

03 LG felicitates Int'l Buddha Peace, Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Awardees

09 Heavy rains expected in Jammu region today; flash floods, landslides warned

09 J&K will get back its statehood soon: Athawale

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11 dead in cloudburst, landslide in Reasi, Ramban districts



Rescue operations on at cloudburst hit Reasi and Ramban districts on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: At least 11 people, including seven of a family, died in two incidents of cloudburst and landslide triggered by heavy rains in remote villages of Reasi and Ramban districts, as Jammu and Kashmir, beset by a series of natural calamities in the past fortnight, labours to bring life back on track.

The Union Territory has been reeling under a series of cloudbursts and landslides since August 14. With the latest incidents, 130 people have lost their lives and 140 were injured in Jammu, while 32 pilgrims are still missing.

The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district remained suspended for the fifth day on Saturday. As many as 34 pilgrims died when a landslide struck about halfway along the winding 12-km trek route from Katra to the shrine on Tuesday.

The record rainfall across the Jammu region earlier this week left a trail of devastation, with hundreds of properties damaged and dozens of roads and bridges washed away, forcing the suspension of traffic on key highways, besides virtually paralysing the rail traffic.

Early on Saturday, a landslide flattened a house in the remote Badder village in Reasi district, killing seven members of a family, officials said. The deceased have been identified as Nazir Ahmad (38), his wife Wazira Begum (35) and their sons Bilal Ahmed (13), Mohd Mustafa (11), Mohd Adil (8), Mohd Mubarak (6) and Mohd Wasim (5).

Nazir and his family were asleep when their house on a hill slope came under the debris brought down by the landslide, burying them alive, the officials said, adding the locals frantically searched the debris and were later

joined by police, but only managed to pull out the bodies.

In Ramban district, four people, including two brothers, died after a cloudburst struck a remote village, damaging two houses and a school. The cloudburst triggered flash floods in the mountainous Rajgarh, located about 25 kilometres from the district headquarters, around 11.30 pm on Friday.

"Bodies of four people were recovered from underneath the debris after a hectic search by rescuers, comprising local volunteers, police and SDRF," Deputy Commissioner of Ramban,

Mohammad Alyas Khan, told PTI.

Khan, along with Ramban Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, reached the site in the early hours to supervise the rescue and relief operation.

The officials identified the deceased as Ashwani Sharma (24), his brother Dwarka Nath (55), niece Virta Devi (26) and their guest Om Raj (38), a resident of Banshara in Rajgarh. The rescuers are searching for Sharma's sister-in-law, Bidya Devi (55).

"The cloudburst happened on the hilltop village near the primary school and created a fast-flowing stream through

LG takes stock of rescue, relief ops; CM directs evacuation of people from risk prone zones

Sinha, Omar, ministers express grief

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha spoke to senior officials and took stock of the situation and rescue and relief operations following the cloudburst and rain-triggered landslides in Reasi and Ramban Districts.

The Lieutenant Governor has extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones in the tragic incidents. He has directed the officials for extending all possible assistance to the affected families.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Anguished by the cloudburst and rain-triggered landslides in Reasi and Ramban. Condolences to the bereaved families. Spoke to Senior Officials and took stock of the situation. Rescue and relief operations are underway. All possible assistance is being provided to the affected."

Amid inclement weather prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directed officials to ensure round-the-clock monitoring and carry out timely evacuation of residents from risk-prone zones. The chief minister expressed sorrow over the tragic deaths.

Taking note of the continuous heavy rains, the chief minister appealed to people to remain alert, avoid vulnerable areas, and strictly adhere to safety advisories.

"He has directed the district administration and disaster management authorities to remain on the ground, ensure round-the-clock monitoring, carry out

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Azad expresses grief; appeals for aid for flood victims

JAMMU: Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Chairman of DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives caused by natural disasters in the Jammu region.

Azad said: "The cloudburst in Rajgarh, Ramban has claimed four precious lives and several people are missing. Similarly, the tragic landslide in Reasi has taken the lives of seven members of the same family. These tragedies are unbearable shocks for the affected families. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray that the missing persons are found safe."

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Omar reviews restoration of Sgr-Jmu NH, other roads

"Focus on opening NH-44, ensure supply of essentials to cut-off areas"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review the restoration works on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and other major roads damaged by the recent incessant rains.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Home, Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B), Divisional Commissioners of Jammu



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

and Kashmir; several Deputy Commissioners, and senior officers from BRO, NHID-CL, NHAI, J&K Police and other concerned departments.

The Chief Minister directed authorities to ensure swift restoration of road connectivity, smooth traffic movement and uninterrupted supply of essentials, particularly to the

Kashmir Valley and remote areas of Jammu division. He emphasized the need for close inter-departmental coordination and timely updates to respond promptly to public needs.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo briefed the meeting about the condition of NH-44, describing its restoration as the top priority since it is the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. He stressed the importance of facilitating movement of perishable commodities like fruit from the Valley and highlighted the grim

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Army's swift action in Jammu symbolises nation's resilience: Chugh

Expresses grief over Ramban, Reasi tragedies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday expressed grief over the tragic loss of lives in the Ramban cloudburst and the Reasi landslide.

He said, "The Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah is fully committed to relief, rescue and rehabilitation efforts in every corner of

J&K. My heartfelt condolences go to the bereaved



families. The BJP stands firmly with them in this hour

of grief." Chugh also lauded the Indian Army for restoring connectivity in Jammu by constructing a 110-foot Bailey bridge in record time to link the collapsed span of the 4th Tawi Bridge. He said the remarkable feat, accomplished in barely 12 hours, is a shining example of the Army's dedication to the people

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Modi lands in China; all eyes on his talks with Prez Xi today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

TIANJIN: After a gap of over seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in China on Saturday on a keenly watched visit that assumed greater significance in view of sudden downturn in India-US ties triggered by Washington's policies on tariff.

Modi is in China primarily to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on August 31 and September 1. However, his scheduled meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday has assumed greater



PM Narendra Modi arrives in Tianjin, China on Saturday.

significance in the face of Washington's tariff tussle that has impacted almost all leading economies across the world.

In the talks, Modi and Xi

are expected to take stock of India-China economic ties and deliberate on steps to further normalise relations that came under

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 29.8°C Min: 23.9°C

Humidity
Max: 89 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 30.4°C Min: 17.6°C

Humidity
Max: 87 Min: 52

Sunset : 18:59 Hours
Sunrise : 06:04 Hours

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