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## Death toll in Vaishno Devi landslide rises to 34

**Loss of lives saddening: Modi**



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The death toll in the Vaishno Devi landslide has gone up to 34 with rescuers pulling out more bodies from under the debris, officials said on Wednesday, a day after disaster struck the route to the hilltop shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

At least 20 people were

injured in the landslide triggered by heavy, relentless rain and are undergoing treatment in different hospitals, officials said.

With fears that more people could be trapped, rescue teams are continuing to dig through the mounds of rubble to look for survivors. While 30 bodies were recovered from the debris, two of

### CM announces Rs 6 lakh ex-gratia for victims

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 6 lakh for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the landslide near the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district.

Thirty-four pilgrims have died and 20 were injured in the disastrous landslide on the route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra belt on Tuesday.

A spokesperson said that Rs 6 lakh ex-gratia, including Rs 4 lakh from the State Disaster Response Fund and Rs 2 lakh per deceased person from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, will be provided to the families.

He also announced relief for victims of other flood-related incidents reported across Jammu and Kashmir over the past two days, with compensation from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and

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those injured died in hospital.

The pilgrimage to the shrine was suspended when the mountainside literally gave way and stones, boulders and rocks came hurtling down around 3 pm on Tuesday, catching people unawares.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi said his prayers are for everyone's safety and well-being.

"The loss of lives due to a landslide on the route to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple is saddening. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the

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### Educational institutes across J&K to remain closed today

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In view of the flood-like situation, educational institutes across Jammu and Kashmir will remain closed on Thursday, Education Minister Sakina Itoo said.

"Schools and colleges across Jammu & Kashmir will remain closed tomorrow (28.08.2025) in view of inclement weather," Itoo said in a post on X on Wednesday.

The decision comes amid torrential rains in

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### CBT Exam for post of Reader postponed: HC

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: According to a notification issued by the Registrar Recruitment, J&K High court, in view of the inclement weather and heavy rainfall, it is hereby notified for information of all the candidates who had to appear in the online CBT Examination for the post of Reader, Level-8

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## LG briefs PM, HM on flood situation; ongoing relief, rescue ops

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday met the devotees injured in an unfortunate landslide incident near Ardhkuwari at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine who are undergoing treatment at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra and enquired about their health.

Team of senior doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the health condition of the injured and the medical procedures being followed. The Lieutenant Governor directed the Doctors and Hospital Administration for ensuring the best possible treatment for the speedy recovery of the injured. It was informed that 13 people are presently under-going treatment at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra and their condition

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LG Manoj Sinha enquiring about health of devotees injured at Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra.

- ▶ Visits SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra; enquires about health of devotees injured in landslide at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine
- ▶ Expresses gratitude to emergency responders, SMVDSB employees, citizens for their exemplary interventions and saving many lives
- ▶ Says, it was a heart-wrenching natural calamity, in which we have lost precious lives. We are providing all possible assistance to bereaved families
- ▶ Directs officials for maximum readiness and presence of staff at their posts to respond to emergency situations

## Train services restored from Jammu

**Phone, internet services restored in J&K**

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Train services were restored from Jammu on Wednesday after a day-long suspension, with six trains scheduled to leave for their destinations, officials said.

Northern Railway on Tuesday night announced the cancellation of 22 incoming and outgoing trains from Jammu and Katra railway stations, while 27 trains were short-terminated at various stations in the division due to heavy rain that lashed the region.

"Train services have been restored from Jammu. Six trains, which were either cancelled or short-terminat-

ed, will leave for their destinations today," a railway official said.

According to the PRO of Jammu Division, the six restored trains include three that were earlier cancelled and three that were short-terminated at different stations.

The trains scheduled to depart from Jammu are Jammu Tawi-Kamakhya Express, Jammu-Sambalpur, Jammu-Ambedkar Nagar, Jammu-Varanasi, Jammu-Bandra, and Jammu-Chhapra.

Meanwhile, the phone and network services

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## Terror masterminds sent clear message of consequences of playing with Indian citizens' lives: Amit Shah

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev have sent a clear message to the masterminds of terror about the consequences of playing with Indian citizens' lives.

Shah also said that while Operation Sindoor brought satisfaction among the people, Operation Mahadev transformed that satisfaction into confidence.

Shah said this while honouring the Indian Army, J-K Police and CRPF personnel, who successfully carried out



Operation Mahadev and neutralised terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack.

The armed forces carried out Operation Sindoor in May, targeting terror hide-

Through Operation Mahadev, the security forces in July eliminated the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam carnage.

"Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev have sent a clear message to the masterminds of terror about the consequences of playing with the lives of Indian citizens," Shah said.

The security forces have shown the world that no matter how many tactics or strategies terrorists may adopt, they can no longer hurt India and escape, the home minister said.

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### JSD issues advisory on water supply disruption

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Jammu, has issued a public notice informing residents about disruptions in water supply across several areas due to adverse weather conditions.

According to the Chief Engineer's office, heavy rains and flash floods have caused significant damage to the department's infrastructure, while the disruption of power supply has further hampered normal operations. As a result, water supply in certain localities is likely to remain affected until full restoration work is completed.

The department has appealed to the general public to use water judiciously and restrict its usage to drinking purposes only during this period of crisis.

"Efforts are underway to restore the water supply at the earliest possible time," the notice assured, while expressing regret over the inconvenience caused to residents.

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 26.9°C Min: 19.9°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 100 Min: 95

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 22.7°C Min: -9.3°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 91 Min: 79

Sunset : 19:02 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:02 Hours

## J&K Bank holds 87th AGM of its shareholders, announces 215 pc dividend

Trust of shareholders, customers is Bank's core strength: Principal Secretary Finance



MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and others during AGM of the bank at Srinagar.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank yesterday held its 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders at SKICC.

On the occasion, the Bank announced a 215% dividend for FY 2024-25, marking the

third consecutive year of rewarding shareholders in line with its strong and consistent performance.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee chaired the AGM - themed 'Driving Growth & Delivering Excellence' - in

presence of Bank's Directors-on-Board including Principal Secretary to Government (Finance Department) Santosh D Vaidya- representing majority shareholder and

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### Chairs high level meeting on relief, restoration measures in Jammu

## We must set clear deadlines for bringing life to normalcy: CM

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Saying that the continuous rainfall had created a flood-like situation of devastating proportions, despite prior forecasts, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday stressed that his government's immediate priorities were rescue, relief and restoration, emphasising that strict deadlines must be set to ensure accountability and transparency in the government's response.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu, the Chief Minister reviewed the damages caused by incessant rains across Jammu and Kashmir and assessed preventive and welfare measures in view of the prevailing weather situation. The meeting was attended

## Omar briefs PM on situation in rain-hit Jammu



CM Omar Abdullah visiting flood affected areas of Jammu on Wednesday.

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation arising from heavy rains and flooding in the Jammu region and expressed gratitude for his assurance of continued assistance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have spoken to the Prime Minister just a while ago. I briefed him about the situation. I thank him for the deployment of NDRF teams. He has assured me that all support will be given by the central government to the people of Jammu and Kashmir,"

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## Sinha calls upon NHAI to assist PWD in restoring J&K's roads, national highways

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high level meeting today to review the rescue and relief operations and preparedness of Union Territory's and concerned central agencies, Army, Air Force, NDRF, CAPFs to deal with the situation arising out of incessant rain and flash floods.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure that people staying in low-lying flood affected areas are safely evacuated.

He asked the officials to



LG Manoj Sinha chairing meeting in Jammu on Wednesday.

ensure maintenance of all essential services such as power, healthcare, clean drinking water, ration and tele-connectivity. He said the essential services disrupted

in flood affected areas must be restored on priority and natural-disaster hit areas should have adequate stock of essential supplies

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## Armed forces must be prepared for longer conflicts: Rajnath



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MHOW: India's armed forces must be prepared for all kinds of security challenges including short-duration conflicts to even a five-year war in view of an unpredictable geopolitical environment, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

In an address at the 'Ran Samvad' at the Army War

College here, Singh said India does not want anyone's land, but it is ready to go to any extent to protect its territorial integrity.

"In today's era, wars have become so sudden and unpredictable that it is very difficult to predict when any war will end and how long it will last," Singh said.

The Indian military must be prepared for every situation, he said.

"That is, if any war stretches for two months, four months, a year, two years, even five years, then we should be fully prepared for it," he said.

Singh said national security is no longer a matter of the military, but has become an issue of a "whole-of-nation approach".

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