief sites. Restoration of power, water supply and road connectivity is being taken up on priority, with Tehsildar Nagrota overseeing debris clearance on highways.