

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Heavy downpour stalls...

lives and left 20 others injured. Meanwhile, the BRO has restored traffic on Basohli-Bani road in Kathua district, providing relief to the stranded people. "A portion of the road from Basohli to Bani had been washed out due to incessant rains leaving a yawning gap in the road at Tikri Morh, 47 km from Basohli. An entirely new formation had to be cut to bypass the damaged stretch of the road. This was undertaken in treacherous weather and difficult terrain with men and machines taking calculated risk," the PRO Defence Jammu said in a post on X. He said the link was restored, establishing connectivity to Bhaderwah in Doda district from Basohli in Kathua. "Kudos to Sankar Tayal, OC (Officer Commanding) 69 RCC (Road Construction Company) of BRO and his team for accomplishing this difficult mission," the defence PRO said.

IMCT visits Budgam...

and relief measures including ration supply, potable drinking water through tankers, medical aid, and relocation of vulnerable families to designated rescue centres established by district administration. The DC Budgam also briefed the IMCT on gaps and challenges like short-age of inflatable boats, communication failures, Jhelum embankment stabilization issues, mining-related challenges, and backflow from the Flood Spill Channel in Bemina. He further stressed on the way forward, which includes mapping of weak spots, embankment stabilization, regular dredging, setting up de-watering stations at Shalina, installation of early warning systems and rain gauges in upper reaches, and construction of gates on Bemina Nallah and Flood Spill-over Channel. After the review meeting, the IMCT, accompanied by the DC Budgam and senior officers including MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar, visited flood-affected areas in B.K. Pora block, inspecting protection works, dewatering points and restoration efforts. The team also interacted with residents to understand immediate needs and review restoration progress of Panzan bridge, Bus Adda Chadoora, Shalina area and others to make on-spot assessment of the damages and interact with the local population. The IMCT directed that damage details be compiled department-wise for submission to Government of India. The DC informed the team that Budgam administration has already initiated both short-term restoration measures and long-term resilience planning. The IMCT appreciated the efforts of District Administration Budgam in relief and restoration works, and stated that assessment report will be submitted to the Government of India for necessary support. The IMCT assured that observations and recommendations of team members will be shared with the Government of India to ensure immediate relief as well as long-term resilience planning for Budgam district.

IRCTC introduces local...

experience to passengers in Kashmir, giving them the perfect opportunity to enjoy the flavours on the spot, even before their destination station," IRCTC chairman Harjot Singh Sandhu said. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said this model would have state-of-the-art hygienic kitchens. "Packaging will also be improved - from aluminium foil to airline-style Teflon-coated casseroles and eco-friendly coir trays in place of plastic. Professional supervisors will oversee the operations and staff training to maintain high standards," he said. He said some of the special local dishes like Ambal Kaddu, a sweet and sour pumpkin curry in Dogra style, Babroo, a stuffed puri popular in the hilly areas, Jammu Paratha for breakfast and Paneer Chaman, Kashmiri Dum Aloo and Jammu Rajma for lunch. "These dishes are being prepared using traditional spices and cooking methods to give travellers an authentic taste of the region," Singhal said. For passengers who prefer traditional food options like Upma, Poha, and vegetarian cutlets, they will also be available with the new regional menu, the official said. This initiative reflects a comprehensive effort by Indian Railways to celebrate the culinary diversity of the country and provide passengers with a rich travel experience connected to the local culture, Singhal said.

‘Blood Moon’: Total..

from across Asia and parts of Europe, Africa and west Australia. Sunday's eclipse was the longest total lunar eclipse visible from India since 2022 and the first since July 27, 2018 to be observed from all parts of the country. The next total lunar eclipse will be visible from the country on December 31, 2028. Eclipses are rare and do not occur every full or new moon because the moon's orbit is inclined about 5 degrees to the earth's orbit around the Sun. A lunar eclipse occurs when the earth comes between the sun and the moon, casting its shadow on the lunar surface. Unlike solar eclipses, observing a total lunar eclipse does not require special equipment and is safe with the naked eye, binoculars, or a telescope. In India, lunar eclipses are linked to several superstitions, with people often avoiding food, water, and physical activity, fearing "poisoning or negative energy". Some even believe eclipses are "harmful to pregnant women and their unborn children". However, astronomers say lunar eclipses are merely shadow phenomena, understood long before Aryabhata's time, and "pose no risk to people or animals". Unfortunately, certain non-scientific beliefs have led to unfortunate incidents during past eclipses, underscoring the need for scientific awareness. It is perfectly safe to go outside and eat while enjoying this magnificent celestial spectacle, said Ramanujam.

High-level railway...

introduced shuttle service on the track. The inspection team, including senior divisional commercial manager Uchit Singhal, visited the damaged bridges including bridge number 232 built on Chakki river between Pathankot cantonment and Kandrodi block, bridge number 17 between Kathua (JK) and Madhopur (Punjab) and bridge number 137 on Ghagwal and Hiranagar (JK). The team conducted a comprehensive inspection of all these bridges and expressed satisfaction over the pace of repair work, the official said, adding that the repair work is expected to be completed soon. "After the flash floods, a detailed inspection of the infrastructure including 232 bridges was conducted as the safety of passengers is our top priority," Jammu Divisional Railway Manager said while inspecting the repair work. He said instructions have been given for early completion of the repair works to resume normal railway services in the division.

Flash floods ravage...

everything has been destroyed by floods...the entire year's hard work has gone down the drain," Mohammad Younis, a farmer from Shamsipora in Anantnag, told PTI. Younis said the situation was similar across Anantnag, Pulwama and parts of Kulgam district, which together form the rice-producing bowl of south Kashmir. "Most of the rice in south Kashmir is produced in the bowl which is shared in part by these three districts. The local farmers are devastated as they have lost their livelihood this season," he added. Standing crops in Tachoo, Dooru, Shamsipora, Muniwar, Lallipora and Mallapora in Anantnag and Kulgam, Kakapora and Nawa in Pulwama have been affected. Some areas of Budgam adjoining Pulwama have also suffered damage. The horticulture sector too has taken a heavy blow, with orchards washed away in Dachnipora area of Anantnag. "Apple trees in Sallar, Srignufwara, Kullar and other villages on the banks of Lidder stream have been damaged, while new orchards in Pulwama's low-lying areas have also been affected," a horticulture department official said. There has been substantial damage to apple crops in Shopian and Kulgam districts as well, the official added. While farmers claimed losses were running into hundreds of crores, officials said an accurate estimate would take time. "People are still in the process of recovering from the impact of the flood. Field officials have been deputed and they will visit the affected areas most likely from tomorrow for carrying out loss assessment," a senior official from Anantnag district said.

Heavy rains in the last week of August pushed the Jhelum's water level to more than 27 feet, two feet above the flood level. While the river overflowed embankments in several parts of south Kashmir, a breach in Budgam led to inundation of large swathes of central Kashmir, including Srinagar. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has asked the Centre to announce a relief package for flood victims after assessing the losses in Jammu division as well as Kashmir valley.

Modi attends workshop...

in a mock polling exercise in preparation for the September 9 vice presidential election. Leading party leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda, attended the programme aimed at helping parliamentarians contribute effectively in and outside Parliament. Several members highlighted that PM Modi chose to sit in the last row like an "ordinary" party member when he arrived. Sharing a picture of Modi, Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan said, "This is the BJP's strength that everyone here is a karyakarta (worker)." Modi later said on X, "Attended the 'Sansad Karyashala' in Delhi. MP colleagues from all over India and other senior leaders exchanged valuable perspectives on diverse issues." He added, "In our Party, platforms like 'Sansad Karyashala' are important because they are great forums to learn from each other and deliberate on how we can serve people even better." The different sessions during the two-day workshop will be devoted to a host of issues, including the work of parliamentarians and the highlights of the government's successes. The venue was replete with materials showcasing the benefits of the latest GST reforms and other achievements, including Operation Sindoor.

LG calls for...

The Lieutenant Governor also called for devising a plan to incentivize talents in Nano-Technology in Academic institutions. "Our focus should be on developing and using Nano Technology for the benefit of humanity. We simply cannot ignore the daunting challenges of climate change that confront us. Our inventions and initiative show how quickly we are leading various areas of Nano-Technology. In the future, new innovations in nanoscale transistors, nano-particles, nano materials and nanoscale additives in energy, environment, food, agriculture and electronics will be very important for the welfare of humanity. I hope that the benefits of these technologies will reach the common man," the Lieutenant Governor further said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also released an abstract book on the 5-day International Conference. Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofer Khan; Dean Academics, BRIC-InStem, Bangalore, Prof. Praveen K. Vemula; eminent Scientist from IIT Kanpur, Prof. Ashok Kumar; Head, Department of Nanotechnology, Kashmir University and Organizing Chair of the Conference, Prof. Rabia Hamid; scientists, experts, researchers and heads of educational institutions were present. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg; DIG Central Kashmir Range, Rajiv Pandey; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; SSP Srinagar, Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravathy; Registrar, Kashmir University, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, scholars, faculty and students also attended the inaugural ceremony.

Heavy-load drones...

no affected family remains unattended amid this crisis," Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rajesh Sharma said. He said the administration had stepped up its efforts to extend relief and support to people across the flood- and landslide-affected areas. Special relief camps, supply of drinking water, medical aid, and restoration of essential services are being undertaken on a war footing, he said. The deputy commissioner also appreciated the Indian Army for its proactive cooperation in ensuring timely relief to the stranded families of Chilla and said that more such joint interventions would be carried out in other inaccessible pockets if the need arose. The ongoing relief and rescue measures are being closely monitored at the district level to ensure effective delivery of support to every household affected by the rain-induced calamity.

BRO restores critical road connectivity in Pragwal sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a swift response to a major infrastructure disruption caused by heavy rains, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has successfully restored the Gharkhal-Pragwal road, the only critical artery connecting the strategical-



ly important sector in Akhnoor area near here, the Army said on Sunday. Torrential rains led to the complete washing away of a vital stretch of the road last week, bringing all civilian and military movement to a halt. The road blockade severely impacted the mobility of residents and halted essential Army convoy movements to forward-deployed units, a defence spokesperson said. He said local villagers faced tremendous hardships for several days, with disruptions in supply of daily essentials and medical access. Responding to an urgent request from the civil administration and the Army, BRO's 57 Road Construction Company (RCC), under the leadership of Lt Col Preetam, immediately mobilized men and machinery. Braving the perilous conditions posed by the swelling Chenab River -- which had carved out a new stream -- the BRO team worked tirelessly to restore the breach, the spokesperson said. Despite extreme challenges, the BRO personnel operated round-the-clock and successfully reconnected the sector. Movement of vehicles has now resumed, bringing immense relief to the local population and restoring operational readiness for the defence forces, the spokesperson said. He said local residents expressed deep gratitude and admiration for the BRO. "This restoration once again underscores the vital role played by the BRO in ensuring connectivity, security, and support in India's most challenging terrains and conditions," he said.

Temporary bridge built to facilitate movement of stranded tribal families in Kishtwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Authorities in Kishtwar district constructed a temporary wooden bridge on Sunday to facilitate the movement of stranded tribal families, officials said. Following the recent spell of heavy rains, all wooden bridges in the Faridabad area of Marwah were washed away, leaving several tribal families belonging to the nomadic Bakerwal community stranded after spending the summer months in the region, an official spokesperson said. With no route available to return, he said the families made urgent appeals for assistance. Responding promptly to the situation, the forest department team swung into action and swiftly constructed a temporary wooden bridge, restoring vital connectivity and enabling the safe return of the stranded families, the spokesperson added.

Drug peddler arrested; Contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AWANTIPORA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police in Awantipora have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A Police team of Police Station Awantipora under the supervision of SHO Police Station Awantipora at a checkpoint established at Udipora Y Band NH-44 intercepted a suspicious person identified as Mehraj -ud-din Ganie son of Gh. Mohd Ganie resident of Kranchoo Pampore A/P New Colony Lethpora. During search, officers were able to recover 0.86 grams of Heroin-like substance from his possession. He has been arrested and a case vide FIR Number 189/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Awantipora and investigation has been initiated.

11 vehicles seized for illegal extraction & transportation of minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL/HANDWARA: In continuation of its ongoing drive against illegal mining, J&K Police have intensified efforts to combat illegal mining activities in Ganderbal & Police district Handwara and has seized 11 vehicles involved in illegal excavation and transportation of minerals. In Ganderbal, J&K Police in close coordination with the Geology & Mining Department, seized 03 tippers and 01 tractor bearing registration numbers JK01S/1372, JK04B/0681, JK15/0205 and JK16B/7118 involved in the illegal extraction and transportation of minor minerals. The seized vehicles, illegally loaded with minor minerals extracted from Nallah Sindh, were intercepted within the jurisdiction of Police Station Lar and Police Station Gund. In Handwara, Police teams of Police Station Kralgund and Police Station Vilgam headed by supervisory officers seized 07 vehicles (04 tippers, 02 Tractors and a JCB) bearing registration numbers JK05B 3538, JK05C 5363, JK02AE 7781, JK01P 3480, Tractor -JK09B 3790, (Engine No. NMF2TAE0362), JCB (Chassis No 610B168815) involved in illegal excavation and transportation of minerals. Subsequently, proceedings under the provisions of the (MMDR Act) have been initiated, and further investigation is in progress.

Absconder arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Continuing its crackdown against absconders, J&K Police have arrested an absconder who was evading his arrest since 2014 in case FIR No. 94/2002 of Police Station Pahalgam. In strict compliance with the directives issued by the Deputy Director Prosecution, AKS Anantnag, and following further instructions from the District Police Office Anantnag, a special operation was launched by Police Station Pahalgam to apprehend a long-time absconder. After sustained and diligent efforts, Police Station Pahalgam succeeded in apprehending Mohd Maqbool Bhat, son of Ghulam Rasool Bhat, resident of Ganeshbal, currently residing at Pahalgam. The accused had been evading arrest since 2014 in connection with FIR No. 94/2002 under sections 299, 304-A RPC. The absconder was wanted for his involvement in a serious criminal case and had been deliberately avoiding the due process of law for over a decade. His arrest marks a significant success in the continued efforts of J&K Police to bring absconding criminals to justice and uphold the rule of law. The accused will be produced before the Hon'ble Additional Sessions Court, Anantnag for further legal proceedings.

Multiple theft cases solved, 7 arrested, stolen property recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/AKHNOOR/RAMBAN: Police on Sunday solved multiple theft cases by arresting



seven thieves and recovered stolen property. Akhnoor Police solved a major theft case within just a few days of its registration and recovering the stolen property, including a vehicle. On 01-09-2025, Pardeep Singh S/o Amar Singh, R/o Bandral Kalan, Akhnoor lodged a written complaint regarding theft from his residence. Accordingly, FIR No. 156/2025 u/S 331(4)/305 BNS was registered at Police Station Akhnoor, and investigation was initiated. During the probe, two accused persons were apprehended for their involvement in the theft committed on the intervening night of 31-08-2025 Amardeep Singh, S/o Late Amar Singh, R/o Bandral Kalan, Tehsil Akhnoor; District Jammu and Bhanu Partap Singh, S/o Late Amar Singh, R/o Bandral Kalan, Tehsil Akhnoor; District Jammu. On their disclosure, police successfully recovered the stolen property from the Bhamborian area of Akhnoor; where the accused had concealed it. The recovery includes One Maruti WagonR Car (JK02W-0333); One Inverter Battery; One Stabilizer. The seized items have been taken into lawful custody, and further investigation is in progress. This case was cracked under the close supervision of SP Rural Jammu, SDPO Akhnoor, and SHO Akhnoor, who provided guidance to the investigation team at every stage. Police also solved Scooty theft case registered at Police Station Domana and recovered the stolen Scooty. On 5 September 2025, An FIR No. 191/2025 under Section 303(2) BNS was lodged at PS Domana regarding the theft of Scooty, bearing registration number JK02AC 8848 from Pounichak near KK Resorts. During the course of investigation, a police team led by Incharge Police Post Pounichak apprehended a suspect namely Rahul Kumar S/O Ramesh Kumar R/O Behraht Laknow A/P Bhawani Nagar Jammu. Based on his disclosure, the stolen Scooty was recovered and seized in connection with the FIR. Further investigation is underway. Meanwhile, On 02.09. 2025 a written complaint was lodged by one Ghulam Nabi at Police Station Banihal regarding theft of two Sheep. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 93/2025 under relevant sections of law was registered. In another instance on 04.09.2025 a complaint was lodged by one Nisar Ahmed Wani regarding theft of Welding Set, Gen Set, Halti Machine and 11 Iron Sheets and a case FIR No. 94/2025 was registered under relevant sections of law. Acting swiftly, Police team of PS Banihal after strenuous efforts and with the help of Technical assistance & CCTV footage, apprehended suspect in case FIR No 93/2025 identified as Bilal Ahmed Sheikh son of Nazir Ahmed Sheikh resident of Thajiwara, Achabal, Anantnag. On sustained questioning the suspect named above admitted his involvement in the commission of Crime. On his disclosures 02 stolen Sheep were recovered and Vehicle used for commission of offence was also seized. Also the Police team during the investigation of case FIR No 94/2025 rounded up several suspects and on the basis of Technical assistance and human intelligence finally rounded up 03 Suspects namely Jaffer Shah son of Shokat Shah, Muzaffar Shah son of Ghulam Nabi Shah both resident of Chamalwas, Banihal and third suspect namely Abdul Latif son of Alaf Din resident of Thachi Banihal. The suspects named above admitted their involvement in the commission of offence and on their disclosures stolen items worth Rs Two Lacs and Twenty Three Thousand (Rs2,23000/-) were recovered. The arrest and recoveries were made by Police team led by SHO PS Banihal, PSI Manmeet Singh and PSI Javed under the Supervision of SDPO Banihal.

Bootlegger arrested with 15 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMNAGAR: Police team of Police Station Ramnagar led by its SHO apprehended one person namely Lal Singh S/O Sher Singh, age 40 years R/O Koghar Marh, Ramnagar. The accused, who was carrying two bags, attempted to flee on seeing the police party but was swiftly nabbed. On checking, police team recovered 12 bottles of JK Special Whisky (750 ml each), 01 bottle (375 ml) and 02 bottles (180 ml each) from his possession. In this regard, a case FIR No. 139/2025 U/S 48(a) Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Ramnagar and further investigation is in progress.