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11 more killed, death toll reaches 23 in 2 days; 7 still missing

Two persons - Kulwant Singh & Manish Kumar - died in the incident and six others survived with critical injuries. They were hospitalised.

Officials said the highway remained blocked for some time as a couple of cars were also hit by boulders but no one was hurt.

In Kashtigarh area of Doda, a woman, who was identified as Shiv Devi, was killed after being hit by a rolling stone near her house.

The body of Vikas Ahmed, who was washed away in flash floods, was fished out from the river in Salani area of Rajouri town in the morning, officials said.

In another incident, a woman identified as Shiv Devi was killed after being hit by a shooting stone near her house in Kashtigarh area of the district, the officials said.

Body of Vikas Ahmed, who got washed away in flash floods, was fished out from the river at Salani area of Rajouri town this morning, the officials said

Meanwhile, the heavy rains severely hampered rescue operations in both Poonch and Rajouri districts, a day after devastating flash floods and landslides claimed 12 lives and left several others missing. While 10 persons lost their lives and six others were missing in Poonch district, two others were killed and a Jal Shakti employee was missing in Rajouri district.

Officials said the fresh spell of rain began at about 3 am in the twin border districts and continued unabated till reports last came in, making rescue and search operations difficult in the affected areas.

Swollen streams, slippery terrain and poor visibility hindered the movement of rescue teams, who were racing against time to trace the missing, officials said.

Army, police, SDRF, civil defence personnel and local volunteers continued rescue efforts despite the adverse weather conditions.

The meteorological department has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir till July 23, prompting district administrations to issue advisories urging people to remain vigilant and avoid venturing near rivers, streams, nallahs and other water bodies.

Moderate to heavy rainfall was reported from Jammu and several other districts, though there were no immediate reports of any loss of life or damage to property.

Heavy rains over the past two days had caused massive damage to public and private infrastructure.

Due to heavy rains, there was a sudden land subsidence along the National Highway in the upper Kither-Narsu belt of Udhampur district. While no loss of life was reported, officials said at least seven shops, including a restaurant, were damaged in the incident.

Cracks were said to have developed across nearly four acres of land along the highway, threatening other structures in the area, officials said.

Omar announces Rs 6 lakh ex-gratia for kin of flash flood, rain victims

in Rajouri & Poonch districts. "The government will do everything possible to aid & assist affected people who have suffered property loss/damage due to rains & flash floods. Intense rainfall has resulted in severe flooding across Poonch and Rajouri, where rising waters from Dharhali River devastated local infrastructure and public transport facilities at Bela Bus Stand," he had said.

**Sinha reviews flood situation** dened by the loss of two lives in Doda, and my heart goes out to their families. Emergency teams, including NDRF, SDRF, police, and Army are deployed and have been put on high alert in vulnerable areas. Key roads in Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, and Udhampur have been re-opened, and work to restore water supplies in several areas is going on. Field teams have also been directed to urgently evaluate damage to houses and public infrastructure," the LG said in a post on X.

Civil Def personnel deployed amid flash flood threats

monitor public movement, prevent gatherings near rivers and streams, and spread awareness about weather advisories issued by the authorities concerned.

The deployment was aimed at ensuring public safety as water levels in rivers and streams were rising due to continuous rainfall, officials said.

As per a weather department advisory, the period from July 20 to 24 is particularly critical.

Saxena lays foundation stones of 2 key bridges

Siachen River. Once completed, Burma-Sumoor bridge will reduce distance between Sumoor and villages of Burma, Charasa, Kuri and Murgi from nearly 70 km to just about 500 mt, drastically reducing travel time and ensuring faster access to healthcare, education, markets, government services and the district headquarters at Diskit.

Similarly, Tongsted Bridge will provide reliable all-weather connectivity to several remote villages, bringing essential services closer to people.

The two projects, being executed under the Special Development Package (SDP) of the UT administration, will significantly transform connectivity in the border region. The Burma-Sumoor Bridge Project, sanctioned at the cost of Rs 64.10 cr, comprises 470 mt of bridges at three locations, a 2.5-kilometre approach road and six RCC culverts. Besides reducing the travel distance from nearly 70 km to just 500 mt, the project will directly benefit around 848 residents by improving access to healthcare, education, government services and markets. It will also provide a major boost to agriculture, tourism and local livelihoods by enabling farmers to transport their produce quickly and efficiently.

Tongsted Bridge Project, sanctioned at Rs 19.29 cr, involves the construction of a 160-mt Steel Plate Girder Bridge over Siachen River. Designed to withstand the challenging conditions of the high-altitude region, the bridge will provide year-round connectivity to the villages of Tongsted, Yarma Gonbo, Dongsa, Nungsted, Henachy, Changlung and Sasoma, directly benefiting more than 500 residents. The bridge will facilitate easier movement of people, agricultural produce and essential supplies while ensuring convenient access to Yarma Gonbo, an important religious and cultural centre for the region.

Addressing the gathering, the LG said it was a privilege to visit the breathtakingly beautiful Nubra valley for

the first time and dedicate two transformative infrastructure projects to its people.

He congratulated the residents of Nubra and said the projects reflected the Administration's unwavering commitment to strengthening infrastructure and ensuring inclusive and balanced development in Ladakh's border areas.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ladakh has witnessed unprecedented infrastructure development since becoming a Union Territory. From expanding the road network and constructing strategic bridges to strengthening connectivity in our remotest border villages, every effort has been directed towards improving the quality of life of our people. These bridges are not merely engineering structures; they are lifelines that will reduce distances, connect communities with opportunities, strengthen border infrastructure and unlock new avenues for agriculture, tourism and economic growth across Nubra Valley," he said.

"The rivers of Nubra are lifeline of the valley, sustaining agriculture, horticulture and livelihoods, but often become major barriers to movement during floods and adverse weather. The construction of these all-weather bridges will ensure safe, reliable and uninterrupted connectivity throughout the year while making the lives of people living in remote villages significantly easier," he added.

Saxena also highlighted Nubra's immense tourism potential, and said that the improved road infrastructure and bridge connectivity would further boost tourism, create new livelihood opportunities for local youth through homestays, transport, handicrafts and adventure tourism, and stimulate economic growth across the valley.

Describing the projects as much more than bridges, he said they were investments in connectivity, economic growth, social development and the overall well-being of the people of Nubra.

Tripura DGP Dhankar commits 'suicide'

Pant Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. An autopsy report was reported.

Following the incident, Chief Minister Manik Saha and top government officials, including Chief Secretary J K Sinha, visited the hospital, he added.

He was part of the SIT that probed the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, as well as the CBI team that investigated fugitive businessman Nirav Modi.

Dhankar was a post-graduate in Food Technology from CFTRI, Mysore. He also had a Master's Degree in Police Management from Osmania University and a post-graduate Diploma in Cyber Crimes from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

He had vast experience of serving in Tripura during 1995 to 2003. He served as SDPO, Longtharai valley, and District SP of undivided West and South Tripura Districts, apart from serving as Superintendent of Police, Special Branch and AIGP (Hqr).

During 2003-04, he also served in the UN Mission in Kosovo. During 2005 to 2013, he was on central deputation and served as SP and DIG in CBI.

On return from central deputation, he served as IGP (Law & Order) Tripura from 2013 to 2016. During 2016 to 2023, he again went on central deputation and served as IG, Research & Correctional Administration, BPR&D and IG (Personnel) in CISF, besides Joint Director and Additional Director in CBI. He has also served as Chairman of SIT (1984 Anti-Sikh Riots) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

He was conferred the Police Medal for Meritorious Service and President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

It was on May 17, 2025 that assumed the charge of DGP, Tripura.

Modi urges productive Par session, hopes discussions to be logical

cussion on issues like Ram temple donation 'theft', NEET paper 'leak' and E2o petrol in Parliament, Modi said he expected that the discussions were conducted with logic and facts.

"I believe where there are facts, there is no need for chaos. If your logic and facts are strong, there is no need to raise your voice. Every voice should find an opportunity to be heard. That is the role of Parliament. I urge all parliamentarians to participate in the proceedings wholeheartedly," he said.

Referring to the West Asia conflict, the prime minister said countries like India, which are dependent on others for energy, have faced a major crisis.

"Numerous obstacles and crises have arisen in every sector, such as petrol, diesel, LPG, fertilizer. Despite that, India has remained the fastest-growing major economy in the world with 7.7 per cent growth. This has been indicative of India's strength," he said.

Modi said in the last one month, the country has achieved a lot of accomplishments for which the people of the country can be proud.

"Last year, just before the Monsoon Session, an Indian citizen was on the International Space Station. Two days ago, an Indian youth-led start-up accomplished a major achievement that only a few countries have been able to achieve. They filled Indians with confidence and elevated India's profile in the world. This is a message that our youth's capabilities and ambitions are limitless, just like space," he said.

The prime minister said this was not a coincidence, but a message and a bigger, stronger message that the potential of the youth of India and their aspirations are as limitless as space.

He said a few days ago, a major oil refinery was dedicated to the country, a semiconductor plant was inaugurated and a few days ago, India's first hydrogen-powered train was inaugurated, making the country one of the few nations to achieve this feat.

"Moreover, it has the most powerful engine and the longest non-stop range. This is the result of the goals set by India's innovators, engineers and entrepreneurs to do something for the country," he said.

Referring to the reform initiatives taken by his government, the prime minister said such steps have given courage to the youth to dare to take commendable steps.

India, Moldova agree to promote trade: Prez

lateral partnership. Murmu, who is the first Indian President to visit Moldova,

held productive and forward-looking discussions with her Moldovan counterpart Maia Sandu here, covering the entire spectrum of bilateral ties.

"Economic cooperation remains an important pillar of our partnership. We agreed to promote greater trade and investment, strengthen resilient supply chains, improve connectivity and encourage closer engagement between our business communities," she said.

The India-Moldova Business Forum, being held on the margins of this visit, will go a long way in energising our trade and investment ties, the President said.

"We agreed to strengthen cooperation in various areas of mutual interest including agriculture, logistics and infrastructure, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, Digital Public Infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and innovation," Murmu said in a press statement.

Referring to her visit, she said it marks a historic milestone in bilateral relations and reflects the growing friendship and mutual trust between the two countries.

"India and Moldova have enjoyed warm and friendly relations for more than three decades. Although geographically distant, our partnership has steadily grown, guided by our shared commitment to peace, development and international cooperation," the President said.

Around 2,000 Indian nationals, including approximately 1,800 medical students, reside in Moldova, making India one of the largest foreign student communities in this Eastern European nation.

The visit to Moldova is part of Murmu's three-nation tour of European countries aimed at boosting ties in trade, technology, tourism and other sectors.

Murmu said that both countries reviewed the progress achieved in recent years and agreed to further deepen co-operation across a wide range of sectors that are important for the growth, prosperity and well-being of their peoples.

"We discussed ways to expand educational exchanges and institutional partnerships. India is pleased to double the number of ITEC training slots for Moldovan professionals, including specialised courses in Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies," she said.

Murmu said she exchanged views on regional and global developments with her Moldovan counterpart and reaffirmed their shared commitment to peace, dialogue and respect for international law.

"We agreed to continue working together to address common global challenges and contribute to a peaceful, stable and prosperous world. India has consistently supported early resolution of all conflicts, disputes and tensions through dialogue and diplomacy. We have always stood by the side of peace," she added.

On her arrival at Chisinau International Airport earlier in the day, she was warmly received by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, Mihai Popsoi.

Later, Murmu was accorded a ceremonial welcome and guard of honour by President Sandu at the Presidential Palace.

After concluding her day-long trip here, Murmu will visit North Macedonia from July 21 to 22. This will also be the first ever visit by an Indian President to this landlocked country in Southeast Europe.

In the final stretch of her three-nation tour, she will visit Romania from July 23 to 25 at the invitation of her Romanian counterpart Nicusor Dan. This would be the first visit by an Indian President, after a gap of over three decades, to the Southeastern European country.

Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya, Rajya Sabha member Dinesh Sharma and Lok Sabha member Vijay Baghel are part of the official delegation accompanying the President.

LS adjourned twice on opening day of Monsoon Session

NEET-UG 2026 paper leak issue, saying it concerned the future of lakhs of students.

"Thousands of students have reached Jantar Mantar (where the protest is on), and they were lathi-charged," he said.

"The government is trying to beat them down and suppress the issue," Kharge said, as Opposition members stood on their feet, shouting "shame, shame".

Amid the uproar, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan adjourned the House till 12 noon.

Battle for people's rights will be fought with full strength: INDIA Bloc

"Or whether it is the matter of paper leaks and the systematic collapse of the education system - 152 paper leaks have occurred from 2014 till now, 25 children have lost their lives. Dharmendra Pradhan will have to be sacked," the Congress chief said.

Similarly, the issue of forcibly imposing ethanol blending on 3.5 crore vehicle owners, which the government calls an "experiment", he said.

Is looting the public's hard-earned money the BJP's only tool, Kharge asked.

Besides these issues, other important matters and upcoming bills are questions that will affect the country's people, he added.

"The INDIA opposition will demand accountability from the government on every issue. The battle for the people's rights, the people's voice, and the people's trust will be fought with full strength," Kharge said.

Bill to increase number of SC judges introduced in LS

It said there had been a persistent gap between institution and final disposal of cases, which highlights the ongoing challenge of managing the docket, particularly in relation to older pending cases and those necessitating the attention and adjudication by larger Benches.

"The increase in judge strength of the Court is one of the most exigent and viable solutions for tackling the pending backlog of cases in the Supreme Court. It will also make it possible for the Chief Justice of India to constitute Constitutional Benches for a required period of days on a regular basis to hear cases involving a substantial question of law," it said.

The Lok Sabha has also admitted a Statutory Resolution by opposition members opposing the ordinance.

According to procedure, if a bill is brought to replace an ordinance, opposition members move a statutory resolution opposing the ordinance.

The ordinance is an executive power exercised by the government to frame laws in an emergency when Parlia-

ment is not in session.

An ordinance has a life of six months, but once a session commences, the ordinance has to be passed by Parliament into a law within six weeks or 42 days else it lapses.

Doal to receive Lokmanya Tilak Award

award to Doval at a function in Pune on August 1. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar are likely to attend the event, the trust's president, Dr Rohit Tilak, said at a press conference.

The award ceremony will be held at the Maharashtraiya Mandal ground in Gultekdi area of Pune.

Doval, 81, has handled crucial assignments in sensitive regions, including Mizoram, Sikkim, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He also served in diplomatic roles at Indian missions in Islamabad and London.

He is the longest-serving NSA of India. Doval has served as India's special representative for the India-China boundary talks and is also credited with playing an important role in diplomatic efforts that helped resolve the Doklam standoff.

Instituted in 1983, the Lokmanya Tilak Award was first conferred on socialist leader S M Joshi.

It is awarded every year on August 1, the death anniversary of freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak, to individuals who have made a remarkable contribution to the nation's progress and development.

Over the years, the award has been presented to several eminent personalities, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former PMs Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, former President Pranab Mukherjee and veteran politician Sharad Pawar.

NC protests in Delhi demanding statehood for J&K

The deputy chief minister said it was unfortunate that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had to come to Delhi to remind the Centre of its promise.

Meanwhile, the chief minister alleged that the union government had suppressed the NC protest, asserting that this would not deter their campaign for dignity and self-governance.

He maintained that the movement for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and constitutional rights had only just begun.

"We were stopped from getting to Jantar Mantar & stopped from protesting peacefully for what is rightfully ours, but we were not silenced. This is only the beginning of our struggle for statehood, our rights, our dignity and everything that was taken away from us," the CM said in a post on X.

Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in August 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370. In December 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision, observing that statehood should be restored at the earliest.

Jitendra for revisiting pension rules

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 courts.

"The government is committed to creating a zero-litigation pension ecosystem through simplified rules, improved grievance redressal, stronger coordination among ministries and proactive identification of recurring issues before they develop into legal disputes," he said while addressing the 2nd National Workshop on Pension Litigation, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare here.

During the event, Dr Singh launched the Compendium of Case Laws on Pension Litigation, a Flyer on Pension Litigation, and the Special Campaign 3.0 of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, aimed at strengthening litigation management, improving service delivery and promoting citizen-centric pension administration.

US bombing of Iran expands as American troops killed

word from Iran on any casualties or damage from the attacks. Iranian state media reported explosions being heard in southern and northwestern Iran.

As the strikes began, a ship caught fire early Monday in the Strait of Hormuz near the coastline of Oman, the British military said. It was unclear what sparked the blaze off Oman, which has been a route the US military has encouraged ships to travel to avoid Iran's control. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard later claimed it was targeting tankers in the strait.

Tehran has retaliated by hitting US-allied countries throughout the Middle East. Bahrain sounded its missile alert sirens Monday morning, while Kuwait said its air defence were firing at an incoming Iranian barrage.

Trump has threatened to target Iran's power stations and bridges to try to compel Tehran to loosen its hold on the Strait of Hormuz, which saw one-fifth of traded global oil supplies transit before the war. Recent attacks suggest the US military is carrying out that plan.

The US in the past week reimposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports to halt its shipments of crude oil. The military on Saturday said it had redirected six ships and disabled one since then.

The halfway point has passed in the 60 days the deal set out to negotiate the permanent end of the war and other issues, including Iran's nuclear program.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters that the US is still open to negotiating with Iran but that "it has to be real."

"We're going to continue to respond. If the door opens to diplomacy - if the guys that want to do something productive for Iran win and take control of that system, or take control of the negotiations - that'll be a very positive development," Rubio said. "That's not where we are tonight, unfortunately."

Iranian authorities on Sunday said at least 50 people have been killed and 517 wounded in the latest rounds of US strikes. Since the war began on February 28, 17 US service members have been killed.