

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

"There are three ways
to ultimate success:
The first way is to be
kind. The second way
is to be kind. The third
way is to be kind."
—Mister Rogers

Toll rises to 41 as Jammu battles record rains

PM, HM monitoring, LG, CM lead rescue Ops; Thousands evacuated; All edu instns closed

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: After record rains wreaked havoc in Jammu and Kashmir over the past two days, the death toll in related incidents rose to 41, most of them victims of the landslide on a Vaishno Devi pilgrimage route, while there was some let-up in the showers on Wednesday, allowing relief efforts to pick up pace. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are personally monitoring the situation, while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are leading the rescue and relief operations across Jammu and Kashmir. The water level in the swollen rivers across Jammu showed signs of receding from 11 AM, but the flood alert mark was breached by the Jhelum in Anantnag and Srinagar and water entered several residential



and commercial areas. Jammu has recorded 380 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours ending at 8.30 AM on Wednesday, which is the highest for a 24-hour period since 1910 when the observatory was set up in the winter capital.

Massive damage has been reported to public infrastructure, including several key bridges, private houses and commercial establishments, due to overflowing of water bodies and flash floods across the Union Territory, officials said, adding

more than 10,000 people have been evacuated from low-lying flooded areas. As torrential rains disrupted normal life, Education Minister Sakina Itoo announced that all educational institutes will remain closed across Jammu and



Kashmir on Thursday in view of the inclement weather. The Northern Railways ordered the cancellation of 58 trains to and from Jammu and Katra stations, while 64 trains were short-terminated or short-originated at various stations in the

division. Rail traffic, which was briefly restored on Wednesday morning with six trains departing from Jammu after a day-long suspension, has again been halted due to flash floods and heavy soil erosion in the Chakki

river area, the officials said. With the rain stopping in some areas, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah rushed to Jammu from Srinagar to personally review the situation in the region. Officials said that the phone and network

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LG reviews rescue, relief operations; ensures evacuation of people in flood-affected areas

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reviewed rescue and relief operations in flood-hit areas of Jammu region and directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure that people staying in low-lying flood-affected areas are safely evacuated. The Lieutenant Governor lauded the efforts of the Army, Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), district administration, police and State Disaster



Response Force (SDRF) for minimising the loss of precious lives by swiftly evacuating people to safe

locations. Sinha chaired a high-level meeting to review the rescue and relief operations

and the preparedness of the Union Territory's administration and concerned central agencies,

including the Army, Air Force, NDRF and CAPFs, to deal with the situation arising

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CM tours flood-affected Jammu, reviews relief and recovery Ops

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of the Jammu city to assess damages and oversee immediate relief measures in the aftermath of heavy monsoon rains and a flood situation in the Jammu region. The chief minister, who visited the flood-affected areas in Jammu to take stock of the damage caused by the floods, assessed the ground situation and issued directions to the administration to take all necessary steps to



safeguard the lives of people in vulnerable areas, an official spokesperson said. Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner Rakesh

Minhas briefed the chief minister on ongoing rescue operations, functioning of temporary shelters, supply logistics, and inter-departmental

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HM: Sindoor, Mahadev sent strong message to terrorists

AFs must be ready for longer conflicts: DM

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that two major security operations, Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, have sent an unmistakable message to the architects of terrorism that there will be consequences for targeting Indian citizens. Shah said that while Operation Sindoor "brought satisfaction among the people", Operation Mahadev transformed that satisfaction into "confidence". The home minister said



this while honouring 12 members of the Army, who successfully carried out Operation Mahadev and neutralised terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack. Four personnel,

two each from Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF, were also honoured for being a part of the operation. The two operations were a direct response to a brutal

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Vaishno Devi Yatra was suspended before landslide hit track: LG Sinha

Visits injured; Rs 11 lakh ex-gratia announced for victims

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reached out to people injured in the Vaishno Devi landslide, and said it was the result of a cloudburst and the pilgrimage was already suspended when it occurred. He spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and briefed them about the post-flood situation. Interacting with reporters, Sinha said, "This has been a very unfortunate inci-



dent. Around noon yesterday, a cloudburst occurred when the yatra was already suspended. "Due to the cloudburst, several people were swept away by the waters. Many

precious lives have been lost, and several others have been injured," he said. Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah asked why officials did not stop pilgrims

from treading the track when there was a warning of the calamity. Sinha, who visited the injured pilgrims at Narayana Hospital in Katra, said, "I have just met the injured persons. Thirteen of them are admitted to the hospital here; they are stable and are receiving the best possible treatment." The L-G said many of those who died in the landslide have already been identified, and arrangements are being made by the administration and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

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No trade under pressure: Bhagwat

NEW DELHI: Making a strong pitch for self-reliance, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday said that international trade should take place voluntarily and not under pressure. Addressing a lecture series to mark the centenary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Bhagwat said self-reliance was the key to all issues and stressed the need to prioritise indigenous (swadeshi) products. "Being aatmnirbhar (self-reliant) does not mean stopping imports."

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JKB announces 215% dividend • District admn, Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade provide relief to rain-hit people, stranded passengers, survivors



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank has held its 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders at SKICC. On the occasion, the Bank announced a 215% dividend for FY 2024-25, marking the third consecutive year of rewarding shareholders in line with its strong and consistent performance. MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee chaired the AGM - themed 'Driving Growth &

Delivering Excellence' - in presence of Bank's Directors-on-Board including Principal Secretary to Government (Finance Department) Santosh D Vaidya (IAS) - representing majority shareholder and promoter i.e. J&K Government. Two directors joined the AGM virtually. Amid a large number of valuable shareholders, the meeting was attended by the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Chief General

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■ SAROOR

JAMMU: In the wake of devastating rains and flash floods that left Jammu city grappling with destruction and displacement over the last few days, the empathic people of the city of temples braved the perils and stepped forward to provide solace and sustenance to those caught in the fury of nature. Jammu district administration, in close coordination with the Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade (MGSB) reached out to people across the city, and distributed essentials, including clean water and food to



the needy, Wednesday evening. The reachout which commenced early Wednesday evening and was going on till past midnight, witnessed relief material being distributed among stranded rail passengers, survivors relocated to safe-

er shelters, and residents whose lives were upended by the natural calamity. The joint relief effort was led by the Tehsildar Jammu and Naib Tehsildar Jammu, along with Shivang Satya Gupta, Chairman of MGSB, who along with President Rajay Singh Jamwal and

other members of the Brigade visited the hardest-hit areas including Gujjar Nagar, Peer Kho, and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas across the Jammu city. The distribution of essential supplies was not merely an act of governance or social service; for the suf-

fering people, it was a moment of reassurance that they were not abandoned in this hour of need. For stranded railway passengers who had been waiting helplessly for assistance, the arrival of relief was nothing short of

a blessing. Moreover, the survivors who were relocated to safer shelters were given food, and other essentials to meet over the immediate crisis. The residents in flooded neighborhoods, who had watched their homes and belongings

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