

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG sets up...

The Shrine Board has refuted allegations of allowing the Yatra to proceed by disregarding weather advisories and at the cost of pilgrim safety, claiming the pilgrimage was suspended at noon on August 26 ahead of the cloudburst that triggered the landslide.

"The Yatra on this track was suspended by 12 noon on August 26 upon issuance of the specific weather advisory," it said in a statement on Thursday night.

Pilgrims waiting for the Yatra to resume, meanwhile, urged the SMVDSB to take urgent measures to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

"The painful incident should not be repeated, and no one else should suffer such a tragedy. The shrine authorities should take this matter seriously and see what measures are needed," Santosh Singh, a pilgrim from Punjab, said.

Another devotee, Balam from Odisha, expressed grief over the deaths of pilgrims and said urgent measures should be taken to ensure a safe Yatra.

"We came here by bus in a group of 50-60 people. As we arrived, we learnt about the tragedy on TV. We pay our heartfelt tributes to the victims and their families. Despite reaching here, we have to return without having Mata's darshan," he said.

The local hotel association has announced free accommodation for the stranded pilgrims in Katra. "We express our condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. We are with them. The pilgrims stranded due to the suspension of the Yatra can avail free accommodation in hotels in Katra," Rakesh Wazir, president of Katra Hotel Association, told reporters.

Families of those undergoing treatment at the Narayana Hospital have been provided accommodation at the facility.

Residents of Katra have paid their tributes to the landslide victims by holding a candle march in the town.

While the rescue operations are nearly complete, the work to clear the debris and restore the Yatra route has been finished, officials said.

## BJP will keep...

evicting encroachment.

He also appreciated CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and his government for honouring Borbora, a staunch socialist leader who had no links with the BJP.

Shah said it was a trait of the Modi government to recognise contributions of all.

"Sardar Patel's contributions were forgotten until PM Modi built his statue in Gujarat. Netaji did not have a memorial in Delhi before a statue was installed at Kartavya Path," he said. He said that though Borbora's term was short, he left an indelible mark as the first non-Congress CM of the state.

"Free education till class 10, waiver of 'lagaan' for up to 10 bigha of land, opening of passport office in Guwahati, and setting up of banking and railway recruitment boards in the state are among the notable decisions of his government," he said.

## Home Minister likely...

will chair a joint meeting of officers to review the overall situation, including the damage caused by flash floods in the border areas. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and senior civil and police officers, among others, will attend the meeting to brief the home minister, they said.

Before returning to Delhi on Monday, Shah is likely to conduct an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas, including the border outposts and fencing, the officials said.

On August 24, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Jammu to take stock of the situation after flashfloods triggered by a cloudburst wreaked havoc at Chisoti village in Kishtwar district. However, Singh's plan to visit the village en route the Machail Mata shrine could not materialise in view of inclement weather and blocking of the road by a fresh landslide in the Paddar sub-division. Sixty-five persons, mostly pilgrims, were killed and over 100 injured after the cloudburst hit Chisoti on August 14.

Seven persons, including five children, died and several others were injured in flash floods in Kathua district three days later, while 34 pilgrims lost their lives and 20 others sustained injuries in a landslide on the Vaishno Devi route in Reasi district on Tuesday.

## Rs 88 lakh...

revenue records by then Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz and a Patwari, to benefit one Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, who subsequently sold part of the land to another buyer. During searches, incriminating documents and the Tehsildar's passport were seized.

The petitioner contended that she was being falsely implicated due to personal vendetta and sought relief on grounds of long service, clean image, health condition, and being a woman. She also argued that her earlier bail plea was dismissed in "hot haste."

However, the High Court, citing Supreme Court precedents on anticipatory bail, held that innocence claims cannot be treated as gospel truth at this stage and that the investigation must proceed freely.

"The nature of accusation, gravity of offence, and stage of investigation do not warrant anticipatory bail," the Court ruled, dismissing the plea.

## PM Modi, Prez...

experts say, looks bright as the two countries faced the brunt of Trump's tariffs.

Xi and Modi met last year at Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, which ended over a four-year deadlock or freeze in the bilateral ties over the military tensions in Eastern Ladakh. Modi and Xi know each other well. Before the Ladakh tensions, they met numerous times in bilateral and multilateral summits, including informal summits, spending quality time to understand each other. Since the Kazan meeting, the two sides have stepped up wide-ranging interactions. Special Representatives for the boundary issue, NSA Ajit Doval and his counterpart Wang Yi, have held two rounds of talks in the last nine months to set the tone for the normalisation process of the bilateral relations.

This month's Doval-Wang meeting, which took place in the backdrop of Trump's tariff tirade against India, has breathed new momentum into the Sino-Indian relations, which had a chequered history in the last seven decades.

The two officials even spoke of an early harvest of the boundary issue, which is rarely heard in the fraught India-China relations. In this background, the Modi-Xi meeting acquires significance and raises expectations that they may provide a broader roadmap for enhanced ties.

Also, Trump warmed up to Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, hosting an unprecedented luncheon meeting for Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, opening a new strategic window to Islamabad despite India's grave concerns related to cross-border terrorism promoted by Pakistan. Pakistan, a member of the SCO, will also be present at Tianjin as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be attending the summit. Modi's meeting with Putin was expected to draw global attention as Trump singled out India for a tariff hike for buying Russian oil and gas.

For its part, China is trying to make the Tianjin SCO summit the largest by inviting 20 foreign leaders. On the Modi-Xi meeting, Chinese strategic analysts say the Indian Prime Minister's attendance at the SCO meeting is important for their bilateral relations and for the summit itself. Welcoming Modi ahead of his visit to the country for the SCO Summit, China believes that the atmosphere of the summit between PM Modi and President Xi will be quite harmonious, since both of them are friends and know each other well, Zhou Rong, Professor of strategic studies at China's Renmin University, told PTI. "They used to have very friendly and sincere meetings for the last 10 years. China hopes that Modi's coming will encourage the concerted effort of all parties to make the summit of the SCO successful and fruitful," he said. Although China and India have started making joint efforts to repair their ties, it makes sense that China would be pragmatic and prudent in handling the relations with India, he said, adding that "we need a good neighbourly relation with India and we need to revitalise the two great civilisations". Rong Ying, a senior research fellow at China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), said India's participation and support for the SCO is crucial, and all the other SCO members welcome PM Modi's participation. "China, as a host, is anticipating India to make more contributions and play a constructive role in the SCO. China-India close cooperation and collaboration in regional and global groupings like the SCO has been a major area with great potential," Rong, also Professor at Sichuan University, told PTI. The success of the SCO Tianjin summit should be defined by peace, security, and development challenges commonly facing the SCO members, which is going to showcase the significance of the bloc as a new regional grouping different from the traditional ones, Rong said.

## No appointment without...

was not genuine and departmental norms barred the establishment of another centre in the area. "We find no illegality or impropriety in the Tribunal's order. The petition is misconceived and dismissed," the court ruled.

## Shailendra Kumar promoted...

from the date charge, whichever is later," reads an order issued by Rakesh Kumar Singh, Under Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

## Kejriwal creating distraction...

is nothing more than a desperate attempt to distract people from the chaos and gross mismanagement created by the AAP government amid the floods in Punjab. The truth is, instead of standing with the flood-hit people, Kejriwal and Mann are indulging in hollow theatrics, he added. Chnggh said that this so-called confrontation between Kejriwal and Congress is nothing but Noora Kushti-a fixed match-being played to mislead the people. But the people of Punjab are watching closely, and they will never accept this deceitful brand of politics, he said.

## 2 fraudsters booked...

grabbing an amount of Rs 73 lakhs, he added.

The spokesperson said Bhat and Wani have been arrested earlier, too, for similar offences.

A probe into both cases has been launched, the spokesperson said, adding that any involvement of officials of third parties will be investigated, and further action would follow based on the outcome of the investigation, the spokesman added.

# Auqib Nabi makes rare record, takes double hat-trick as North-Zone gains sizeable lead Kanhaiya, Nabi dazzle with willow too

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: After playing a splendid innings of power-packed 44 runs and making a crucial 9th wicket partnership of 66 runs with talented wicketkeeper batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan, J&K's ace fast bowling all-rounder, Auqib Nabi wreaked havoc and created a rare cricketing record of taking a double hat-trick, thus guiding formidable North Zone to gain a sizeable first innings lead of 175 runs over almost equally poised East Zone in Duleep Trophy at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) Ground, Bengaluru today.

Earlier, resuming from an overnight score of 308/7, North Zone rode on a batting brilliance of wristy, willowy and sinuous, Kanhaiya Wadhawan and instinctively explosive Auqib Nabi, guiding North Zone to a good total of 405 runs in 93.3 overs. Kanhaiya Wadhawan top scored with 76 runs off 152 balls, studded with 6 delectable boundaries, while Auqib contributed brisk 44

runs off 33 balls.

Ayush Badoni (63), Yash Dhull (39), Nishant Sindhu



(47), Shubham Khajuria (26), skipper Ankit Kumar (30) and Mayank Daggar (28) were the major contributors.

Left-arm orthodox Manishi was the most successful bowler for East Zone, who took 6 wickets by conceding 111 runs in his 22.2 overs, while Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal bagged 2 wickets. Mohammad Shammni and Mukhtar Hussain claimed one wicket each.

In reply, East Zone bundled

out for 230 runs as Auqib Nabi plotted their collapse sending back dangerous Virat Singh (69), Manishi (0), Mukhtar Hussain (0) and Suraj Singh Jaiswal (10) on four consecutive deliveries.

Virat Singh top scored with 69 runs, while skipper Riyan Parag and Utkarsh Singh contributed 39 and 38 runs to the total respectively.

Auqib Nabi was the wrecker-in-chief for North Zone, who took 5 important wickets by giving away 28 runs in 10.1 overs, while Harshit Rana bagged 2 wickets. Arshdeep Singh, Mayank Daggar and Nishant Sindhu claimed one wicket each.

Member Administration JKCA, Brig Anil Gupta said that Nabi has proved that he is a champion bowler ignored for too long, while Member Cricket Operations and Development JKCA and Convener of North Zone Selection Committee, Mithun Manhas has accredited the success of these players to the thought process and sheer-dint of hardwork, perseverance and resilience by the players and all involved in the system.

# Comm Secy HUDD tours rain-affected areas of Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur on Friday conducted an extensive tour of various parts of Jammu city to assess the damage caused by the recent spell of torrential rains.

During her visit, the Commissioner Secretary inspected flood-affected localities including Greater Kailash, Sainik Colony, Sunjwan, Bathindi, Boria Basti, Bahu Fort, Vikram Chowk, Tawi Bridge, Talab Tillo, Roopnagar, Rajinder Nagar, and Bantalab, to take first-hand appraisal of damages and ongoing response measures. She was accompanied by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, who briefed her on relief and restoration works being carried out jointly by JMC teams and other line departments.

Mandeep Kaur instructed officials to immediately initiate restoration works with clear focus on permanent and sustainable solutions. She categorically stated that temporary patchwork would



not be tolerated, stressing that wherever roads, bridges, drains, or lanes had been damaged, only durable and long-lasting methods should be adopted.

She further directed that no new lane construction be undertaken without drain and proper technical planning and approval, and only concrete creeks be built to ensure

stability and long-term resilience.

The Commissioner Secretary also made it clear that road restoration should be taken up only after complete removal of encroachments, to ensure free flow of storm-water and to prevent recurring damage.

As part of slope protection measures, she directed that hydro-seed-

ing plantations be carried out along creeks to stabilize soil and reduce erosion risk.

Mandeep Kaur instructed the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) to expedite repair of deep drains and other major drainage systems while as Jal Shakti Department was asked to take immediate steps to restore the city's drinking water supply to prevent inconvenience to residents. Appealing for public cooperation, Kaur assured citizens that the government is making all possible efforts to restore normalcy at the earliest. She emphasized that coordinated action among line departments is already underway to speed up the restoration process. Chief Engineer, UEED, Jugal Nagotra; Joint Commissioner (W), JMC, Firdous Ahmed Qazi; Superintendent Engineer, Jal Shakti, Sunil Gandotra and Executive Engineers from various departments also accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during the inspection and apprised her of ground-level challenges and remedial measures being taken.

## Two vehicles seized for illegal mining

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Rajouri Police in its drive against illegal mining and seized two vehicles involved in illegal mining during routine checking at Workshop Bridge Rajouri.

Vehicle bearing registration number JK02AQ-1209 driven by Mohd Iqbal S/o Khizer Mohd R/o Fatapur Rajouri. Vehicle bearing registration number JK11D-6547 driven by Manzoor Hussain S/o Nazir Hussain R/o Fatapur Rajouri. Both the vehicles used for illegal mining have been seized on the spot and legal action has been initiated. Rajouri Police is committed to curb the menace of illegal mining and strict action shall continue against all those found involved in illegal Mining.

## Khair' wooden logs recovered, vehicle seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police has recovered Khair wooden logs in two different incidents and seized a tractor trolley in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a team of Police Post Goran of PS Samba intercepted a tractor trolley bearing registration No. JK21J-9708 near Dabri Goran for checking. During checking, Khair wooden logs were found laden in the vehicle which were being transported illegally without any valid permission.



Accordingly, the matter was taken up with Forest Department Samba for further legal action.

In another incident, a Police team of PP Goran along with team of Forest Department Samba has recovered Khair wooden logs from the open field of one Balvinder Singh S/o Babu Singh R/o Dabri tehsil & District Samba which were illegally lying there. The said wooden logs were seized and handed over to Forest Department Samba for further action.

## Two held for killing stray dog

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two people have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district for allegedly killing a stray dog, police said on Friday.

The incident came to light after videos, purportedly showing two people killing a stray dog, went made rounds on social media. The video showed the people hitting the dog with a stick and stones, they said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ganderbal Khalil Poswal said the police took cognizance of the incident and registered a case against the duo under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and other relevant sections of the law. "The two were identified and have been arrested," the SSP told PTI. Further legal proceedings are underway, he added.