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## Widespread destruction caused by flash floods at Thathri

Officials said the restoration teams were still engaged in clearing the debris and restoring complete traffic on the highway, while assessment of the damage caused by the flash floods was underway.

There were no immediate reports of any loss of life, while the administration was closely monitoring the situation, officials said.

LG Sinha was himself closely monitoring the situation. He spoke to the deputy commissioner, Doda, and directed him to ensure immediate relief and assistance to the affected families and expedite restoration work.

"Spoke with the DC, Doda, to assess the situation following the cloudburst in Thathri region. While several houses and shops have suffered damages, fortunately, no casualties or injuries have been reported," he said in a post on X.

"I have directed the DC to ensure immediate relief and assistance to the affected families and expedite restoration work, including the clearance of NH-244," the LG added.

## Nabin cuts short J&amp;K visit, skips Vaishno Devi pilgrimage

the programme, all the interactions were merged into a single joint meeting.

"Even so, it turned out to be a positive and meaningful interaction," he added.

According to the BJP leader, Nabin's visit remained focused on organisational affairs, with interactions involving party office-bearers, elected representatives, and the public through various programmes.

He said the visit coincided with the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mukherjee.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the ideological cradle of the BJP. The party's foundation is rooted in the movement for 'Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan' (One Constitution, One Flag), which began with the sacrifice of Mukherjee," Pathania said.

Earlier in the day, Nabin visited the RSS headquarters, Keshav Bhawan, at Amphalla, where he met senior Sangh functionaries. He later paid tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader Prem Nath Dogra at Dogra Chowk before proceeding to the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar to chair the joint meeting.

He was also scheduled to address a youth convention later in the day, but the programme was cancelled due to a lack of time.

## Shopian operation enters 4th day

A tight vigil was being maintained in the area to hunt down the terrorists, the officials added.

## CIC can't sit over appeals: HC

A division bench of acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani while disposing of a PIL, however, said the court by issuing a mandamus, cannot fix a timeline of 45 days for the CIC for disposal of the second appeals and complaints by the CIC, as prayed for by the petitioner.

The court said the Right to Information Act, 2005 does not lay down any timeline for deciding the second appeals and complaints under the Act.

"However, it cannot be said that the CIC can sit over the appeals for an unduly long period and keep them undecided for years together," the bench observed.

The bench directed the CIC to look into the matter and take appropriate measures to improve its working, subject to the infrastructural constraints and the inflow of second appeals and complaints.

"The CIC may also do well to consider the suggestions made by the petitioner and make use of them for improving its working, provided they found genuine and realistic," it added.

The petition had sought permission to place on record certain suggestions for addressing the pendency of appeals arising from the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir before the CIC. The court allowed the application.

## Saxena approves interim land-use norms

uncertainty over land use and ensuring that citizens do not face hardship in obtaining building permissions in the absence of notified Master Plans in Ladakh.

The decision addresses a major regulatory gap that existed due to the absence of notified Master Plans and Zonal Development Plans, under which there was no clearly defined distinction regarding the nature of activities - residential, commercial, industrial or mixed-use that could be undertaken on land within municipal areas. This often resulted in uncertainty for citizens seeking building permissions and undertaking legitimate developmental activities.

Recognising the inconvenience being faced by the people, the LG intervened to establish a transparent, demand-driven interim framework that enables development while ensuring proper regulation, until statutory planning instruments are notified.

"For the areas falling under the Municipal Committees in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the developmental proposal and building permission/application shall not be restricted solely on the ground of the non-availability of the Master Plan/Zonal Development Plan....Land up to 02 kanals, within the municipal area, can be used for residential/commercial/industrial/mixed use for which no approval shall be required from any authority," the order said.

"Planned urban development is essential for the long-term growth and sustainability of Ladakh. At the same time, the absence of notified Master Plans should not become a hurdle for citizens seeking to construct homes, establish businesses or undertake legitimate developmental activities. This interim framework balances developmental needs with environmental safeguards and provides much-needed regulatory clarity until the Master Plans are finalised," Saxena said.

Presently, there are no Urban Development Authorities in Ladakh, which is a statutory prerequisite for the preparation and notification of Master Plans and Zonal Development Plans. Consequently, urban development and building permissions in Ladakh are presently regulated through the Ladakh Building Bye-laws, 2025.

While no approval will be required for residential/commercial/industrial or mixed use on land up to two kanals, the following activities shall not be permitted without prior approval, on land up to two kanals:

Residential areas: Red, Orange and Green category industries; slaughterhouses; commercial animal rearing; stone quarries and similar activities; storage of inflammable materials; and burial grounds/crematoria.

Commercial areas: Red and Orange category industries; slaughterhouses; and burial grounds/crematoria. Mixed-use areas: Red, Orange and Green category industries; slaughterhouses; commercial animal rearing; stone quarries and similar activities; storage of inflammable

materials; and burial grounds/crematoria.

The approved framework is also aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's broader deregulation exercise, based on the principle of "Everything is permitted unless specifically prohibited," thereby facilitating ease of doing business, reducing procedural delays and ensuring that genuine developmental activities continue in a transparent and regulated manner while the statutory planning framework is being prepared.

Municipal Committees have been directed to issue detailed operational guidelines for the effective regulation of land use and building construction in accordance with these directions. The interim framework shall remain in force until the Master Plans, Zonal Development Plans and related statutory regulations are notified, after which all future development shall be governed by the provisions of the notified planning framework.

## 1 killed, 7 missing as landslide hits Wayanad

Speaking to media, Satheesan said the contractors had been told much in advance by the Public Works Department Minister P K Basheer and the District Collector to remove the huge quantity of mud accumulated in the area.

Responding to a question from reporters, Satheesan said that the non-issuance of an appropriate weather alert was not the reason for the landslide.

"The soil there is mixed with mud and has got a different texture. The scrap soil was kept there and that was not stable. The disaster management authority had examined the area and told the contractors to remove it. Failure to remove soil from the place caused this mishap," he said.

The CM reviewed the rescue operations with officials of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) at their office.

"It is an unfortunate incident. Rescue efforts are going on," he said.

Minister AP Anil Kumar and T Siddique have been sent to the disaster-hit place to coordinate rescue activities.

Forces from Wayanad are engaged in rescue activities, and more forces are on the way from Kozhikode and other places, the CM added.

He said that necessary rescue forces are reaching the area and the police as well as fire and rescue personnel were already deployed at the site.

Additionally, a defence force was ready at Thrissur for being deployed at the site if required, he said.

All the necessary systems for search and rescue will be in place as soon as possible, he assured.

Regarding safety of projects such as National Highway construction, the CM said the state government has grievances that enough safety precautions are not being taken in the national highway construction.

Fire and Rescue Services personnel from Kalpetta rushed to the spot after the landslide. Search and rescue operations are being carried out by teams from the Fire and Rescue Services, police and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Officials said local residents rescued three people from the site, where workers associated with the tunnel project were staying. The affected area also has a few houses and homestays.

The Anakkompoyil-Meppadi tunnel project, which aims to improve connectivity between Malappuram and Wayanad districts, commenced last year.

The incident comes nearly two years after the devastating landslides that struck Wayanad in July 2024, when torrential rain triggered multiple slope failures in the Meppadi region, killing more than 400 people, leaving scores missing and causing widespread destruction in villages such as Chooralmala and Mundakkai.

The disaster was among the deadliest landslides in Kerala's history.

## Rly Ministry approves recruitment for 4,098 posts

zones stated that it had assessed the vacancy positions highlighted by the zones through the internal Human Resource Management System (HRMS) and based on that assessment, directed the initiation of the recruitment process.

India backs development, not expansionism: Modi tells Indonesia

sia, brought together leaders from 29 Asian and African countries to promote world peace and advance cooperation among newly independent nations.

It is widely regarded as laying the foundation for the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War.

"For India and Indonesia, the sea has never represented distance. It has always been a bridge between our nations and remains central to our shared future," Modi said in his address.

"When India and Indonesia stand together, they strengthen the world's faith that democracy creates opportunities, democracy builds trust, and democracy shapes the future," the prime minister said.

Modi said India, Indonesia and the Indian Ocean are names that reflect the deep ties that bind the two nations.

"The goodwill and trust that India and Indonesia share must create new opportunities for our citizens," he said.

The prime minister also spoke about anti-terror cooperation between the two nations under the existing framework of a joint working group.

India and Indonesia can strengthen peace-loving forces by expanding cooperation to counter cyber threat, terror funding and radicalisation, he said.

Highlighting the current geopolitical environment, the prime minister said India firmly believes that reform of the UN Security Council can no longer be delayed.

Modi landed in Jakarta on Monday to a red-carpet welcome in the first leg of his three-nation tour -- which will also cover Australia and New Zealand -- to shore up trade and security cooperation under the framework of the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of 2018.

His address at the Indonesian parliament on Tuesday came hours after he held wide-ranging talks with President Subianto, with the two sides signing nearly a dozen agreements to expand cooperation in areas including defence, critical minerals, technology, food security, medicines and maritime security.

## US to lift sanctions on Turkey: Trump

Trump to Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan whom he considers a close ally and would remove a major longstanding irritant in bilateral ties.

Even as Washington and Ankara have enjoyed warmer ties under Trump, Turkey's 2019 acquisition of the Russian S-400 system has long been a sore point for both sides.

In response to that purchase, Washington in 2020 imposed sanctions on a major Turkish defence company and removed Turkey from the F-35 stealth fighter jet programme, where Ankara was also a production partner.

"We're going to be taking the sanctions off," Trump told reporters just before his meeting with Erdogan during a visit to Turkey for a NATO summit. He added that his Secretary of State and Treasury Secretary were working on the issue.

Trump was also upbeat about the possible sale of F-35

stealth fighter jets to Turkey even as he did not say how exactly such a transaction would take place given the legal hurdles.

## Army Chief meets LG, discusses security situation

region, according to officials. Gen Seth was accompanied by Lt Gen Balbir Singh, GOC of Chinar Corps.

Largest batch of 8,815 pilgrims leaves for shrine of Almighty Shiva

4,812 departed on July 4. The cave houses a naturally formed ice-Shivalingam.

The administration has repeatedly urged unregistered pilgrims planning to undertake the yatra to postpone their journey by a few days, saying all registration slots had been booked till July 9 due to an unprecedented influx of devotees.

Officials also announced that only registered pilgrims would be permitted to proceed to Kashmir, while unregistered devotees would be stopped at designated checkpoints until fresh registration quotas become available.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was officially flagged off by LG Manoj Sinha on July 2 morning from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here simultaneously for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra marks the beginning of one of the country's most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

## Sinha chairs high-level meeting to review holy yatra

for us and is deeply intertwined with the aspirations and spiritual consciousness of our nation. It reflects India's enduring civilisational heritage and showcases the country's unique soft power to the world. This sacred yatra is a cherished tradition and also an integral part of our national identity. Ensuring smooth, safe, and successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is our collective resolve," he added.

He urged all stakeholders to work together in close coordination to make this year's Yatra truly historic and set a benchmark for spiritual tourism across the country.

"Such a collective effort can create a model that inspires similar pilgrimages nationwide," he said.

He also appealed to all devotees to immerse themselves in the spiritual bliss of this sacred journey to Lord Shiva's abode while experiencing the warmth of local hospitality and the richness of J&K's traditional arts and crafts.

"By supporting and promoting local products, we can ensure that the pilgrimage becomes not only a profound spiritual experience but also a meaningful celebration of the local economy, culture, and heritage," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The LG also reviewed the operations of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board's 24x7 Control Room, established at Lok Bhawan, for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

He took stock of arrangements at various sections along the routes, deployment of security personnel, the functioning of langars, queue management systems at different junctions as well as the holy cave.

## Kavinder calls for citizen-centric cities to realise vision of 'Viksit Bharat'

organisers for the visionary initiative. Gupta said that the forum was not merely an event but a significant national platform for shaping the future of urban development in India.

He said that the vision of Viksit Bharat, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requires cities to become engines of economic growth, centres of innovation and models of sustainable development.

"Cities today are not merely clusters of roads and buildings. They are centres where opportunities are created, ideas take shape, industries flourish and the nation's economy gathers momentum. If India aspires to become one of the world's leading economies, its cities must also evolve into world-class urban centres," he said.

Emphasising the need for balanced urban development, Gupta said that future cities must not only be technologically advanced but also sensitive to the needs of citizens.

He called for urban centres that are inclusive, safe, clean, green and environmentally sustainable while preserving India's rich cultural heritage alongside modern infrastructure.

The governor said that meaningful progress could only be achieved through collaboration among governments, urban local bodies, industry, educational institutions and civil society.

He expressed confidence that the deliberations at the forum would generate practical ideas capable of influenc-

ing public policy and contributing to people-centric urban development.

He wished the Future Cities Forum 2026 great success and expressed hope that it would emerge as a catalyst for new ideas, innovation and sustainable urban development in the years ahead.

## Cong accuses BJP of 'whitewashing theft' at Ram Temple

"The people of the country believe that through resignations and limited action, an attempt is being made to cover-up the entire matter and protect the real culprits and big players," Ramesh said in a post in Hindi on X.

Reiterating the demands of the Congress, he said the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust be immediately dissolved and a new trust be formed including Shankaracharyas, Dharmacharyas, saints, and religious representatives.

"The public has no faith in the Uttar Pradesh government's SIT. The investigation of the case should be conducted independently under the supervision of a Supreme Court judge," he said.

Ramesh demanded that a complete account of the cash and material donations received for the Ram Temple be made public.

He said Prime Minister Modi should break his silence on this issue.

Earlier, senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot accused the BJP-RSS of having "captured" the administration of the temple in an "unauthorised manner".

Addressing a press conference here, Gehlot reiterated the party's demands that the the Trust should be dissolved, a probe under the supervision of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court be carried out, and the details of the donations made to the Ram temple by the people be made public to ensure transparency.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi should come forward on this issue but is not doing so," he said.

## HC upholds death sentence for 38 IM operatives

Seventy-eight persons were put on trial before the special court, and of them, 49 were convicted in February 2022. The trial was conducted after merging 35 different police cases, 20 FIRs lodged in Ahmedabad for 21 blasts and 15 in Surat city, where the terrorists had placed bombs, but they did not detonate.

The special court in February 2022 sentenced 38 IM members to death and 11 others to life imprisonment.

Among those convicted were former SIMI leader Safdar Nagori and his associates from 11 states, including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

All the persons convicted by the lower court had challenged the order in the High Court. The state government had approached the HC for confirmation of sentences to the convicts.

Special public prosecutor Amit Patel said the government had placed all the evidence against the convicts before the high court during the trial.

The HC heard the case extensively for more than one and a half years, and from February this year, the case was heard on a day-to-day basis, he said.

Patel said the court has directed the state government to pay compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh to those injured before March 30, 2027.

This was the first time that such a large number of convicts had been handed the death sentence by any court in one go.

In January 1998, a TADA court in Tamil Nadu had sentenced to death all 26 convicts in the case of the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

## EAM, Bahrain deputy PM discuss bilateral cooperation

suring the well-being of the Indian community and said, "Discussed deepening our bilateral cooperation. Exchanged views on ongoing developments in the region."

On Sunday, he met with his Qatari counterpart and Prime Minister of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani as part of his multi-nation visit in Doha, during which both sides explored new opportunities for deepening the strategic partnership.

In a post on X, Jaishankar described the meeting as "a pleasure" and thanked the Qatari leadership for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian community in the Gulf nation. He said the discussions covered a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation, including energy, trade, investments, connectivity, security and people-to-people ties. Jaishankar is on a multi-nation visit to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, US and Belgium, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Saturday.

As per the MEA, Jaishankar will be on an official visit to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman from July 5-10. During the visit to these countries, he will be meeting with his counterparts and the leadership.

The visit will focus on enhancing our bilateral relations with the four countries and also provide an opportunity to exchange views on regional developments and issues of mutual interest, the press release by MEA noted.

For the US-leg, EAM will visit New York on July 13 to launch India's official campaign for the UN Security Council tenure 2028-29. Later, he will attend the 3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting and interact with his EU and Belgian counterparts in Brussels on July 14-15. (ANI)

## Addl RGI Lauds J&amp;K Census Team for Successful Completion of HLO Phase-I

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 07

Additional Registrar General of India Sunil Kumar on Tuesday commended the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for successfully completing the House Listing Operations (HLO) Phase-I of Census 2027 during his maiden visit to Jammu.

Congratulating Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations Amit Sharma, he praised the smooth, technology-driven execution of the month-long exercise despite the challenging terrain of the two Union Territories. He also appreciated a documentary showcasing the digital census operations and de-



scribed it as a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of the Census teams.

During the review meeting, senior officers presented the roadmap for the upcoming phases of Census 2027, highlighting digital in-

novations, training, field monitoring and administrative reforms. Sunil Kumar assured full support from the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India in addressing administrative, financial, infrastructure and manpower

requirements to ensure the timely and successful completion of the remaining Census activities. He also appreciated the Directorate's institutional reforms and expressed confidence in its preparedness for the next phases of Census 2027.