

FROM PAGE ONE

At least 95 killed; 105 Indians, 37 NRIs missing

Netherlands, while the nationalities of some others were yet to be confirmed.

The Tourism Board said the list was preliminary and was being verified in coordination with travel agencies, guides, local authorities and security agencies.

A large number of those out of contact were believed to be pilgrims travelling to Tibet for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Bashu Kumar Adhikari, managing director of Kathmandu-based Touch Kailash Travels & Tours, said 390 pilgrims, including 93 Nepalis, were scheduled to cross the border on Wednesday.

"Except for a few, we have not been able to establish contact with the pilgrims as of 3pm," he said.

Sagar Pandey, president of the Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal, said efforts were underway to contact the pilgrims and assess their condition.

The death toll from the catastrophic flash floods along Nepal's Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river corridors had risen to 95, according to official updates.

The flooding, which originated in the Rasuwa border area and surged downstream, had affected several districts, including Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and Chitwan. Police said 93 people had also been injured.

Four bodies were recovered from Bidur Municipality in Nuwakot and found near the Trishuli river, police said.

The Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police have been deployed for search-and-rescue operations. Fourteen helicopters, along with drones and sniffer dogs, are being used to locate missing people and assist those stranded in affected areas.

The Nepal Army said six people were rescued from Syarubesi, two from Mailung and four from Dhunche in Rasuwa. It has also set up a treatment centre at the Military Training Centre No. 1 in Trishuli to provide emergency medical care.

Earlier, four Armed Police Force personnel were reported missing from Rasuwa, while nine personnel stationed at Timure, near the Nepal-China border, were also reported unaccounted for.

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah said more than 90 people had died in the devastating flash floods in the country, while over 250 people had been rescued so far.

In a televised address, he said 100 beds had been reserved at hospitals in Kathmandu for free treatment of those injured in the floods. "I stand before you today with a heavy heart. The sudden and devastating flood in Rasuwa's Bhote Koshi River has left the entire nation shocked and grieving," Shah said.

He said the government mobilised all available forces after receiving reports of the disaster. Emergency meetings of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, the National Council and the Cabinet were held to speed up rescue and relief operations.

The Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police have been deployed in the affected areas. Shah said helicopters had rescued more than 250 people so far, while those injured were being airlifted to Kathmandu for treatment.

Shah said 100 beds at Bir Hospital and the National Trauma Centre in Kathmandu had been allocated for free treatment of flood victims. Major hospitals across the Kathmandu Valley have also been placed on standby.

Medical teams, including doctors, have been sent to affected areas, with additional support from Nepal Scouts and the World Health Organization.

The prime minister identified the worst-hit areas as Bidur in Nuwakot; Uttargaya and Gosaikunda in Rasuwa; Gajuri, Galchi, Benighat, Tripurasundari and Siddhalek in Dhading; and Shahid Laxhan and Gandaki rural municipalities in Gorkha.

"Food, clean drinking water, medicines and temporary shelter will be provided immediately to all affected families," Shah said. "The government will take full responsibility for your rescue, treatment, food and shelter."

He also urged social organisations, businesses, youth volunteers and citizens to support the ongoing rescue and relief operations.

Also, a C-130J transport aircraft of the IAF had been "kept on standby", and was likely to depart for Nepal on Wednesday night, a source said.

It was not immediately known which material or personnel would be transported in this aircraft. Both these aircraft have been used in the past by India for ferrying relief material and personnel to countries affected by natural disasters, as part of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) initiative of the government. The whereabouts of 37 of the 57 tourists from Tamil Nadu are yet to be ascertained, while 20 others have been accounted for, state officials said.

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay said senior government officials had been directed to work towards their swift rescue.

A team of 36 people from Keralam touring Nepal was safe and away from the areas affected by the devastating flash floods, a government source said.

"India stands firmly in solidarity with sisters and brothers in Nepal during this difficult time," Modi said and added that teams from both countries were coordinating closely in the rescue and relief efforts.

"Spoke to Prime Minister Balendra Shah and conveyed condolences on the loss of lives due to the floods in Nepal. The people of India stand in solidarity with their sisters and brothers in Nepal at this difficult time. India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to Nepal. Our teams are coordinating closely on rescue and relief efforts," he said in a post on X.

The Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a post on X that it remains actively engaged with the authorities in Nepal for early rescue and relief of Indian nationals impacted by the severe flash floods. "The Embassy of India has remained engaged with the relevant authorities of Government of Nepal for early rescue and relief for Indian nationals affected by the flash floods that took place in Nepal today. Rescue and relief efforts continue to be strengthened in coordination with the Government of Nepal," the post said.

Advanced care must become right, not privilege: LG

who discussed diagnosis for rare diseases and need for modern equipment. This moment revealed the greatest distance confronting us in the UT was the gap between healthcare available in small district hospitals and the healthcare actually required," he said and stressed that bridging this gap was a national priority.

Sinha highlighted India's remarkable progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said free treatment for more than 56 crore citizens surpassed the combined population of the US, France, Italy, and the UK.

He said annual vaccination campaigns in the country covering 7 crore children was equal to the population of UK. He said even e-Sanjeevani telemedicine providing care to 37 crore people annually, exceeds the population of the US.

"Expansion of infrastructure with 23 AIIMS, 2,045 medical colleges; and in J&K, two AIIMS, 10 medical colleges, 2 State Cancer Institutes, a Bone and Joint Hospital, a Paediatric Hospital, 52 nursing colleges, 23 paramedical colleges, and five pharmacy colleges were providing robust support to healthcare ecosystem. "These figures show that India has succeeded in elevating primary, secondary, and tertiary care. But time has come to scale up tertiary hospitals into quaternary centres," he said.

The LG also stressed that the advanced care must no longer remain a luxury confined to metropolitan cities.

"For a very long time, quaternary care has been viewed as a luxury available only in metropolitan cities and accessible only to those who can afford it. I wish to state clearly from this platform that this era must now come to an end. The cooperation of all

the stakeholders, private hospitals and research centres is essential for fulfilling this resolve," he said.

He urged hospitals to allocate annual budgets for specialised infrastructure such as modern operating theatres and proton-beam therapy facilities.

"We must always remember that a quaternary centre should be capable of offering every diagnosis and treatment permitted by science. Therefore, hospitals will also have to make budgetary provisions to access expensive and modern technologies such as robotic surgery, gene therapy, proton-beam therapy and artificial-intelligence-based advanced diagnostics," he said.

"Preparing the annual budget, hospitals should allocate funds each year for specialised infrastructure. This will enable them to gradually develop facilities such as modern operating theatres for delicate and complex procedures," he added.

The LG also suggested building of a new corridor to connect district hospitals and tertiary centres directly with quaternary-care institutions, accelerating diagnostics, imaging, and specialist consultations. He said telemedicine and AI-enabled diagnostic tools should be integrated into standard healthcare infrastructure.

He appealed for expanded fellowship and training opportunities in organ transplantation, oncology, genomics, and critical care.

"Advanced care is impossible without advanced specialists," he said.

He also suggested a mission uniting Himalayan states, Jammu Kashmir, universities, hospitals, private institutions and innovators to jointly advance biomedical research and overcome funding challenges.

"We must develop new inventions ourselves instead of importing innovation from abroad," he said.

He urged that hospitals be regarded as strategic national assets just like highways and ports, ensuring their preservation and development with equal dedication.

"We must create a robust quaternary-care framework that guarantees equal access to the son of a farmer and to a millionaire living in a city. This task will not be easy, but it must be undertaken as a matter of national dedication and service. Let us work together at this summit to prepare a strategy that will be remembered for the precise and effective implementation of these goals," he said.

On the occasion, the LG also released Summit Souvenir and several publications.

MSrinivas, Member, NITI Aayog; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Digambar Behera, President, National Academy of Medical Sciences; Kameshwar Prasad; M Raju, Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department; ProfMAshraf Ganie, Director SKIMS; heads of various institutions, researchers, scientists, and senior officials were among those present on the occasion.

LG, CM grieved over deaths in Surankote road accident

for the speedy recovery of the injured. Have directed the district administration to ensure that immediate assistance is provided to those affected," the LG said in a post on X.

Omarconveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for peace to the departed souls.

The CM directed the concerned authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment and care for those injured in the accident.

He also directed the concerned authorities to extend all possible assistance to the affected families in this hour of grief.

Eid Milad-Un-Nabi celebrated across J&K

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah offered afternoon prayers at Hazratbi shrine, the party said.

It said the duo prayed for peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Elaborate arrangements were made for the devotees at the shrine.

Gold falls Rs 600 to Rs 1.66 lakh/10gm

"Gold has eased in the domestic markets as traders booked profits after a strong multi-week rally," said Akshat Siddhant, Lead Quant Analyst at investment platform Mudrex.

He attributed the decline in precious metal prices to a strengthening US dollar ahead of the US Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation report.

"Gold has repeatedly reached fresh multi-month highs this year, supported by the US Treasury's expanding debt-buyback program, lower bond yields and steady buying from China's central bank," Siddhant said.

In global markets, spot gold fell USD 39.66, or nearly 1 per cent, to USD 4,619.21 per ounce, while silver dropped marginally to USD 68.50 per ounce.

Saxena inaugurates Suru Summer Festival

lar landscapes, adventure potential and unique way of life. Suru Summer Festival has been included among the nine UT-level festivals under the 'Celebrate Ladakh' calendar, reinforcing the administration's vision of promoting Ladakh as a year-round tourism destination.

Highlighting the immense tourism potential of Suru Valley, Saxena said the valley offers a unique combination of dramatic Himalayan landscapes, lush green valleys, rivers, culture and adventure, and has the potential to emerge as one of India's leading mountain tourism destinations.

He noted that Suru has already received national and international attention, including recognition by National Geographic among its 25 Best Destinations to Visit in 2025.

The iconic Nun-Kun massif, with Nun Peak rising to approximately 7,135 metres and Kun Peak to around 7,077 metres, along with the valley's mountaineering and expedition potential, the Lieutenant Governor said, provides a strong foundation for positioning Suru as a premier destination for high-altitude adventure tourism.

The LG emphasised that the Suru Festival should evolve beyond a two-day celebration into a signature tourism platform that takes Suru to the world, celebrates its mountains, culture and people, and creates sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

He called upon the people of Suru to focus on quality, cleanliness, hospitality and authentic experiences, noting that every visitor who leaves the valley with a memorable experience becomes an ambassador for Suru.

Saxena congratulated LAHDK Gargil, the District Administration, Tourism Department, participating departments and, most importantly, the people of Suru for organising the festival. He expressed confidence that collective efforts would help establish the Suru Summer Festival as a major event on the national tourism calendar and position Suru not merely as a place to visit, but as a destination to experience, appreciate and remember.

India fastest-growing major economy, says FM Sitharaman

mercialservices.

By transaction volume, UPI is the world's largest real-time payments system and has become an important instrument of financial inclusion, efficiency and innovation.

"There are significant opportunities here for collaboration with Canadian banks, fintech companies and regulators - not only in payments, but in shaping the next generation of digital fi

nancial infrastructure," she said.

Highlighting the growing India-Canada economic partnership, she said, the Indian diaspora in Canada was a strategic bridge between the two countries.

"This is a community that sits inside Canadian boardrooms, on the trading floors of Bay Street, inside the risk committees of the pension funds," she said.

This was further advanced during Prime Minister Carney's visit to India early this year, which formally launched CEPA negotiations, a CAD 2.6 billion uranium agreement with Cameco, the adoption of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' as the overarching framework of the renewed strategic partnership and a joint declaration of ambition to more than double two-way trade to CAD 70 billion by 2030, she said.

The finance minister said the bilateral partnership was increasingly moving beyond capital flows towards deeper institutional engagement.

"Capital markets are only one dimension of a modern financial partnership," she said, underlining the scope for broader economic and financial cooperation between the two countries.

PM to motivate youth to take up sports

led 'Viksit Bharat'.

The virtual address of Modi at the 'Khelo India Dialogue' will be structured around five themes of sport, Olympic aspirations, youth leadership, Viksit Bharat and 'Nasha Mukti Yuva'.

Improving India's sports ecosystem, coaching, inclusive participation and nurturing talent for the 2036 Olympics via scientific talent identification, transparent selection and long-term athlete development are also part of the objectives of the dialogue.

The programme aims to help the youth engage with India's sporting journey, share their aspirations, and contribute ideas for a stronger youth-led Viksit Bharat, a statement issued by the prime minister's office said.

It will provide a direct channel for young people to engage with the country's sporting ambitions, while ensuring that their ideas and perspectives become part of the continuing conversation on India's youth and sports ecosystem.

Organised by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) as part of the National Sports Day 2026 celebrations, the programme will be conducted across the country with participation of youth at two colleges in every district across States and Union Territories.

Creation of youth leaders through governance platforms and MY Bharat-led volunteering, empowering youth for Viksit Bharat by building civic mindedness, future-ready skills and structured volunteering; promoting a 'Nasha Mukti' Yuva movement that leverages sport and peer networks to fight substance abuse, reinforced by weekly Jan Bhagidari activities under PM's 100-week nationwide campaign launched on August 2 are the other themes of the dialogue.

Kingpin among 3 held with 5 kg heroin at Panjirthi

Uri sector in Kashmir," officials said.

"The swift identification and arrest of the mastermind demonstrate NCB's focus on dismantling the entire trafficking network, rather than restricting enforcement action to carriers and seizures," officials said.

"Going forward, the probe will identify cross-border suppliers, financial links, transporters, local associates and intended distribution network involved in the cartel," officials said and added, "The operation follows two other heroin seizures effected by NCB Jammu earlier this month-438 grams on August 12 and 603 grams on August 13-underscoring the sustained intensity of intelligence-led anti-narcotics operations in the region.

Officials said further investigation and intelligence gathering were underway to unravel the entire cartel and establish its forward and backward linkages.

The agency urged citizens to actively support the fight against drug trafficking and addiction by sharing credible information through the National Narcotics Helpline - MANAS (1933). Information can be shared confidentially.

NCB reiterated its commitment to taking firm, sustained and intelligence-led action against drug trafficking networks and contributing towards the objective of a 'Nasha Mukti' Bharat.

5 OGWs held with pistols, grenades

forces recovered a cache of arms &ammunition, including four pistols, two hand grenades and some live rounds, officials said.

Their sustained questioning was in progress, the officials added.

Kavinder presents GI certificates to artisans of traditional crafts

Office, in collaboration with local producer groups, artisan groups and other stakeholders.

On the occasion, the governor, through NABARD officials, presented GI certificates to Manish Bharti and Mahesh Bharti of Aachri Foundation, Kullu; Shakuntala Devi, carpet artisan; Hira Mani of SAVM Organisation, Mandi; Pradeep Kumar, Ransingha artisan; and Krishan Lal, wood-carving artisan.

In his address, he said the GI tag would help protect the unique identity and authenticity of Himachal Pradesh's traditional products, strengthen their recognition in domestic and international markets and ensure that artisans and communities associated with these crafts receive better recognition and greater economic value for their skills.

The governor appreciated NABARD's efforts in supporting local producer and artisan groups in securing GI recognition for traditional products.

He said that such initiatives were important for preserving the state's rich cultural heritage while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural communities and traditional artisans.

He emphasised the need to further promote Himachali products through quality improvement, branding, modern marketing, e-commerce and wider market linkages, so that the rich craftsmanship of the State could reach consumers across the country and abroad.

Gupta said the traditional crafts represent the cultural identity and heritage of Himachal Pradesh and called for greater efforts to pass these skills on to younger generations while making traditional craftsmanship economically viable.

Governor's secretary Sandeep Bhardwaj was also present on the occasion.

SC judge writes to CJI against Acting CJ of Rajasthan HC

the acting chief justice of the Rajasthan High Court of "maladministration", "malpractices", "nepotism" and "favouritism".

The top court judge alleged that Justice Sharma had misused his powers as master of the roster to selectively transfer cases to his own bench, including matters involving influential and wealthy litigants.

Justice Mehta was appointed a judge of the Rajasthan High Court in May 2011. He became Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court in February 2023 and was elevated to the Supreme Court in November the same year.

Justice Sharma was appointed a judge of the Rajasthan High Court in November 2016 and transferred to the Patna High Court in January 2022.

His request for repatriation to Rajasthan on health grounds was not accepted by the Supreme Court Collegium in March 2023.

He was instead transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The Collegium subsequently recommended his repatriation to Rajasthan in May 2025.

Justice Sharma has been functioning as the acting Chief Justice for more than 10 months after Justice SShriram, the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, demitted office in September 2025.

Justice Mehta had previously brought several such instances against Justice Sharma to the CJI's notice, including cases listed before other benches that were subsequently withdrawn and shifted to Justice Sharma's court "without any justifiable cause".

In his August 10 letter, Justice Mehta cited two cases which he described as "living proof" of what he alleged were attempts by Justice Sharma to exercise his administrative and judicial powers in favour of influential parties before his retirement on September 26.

Giving instances, Justice Mehta said, "These instances manifest brazen misuse of powers by the Acting Chief Justice Mr SP Sharma in order to favour influential parties and smack of corruption."

Justice Mehta's August 17 letter raised further concerns about the administration of the Rajasthan High Court and the treatment of members of the subordinate judiciary.

Justice Mehta also raised concerns over the Jodhpur District Court (Metro) building, which he said had been operationally and functionally complete for about a year.

According to his letter, Justice Sharma put the inauguration of the building on hold during a visit and ordered wholesale changes to its infrastructure.

Justice Mehta said this had occurred despite several courts in the Jodhpur Metro judgeship continuing to operate from rented premises, describing the resulting institutional loss as "unpardonable". The 40-court building was eventually inaugurated by CJI Surya Kant on August 15 after Justice Mehta and Supreme Court judge Justice Vijay Bhishnoi requested him to do so, the letter said.

Justice Mehta also criticised the administration of the Rajasthan High Court over a three-day international conference held in Jaipur from July 31 to August 2.

He claimed that almost all judges of the high court were nominated to attend the event, leaving the principal seat at Jodhpur without a single functional court for two days.

Around 20-22 district judges were also allegedly nominated, leaving the districts concerned without their senior-most judicial officers.

Justice Mehta said several Rajasthan High Court judges had approached him during his visits to the state and expressed concern over Justice Sharma's conduct, including alleged threats of transfer.

2 undertrials who escaped from Srinagar jail held in Rajasthan

They were traced and apprehended by Srinagar police with the assistance of Rajasthan Police from Rajgarh area of Churu district, officials said. After completing the necessary formalities, the accused would be brought back to Srinagar for further legal proceedings, the officials added.

Farman was lodged in Srinagar Central Jail since June 23 in connection with an FIR registered against him under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Similarly, Gujjar was lodged in the same prison since April 13 in connection with a separate FIR under sections of the BNS and the POCSO Act.

Following their escape from prison, Srinagar police launched a massive manhunt to trace and apprehend them. Police had also issued lookout notices and announced a reward for information leading to their arrest.

Woman among 6 killed, 3 injured as car falls into ditch

all the injured were rushed to hospital, where six of them were pronounced brought dead, officials said.

The dead were identified as Sheraz Ahmed, son of Shams Din; Nazakat Hussain, son of Mohammad Sharief; Mohammad Shafiq, son of Mohammad Shafi; Musarat Hussain, son of Liyaqat Hussain, Zulfat Bi, wife of Mohammad Amin and Mohammad Wasid, son of Mohammad Rashid. All were residents of Sokar, Sheindra.

The injured included Mohammad Amin, son of Ghulam Hussain; Irshan Ahmed, son of Mohammad Sheraz, and Tahir Ahmed, son of Mohamma Farooq, all residents of Sokar.

A case in this regard was registered at Mandi police station.

India denounces UN Racial Discrimination Committee remarks

Tushar Mehta, had already rejected the sweeping generalisations, unsubstantiated allegations, or tendency to exceed the Convention's mandate during the review meeting," the MEA stated. "India rejects any politically motivated highly malicious references in the report with all the contempt that it deserves," the ministry added.

The review process reflected India's continued engagement with the global human rights framework alongside its persistent efforts towards protecting and promoting the fundamental rights of all citizens. India was actively involved in negotiating and drafting the ICERD during the 1960s, amidst broader efforts by developing nations against colonialism, apartheid, and racial discrimination.

Governor Distributes Blankets for Pediatric Ward of IGMC Shimla



**SHIMLA, AUG 26:** Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta today distributed 40 blankets through the Himachal Pradesh State Red Cross Society for the Pediatric Ward of Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (IGMC), Shimla at Lok Bhavan.

Medical Superintendent, IGMC Dr. Rahul Rai and Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery Dr. Kamal Kant Sharma received the blankets on behalf of the hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that serving humanity and extending support to those in need is at the heart of the Red Cross movement. He said that small but meaningful initiatives can provide comfort and dignity to patients and their families, particularly children undergoing treatment in hospitals.

Shri Kavinder Gupta emphasised that children requiring medical care need not only quality treatment but also a caring and supportive environment. He appreciated the efforts of the State Red Cross Society in extending humanitarian assistance to hospitals and vulnerable sections of society.