

National news

Rain and flood leave trail of destruction across four states, dozens dead

Agency
New Delhi Aug.

The Indian Army said it has rescued around 6000 people and more than 15000 have been evacuated from flood-affected areas in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu till late Friday.

Kerala is reeling under a devastating flood triggered by incessant rain over the past few weeks. A red alert has been sounded in seven districts of the state where more than 42 people have died and 50 more are feared trapped in debris after landslides swept away villages.

A total of 123 rescue teams have been deployed in 16 districts across the four affected states for relief and rescue operations, the army said. According to Agency, the defence PRO said that all 14 Navy teams in Kolhapur have proceeded for rescue operations at Shiroli village near Kolhapur from 6 am Saturday.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who is a Rajya Sabha member from



Karnataka, tweeted that she was headed to North Karnataka.

The Indian Navy said its teams deployed in Mallapur village near Kadra and Kaiga in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka evacuated over 750 people on Friday, bringing the total number of rescued personnel in this area alone to 2219.

"In view of rising water level of Tunga river, the public is requested to move from their houses to nearest relief

camps," Agency. quoted Shimoga City Corporation Commissioner, Charulata Somal as saying.

Floods have ravaged five districts of Western Maharashtra, displacing some 2.85 lakh people. More than 2.5 lakh people of Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara have been shifted to safer areas.

Twenty-nine people have died, while crops on more than 1 lakh hectares, worth at least ₹200 crore, have been lost. The

loss of infrastructure in terms of schools, electricity supply machinery and livestock is expected to run into hundreds of crores of rupees.

At least 239 villages in Kolhapur and 90 in Sangli are among the worst-hit, with thousands more still stranded. At least five people were killed and hundreds evacuated till late Friday even as heavy rains lashed the districts of Nilgiris and Coimbatore adjoining the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.

'Arun Jaitley responding to treatment', says Vice President Venkaiah Naidu

Agency
New Delhi Aug 10,

Vice-president Venkaiah Naidu, who visited former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Saturday morning, said he was responding to treatment. "The doctors informed the

Vice President that Arun Jaitley is responding to the treatment and his condition is stable," read a statement issued by the Vice President's Secretariat.

Jaitley was admitted to the AIIMS Friday morning after he complained of uneasiness.

A statement by the hospital

later in the day said the former finance minister was undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU) under the supervision of a multidisciplinary team of doctors.

"At present, he is hemodynamically stable," it said. Hemodynamically stable means his heart is functioning well. The multidisciplinary team

treating him is of senior experts from the department of cardiology, nephrology and endocrinology.

Several BJP leaders visited Jaitley at the hospital on Friday, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, defence minister Rajnath Singh and health minister Harsh Vardhan.

CWC consults state leaders on next Cong chief; Sonia Gandhi, Rahul stay out

Agency
New Delhi Aug 10,

Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on Saturday opted out of consultations with state leaders to choose the party's next president.

The Congress Working Committee - party's top decision making body, had decided in the morning to form five groups to consult with state leaders of zones in the country. But shortly after the CWC meeting, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi left Congress headquarters saying they won't be part of the consultation process.

"Consultation (to decide next



party chief) is going on and naturally me and Rahulji cannot be a part of it," Sonia Gandhi said.

Rahul Gandhi also rejected yet another request by the CWC to review his decision to step down as Congress president.

He had quit in May after the party's debacle in the Lok Sabha elections.

Earlier in the morning, the CWC decided to meet state leaders in batches to seek their views on the next party chief.

The CWC decided to divide

itself into five groups to interact with state leaders.

Sonia Gandhi was named in the group to interact with the leaders from eastern region of the country while Rahul Gandhi was in the group for the west. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is part of the group for the north, Manmohan Singh for the south and Ambika Soni for the northeast.

Rahul Gandhi had consistently ruled out reviewing his decision to quit as Congress president although the CWC had authorized him a free hand to revamp the party. His sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too shot down suggestions that she head the party.

Cabinet cleared Jammu and Kashmir move in 'just 7 minutes'

Agency
New Delhi Aug 10,

The cabinet meeting that cleared the proposals for nullification of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir lasted "just seven minutes" and Union home minister Amit Shah's references to them were greeted by loud applause from the ministers present, a person privy to the matter said.

Earlier this week, Parliament cleared the Narendra Modi government's proposals to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its special status — a long-standing promise of the

Bharatiya Janata Party — and carve the state into two Union territories that would allow New Delhi direct control in matters of law and order and other critical issues.

"The moment Amit Shah referred to Article 370, ministers started thumping the desk. It was an emotional moment in the cabinet meeting," the person mentioned above said. "Most of those who are in Modi's cabinet follow the ideology of Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, who gave his life for the integration of Kashmir with the rest of India." The move was kept a closely

guarded secret between Modi, Shah and a few others. More people were involved just a few days before the bill and presidential order were brought before the Rajya Sabha.

The decision to bring the matter first to the Rajya Sabha, where the government does not have a majority on its own, was a carefully thought-out stratagem to take the Opposition by surprise. "The Opposition was caught off-guard, completely," the person quoted above said. "That was our purpose."

The government's floor managers in Parliament had sounded out some opposition parties in

advance about an important business in the Rajya Sabha, but the "subject" was conveyed to them only after the cabinet cleared the proposal.

"The leaders of these opposition parties who supported us saw a point in our move and decided to back it," the person said.

A senior minister said a lot of home work had gone into the drafting of the bill and it would stand any scrutiny in a court of law. The BJP has planned an elaborate programme to celebrate the decision, including asking every BJP-ruled state to pass a resolution in the state Assembly hailed Modi and Shah.

Youths from Eastern Himalayan region meets and discussed on Climate Change

IT News
Imphal, Aug 10,

Youths from the Eastern Himalayan Region (Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Assam and Bangladesh) during a 3 days meeting held at DSSS, Mantripurkhri from 7th to 9th August had agreed that the present crisis of Climate Change in our respective region.

The meet considered Climate Change as one of the greatest challenges humankind has ever faced. Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns exacerbate existing natural or human-made hazards or generate new ones. The poorest inhabitants of our planet are among the most vulnerable, mainly due to weak natural, financial, social, human and physical capacities to deal with the consequences of climate change and natural or human-made hazards. The rights of the world's Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youths and the women within these groups is a scalable climate solution, and that all actors should make us partners in climate protection efforts. Our traditional knowledge and sustainable stewardship of the world's lands and forests are key to reducing global emissions to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees by 2030. We have cared for our lands and forests—and the biodiversity they contain—for generations.

With the right support we can continue to do so for generations to come.

During the meet it has been agreed that various dimensions on the impacts and contributing factors on the global climate crisis such as (1) the indigenous plants leading on the verge of extinction, (2) changing period of agricultural practices leading to less production, (3) increase in work load on indigenous women in the community in order to manage the domestic work as the indigenous women has to go far to fetch water, (4) destruction of indigenous people's forest due to large scale infrastructural projects, (5) climate refugees leading to demographic changes in our region, (6) increase in exploration and extraction of fossil fuel, (7) increase in natural resources mining activities without the free prior and informed consent of the IPs, etc are some of the major factors arising during the meet.

The meet also discussed some major goals of SDGs 2030 like Goal No. 13 Climate Change Take Urgent Action To Combat Climate Change And Its Impacts; Goal No. 15 life on land protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; Goal No 16 peace justice and strong

institutions promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; Goal No 17 Partnership for Goals Strengthen The Means Of Implementation And Revitalize The Global Partnership For Sustainable Development

The meet also lambasted the authority for not consulting the stakeholders while preparing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

The Eastern Himalayan Youth Meet on Climate Change (Imphal), 2019 has agreed to focus and work on Judicious stewardship of land utilization and resources so as to maintain and perpetuate intergenerational legacy in that extractive industries should be discouraged/phased out/stopped; "development", industrial activities contributing to loss of biodiversity, deforestation, desertification, loss of land and livelihood, water contamination, land degradation and air pollution, genetic mutation should undertake environment impact assessment and social impact assessment periodically, this includes GM foods, GM seeds and GM livestock.

Sport News

Yashwardhan and Bharat clinch gold as Indian boxers finish with 8 medals at Asian School Boy Boxing

By a Correspondent
New Delhi, August 10,



In a stellar display, Indian junior boxers collected a rich haul of 8 medals, including two gold, five silver and one bronze to finish their campaign on a high at the Asian schoolboy Boxing Championships in Kuwait, on Thursday. India's strong performance awarded them the runner-up finish at the tournament, where 22 nations had participated.

Gold medalist in the recently concluded Sub-Junior Nationals, Yashwardhan Singh (58 kg) continued his fine run and defeated Uzbekistan's Aburakhmanov Abdulaziz 4-1. The budding youngster from Haryana took some time to gauge his opponent's strategy and then, overpowered him with his power and precision.

In the 70 kg category, Bharat Jon proved too strong for Asianbekov Atai, his

opponent from Kyrgyzstan and easily won the bout 5-0 to clinch the second gold medal. The Haryana lad impressed everyone with his attacking approach and swift movement.

In the 37 kg finals, Aryan missed out on the gold medal by a whisker as he lost 3-2 to Uzbekistan's Hojiakbar Mahmudov. The diminutive boxer from Chandigarh gave his all in a neck-and-neck fight between the two boxers but had to be content with the silver medal.

Vinay Vishkarma (49kg) found the going tough in the first round against Tulkonov Lazzbek of Uzbekistan before giving a tough fight in the next two rounds. He went down 3-2 and fell short of winning the yellow metal.

Preet Malik (55kg), Gaurav Saini (64kg) and Randdeep (70+kg) lost their respective bouts and finished their campaign with silver medals. Earlier, Naksh Benival won the bronze medal in the 67 kg before bowing out in the semi-finals stage.

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