

LG pushes restoration; CM announces Rs 6 lakh relief

Rain toll rises to 23; hunt on for 7 missing

Landslide strikes in Loran

Boulders hit bus in Doda

7 shops damaged in Udh

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JAMMU: At least 11 people, including a woman and her two children, were killed in fresh rain-related incidents across Jammu on Monday, raising the death toll to 23 over the past two days, officials said.

Seven people went missing as persistent heavy rain hampered rescue and relief operations in the flood-hit districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

Seven people, including two children, were buried alive after a landslide triggered by heavy rain brought down their mud house in the upper reaches of Loran in Poonch, officials said. Villagers pulled out from the debris the seven deceased, who were identified as Zahida Begum, 38, her son Manan Rafiq and daughter Aleesa, aged six and four, her brother-in-law Tanveer Ahmad Bhat, 27, sisters-in-law Shamim Akhter, 33, and Shabnam Bano, 31, nephew Mohd Irfan, 17 --- all residents of Arigam village of Mandi Tehsil, the officials said. Earlier in the day, a passenger bus was hit by a rock that rolled down from a hillock near Raggi Nallah along the Jammu-Kishtwar National Highway in Doda district.

Two people, Kulwant Singh and Manish Kumar, died in the incident reported at around 9.30 am, and six were injured.

The highway was blocked for an extended period as a couple of private cars were hit by boulders. No one was hurt in that incident. In the Kashtigarh area of the district, a woman identified as Shiv Devi was killed after being hit by a stone near her house. The body of Vikas Ahmed, who was washed away in flash floods, was fished out from the river at the Salani area of Rajouri town this morning, the officials said.

Heavy rain over the two days has caused massive damage to public and private infrastructure. Ten people died and six went missing in Poonch, while in Rajouri, two died, and a Jal Shakti employee went missing. Additionally, the Heavy rain has severely hampered rescue operations in Poonch and Rajouri districts, a day after devastating flash floods and landslides claimed 12 lives and left several others missing. The fresh spell of rain began around 3 am in the twin border districts and continued unabated till the last reports were received, making rescue and search operations difficult in the affected areas, officials said. Swollen streams, slippery terrain and poor visibility hindered the ► P11



Heavy rainfall triggers waterlogging in Valley

Torrential rains lashed many parts of Kashmir on Monday, leading to waterlogging in several areas, even as the Meteorological Department has forecast spells of rainfall or thundershowers till July 23, officials said.

Heavy rains lashed most parts of Kashmir, with torrential rains in many areas since early Monday morning, the officials said.

The officials said heavy rains and cloudburst triggered a flash flood in the Safapora area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, causing a sudden surge in water levels in the water bodies there.

The sudden rise in water levels caused panic among the people, but there were no reports of any loss of life or property, they said. ► P11

Major pilgrimages remain suspended

The pilgrimages to the cave shrines of Shri Amarnathji, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Shiv Khori in Jammu and Kashmir were suspended for the second consecutive day on Monday amid heavy rainfall.

Pilgrims have been advised to stay at the base camps and lodging centres in view of the inclement weather.

"In view of the inclement weather forecast issued by the MeT Department, the administration has already decided that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra shall remain suspended till further orders. Accordingly, no vehicle carrying pilgrims shall be allowed to proceed from Jammu, ► P11

LoP led BJP delegation visits Poonch-Rajouri

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JAMMU: A BJP delegation led by the leader of opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday visited the flood-affected areas of Poonch and Rajouri districts to assess the damage caused by flash floods and landslides triggered by torrential rain.

Sharma expressed concern over the hardships faced by the affected families and said a ► P11



Govt reaches out to CJP amid protest; JP Nadda holds talks

Police lathicharge as protest turns chaotic

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday reached out to the agitating Cockroach Janta Party, with Union Minister J P Nadda assuring a two-member CJP delegation that the government leadership will hold internal discussions on their demands and get back to them, after thousands of protesters tried to march to Parliament but were prevented by police.

According to the CJP, the assurance came after its spokespersons Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das met Nadda, who acted as a government emissary, twice within two hours at the minister's residence and submitted a memorandum citing their demands, including the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

The first direct contact between the government and youth-led CJP came on a day when police cracked down on the protesters by using tear gas and baton charge to prevent them from marching towards Parliament.

In a statement, Nadda said discussions with the protesters had been underway since 11.50 am after they proposed talks with the government earlier in the day.

"The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere. An initial verbal discussion was held in detail with their delegation, and they submitted a written petition to me around 4 PM," he said.

The minister said he had requested all the protesters to end their sit-in and assist the administration in restoring normalcy.

"The minister assured us he will discuss this at the appropriate level. However, no commitments have been made so far. The peaceful protesters will not rest until the demand is met," Das said in a post on X after the meeting.

Official sources said talks within the government on the CJP protest were underway.

Das said Nadda had also assured the delegation that there would be no further crackdown at Jantar Mantar and nearby areas, though he said there were no reports of the police action stopping.

Ranka said that the delegation met Nadda twice after reaching his residence around noon.

"We have three demands -- Sonam Wangchuk ji should be released immediately. He wants to share a video message and should be allowed to do that. ► P11

NC stages protest in Delhi for restoration of J-K's Statehood

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Omar takes auto ride to reach venue

NEW DELHI: Escalating the political showdown over Jammu and Kashmir's political status, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, ministers, MLAs and party workers staged a protest in the national capital on Monday, demanding the immediate restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.

The demonstration, held on the opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session, was, however, overshadowed by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) protest march to Parliament.

Omar, who arrived from Jammu in the morning, ► P11



Tripura DGP found hanging; probe begins

AGARTALA: Tripura Director General of Police Anurag Dhankar was found hanging in the washroom of his official chamber at the police headquarters on Monday, Chief Minister Manik Saha said.

The CM said that he, along with other top officials, including the chief secretary and the home secretary, visited the police headquarters after getting the news.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic demise of Anurag, IPS, Director General of Police, Tripura, who was found hanging in the washroom of his ► P11

Pension rules need overhaul to cut litigations: Dr Jitendra



NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday called for a comprehensive review of pension regulations to ensure that evolving social realities are

adequately reflected in government policies, stating that many pension disputes arise because existing rules have failed to keep pace with changing societal needs.

He emphasised that the ultimate objective of pension

administration should be to prevent litigation through timely policy reforms rather than resolving disputes after they reach the courts.

Addressing the 2nd National Workshop on Pension Litigation, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, the Minister said the Government is committed to creating a zero-litigation pension ecosystem through simplified rules, improved grievance redressal, stronger co-ordination among Ministries and proactive identification of recurring issues before they develop into ► P11

Shri Amarnathji pilgrims undeterred by Yatra suspension, ready to wait as long as needed

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Undeterred by the two-day suspension of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra due to inclement weather, stranded pilgrims on Monday said they were willing to wait as long as necessary for the annual pilgrimage to resume, while praising the arrangements made by the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Authorities on Sunday temporarily suspended the Shri Amarnathji Yatra in Kashmir as well as the pilgrimages to the shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Shri Shiv Khori shrines in Jammu amid heavy rainfall. The pilgrimages remained sus-



pended for the second consecutive day on Monday.

The suspension has left thousands of pilgrims stranded at base camps and

transit points in Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Ramban and Banihal areas. Pilgrims from different parts of the country said they were

determined to complete the pilgrimage, even if it meant waiting for several days.

Niranjan, along with 11 friends, has come all the way from Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

"We have travelled such a long distance because Lord Shiva has called us. Even if we have to wait for two or three more days, we will do so gladly. We will definitely complete the yatra as such an opportunity comes very rarely," he said.

Niranjan and his friends have been staying at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the last two days. He said the weather was ► P11

Parl session begins with Oppn uproar

NEW DELHI: Opposition protests over the alleged NEET paper leak and Ram temple donation theft issues disrupted Lok Sabha proceedings on Monday, forcing the House to wrap up for the day after multiple adjournments on the opening day of the Monsoon Session.

The disruption came as waves of protesters led by Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) tried to break barricades to march to Parliament to press for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET paper leak issue. ► P11

Magisterial Probe ordered, SIT constituted in Doda firing case

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH: Authorities in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir have ordered a magisterial probe into the recent killing of a man in alleged police firing, an official said on Monday, adding cops have also constituted a team to investigate the incident.

Aarif Hussain, a resident of Cheeka village, was killed when he allegedly tried to snatch the service rifle of a special operations group (SOG) personnel during a scuffle in the Jaie area of Bhaderwah on July 16. Three SOG personnel also reportedly sustained injuries in the incident.

However, the killing of Hussain sparked off protests and a shutdown in Doda and adjoining Kishtwar districts as people demanded a probe into the circumstances leading to his killing.

Hussain left behind his pregnant wife, mother and a minor child. His father Mohd Iqbal, who was a special police officer, was brutally killed by terrorists in March 1999.

Bhaderwah Superintendent of Police Vinod Kumar said a magisterial probe has been ordered by the Deputy Commissioner Doda into the incident, while Senior Superintendent of Police Doda has constituted a five-member SIT to probe the incident.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh has appointed Additional District Magistrate Bhaderwah as the Inquiry Officer to ascertain the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. ► P11

Panun Kashmir relates 'justice' for displaced community to statehood

NEW DELHI: Panun Kashmir, an organisation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, on Monday staged a protest here demanding justice for the community, and asserted that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should not proceed without addressing their long-pending concerns.

The protest was led by Panun Kashmir chairman Tito Ganju and convener Agnishekhar, who later headed a delegation that submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office highlighting the organisation's demands.

The demands include recognition of alleged genocide, accountability for the perpetrators, and the creation of a constitutionally protected Homeland in the valley, among others.

The protest by Panun Kashmir coincided with a National Conference-led protest in the national capital in support of the demand for restoration of the statehood to the Union Territory.

A Panun Kashmir spokesman claimed that its activists confronted leaders and supporters of the National Conference near Ashoka Road, raising slogans and maintaining that political demands for statehood cannot supersede the unresolved issues arising from the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus.

Ganju launched a strong attack on the National Conference's campaign for the restoration of statehood.

"It was both morally indefensible and constitutionally unacceptable to seek the restoration ► P11

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