

First images show devastation from flash floods at Tibet-Nepal border



GYIRONG (TIBET-NEPAL BORDER), SEPT 6: One of the most haunting reminders of the August 26 flash floods that devastated the Tibet-Nepal border is a video showing a massive wall of mud, rocks and debris engulfing a well-built immigration post in seconds.

The dramatic footage, which went viral worldwide, offered a chilling glimpse of nature's fury and the devastating impact it can have on buildings and human lives.

Until now, the full extent of the destruction had largely been seen from the Nepalese side of the border. In Nepal, the death toll has crossed 1,300, while around 5,000 remain missing. Geographic Reference

The disaster was triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, sending a massive surge of water and debris downstream through the Bhotekoshi River and dev-

astating settlements in northern and central Nepal.

China on Sunday, for the first time, opened up its devastated Gyirong County in Tibet to PTI and select foreign media to show the destruction caused by the flash floods and the massive relief and reconstruction work underway.

China has been working to reconstruct roads to restore access to the cut-off border post and has sent relief materials to Nepal.

According to officials' figures on the Chinese side, 31 people were killed and 531 others remain missing in Tibet. These include 261 missing foreigners, including 49 from India and 22 from other countries.

Most of the dead and missing foreigners were unlucky enough to be on both sides of the ill-fated immigration building when it was devoured by the floods.

China said, together with Nepal, it was officially determined that the August 26 disaster was caused by the collapse of a high-altitude glacier in Nepal.

"We noted that experts and official institutions of China and Nepal have made a preliminary assessment of the cause of the disaster," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing in Beijing on August 28.

"According to their analysis, the disaster has been triggered by a collapse of a high-altitude glacier in Nepal," he said.

The glacier collapse without any warning adds a new dimension, as experts warn that it may be one of many to come.

A Chinese climate official warned that glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau are likely to become more unstable, which may lead to more collapses and cascading disasters similar to the August 26 flash floods.

"Over the past 60 years, the glacier area on the Ti-

betan Plateau has shrunk by around 24 per cent, with around 7,000 small glaciers disappearing completely," said Gao Rong, deputy director of China's National Climate Centre, an official body of the Chinese government.

"Looking ahead, the structural stability of glaciers across the Tibetan Plateau will decline further. Glacial disasters are likely to become more frequent and could amplify in destruction and reach through cascading effects," Gao said.

The Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, another official body, said in its report on the August 26 disaster that the mudslide created by the glacier collapse travelled 22 km along the valley and reached Gyirong Port at the Tibet border crossing in just seven minutes.

Scientists stress that hazard evaluations can no longer rely solely on measuring initial collapses.

After analysing satellite and field data from Gyirong County, researchers found that collapsing ice and rock swept down the 22-km valley, scouring the riverbed, dragging bank debris with it, and mixing with water, turning a high-elevation collapse into a devastating mudslide.

The Chinese researchers suggested that disaster-risk assessments should take into account the cascading hazards associated with the high-mountain cryosphere.

DC Rajouri reviews progress of digital crop survey under AgriStack

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 06

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) being conducted under the AgriStack framework in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the progress achieved by the concerned departments and reviewed the status of field-level data collection and other related activities.

The Digital Crop Survey (DCS) is an initiative of the Government of India under the AgriStack framework, aimed at creating a verified and reliable digital database of farm plots, crops sown and farmer-related information. The initiative seeks to facilitate better



agricultural planning, improve delivery of farmer-centric services and ensure effective implementation of various government schemes.

The DC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure accurate, comprehensive and timely collection and updation of data. He directed them to closely monitor the field-level progress,

identify and address bottlenecks promptly and ensure achievement of the assigned targets within the stipulated timelines.

He further emphasised the need for close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the Digital Crop Survey across the district.

The meeting was at-

tended by ADDC Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq; ADC Ravi Kumar Sihag; ADC Kalakote Mohammad Tanvir; ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma; ADC Koteranka Dil Mir; ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan; SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain Shah; CAO Rajesh Verma; Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

HDFC Bank Presents '20 Ka Dum, 20 Kadam - Nasha Mukht Bharat Ki Aur' with 95 FM Tadka at Govt SPMR College of Commerce

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 06

As part of its 20th Anniversary celebrations, 95 FM Tadka organised "20 Ka Dum, 20 Kadam - Nasha Mukht Bharat Ki Aur", a Drug Addiction Awareness and Talent Hunt initiative at Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu, aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to adopt a healthy, positive and drug-free lifestyle.

The programme was Presented by HDFC Bank, Supported by the Excise Department J&K and Powered by Wheelocity Motors - Škoda Jammu, with Team Ideation as the Event Partner, Bharati Lok Sangeet Kala Sanasthan as the Cultural Partner and The Himalayan Mail as the Print Partner.

The programme was attended by Dr. Satish Bhardwaj, SDPO West, and SHO Rahul Sharma, Police Post Canal Road, along with Manpreet Kour Sodhi, Counselling Psychologist, Sahil Sharma, Judge, renowned singer and music composer, and Anshuman Madaan, Branch Manager, HDFC Bank.

The Principal and faculty of Government SPMR College of Commerce actively participated in the initiative. Dr. Sunil Gupta, Principal, Government SPMR College of Commerce, Prof. Monika Mahajan, HOD BCA & In-charge, Nasha Mukht, and Dr. Reena Rani, HOD Economics, addressed the students and highlighted the serious consequences of drug abuse. They appreciated 95 FM Tadka for taking up the important awareness initiative and encouraged the team to continue organising similar programmes for students and youth.

Addressing the students, Dr. Satish Bhardwaj, SDPO West, spoke about



the harmful effects of drug abuse and guided students on how to stay away from drugs and make responsible choices in life. He emphasised the importance of discipline, positive thinking and making the right decisions to achieve success in life.

SHO Rahul Sharma, Police Post, Canal Road, also interacted with the students and sensitised them about the dangers of drug abuse. He encouraged students to remain vigilant, stay away from drugs and seek support from family, teachers and authorities whenever required.

Manpreet Kour Sodhi, Counselling Psychologist, conducted an engaging awareness session and explained the physical, emotional and social impact of drug addiction. She encouraged students to make healthy choices and strongly advocated the message, "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

As part of the awareness initiative, a collective pledge against drug abuse was also administered to the students, faculty members and guests. Everyone took a solemn pledge to stay away from drugs, discourage substance abuse and contribute towards building a healthy and drug-

free society.

The programme also featured an exciting Talent Hunt, where students showcased their talent through singing, dance and poetry. Sahil Sharma, renowned singer and music composer and the judge for the talent segment, not only evaluated the performances but also delivered a special musical performance for the students. His performance created an energetic and engaging atmosphere, with students enthusiastically participating and showcasing their creativity. The initiative provided students with a meaningful platform to express their talent while reinforcing the message of a healthy, positive and drug-free lifestyle.

From 95 FM Tadka, Jammu Head Sandeep Koul, RJ Nitish Sharma and Kailash Kerni coordinated and hosted the programme.

The event received an enthusiastic response from the students and successfully highlighted the importance of collective efforts by educational institutions, police, administration and the community in creating a drug-free society and a healthier, safer and brighter future for the youth.

Indonesia cancels flights at Jakarta airport as Anak Krakatau volcano erupts

JAKARTA, SEPT 6: Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted early Sunday, prompting the cancellation of all flights at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport as volcanic ash drifted across parts of western Indonesia.

Indonesia's Geological Agency said the volcanic island located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands had showed signs of activity since Friday before erupting for 30 seconds at 3:53 a.m. Sunday. The agency's closed-circuit camera showed lava flares at the mountain.

There were no casualties reported and no evacuation order issued. The nearest settlement is more than 16 kilometers (10 miles). But the agency



warned residents and visitors to stay at least 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) from the volcano's active crater.

Volcanic ash spread across parts of the capital Jakarta and Lampung province on the southern tip of Sumatra island, Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said.

"Due to increased activ-

ity from the Mount Anak Krakatau eruption, Soekarno-Hatta International Airport has temporarily suspended flight operations from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.," the airport said in a travel advisory early Sunday.

Passengers at the country's busiest airport sought refunds and reclaimed checked baggage as depar-

ture boards displayed a growing list of canceled flights.

Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation said it was closely monitoring the eruption's impact on air travel and coordinating with airlines, airport operators, air navigation services and the meteorology agency. It said 170 aircraft parked overnight at Soekarno-Hatta remained on airport aprons.

The closure had affected 209 flight movements and about 22,800 passengers on Sunday, including the busy domestic route to Makassar in South Sulawesi, while Singapore was the international destination with the highest number of disrupted flights.

NHM Employees UT Level Coordination Committee J&K Announce 72-Hour UT-Level Strike from Sept 9

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, SEP 06

The UT Level Joint Coordination Committee of NHM Employees of Jammu & Kashmir, after receiving no concrete or satisfactory response from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the concerned authorities within the stipulated ultimatum period, has decided to observe a 72-hour UT-level strike from September 9, 2026 onwards.

The decision was taken during a virtual meeting of the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee held on September 05, 2026, which was attended by core members and representatives of NHM employees from both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, including representatives of the RNTCP/NTEP Association J&K and other schemes under the National Health Mission.

The Committee had earlier served a final ultimatum to the Government and concerned authorities up to September 05, 2026, seeking concrete and meaningful action towards resolving the long-pending issues and genuine demands of NHM employees. However, despite the expiry of the stipu-

lated deadline, the Committee expressed deep disappointment over the absence of any concrete response or tangible action.

After detailed deliberations, the Committee unanimously resolved that all NHM employees across Jammu & Kashmir, including NTEP employees and employees working under other NHM schemes, shall observe a 72-hour UT-level strike from September 9, 2026 onwards.

The Committee made it clear that the strike shall be observed across the length and breadth of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with all district, block and field-level NHM employees extending their collective support to the programme.

In connection with the forthcoming UT-level strike, a press conference was also addressed by Dr. Hamid Parray, Chief Spokesperson, All JKNHMEA Jammu Division, along with Sr Vice President of the Association Mr Faizan A Trambo, District President Doda Dr Nasir M Indrabi and other Sr members of the Association, wherein he highlighted the long-pending and genuine demands of NHM employees and briefed the media about the decision of the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee to observe a 72-hour strike from September 9 onwards.

Dr. Parray further urged the Govern-



ment and concerned authorities to take the genuine demands of NHM employees seriously and initiate meaningful dialogue and concrete measures for their resolution in the larger interest of employees as well as the public healthcare system.

Dr. Vikas Sharma, Divisional President, All JKNHMEA Jammu Division, stated that the decision to proceed with the 72-hour strike has not been taken in haste, but has become necessary due to the continued non-resolution of the genuine and long-pending issues of NHM employees despite repeated representations, discussions and assurances.

He appealed to all NHM employees of Jammu Division, including employees working under NTEP and other NHM schemes, to remain united, peaceful and disciplined and to extend their complete support to the collective decision of the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee.

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He appealed to all NHM employees of Jammu Division to remain united, dis-

ciplined and peaceful during the strike and to extend their full support to the collective decision of the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee.

Mr. Muneer Andrabi, Divisional President, All JKNHMEA Kashmir Division, said that NHM employees have repeatedly demonstrated patience and faith in the process of dialogue, but the continued lack of concrete action has left them with no option but to adopt a democratic and collective course of action.

He appealed to all NHM employees across Kashmir Division to participate in the strike in a united, peaceful and disciplined manner and to ensure complete solidarity with the UT-level programme.

Mr. Musadiq Rafiq Parra, UT President, NTEP J&K, said that NTEP employees and employees working under other NHM schemes stand firmly with the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee in support of the genuine demands of NHM employees.

He stated that the contribution of NHM and NTEP employees towards the public healthcare system of Jammu & Kashmir cannot be overlooked and urged the Government to take the matter seriously and initiate meaningful steps for resolution of the long-pending issues.

The UT Level Joint Coordination Committee reiterated that the strike is being undertaken as a last resort after the failure of repeated efforts to secure a concrete resolution through dialogue and representations.

The Committee further appealed to the Presidents and office-bearers of all District and Block NHM units, as well as all NHM employees across Jammu & Kashmir, to extend their full support, cooperation and solidarity to the 72-hour strike programme and to remain united throughout the course of action.

The Committee also urged all employees to maintain peace, discipline and unity during the strike and to refrain from spreading or acting upon any unverified information, rumours or unofficial messages. Employees have been advised to follow only the official communications issued by the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee.

The Committee once again expressed its willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Government and concerned authorities for an amicable resolution of the issues in the larger interest of NHM employees and the public healthcare system of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Our demands are genuine, our resolve is united, and our voice shall remain peaceful but firm."