

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Rains pound Jammu...

scheduled for September 3. Jammu University also suspended classes on Wednesday. meanwhile, 4th bridge over Tawi river was closed. "In view of heavy rains and considering safety of the people, 4th Bridge as well as the rotary have been closed for traffic. People are requested not to travel from Hotel Asia, Satwari Chowk and Bhagwati Nagar towards Major Sonnath Chowk, 4th bridge. Further, road from Atal Chowk (Panjthirthi) towards Sidhra Bridge has also been closed due to landslide/shooting stones, posts Div Com Jammu on X.

At 8 pm, the water level in the Tawi river in Jammu city was recorded at 13.5 feet, just 0.5 feet below the alert level and 3.5 feet below the danger mark, officials said.

They said the Chenab is also flowing at 30.5 feet, a couple of feet below alert level. The Tarnah, Ujh and Ravi rivers in Kathua, and the Tawi in Udhampur crossed the alert levels during the day but started receding in the evening following a break in the rains.

The Basantar river in Samba also crossed the alert level of four meters during the day and is still increasing, the officials said.

In a fresh weather forecast at 8.50 pm, the weather department predicted a spell of heavy to very heavy rain at many places in Jammu, Kathua, Reasi, Doda, Udhampur, Rajouri and Ramban districts during the next 14-16 hours.

It also predicted moderate to heavy rain or brief intense showers at many places of the Pir Panjal range and south Kashmir. Heavy rain is also likely in Kishtwar, Poonch, Anantnag, Shopian and Kulgam during the next 14-16 hours.

Cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides and waterlogging are also likely at a few vulnerable places.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 23.4 degrees Celsius -- 10 notches below the season's average -- while the night temperature was 21.5 degrees Celsius - 2.9 notches below the average.

Batote in Ramban recorded the highest rainfall of 55.1 mm from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, followed by Bhaderwah in Doda, 42.6 mm, Katra, 32.7 mm and Jammu, 11.4 mm.

Traffic suspended on...

Monday evening, a spokesman of the meteorological department predicted moderate to heavy rainfall in most parts of Jammu division on September 2 and 3.

"There is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall over Kathua, Jammu, Udhampur and Reasi and moderate to heavy rainfall over Doda, Samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Kishtwar in Jammu region and Anantnag and Kulgam in south Kashmir mainly towards late night of September 2 or early morning of September 3 till late afternoon," the spokesman said.

There is a possibility of cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides or shooting of stones from hillocks at many vulnerable places and rise in water level in rivers and streams, he said, asking people to stay away from water bodies and avoid landslide-prone areas.

The highway was opened for partial traffic only on Monday after remaining closed for six days and accordingly most of the stranded traffic, including trucks carrying essential commodities to Kashmir were cleared, the officials said.

The downpour was continuing in most parts of Jammu region when last reports were received, they said.

According to the MET department, Kathua district recorded the highest 25.2 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours ending 8.30 am Tuesday followed by Jammu (17.8 mm), Batote in Ramban (17.6 mm) and Katra (15.8 mm).

In Kashmir valley, Qazigund along Jammu-Srinagar national highway recorded overnight rainfall of 23.2 mm, Gulmarg in north Kashmir (14.8 mm), Pahalgam in south Kashmir (11.4 mm) and Srinagar (6.1 mm), the spokesman said.

However, the rains stopped before the start of the dawn and later the morning sun shone brightly in the valley.

Police bust Pak...

the NHAI project in the Ghagval-Samba sector. The questioning of the duo led to the recovery of 411 grams of heroin and the arrest of drug trafficker Feroz Din alias Allu, a resident of the Rajbagh area of Kathua.

"He was in touch with a Pakistan-based drug smuggler," the SSP said. Further disclosure led to the arrest of the kingpin and main financier from Tarn Taran, Punjab.

"He was also in touch with the same Pak-based smuggler and was responsible for sending the proceeds of narcotics to Pakistan via the Hawala channel. Heroin and cash were recovered from both drug traffickers and the kingpin," the SSP said.

Saxena said the accused are hardcore criminals and have already supplied more than 30 kg of heroin, which was dropped in Punjab and J-K to drug peddlers in adjoining districts.

"They ran a sophisticated syndicate, taking all precautions, hence had been evading law enforcement till now. Further investigation in the case is ongoing, and more recovery and arrests are expected in the coming days," he said.

In the second case, police have arrested five drug peddlers from the same district and recovered heroin from them.

Murad Ali and Bagh Hussain were arrested with cash and heroin on Monday. Further investigation led to the arrest of three more accused, along with 20 grams of heroin and some cash, Saxena said. Highlighting the stringent action of local police, the officer requested residents to come forward and help police in curbing the menace.

2 booked for...

spokesperson said. According to the complainant, the accused falsely posed as influential individuals capable of securing contracts in the NHPC and the defence sector, he said.

"They allegedly induced the victims to pay substantial sums of money based on these fraudulent claims. However, no contracts materialised, clearly pointing to deception and fraud," the spokesperson said. During the course of a preliminary inquiry ordered in 2023, it was prima facie established that the accused had cheated the complainants through impersonation and deliberate misrepresentation, he said. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway, he added.

Search operation underway...

at Kotli Bawin Ghali in Manjakote, Behra Kasab and Topa and Manglaanu Mankote in Mendhar on Monday but no one was arrested during the day-long operation.

On Monday, Army troops foiled an infiltration bid by engaging a group of terrorists attempting to sneak into this side in Balakot area of Mendhar.

Court frames charges...

Proceedings against deceased accused Dina Nath and Shivo Devi were abated. However, charges under Section 5(1)(c) read with 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Sections 109 & 120-B RPC were ordered to be framed against Sher Singh, his wife Kanta Kumari, and brother-in-law Amar Chand.

Pilgrimage to Shri...

arrival of 7,10,914 and 7,48,030 pilgrims in August 2023 and 2024 respectively, this year the number was significantly lower due to the cloudburst on August 26. In July, 6,77,652 pilgrims visited the cave shrine.

The Reasi district administration and shrine board officials are closely monitoring the situation, while restoration work on damaged tracks and roads is underway, officials said.

In view of the threat to buildings along landslide-prone areas in Katra base camp, the administration has identified 80 vulnerable structures, including 15 hotels, and vacated them as a safety measure.

"There are no pilgrims in these hotels or structures now," an official said. A detailed survey is underway to assess structural safety and potential risks, with precautionary measures being implemented to protect both pilgrims and residents, officials added.

The move comes as the region faces heightened landslide threats due to incessant rain, prompting authorities to prioritise evacuation planning and infrastructure safeguards.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has already cancelled all bookings, including helicopter services and accommodations, offering a 100 percent refund until the yatra resumes.

The weather office has asked people have been asked to remain alert in view of heavy rains and the possibility of flash floods over the next 48 hours in Jammu region.

Reasi district is among the worst-hit areas in the Union Territory. A landslide triggered by a cloudburst struck the route to the shrine at Adhkuwari in the Trikuta hills of the Katra belt last Tuesday, killing 34 pilgrims and injuring 20 others.

The yatra was suspended last Tuesday until further orders.

Nestled amidst the Trikuta mountains, the Vaishnodevi temple is one of the most revered pilgrimage sites in India, attracting nearly a crore devotees every year.

Dulloo reviews restoration...

essential medicines to the local population.

In addition, he called for a detailed safety audit of all public infrastructure in the flood-hit regions, particularly educational and health institutions, bridges, and government offices, to ensure structural stability and safeguarding of human lives.

Stressing that these measures hold the highest priority, the Chief Secretary made it clear that the directives emanate directly from the Union Home Minister and must, therefore, be implemented with the utmost urgency and seriousness.

The Chief Secretary further reiterated the government's commitment to not only providing immediate relief and rehabilitation to affected families but working towards long-term resilience through better infrastructure planning, disaster preparedness, and preventive measures to mitigate the impact of such calamities in the future.

State Taxes Deptt...

7889631158, 7889557748, 9419135215, 9419142557, 9419661577, 7006956379 & 7006298189.

Likewise for Udhampur(Jammu North), the numbers are 8082706813 & 7889766235.

Narayana Hospital treats rare, critical cardiac condition in 16-year-old boy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In a remarkable demonstration of medical expertise, teamwork, and compassionate care, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Katra, has successfully treated a 16-year-old boy suffering from a rare and life-threatening cardiac condition.

The patient was admitted in a critical state with dangerously low oxygen saturation (80%) and a rapid heartbeat of 180 bpm. Under the immediate care of Dr. Sanjeet Singh Chandail and Dr. Neha Rajput, Pediatricians, he was shifted to the ICU for emergency management. A 2D Echo revealed severely impaired heart function with an ejection fraction of just 25%. The boy required intensive monitoring and was placed on ventilator



support for five days.

Over the next 12 days, a dedicated team comprising Dr. Sanjeet Singh Chandail (Pediatrician), Dr. Neha Rajput (Pediatrician), Dr. Mukesh Kumar Sharma (Cardiologist), and the hospital's critical care specialists worked round the clock to stabilize and treat him. The case was managed on the line of rare rickettsial myocarditis, a serious infection of the heart muscle seldom reported in pediatric patients and usually associated with very high mortality. According to Dr.

Sanjeet Singh Chandail (Consultant - Paediatrics Department), this was one of the rarest and most severe pediatric cardiac cases successfully managed at the hospital, and the outcome underscores the exceptional skill, coordination, and perseverance of the medical team.

The entire treatment was provided free of cost under the Ayushman Bharat Health Card, ensuring the family did not face any financial burden during this life-threatening emergency.

Actor Priti Sapru, others call on LG



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Priti Sapru, Film Actor called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday. She was accompanied by Paramjit Singh Chandhok, Chief Advisor; Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, Tej Sapru, Film actor and Sanjeev Saraf.

The delegation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on their initiative to organize a commemorative event in Jammu Kashmir, observing the 350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Meanwhile, Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, former MLC called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

He put forth various issues pertaining to the movement of 10-tyre trucks on Mughal Road to facilitate smooth transportation of fruits from the valley, and commencement of work on Niki Chanchmarag-Shadab Shopian to Duhjen road.

Tribunal raps JU for "Illegal" move to replace contractual staff with contractual

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major setback to the University of Jammu, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Jammu Bench has quashed the University's advertisement inviting fresh applications to replace existing contractual faculty with another set of contractual appointees, terming the move illegal and arbitrary.

The order was passed by a Bench comprising Judicial Member Rajinder Singh Dogra and Administrative Member Ram Mohan Johri, while deciding five connected cases filed by lecturers working on academic arrangement basis in different campuses of the

University.

The petitioners-Dr. Harpreet Kaur (Punjabi), Dr. Kuldeep Raj Sharma (Chemistry), Gaurav Sharma (Management), Naveen Kumar (Geography, Bhaderwah Campus) and Dr. Som Raj (Economics, Udhampur Campus)-approached the Tribunal against Advertisement Notification dated April 1, 2025 which sought fresh contractual engagements for the 2025-26 session.

The applicants submitted that they had been appointed after due selection processes since 2019, their contracts extended session after session, and could not be thrown out midway to be substituted by another

batch of contractual staff.

After hearing both sides, the Tribunal relied on Supreme Court and High Court judgments including Rattan Lal vs State of Haryana, Piara Singh, Manish Gupta , and Mushtaq Ahmed, which clearly laid down that one set of contractual/temporary employees cannot be replaced by another set of contractual/temporary employees, and can only be replaced by regularly appointed candidates through proper recruitment.

Rejecting the University's contention that some applicants had appeared in the fresh selection process, the Tribunal held that participation does not prevent candi-

dates from challenging the illegality of the process.

The Bench ordered that the April 1 notification "is quashed to the extent it permits replacement of existing contractual faculty by another set of contractuales." It directed that the petitioners shall continue on their posts till regular recruitment is made. The University was also instructed to complete regular recruitment within six months. The ruling brings major relief to contractual lecturers, some of whom have been serving for over five years, and is expected to have wider implications for academic arrangements across the Union Territory.

HC quashes preventive detention of Kathua resident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed the preventive detention of a Kathua resident, holding that the detention order suffered from serious legal infirmities.

Justice M.A. Chowdhary, while delivering judgment in HCP No. 62/2025, set aside Detention Order No. PSA/146 dated February 13, 2025, issued by the District Magistrate, Kathua, against Shamas Din, 35, of Gali Sadrota village in Billawar tehsil. The petitioner, represented by advocates S.H. Ashrafi, Satish K. Sharma and Sahil Singh, argued that the detention was based on vague Daily Diary Reports (DDR)s and preventive proceedings under Section 128 of BNSS, 2023, none of which culminated in an FIR. They further contended that the grounds of detention were a verbatim reproduction of the police dossier and that the detenee was never informed of his right to make a representation before the detaining authority.

The Government, represented by GA Suneel Malhotra, defended the order, claiming that the detenee had links with banned organisations and was functioning as an Over Ground Worker (OGW) for terrorists.

After examining the record, the Court observed that the grounds of detention lacked independent application of mind, and the omission to inform the detenee of his right to represent before the detaining authority vitiated the order. The Court also noted that DDR entries, without registration of an FIR, could not form the basis of such a serious preventive action. "The impugned order has been passed in breach of constitutional and statutory safeguards and is unsustainable in law," the Court said while ordering the immediate release of the detenee, if not required in any other case.

and claimed innocence, arguing that contradictions in witness testimonies and lack of medical corroboration demolished the prosecution's case.

Principal Sessions Judge Anantnag Tahir Khurshid Raina noted several inconsistencies, including contradictory statements by key witnesses, absence of injuries on vital parts of the deceased's body, and failure of the prosecution to conclusively link the accused to homicidal assault. The Court also observed that circumstantial evidence such as recovery of hair and allegations of suspicion over character were insufficient to sustain a conviction without clear medical or ocular proof.

The prosecution relied on witness statements claiming that the accused had suspected his wife's character and attacked her at her parental home, plucking her hair and kicking her abdomen, after which she succumbed to injuries.

During the trial, the prosecution examined 18 witnesses, including family members who alleged that Sofi beat the deceased and prevented her immediate medical treatment. Medical witnesses confirmed that the deceased was pregnant, but post-mortem doctors did not find external injuries consistent with homicidal assault, except hair found plucked from her scalp. Sofi, represented by senior advocate M.D. Shawl, denied the charges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Principal Sessions Judge, Anantnag Tahir Khurshid Raina, has acquitted Bilal Ahmad Sofi of Kanelwan Bijbehara, who had been facing trial for the alleged murder of his wife in 2017, giving him the benefit of doubt after holding that the prosecution failed to establish charges beyond reasonable doubt. The case arising from FIR No. 20/2017 registered at Police Station Anantnag under Section 302 RPC following a complaint by the victim's father, Gh. Mohammad Bhat, alleging that Sofi had beaten and assaulted his daughter Sumi Jan-who was three months pregnant-leading to her death at SKIMS, Soura.