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Death toll in...

earliest. The administration is assisting all those affected," he said in a post on X. The landslide struck near the Inderprastha Bhojnalaya at Adhkwari, about halfway along the winding 12-km trek from Katra to the shrine.

Unrelenting, torrential rain for days together has created havoc in the Jammu region.

CM announces Rs...

Rs 2 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, he said. The chief minister also announced Rs 1 lakh for each person who sustained severe injuries and Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 for those who suffered minor injuries in these incidents. In order to ensure timely response and assistance, the chief minister directed the advance placement of Rs 10 crore with each Deputy Commissioner in the affected districts of Jammu and Kashmir; the spokesperson said.

The funds will be utilised to meet the immediate requirements of relief, rehabilitation and restoration in the affected areas, he said.

Abdullah expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and assured them that all possible support would be extended by the government to the victims of these natural calamities.

Educational institutes across...

the Jammu region, and intermittent rainfall lashing the Kashmir valley on Wednesday. While schools in Jammu have been closed since Monday, educational institutions across six districts of Kashmir; Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Budgam, and Srinagar; were closed on Wednesday as a precautionary measure.

Additionally, the Kashmir University has also postponed all examinations scheduled for Thursday as well.

"In view of inclement weather conditions, all Kashmir University examinations scheduled to be held on 28.08.2025 stand postponed," the University said, adding that fresh dates for postponed papers will be notified separately.

Heavy rainfall has triggered a flood-like situation across Jammu and Kashmir; with the water level in the Jhelum river and other streams flowing above the flood declaration mark in Kashmir; and rivers and streams flowing above the danger mark in the Jammu division.

Thousands of residents were evacuated from low-lying flooded areas as torrential rains persisted for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday, creating havoc in most parts of Jammu. The Meteorological Department has forecast intermittent light to moderate rain at many places of Jammu Division and South and Central Kashmir on Wednesday, adding that a brief spell of rain/thunder is likely at a few places on Thursday and Friday.

CBT Exam for...

(47600-151800) advertised pursuant to Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2025/RR/RC dated 26.05.2025, that the examination for the said post which was scheduled to be held on 28.08.2025 in different centers both at Jammu and Srinagar; stands postponed and shall now be conducted on 13.09.2025.

Further, the candidates are informed to download their admit cards afresh, which shall be made available on the official website of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh w.e.f., 06.09.2025.

LG briefs PM...

is stable. The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to emergency responders, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board employees and citizens for their exemplary interventions which saved many lives.

Interacting with the media persons, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Yatra was suspended yesterday due to bad weather. Cloudburst occurred and devotees at Ardhkhwari were caught in it. It was a heart-wrenching natural calamity, in which we have lost precious lives. We are providing all possible assistance to bereaved families."

The Lieutenant Governor also announced ex-gratia relief to the families of the deceased. He said the Shrine Board and the administration are extending all the necessary assistance to the affected families.

The Shrine Board's policy provides for an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of any individual who dies in an unfortunate incident. An additional Rs 4 lakh will be provided from SDRF.

The Lieutenant Governor has also briefed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the flood situation and the ongoing relief and rescue operations in various Districts of Jammu Kashmir.

He has directed the officials for maximum readiness and presence of staff at their posts to respond to emergency situations.

PDD Jr Eng...

Corruption Act 1988 (Amended-2018) read with section 61(2) BNS, was prima facie made out against PDD Employee namely Mohammad Irfan Ganie (Junior Engineer PDD), son of Mohammad Sultan Ganie, resident of Kamrazipora Pulwama, Abid Hussain Wani (Lineman), son of Ab. Rashid Wani, resident of Pakherpora Charar-i-Sharief, and Sajad Ahmad Mir (PDL), son of Ab Rashid Mir, resident of Pakherpora Charar-i-Sharief. Accordingly FIR (17/25) was registered against accused public servants and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted and deputed to Pakherpora Charar-i-Shrief, Budgam. The team laid a successful trap and the trio were arrested while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 5,000 from the complainant. Further investigation into the case is going on.

Terror masterminds sent...

At a time when tourism was at its peak in Kashmir; the Pahalgam attack was a failed attempt to derail the 'Kashmir Mission', he said.

Shah also said that alongside the Army and paramilitary forces, the Jammu and Kashmir Police now plays a leading role in the fight against terrorism.

"Whether from the ruling party or the opposition, everyone felt joy and enthusiasm about operations Sindoor and Mahadev, and expressed gratitude towards the security forces," the home minister said.

This very trust in national security is the foundation for India's aspiration to achieve the highest position in the world in every field, he added.

The forensic lab of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has proved that the terrorists killed during Operation Mahadev were the same who carried out the massacre in Pahalgam, Shah said. "On behalf of Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi and the entire nation, I congratulate the security forces for strengthening the sense of security in the hearts of Indian citizens," the home minister said.

Train services restored...

were restored across all networks in Jammu and Kashmir; 24 hours after the damage to optical fibres caused outages in the Union territory, officials said.

"The phone and internet services, including mobile internet, fibre and landline internet, have been restored," the officials said. The users can access 5G network speeds across the networks, they added.

The restoration came after optical fibre was re-connected in the Jammu region.

Technical teams were put on the job immediately after the damage to fibre was reported at multiple locations amid heavy rainfall and floods in Jammu region that had led to network outage, the officials said.

The outage caused disruptions in banking services as well.

The communication blackout impeded emergency response measures and caused panic among the residents.

In a late-night development on Tuesday, the Centre asked all the telecom service providers to immediately activate the intra-circle roaming (ICR) facility in J-K till September 2. The directive has been passed to the regulatory heads of Bharti Airtel, BSNL, Reliance-Jio and Vodafone-Idea.

Sinha calls upon...

and medicines. The Lieutenant Governor also directed for immediate restoration of roads, bridges on National Highways, alternate routes for traffic movement and preparedness of hospitals in case of influx of patients with water-borne diseases.

The Lieutenant Governor directed PDD to work closely with NHPC Limited and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) for early restoration of Power Infrastructure. He called upon the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to assist PWD in restoring UT's roads along with National Highways.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti to ensure alternative arrangements for providing clean drinking water in the water logged and flood affected areas, especially in remote and hilly habitations, while restoring the regular water supply infrastructure.

He also directed the Secretary Health, Public Work Department (R&B), Food and Civil supplies and Power Development Department to remain in Jammu Division and reach out to the flood affected areas. He said no officer or employee will take leave or leave the station.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials that non-essential government offices, schools and colleges must be closed till further notice and every district to ensure 24x7 functioning of control rooms to help individuals and households affected by the flooding.

The Lieutenant Governor said emergency responders must be pre-positioned in vulnerable areas and other teams should be adequately equipped and ready to be deployed with-

in hours in case of an emergency.

The Lieutenant Governor is reviewing the situation 24x7 and is in touch with the UT and central agencies officials concerned.

He lauded the efforts of Army, Airforce, NDRE, CAPFs, District Administration, Police and SDRF for minimizing the loss of precious lives by acting swiftly in evacuation of people to safe locations.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command; Santosh Yadav, Chairman NHAI; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Lt Gen. Prashant Srivastava, GoC 15 Corps; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG; Vivek Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu; Devansh Yadav, Commissioner JMC; Maj Gen. Mukesh Banwala , GoC 26 Inf Division; Ramesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Administrative Secretaries of all Departments, senior officials of Army, CAPFs, Airforce, NHAI, BRO, NDRE, SDRF, UT head of telecom service providers and DCs attended the meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS...

as power, healthcare, clean drinking water, ration and tele-connectivity Essential services disrupted in flood affected areas must be restored on priority and natural-disaster hit areas should have adequate stock of essential supplies and medicines Lands efforts of Army, Airforce, NDRE, CAPFs, District Admin, Police and SDRF for minimizing the loss of precious lives by acting swiftly in evacuation of people to safe locations.

J&K Bank holds...

promoter i.e. J&K Government. Two directors joined the AGM virtually. Amid a large number of valuable shareholders, the meeting was attended by the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Chief General Managers Sunit Kumar and Intiyaz Ahmad, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Company Secretary, Chief Financial Officer; Scrutinizer, auditors, other senior officers besides members from the media fraternity.

Speaking on the occasion, Santosh D congratulated the staff for their commitment and contribution while describing the Bank's AGM as an occasion to not only celebrate its successes but also reflect upon the challenges ahead.

He said, "The trust of shareholders and customers is the Bank's core strength. The institution must continue to bolster that trust year after year." He also highlighted the geopolitical challenges impacting local economic activities but expressed confidence in the Bank's resilience and growth potential.

Enumerating the Government's expectations as the major shareholder; he emphasized the need to strengthen the five key pillars of growth - customer focus, regulatory compliance, capital adequacy, technological upgradation and business expansion.

"The management need to ensure that customers feel welcomed across touch points of the Bank while upgrading all the IT platforms to match global standards", he said.

Highlighting the importance of resilience in the face of challenges, he pointed out that the recent Pahalgam attack has cast a shadow on almost every aspect of local economy, thereby creating additional challenges for the Bank which must be faced resolutely to emerge stronger.

He also impressed upon the Bank to expand business both within and outside J&K, make productive use of deposits, and leverage initiatives like Mission YUVA and HADP to create sustainable growth opportunities. Underscoring efficiency, he called for further improvement in cost-to-income ratio, staff capacity building, and heavy investment in technology to enhance convenience while safeguarding public money from cyber risks.

While concluding his remarks, the Principal Secretary reiterated that the Bank must aspire to play a lead role in raising per capita income in J&K by scaling up operations and diversifying its business base.

Earlier, in his address at the AGM, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "FY 2024-25 has been a landmark year for the Bank, as we have achieved record profits, a double-digit growth in both deposits and advances and continuing improvement in asset quality, capital adequacy and cost to income ratio, all of which are a reflection of our strong fundamentals and enhanced operational efficiency."

Reflecting on the Bank's digital transformation, he stated, "Our digital transformation journey has been pivotal with digital transactions accounting for 92.46% of our total transactions in FY 2024-25. We have enhanced our mobile and internet banking platforms besides rolling out end-to-end digital loan journeys for our retail loan customers with centralized credit processing and have also revamped our website to enhance customer experience. Continuing with this transformation, we have recently inaugurated Centralized Processing Centres for corporate loans and have digitalized the processing of corporate loans as well to improve underwriting standards, reduce turnaround time and enhance service delivery."

Emphasizing the Bank's social responsibility, he said, "During the financial year; we had a financial outlay of around Rs 31 Cr in CSR, which was spent in various impactful CSR initiatives across diverse sectors such as healthcare, education, environmental sustainability and skill development - reflecting our continued commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth."

Laying out the roadmap for the next five years, the MD & CEO expressed, "Looking ahead to the future, we aim to cross Rs 5 Lakh Cr business and reach Rs 5000 Cr annual net profit by FY 2030. And to achieve these goals, our focus will remain on quality business growth, digital excellence, promoting financial inclusion, developing future-ready human capital and enhancing customer service."

He concluded by placing on record his gratitude to the promoters, shareholders, Board members, customers, and staff for their unwavering trust, confidence and commitment, which remain the driving force behind the Bank's success.

Thereafter, the Bank's DGM & Company Secretary Mohammad Shafi Mir read out the Auditor's Report, comments of Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Secretarial Audit Report and provided brief background of each business item to be transacted at the AGM.

He informed the participants that the results of e-voting along with the scrutinizer's report will be available on the websites of the Bank/RTA/Stock Exchanges within two working days from conclusion of the AGM.

The meeting concluded with the question-answer session, wherein shareholders asked questions and MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee answered all the queries to the satisfaction of the shareholders. Responding to one of the questions regarding reduction in cost-to-income ratio of the Bank, he said, "The better way to reduce cost-to-income ratio is to increase income by expanding the avenues of income. And we are working actively on this by improving focus on forex income, trade income, income from cross selling besides technology upgradation and resource optimization." The shareholders appreciated the Bank's improved performance for the financial year 2024-25.

Armed forces must...

"We do not want anyone's land, but we are ready to go to any extent to protect our land," the minister said in the presence of India's top military brass, including Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

He lauded the three services on Operation Sindoor and said it has emerged as a great example of the success of India's indigenous platforms, equipment and weapon systems. "Its achievements have once again underlined that in the times to come, self-reliance is an absolute necessity. We have indeed made significant progress on the path of self-reliance, but there is still a long way ahead," he said.

We must set...

their constituencies. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, all Deputy Commissioners, , Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav, and other senior officers of the administration also participated.

Appreciating the role of the Jammu district administration, Omar Abdullah said the rescue of people had been carried out effectively in many affected areas. "Relief delivery is our next mission. We have to make arrangements for those whose houses have been damaged. It is our responsibility to look after them until they are settled," he stressed.

The Chief Minister directed that an immediate assessment of damages be undertaken so that a financial package could be pursued with the Government of India. "We must ensure nobody remains hungry and that there is no outbreak of water-borne diseases. Debris removal and deployment of men and machinery will be our immediate focus," he added.

He underlined the importance of setting practical and time-bound targets for public services. "We have to be honest and give realistic hopes. The people must be presented with a practical picture," he said.

Taking note of power outages and disruptions in water supply, the Chief Minister directed temporary arrangements and augmentation of water supply through tankers wherever required. "Restoration of water and power supply is our supreme priority. Silt removal from canals and nallahs must be ensured to avoid further aggravation or recurrence of backflow of rainwater," he instructed.

The meeting also heard suggestions from MLAs, which the Chief Minister assured would be considered during the relief and restoration phase. Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir provinces briefed the CM on measures taken during the rains and floods, while Deputy Commissioners reported on district-level actions.

Minister Javed Ahmed Rana apprised the Chief Minister of the preparedness of his department in mitigating flood-like situations and in planning relief and restoration, particularly in Jammu division. The Chief Minister directed the minister to ensure restora-

tion of damaged water supply schemes in Jammu and to expedite desilting of canals and nallahs before resumption of water flow.

Advisor to the CM, Nasir Aslam Wani, also joined the deliberations on relief coordination.

Special directions were issued to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to implement preventive measures against any flood-like situation in Srinagar city. Deputy Commissioners of the Kashmir division were instructed to maintain preparedness for any further adverse weather conditions.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the status of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. He directed that in case the highway did not open in the coming days, essential supplies to the Valley must be ensured through the Mughal Road.

Omar briefs PM...

Abdullah told reporters here. Abdullah, who made a whirlwind visit to the flood-affected areas of Jammu, said on X that he briefed the prime minister about the situation in the worst-hit areas as he toured parts of Jammu, along the banks of the Tawi, that saw extensive damage yesterday. "I am grateful for his assurance of continued assistance to the people of J-K," he said.

The chief minister said they were slightly relieved as the rain had stopped on Wednesday.

"As compared to yesterday, we have got slight relief today (Wednesday) with the fact that rains have stopped. Water is slowly receding in low-lying areas. The damage caused by floods is before you. This bridge has been damaged," he said.

Abdullah referred to the damage caused to the fourth bridge on the river Tawi in Jammu city during the 2014 floods and said, "I was telling the Divisional Commissioner that in 2014, the bridge had suffered damage at the same spot.

"There is a danger on this side which we were unable to understand properly. Expert teams have to be put on the job to find out why there was damage on this side in 2014 and again today. We will have to take measures so that it does not recur."

Focusing on the threat faced by the people living along the banks of rivers and flood channels, he said, "The houses along the river will always be in danger whenever heavy rains occur. We will have to do something about this. First, we will deal with the current situation, and later, we will look into that."

He said the rains have stopped, water is receding in the river and relief operations have picked up speed.

Referring to the situation in other districts following heavy rains and flash floods, he said that for some days, the situation was bad, particularly in low-lying areas of Jammu, Samba, and Kathua, besides Udhampur and areas close to rivers in Doda and Kishtwar.

"Some districts, which were apprehended to suffer damage, were saved. Rajouri and Poonch areas are okay. First, let us get out of this rain-related problem; then an assessment will be carried out about the damage to houses. After that, a package will be formulated," he said.

On the question of people having constructed houses on flood channels, he said, "We will have to take measures, particularly for those living in flood-prone areas. They will have to be settled somewhere else. Their houses get repeatedly damaged whenever floods come."

JSD issues advisory...

The Chief Engineer emphasized that restoration teams are working on war footing to repair damaged infrastructure and ensure the earliest resumption of normal supply. The department also sought the cooperation of citizens in managing available resources responsibly until the situation stabilizes.

Ensuring adequate relief, assistance to flood affected people: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has spoken to Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar and other senior Officials and took stock of flood situation and rescue and relief Operations. He has directed the officials for restoration of Power; Communication, water supply on priority in areas where flood water is receding. More than 5000 people were evacuated from low-lying flooded areas to safety. Army, NDRE and SDRF is working in coordination with the Divisional Commissioner's office and we are ensuring that there is adequate supply of relief materials and all possible assistance is being given to those affected.

The Lieutenant Governor has also prayed for the safety and well-being of everyone affected by the natural calamity in various parts of Jammu Division, and those brave emergency responders and citizens actively helping in the relief efforts.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Spoke to Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar and other Senior Officials and took stock of flood situation and rescue and relief Operations. Directed the officials for restoration of power; communication, and water supply on priority in areas where flood water is receding.

More than 5000 people were evacuated from low-lying flooded areas to safety. Army, NDRE and SDRF are working in coordination with Div Com's office and we are ensuring that there is adequate supply of relief materials and all possible assistance is being given to those affected."

JSD elevates 8 SE as CE

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant administrative move aimed at strengthening leadership and ensuring uninterrupted delivery of public services, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the placement of eight in-charge Superintending Engineers as in-charge Chief Engineers in the Jal Shakti Department.

The decision, taken under exceptional circumstances by the department led by Jal Shakti Minister; Javed Ahmed Rana, is part of a broader strategy to reinforce managerial oversight and operational efficiency across key infrastructural sectors under the department's purview.

The move comes in light of pressing administrative exigencies and the need to ensure continuity in the functioning of critical divisions within the Jal Shakti Department and its allied organizations.

The placements have been made to provide leadership support at the Chief Engineer level in view of existing vacancies, without allowing any disruption in project execution or departmental operations.

As per Government Order issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department Shaleen Kabra, eight officers namely Er. Mohd Hanief, Er. Showkat Hussain, Er. Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Er. Jugal Kishore Nagotra, Er. Naseeb Chand, Er. Dev Raj Bhagat, Er. Zakir Hussain and Er. Muneer Hussain have been temporarily placed as In-charge Chief Engineers.

Subsequently, after placement, the officers were posted in various wings of Jal Shakti department. Er. Mohd Hanief has been posted as in-charge Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu; Er. Showkat Hussain as in-charge Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control, Kashmir; Er. Rakesh Kumar Gupta as in-charge Chief Engineer, PHE Kashmir; Er. Jugal Kishore Nagotra as in-charge Chief Engineer, UEED, J&K whereas Er. Naseeb Chand, Er. Dev Raj Bhagat, Er. Zakir Hussain, and Er. Muneer Hussain have been placed at the disposal of JKPCD for further assignment.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led Government to transparency, meritocracy and institutional integrity, Minister Javed Rana emphasized that all personnel decisions have been taken in line with the principles of responsive governance and public accountability.

"The department remains committed to aligning its human resource strategy with the evolving needs of the sector and the public interest. This move reflects our continued effort to strengthen leadership across all levels of the engineering cadre," he said.

