

# Heavy rains lash Himachal, Punjab, Haryana

## Landslides, flash floods block 288 roads in HP

SHIMLA, Aug 11 (PTI)

LANDSLIDES and flash floods triggered by heavy rains over the last two days has led to the closure of more than 280 roads in Himachal Pradesh, with 150 being closed on Saturday, according to officials.

Water from overflowing streams has entered several houses in Una while the Lahaul and Spiti police have issued an advisory for residents and travellers to exercise extreme caution and not to cross the Jahalman Nallah as its water level is "rapidly" rising, they said.

Rescue operations to trace about 30 people who went missing after the July 31 flash floods in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla district are being conducted but there has been no major success. So far, 28 bodies have been recovered, the officials said. More than 100 people have been killed in rain-related incidents, and the state has suffered losses of about Rs 842 crore between June 27 and August 9, they said.

The officials said of the 288 roads, 138 were closed on Friday and 150 on Saturday.

State emergency operation centre data stated that 96 roads have been closed in Mandi, 76 in Shimla, 37 in Kullu, 33 in



Part of Durangali Bridge washed away after heavy rainfall, in Poonch, Jammu & Kashmir on Sunday. (PTI)

Sirmaur, 26 in Chamba, seven in Lahaul and Spiti, five in Hamirpur, and four each in Kangra and Kinnaur.

Kinnaur district has been cut off from State capital Shimla following flash floods between Pooh and Kaurik and a landslide on the National Highway 5 near Negulsariin.

The officials said 458 power and 48 water supply schemes are also affected in the state.

The regional meteorological office on Sunday issued an 'orange' alert, the warning for heavy to very rainfall at isolated places in in five districts -- Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kullu, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur and Una.

## Rainfall in parts of Punjab, Haryana

RAINS lashed many parts of Punjab and Haryana on Sunday, bringing respite from humid weather conditions.

Mohali, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Rupnagar and Ambala were among the places that received rainfall.

Pathankot received 82 mm of rainfall, Gurdaspur 68.8 mm and Amritsar 57.6 mm in the last 24 hours which ended at 8:30 am, a meteorological department report said.

In Haryana, Ambala recorded 83.8 mm of rainfall, Karnal 36.8 mm, Sirsa 20 mm and Hisar

6 mm during the same period.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two States, received 28.8 mm of rainfall.

## House collapses following rains in Raj, 2 killed

A 40-YEAR-OLD man and his son were killed and two others injured when their house collapsed following heavy rain in Rajasthan's Karauli district early Sunday, officials said.

The incident happened in Dolikhar Mohalla of the city when a family was sleeping in their house.

"Two people died in the incident whereas two others were injured. The injured are being treated at a hospital," Principal Medical Officer of the Karauli district hospital, Dr Ramkesh Meena told reporters.

He said the deceased have been identified as Zakir Khan and his son Rashid Khan (12). He said the bodies will be handed over to family members after post-mortem. Heavy rainfall was recorded in parts of Rajasthan, including Dausa, Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur, Kota, Baran and Karauli districts, a MeT department spokesperson said.

# Committed to resolve Mizoram-Assam border row: Lalduhoma

AIZAWL, Aug 11 (PTI)

MIZORAM Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Saturday said his Government was committed to resolve the State's border dispute with neighbouring Assam and ensure peace along the boundary. During a brief meeting with an Assam delegation, leaders of both States must work together with a heartfelt desire for peace and to resolve the border dispute between the two northeastern states, an official statement said.

His Government is "desirous of resolving the inter-state boundary dispute during the current term", Lalduhoma said in the statement. Led by State Border Protection and

Development Minister Atul Bora, the Assam delegation paid a courtesy call on Lalduhoma at his official residence in Aizawl on Saturday.

Lalduhoma said that several meetings were held between the two States in the past and the "decisions were mainly adhering to status quo, which was not the right step towards establishing lasting peace but delaying the peace process and resolving the border dispute amicably". "Official-level talks may continue between the two states. But what is important most is that leaders should make collective efforts, with the intention of finding peace to resolve the border dispute," Lalduhoma said.

# Stopped recruiting Indians into military since April: Russia

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (PTI)

THE Russian embassy on Saturday condoled the “unfortunate instances” of Indian casualties in the course of Moscow’s “special military operation” in Ukraine and said recruitment of Indians into its Armed Forces was stopped since April. In a statement, the embassy said Moscow and New Delhi are working in close coordination for early “identification and discharge” of Indian nationals who voluntarily joined contractual work in the military service and now want to return home.

Since April this year, the ministry of defence of the Russian Federation has stopped recruiting citizens of a number of foreign countries, including India,

into the military service, it said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said in Lok Sabha that a total of 69 Indian citizens are currently awaiting release from the Russian Army. Eight Indians have died while serving with the Russian Army, according to official data. “The Russian Embassy in New Delhi has been in receipt of numerous requests from the media to comment on the issue of Indian citizens in service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation as there have been unfortunate instances of casualties among them in the course of the Special military operation in Ukraine,” the embassy said. “The embassy expresses deep condolences India and the families of the deceased,” it said.

# Maldives key partner in Indian Ocean region: EAM

MALE, Aug 11 (PTI)

THE Maldives is a key partner for India in the Indian Ocean region and the two nations aspire to turn their cooperation into a modern partnership, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday.

heart of our Neighbourhood First policy. And it is therefore very natural that the cooperation between our two countries has moved beyond the traditional role. And today really aspires to be a modern partnership," Jaishankar said. "Our development cooper-

flows from India to the Maldives, particularly in the tourism sector," he said.

India has partnered with the Government of Maldives on the Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection project to find a sustainable way to develop it as a regional hub, he said.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar being received by Foreign Minister of Maldives Moosa Zameer as he arrives in Addu City, Maldives on Sunday. (PTI)

Jaishankar's remarks came as he along with his Maldivian counterpart Moosa Zameer attended the handing over ceremony of Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project and inauguration of the 4-lane Detour Link road project facilitated by the Government of India under the Line of Credit of EXIM Bank.

"The Maldives for us is a key partner in the Indian Ocean region. It is very much at the

ation is aimed at touching all facets of people's lives and finding ways of bringing tangible benefits to their lives," he said.

In the last few years, India has invested around USD 220 million which provides a fair idea of the importance that India attaches to regional development in the Maldives, he said. "We are today among the largest trading partners among others. We're also witnessing greater investment

The reclamation of 184 hectares of land was concluded earlier this year. This ambitious USD 80 million programme involves reclamation for tourism development purposes, as well as for the overall economic development of Addu.

The project will help in the overall growth of the region, bringing in better opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and trade.

## MAIN OPPN welcomes Muizzu Govt's 'sudden recalibration' of India policy

MALE, Aug 11 (PTI)

THE Maldivian Democratic Party has welcomed President Mohammad Muizzu-led Government's "sudden recalibration" of its India policy and said Maldives has always been confident that India will always be the first responder any time the Maldives "dials an international 911".

Abdulla Shahid, the president of the main Opposition, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), made remarks after he met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar here on Saturday. The MDP president said that his party "calls on the Muizzu Government to issue a public apology for the actions, lies and irresponsible comments from its officials which have resulted in significant damage to the Maldives' foreign and economic outlook."

Jaishankar is on a three-day official visit to the Maldives to reset the bilateral relationship, the first high-level trip from India after the archipelago nation's pro-China President Muizzu assumed office last year.

"Great pleasure to warmly welcome and meet Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar to the Maldives with my colleagues from @MDPSecretariat," Shahid, the former Foreign Minister, said in a statement posted on 'X' late Saturday night.

"The Maldives has always been confident that India will always be the first responder any time the Maldives "dials an international 911", he said.

He said the "current Government's initial stoking of anti-India sentiments through aggressive slogans, mockery and the branding of a time-tested friend and development partner as a regional bully, has caused a decline in the Maldives international standing, economic loss, and many other unnecessary difficulties, and challenges."

"With this in mind, the MDP welcomes the sudden recalibration of the Maldives-India policy of President Muizzu's government, from its previous India Out policy," Shahid said.



External Affairs Minister Jaishankar meets Abdulla Shahid, President of Maldivian Democratic Party, in Maldives on Saturday. (ANI)

# Lt General Pendharkar takes charge of Spear Corps Manipur conflict top priority



Lt. General Abhijit S Pendharkar (L) takes over as General Officer Commanding the Spear Corps on Sunday. (PTI)

DIMAPUR, Aug 11 (PTI)

**LIEUTENANT** General Abhijit S Pendharkar assumed command of the Indian Army's elite Spear Corps on Saturday, inheriting a significant challenge in the form of the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur which has claimed more than 200 lives in the past year.

Lt General Pendharkar succeeds Lieutenant General

Harjeet Singh Sahi, who moves to the Army War College in Mhow as its commandant.

Commissioned into the Assam Regiment in 1990, Pendharkar has held a variety of command and staff positions through an illustrious career spanning over 34 years, serving in all types of terrain and operational environment, a defence official said.

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# Zelenskyy indirectly confirms **INCURSION** onto Russian soil

KYIV, Aug 11 (AP)

**DAYS** after Ukraine began a surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, Zelenskyy broke the Government's silence on it late Saturday by indirectly acknowledging ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory" in his nightly address.

Overnight into Sunday, a Russian drone and missile barrage on Kyiv killed two people including a 4-year-old boy. In Russia, Kursk's regional Governor said that a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air

defences fell on a residential building, wounding 13 people.

Russia attacked Ukraine with four ballistic missiles and 57 Shahed drones, Ukraine's Air Force said. Air defences shot down 53 drones. The bodies of a 35-year old man and his son were found under rubble after fragments of missiles fell on a residential area in Kyiv's suburban Brovary district, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service on Sunday. Another three people in the district were also injured in the attack.

Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military  
*(Contd on page 5)*

# Now, Hindenburg targets SEBI chief

Hindenburg Research alleged that it suspects SEBI's unwillingness to act against Adani group may be because of its head Madhabi Puri Buch had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (PTI)

**US SHORT-SELLER**  
Hindenburg Research alleged that it suspects SEBI's unwillingness to act against Adani group may be because

of its head Madhabi Puri Buch had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate - an allegation slammed by the SEBI head as "baseless" while Adani group said it never had any commercial relations with Buch.

Hindenburg alleged that Buch and her husband had undisclosed investments in obscure offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, the same entities allegedly used by Vinod Adani - the elder brother of group chairman Gautam Adani - to round-trip



Madhabi Puri Buch

funds and inflate stock prices.

SEBI in October 2020 began a probe into the shareholding structure of Adani group companies after red  
(Contd on page 5)

## Duly investigated, comments SEBI

MUMBAI, Aug 11 (PTI)

**INITS** first comments following a new report by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research, capital markets regulator SEBI on Sunday said it has investigated all the allegations against the Adani group.

(Contd on page 5)

# Hasina reveals her undelivered speech

## Names US

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (IANS)

**FORMER** Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has revealed that she could have remained in power if she had "surrendered" the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and "allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal", media reports said.

Disclosing the contents of her undelivered speech in India, where Hasina flew on August 5 amid violent protests in her country, the 76-year-old leader said that she resigned so that she does not have to see a "procession of dead bodies". These revelations are part of her undelivered speech, which she wanted to make but could not happen as protesters reached her residence and she was forced to flee the country.

The former Prime Minister

said she is pained over her party Awami League being targeted but said



she "will return to Bangladesh soon". She said that she would pray for the future of Bangladesh. "I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it. I resigned from premiership. I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sover-

**"I could have remained in power if I had 'surrendered' the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal. I resigned so that I do not have to see a procession of dead bodies."**

eighty of Saint Martin Island and allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal. I beseech to the people of my land, please do not be manipulated by radicals," her undelivered speech says. The undelivered speech says, "If I had remained in the country, more lives would have been lost more resources would have been destroyed. I made the extremely difficult decision to exit. I became your leader because you chose me, you were my strength."

In May, Hasina had claimed that "conspiracies" were being hatched to topple her

Government and alleged a "white man's" plot to carve a new "Christian country" out of Bangladesh. Hasina had claimed that if she allowed a certain country to build an airbase in Bangladesh, then she would have had no problem. Bangladesh saw protests against job quotas that snowballed into a wider movement against the Bangladeshi leadership, forcing Sheikh Hasina to resign from the Prime Minister's post.

Over 400 people lost their lives in the protests since mid-July. After Hasina's departure to India, Nobel laureate and microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus took over as the head of the interim Government on Thursday and assured that the new regime would not only restore peace in the country but also ensure the protection of Hindus and other minorities. Amid massive student protests demanding judiciary's revamp, Bangladesh Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and five other top judges were forced to resign on Saturday.