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2 cloudbursts hit Ktwr, trigger flashfloods; roads damaged, blocked

authorities concerned.

Sinha, who was closely monitoring the situation, said he had spoken to the deputy commissioners of the affected districts and directed them to remain on high alert and swiftly restore essential amenities.

"Spoke with deputy commissioners of Kishtwar & Doda districts regarding the flash floods caused by heavy rainfall. Fortunately, no loss of life or property damage has been reported. Emergency response teams have been directed to remain on high alert and continuously monitor the situation," he said in a post on X.

"I've directed the DCs of Kishtwar and Doda to swiftly restore roads, highways, and water pipelines. Field staff and specialised medical teams are on high alert, and damage assessments will begin as soon as field verification is complete," he added.

The LG also offered his condolences to the bereaved family of Pinki Devi from Khuddhar, Doda, who was killed due to a lightning strike.

Officials said the flashfloods were accompanied by heavy debris flow, affecting the Vrikshshala-Trofik stretch, Vrikshshala Zero Point, Machhipal, Saroor area and particularly Sarthal village road.

"A large amount of debris has been deposited on the road and water has entered areas around residential settlements," officials said.

Officials said teams from various departments, including the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Lt (NHIDCL), were rushed to the affected areas, while JCB machines and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) equipment were deployed to restore connectivity and clear debris.

Officials cautioned that continuing rainfall could trigger further weather-related incidents. "We are repeatedly requesting people not to gather near nallahs, streams or other water bodies, the officials added.

Restoration work had already begun and the main highway up to Drabshalla had been cleared, officials said, adding that the authorities were coordinating with the general manager of NHIDCL to clear the stretch beyond Drabshalla towards Fatri.

Meanwhile, the administration issued a weather advisory warning of light to moderate rainfall and the possibility of flashfloods near riverbanks, nallahs and other vulnerable locations.

All line departments, including revenue, PWD, PMGSY, jal shakti, health, irrigation and flood control, NHIDCL, BRO and power utilities, had been directed to remain on high alert and keep field staff ready to provide immediate assistance, if required, officials said.

The administration has also activated its 24x7 district control room and directed all tehsildars to immediately report any weather-related damage to life or property.

Those with no locus standi should stop commenting on them: MEA

ment on the same," he said.

He said India rejects any moves by other countries to reinforce Pakistan's illegal occupation of territories concerning CPEC, impinging on India's territorial integrity.

"As regards the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, some of which are in India's sovereign territory, we resolutely oppose and reject any moves by other countries to reinforce or legitimise Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation of these territories, impinging on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Jaiswal said.

"This has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times," he added.

He said India has never recognised the so-called 1963 boundary agreement.

"We have also seen references to the so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' between China and Pakistan. As the two countries do not share any boundary, the question of so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' does not arise. India has never recognised the so-called 1963 boundary agreement between Pakistan and China," Jaiswal said.

This comes in response to a statement released by Pakistan's Foreign Office following talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which stated that the Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the "latest developments" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Chinese side reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is left over from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the U.N. Charter, relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements," the statement read.

Op Sheruwali enters 11th day

According to Army, Lt Gen Mishra was briefed on the operational design, ongoing actions and sustainment measures being undertaken by the troops. He also reviewed the logistics framework supporting forces operating in the challenging terrain.

Army said the Corps Commander commended the troops for their resilience, professionalism and meticulous execution of operational tasks. "He praised all ranks for their high morale, relentless focus and ironclad resolve in pursuit of operational objectives," Army said, adding that White Knight Corps remains committed to ensuring peace and security through sustained operational excellence. "The hunt continues," it said.

The operation was launched on May 23 following in-

telligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Dorimal-Gambhir Mughlan belt of Rajouri district. An encounter broke out after a joint team of security forces established contact with the terrorists who had later fled.

Man killed, wife injured as tree falls on them

partment said a spell of rain/thundershower would continue for a few hours in the area.

Govt invites nominations for CM's award

their duties.

The awards are announced annually on the eve of Independence Day after scrutiny of nominations received from various departments and administrative units.

All administrative secretaries have been directed to submit nominations for the award on or before July 15, 2026. The nominations must include the authenticated bio-data of the nominated employee, complete contact details, and a detailed summary of achievements along with other prescribed supporting documents.

The government said the award scheme is governed by various orders issued from time to time and is intended to encourage transparency, accountability and excellence in public service across the Union Territory.

Gold rebounds Rs 1,050 on firm global cues

clusive of all taxes). The white metal had settled at Rs 2,69,700 per kg in the previous session.

In the international markets, spot gold gained 1 per cent to USD 4,528.75 per ounce, while silver rose 2 per cent to USD 76.29 per ounce.

Gold remained steady on Tuesday, with spot gold trading above the key level of USD 4,500 per ounce in the overseas trade. Prices fluctuated within a range as investors sought greater clarity on geopolitical developments and upcoming US economic data, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

A pullback in crude oil prices, along with softer US Treasury yields and a weak dollar, provided support for bullion, helping to stabilise prices after Monday's decline, he added.

NIA charge sheet flags possible Hamas link in Pahalgam attack

The reference to Hamas assumes significance amid intelligence inputs gathered after the Pahalgam attack. The officials familiar with the probe said Indian agencies had noted increased interactions between Hamas and Pakistan-based terror outfits, including LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed, in recent months.

Security agencies have also examined whether the Pahalgam attack bore tactical similarities to Hamas-style operations. Investigators have previously pointed to parallels in planning, target selection and execution, drawing comparisons with Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, the officials said.

While investigators continue to pursue financial trails, digital evidence and cross-border networks linked to the attack, the NIA has indicated that establishing possible Hamas linkages remains a key unfinished aspect of the investigation.

The investigators believe the findings could offer important insights into emerging cooperation between Pakistan-backed terror groups and global jihadist organisations, they added.

Govt shunts out 2 CBSE officials

ondary Education (CBSE) to select vendors for online marking and put forth a set of questions for the board.

Sarthak Sidhant, who himself appeared in the board examination, presented a seven-page copy of his findings before the Parliamentary Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, chaired by Congress MP Digvijaya Singh.

The CBSE, meanwhile, said "malicious actors" attempted to disrupt services on its re-evaluation portal through a barrage of cyberattacks, including a denial-of-service attack that caused 1.5 million hits on the platform within two minutes and more than one lakh attempts at unauthorised file access.

The CBSE engulfed into a controversy after some class 12 students alleged that the scanned copies of their answer sheets uploaded by the board did not match their handwriting, raising concerns over possible answer-sheet mismatch in the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system.

An official said CBSE chairman Rahul Singh and Secretary Himanshu Gupta have been transferred. Subsequently, the Cabinet Secretariat through a memorandum announced constitution of a one-member committee to inquire into matters relating to the procurement of services for the on-screen marking system by the CBSE.

The committee will be chaired by S Radha Chauhan, chairperson, Capacity Building Commission, the Cabinet Secretariat said. Chauhan has been empowered to obtain the assistance of officials from other departments, as required, while the Capacity Building Commission will provide secretarial assistance to the panel.

The committee will submit its report to the Department of Personnel and Training within one month.

The memorandum addressed to Chauhan was shared with the Department of School Education and Literacy, and the Department of Personnel and Training. Concerns were raised by students and parents over the implementation of the OSM system in the CBSE board examination process.

The board has faced criticism over technical glitches, payment failures and delays in the verification and re-evaluation process, prompting demands for greater transparency and

accountability.

Sarthak's presentation to the parliamentary panel was made in the presence of Rahul Singh, before he was shunted out of the CBSE chairmanship, and Secretary, School Education, Sanjay Kumar, along with other officials of the Ministry of Education and the board.

The CBSE handed over a report to the panel members, presenting their side on the problems faced by students, and assured the MPs that the glitches that appeared on its portal have since been rectified and students now have time till June 6 to apply for re-evaluation of their answer sheets.

Amid the row over the CBSE's OSM system, the committee had summoned top officials of the board and the Ministry of School Education to discuss the issue of using OSM in the Class 12 board exams and the problems faced by students consequently.

The panel also discussed applying the three-language formula in Classes 9 and 10 with the education ministry officials.

On whether he was satisfied with the CBSE's replies, panel chairman Digvijaya Singh said, "That is for the committee to decide." He did not respond to the three-language formula issue either, saying, "I believe the matter is sub-judice." "The committee has always been looking at the issues of students and their problems. This is exactly what the committee has done," Singh told reporters when asked about the meeting.

Meanwhile, the CBSE said "malicious actors" attempted to disrupt services on its re-evaluation portal through a barrage of cyberattacks, including a denial-of-service attack that caused 1.5 million hits on the platform within two minutes and more than one lakh attempts at unauthorised file access.

The board said the portal is currently supporting over 8,000 concurrent users, and more than 16,000 students have successfully completed their submissions as of 3 pm.

"While thousands of students accessed the CBSE re-evaluation portal today, malicious actors attempted to disrupt services through a barrage of cyberattacks," the board said on X.

"The most recent being a denial-of-service attack attempt causing 1.5 million hits on the portal within a matter of 2 minutes and more than 1 lakh attempts of unauthorised file access," it added.

Based on student feedback, the CBSE said it has further refined the platform, including extending session time limits, to make the process more convenient and seamless.

Married daughters' exclusion from family 'manifestly arbitrary': SC

impugned provision proceeds on the assumption that upon marriage a daughter ceases to be a member of, or dependent upon, her parental family and such an assumption is constitutionally impermissible.

"Marriage neither extinguishes the bond between a daughter and her parental family nor furnishes a valid basis to presume absence of dependency. Contemporary social realities demonstrate that many married daughters continue to reside with, support, or remain dependent upon their parents. Equally, there may be sons who are not dependent upon the family despite being included within the definition. Dependency is a question of fact and cannot be conclusively determined by reference to marital status alone," the bench said.

The top court said the scheme does not exclude a married son from consideration as he continues to remain within the fold of the family irrespective of his marital status, whereas a daughter is excluded solely because she is married.

"The distinction is founded upon a gender-based stereotype that a daughter, upon marriage, becomes a member of another family and loses all ties with her natal family. Such a presumption is incompatible with the constitutional guarantee of equality and perpetuates historical notions of gender inequality which the Constitution seeks to eradicate," it said.

The bench rejected the submission of the State that a married daughter may not satisfy the requirement of local residence is equally untenable.

The top court said a blanket exclusion of all married daughters cannot be justified on the speculative assumption that every married daughter necessarily resides elsewhere.

Constitutional adjudication cannot be founded on presumptions that are overboard and disconnected from lived realities, it said.

"The purpose of the dependent quota is neither to create a right of succession or inheritance in the dealership nor a reward for lineage. The object is limited and specific: to provide immediate financial relief to the dependent family of a deceased dealer and to ensure continuity in the public distribution system," the bench said.

"Once dependency is accepted as the governing criterion, exclusion of a married daughter solely on account of her marital status becomes wholly irrational and self-defeating. We are, therefore, of the considered view that the exclusion of married daughters from the definition of 'family' fails the test of reasonable classification and is manifestly arbitrary," it added.

The top court said in the present case, the material on record establishes that the woman continued to reside in the same village even after her marriage and actively assisted her mother in the operation of the fair price shop.

"The appellant, upon her mother's demise, assumed responsibility for maintaining her sisters, including a visually impaired sister. The authorities have not disputed these factual assertions. The sole ground on which her application was rejected was that she is a married daughter. Once that ground is held to be constitutionally invalid, no impediment survives to the grant of relief in her favour," it said.

CJI administers oath of office to 5 new SC judges

The Centre had on Monday cleared the appointment of

Justice Nagu, Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Chandrashekar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, Justice Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Justice Palli, Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court and senior advocate Mohana as top court judges.

The government last month promulgated an ordinance amending a law to increase the sanctioned strength of the apex court to 38 from 34, including the CJI.

DG of National Academy of A&A calls on Kavinder

in public administration."

He emphasised the importance of adopting innovative approaches, leveraging technology and promoting continuous learning to enhance efficiency, accountability and service delivery in government institutions.

On the occasion, Alok also presented a memento to Gupta.

Delhi gov't removes income clause for Kashmiri migrant relief

imposed by the previous Arvind Kejriwal-led dispensation.

A delegation of Kashmiri Pandits had met CM Rekha Gupta and Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood in July last year and raised these issues.

Provisions have been made in the new budget to release the cash assistance along with arrears, it is learnt.

Israel-Lebanon direct talks begin in Washington

Israeli authorities praised the symbolism of the capture of Beaufort, perched atop a rocky outcrop, as they announced its capture in an assault documented by military drones.

Almost 44 years to the day earlier, Israeli forces had seized the same commanding position overlooking a valley, later turning it into a key base during their two-decade occupation of southern Lebanon.

Congress slams 'task forces'

Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and the Forest Rights Act, 2006 in letter and spirit is being deliberately sabotaged by such task forces which have executive responsibilities as well.

"The Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh governments have constituted Task Forces to institutionalise the RSS role in the implementation of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Odisha will soon be the third state to do so," Ramesh said on X.

"These Task Forces subvert the basic democratic structure of implementation of these two laws passed by Parliament. The Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, an RSS-affiliate is the driving force behind this hijacking of statutory provisions especially those relating to the role of the Gram Sabha," the Congress leader said.

"Both PESA, 1996 and FRA, 2006 emerged out of people's movements. Their essential character in letter and spirit is being deliberately sabotaged by such Task Forces which have executive responsibilities as well," he alleged.

It is not a coincidence that one impact of the task forces will be felt in the exploitation of rich natural resources with little regard to ecological considerations in forest areas by mining companies of whom the most prominent will be the "Modani empire", Ramesh said.

J&K Bank partners with SMVDU for value-added banking solutions

in presence of VC (Prof) Pragati Kumar, finance officer Kajal Jasrotia, cluster head, Reasi, Amit Bargaotra, chief manager Ashish Gupta and branch head, Katra, Kapil Nanda.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Lalit Prakash said, "This MoU with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University reflects our continued endeavour to strengthen longstanding institutional relationships while delivering customised financial solutions that add tangible value to employees. We are confident that the comprehensive benefits offered under our Corporate Salary Package will further enhance the banking experience and financial well-being of the University's staff members."

Appreciating the Bank's customer-centric approach and quality of service, the SMVDU VC said, "J&K Bank has been a trusted financial partner with a strong understanding of institutional requirements. We are pleased to formalise this association and are confident that the benefits extended under this arrangement will be greatly valued by our faculty and staff members."

Earlier, Chief Manager Ashish Gupta welcomed the participants and gave a brief presentation on the facilities and benefits being extended under the Bank's Corporate Salary Package.

As per the agreement, all employees of the SMVDU Kakryal will be accorded the status of "Most Favoured Client" and will be eligible for specialised salary account variants with personal accidental insurance cover besides a range of preferential banking services. These include free cash withdrawal and deposit facilities across base and non-base branches, locker facilities at concessional charges, enhanced ATM and POS transaction limits, complimentary global debit cards, free digital banking services, concessional pricing on loan products and credit card-related benefits.

The participants expressed confidence that the partnership would further strengthen the relationship between the two institutions while ensuring greater financial convenience, accessibility, and value-added banking services for the University employees.

CS pushes for acquiring investment-ready Industrial Parks under BHAVYA scheme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed the preparedness of the Industries & Commerce Department for participation in the Government of India's flagship Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), a national initiative aimed at developing world-class plug-and-play industrial parks across the country to promote industrial growth, attract investments and generate employment opportunities.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Director, Industries, Kashmir/Jammu; MD, SIDCO/SICOP and other concerned officers of the department.

Highlighting the transformative potential of the BHAVYA scheme for

Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary directed the Industries & Commerce Department to expedite the process of finalizing the most suitable land parcels in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions for submission under the scheme.

He observed that the initiative presents a unique opportunity for the Union Territory to establish modern industrial ecosystems capable of attracting large-scale investments, generating employment opportunities and promoting balanced regional economic development.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for meticulous planning, he called for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for each shortlisted land parcel in conformity with the scheme guidelines. He further emphasized that



the proposed industrial estates should be developed as fully integrated plug-and-play facilities equipped with all requisite infrastructure, utilities, logistics and support services, enabling industrial units to commence operations immediately upon allotment without

facing procedural or infrastructural bottlenecks.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, presented a detailed overview of the scheme and the steps being taken by the Department to se-

ensure inclusion under the ambitious programme notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Elaborating further he stated that the scheme aims to establish 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country in a phased manner over six years from 2026-27 to 2031-32, with a total financial outlay of about ₹33,660 crore. Up to 50 industrial parks will be taken up in the first phase through a challenge-based competitive selection process.

Reviewing the progress made so far, the Chief Secretary was apprised that a land parcel measuring about 725 kanals at Vijaypur in Samba district has been identified as a potential site for development of an industrial park under the scheme. Similarly for Kashmir di-

vision, feasibility assessments are being undertaken for several identified land parcels, including sites at Anantnag, Budgam and Srinagar districts, to evaluate their suitability for development of plug-and-play industrial parks in accordance with the scheme guidelines. Moreover the Chief Secretary was apprised that the first application window under the scheme has opened from June 1 and will remain active till July 31, 2026, during which proposals from eligible states and Union Territories will be considered for approval.

Concluding the Chief Secretary directed all the stakeholders to work in mission mode to ensure timely completion of all procedural requirements and submission of a comprehensive, competitive and technically robust proposal within the stipulated timelines.