

## Rain eases in Kerala, Amit Shah's aerial survey of flood-hit Karnataka today

Agency  
Thiruvananthapuram Aug 11,

In a big relief for flood-hit Kerala where 57 people have died so far, rain subsided in many places on Sunday, enabling the resumption of rescue operations in landslide-hit areas of Wayanad and Malappuram while a red alert continues over many districts of neighbouring Karnataka which has also been ravaged by floods. Heavy rain over the past week had triggered a massive flood in the state for the second successive year that wreaked havoc in much of the state. Apart from the 57 dead, 60 people are still feared trapped in slush and mud triggered by landslides. The sluice gates of



Banasurasagar dam in Wayanad which were opened Saturday afternoon to release excess water are still open. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to visit his constituency Wayanad in the evening. He will camp two days, said Mullappally Ramachandran, Congress unit chief in Kerala. On Friday, Gandhi made a rare

phone call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek the Central government's help for Wayanad and Kerala. The army, air force and the NDRF had launched massive relief and rescue operation in Kerala after incessant heavy rain had deluged the state. In neighbouring Karnataka, where 31 people have died so far in rain and flood, a red alert continues in the coastal

districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, and Malnad region districts of Shivamogga, Chickamagaluru and Kodagu, and Hassan. The alert will continue till Monday morning. Rail transport on the section between Sakleshpur and Subramanya stations has been hit due to landslides and soil erosion at many places, ANI reported. Union home minister Amit Shah is scheduled to undertake an aerial survey of the flood affected areas of Belagavi district Sunday afternoon. On Saturday, Indian Army, Indian Navy, and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams carried out rescue operations in Belgaum.

## Situation in Jammu and Kashmir continues to be peaceful; no untoward incident reported

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 11,

Jammu and Kashmir government has said that the situation in the state is peaceful and no untoward incident has been reported in last one week. Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said there has been no reports of any untoward incident from any part of the state. He said, people, are coming out of their homes to do shopping with Eid round the corner. Chief Secretary said, Srinagar and other towns witnessed good traffic for Eid shopping yesterday. Mr Subrahmanyam and State DGP Dilbagh Singh have requested people not to believe fabricated and motivated news regarding incidents of firing in the Valley. They said, no firing incident has taken place in Kashmir in the past six days. Dilbagh Singh said, prohibitory orders have been lifted from 10

districts in Jammu.

Governor Satya Pal Malik yesterday reviewed preparations for the Eid celebrations and also healthcare facilities in hospitals in Srinagar. Mr Malik said, the administration is preparing for Eid and ensuring that maximum facilities are provided to the people. He said people should celebrate Eid without fear and peacefully. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited an animal mandi in Anantnag yesterday. Mr Doval interacted with the traders selling sheep ahead of Eid celebrations. Authorities have eased curbs on the movement of residents in Srinagar. In a tweet, Srinagar district magistrate Shahid Choudhary said restrictions have been eased in most parts of Srinagar. He also said that more than 250 ATMs have been made functional in Srinagar. He also said that advance salary were

credited yesterday. With the administration relaxing the restrictions, hundreds of men and women were seen thronging the streets by foot meat and other essential items for the Eid festival. Government decision to scrap Article 370 and Article 35 A as well as bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir is intended to provide good governance, social justice, ensure economic development and ending terrorism. After this bold step, the situation in the state is returning to normalcy. AIR correspondent reports that ahead of Eid-ul-Zuha, people are going about performing their regular activities. In the area of Anantnag, ATMs are open and long queues were seen at different ATMs. Normal traffic was witnessed in Srinagar and other parts of the valley.

## Sonia Gandhi is back as Congress president

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 11,

Less than two years after she gave up the post, Sonia Gandhi was chosen to be president of the Congress on Saturday, albeit in an interim position, as the grand old party gropes for direction in the aftermath of a devastating electoral defeat that prompted her son and successor Rahul Gandhi to resign. "Sonia Gandhi is the new Congress president," party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said after a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest policy-making body, ended at around 11pm. The CWC finally accepted the resignation Rahul Gandhi submitted as president on May 25. Sonia Gandhi, 72, who is also chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), was chosen interim president of the 134-year-old party after a last-ditch effort by the CWC to persuade Rahul Gandhi, 49, to continue failed. "The CWC requested Rahul Gandhi to take back his resignation and remain as the Congress president. But he politely declined this request while maintaining that he

respects the sentiments of the people in the party... After this, the CWC unanimously decided that Sonia Gandhi should handle the post of the interim chief until a regular president is picked. She accepted this request," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said. Kumari Selja, a Congress member of the Rajya Sabha, told reporters that the CWC had taken the decision out of deference to the sentiments of Rahul Gandhi, who rose to the position of party president on December 16, 2017, and gave up the post on May 25 after the party's Lok Sabha electoral rout. When the CWC met for a second time on Saturday in the evening, it was once again proposed that Rahul Gandhi take back his resignation, but Priyanka Gandhi informed the meeting that he was adamant and did not want to reconsider it, according to a leader present at the meeting. At this point, former finance minister P Chidambaram suggested that Sonia Gandhi take over as the party chief. The proposal was unanimously backed by the CWC, the leader added. While Sonia Gandhi refused to accept the request at first, she agreed after repeated

pleas by party leaders on the condition that she would stay on interim chief only till the election to choose a full-time president was held. Sonia Gandhi said her returning as the party chief would again give a handle to the opponents to attack the Congress as the family was unwilling to give up its hold over the party, she said. She insisted that this point be included in the resolution released after the meeting, he added. The resolution said that Rahul Gandhi had declined to withdraw his resignation. "Consequently, the CWC unanimously resolved to request Smt. Sonia Gandhi to take over Interim President pending the election of a regular President by the AICC [All India Congress Committee]." Rahul Gandhi came to the meeting in the evening only after he was told that the CWC was going to discuss the Jammu and Kashmir situation and he left soon after the presentation on the state was over. In the national elections held in April and May, the Congress won just 52 seats in the Lok Sabha, less than a tenth of the strength of the 543-member House; it was only a slight increase from the 44 it won in 2014. In comparison, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party

raised its tally to 303 seats from 282 in 2014. Many attempts by party rank and file, as well as some allies of the Congress, to convince Rahul Gandhi to take back his resignation failed to move the politician, who faced a personal setback when he lost election to BJP's Smriti Irani in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi, his family bastion. He still entered the Lok Sabha as MP from Kerala's Wayanad. Sonia Gandhi took over as party leader in 1999 and led the Congress to back-to-back general election victories in 2004 and 2009, after declining to be prime minister after the first win, when she nominated economist and former finance minister Manmohan Singh to the nation's top executive post. Confronting a slew of corruption scandals that marred its second term, the Congress lost power in 2014. CWC, the party's 54-member apex body, had met earlier on Saturday to decide on a name for president but went along with Rahul Gandhi's suggestion to make it a participatory exercise and get the opinions of party leaders from the states as well. The CWC then formed five zonal groups to consult with state leaders to zero in on a party chief.

## Congress hails Rahul Gandhi as 'bulwark against hate, bigotry, intolerance'

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 11,

Rahul Gandhi as Congress president was seen as a bulwark against the forces of hate, bigotry and intolerance, and he set new standards of accountability by taking responsibility for the party's Lok Sabha polls defeat, the Congress' top decision-making body said on Saturday. The effusive praise for Rahul Gandhi came in a resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee (CWC) in which the party placed on record its profound sense of appreciation and gratitude for the "exceptional leadership" provided by him as Congress president. Rahul Gandhi was appointed as Congress president on December 16, 2017 and his tenure ended on Saturday after his resignation tendered on May 25 this year was accepted by the CWC and his mother Sonia Gandhi was named as the interim chief. "Rahul Gandhi led the party with unbounded drive, fierce

determination and dedication. He campaigned in the assembly and national elections with indefatigable energy," the resolution said. It said that Rahul Gandhi gave a new sense of "aggression and modernity" to the party organization and opened up numerous opportunities to the younger generation. He inspired every Congress worker through his never-say-die attitude and earned their admiration and respect, the resolution said. "Rahul Gandhi's instinctive moral compass is evident from the manner in which he has taken personal responsibility for the disappointing performance of the party in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, thereby setting new standards of accountability in public life," the CWC said. The party's top decision-making body also applauded his courage, commitment and conviction in stepping down as Congress president which was a deeply personal decision but is encouraged that his services, inputs and advice will continue to be available to the party, the

resolution said. The party said that each and every Congressman and woman looks up to him for continued support and guidance, it said. "Rahul Gandhi emerged as a beacon of hope for the very large number of people who cherish the idea of India on which India's freedom movement and the Constitution was anchored," it said. The CWC said that he came to be seen as a "bulwark against the forces of hate, prejudice, bigotry, intolerance and divisiveness". Gandhi stood up fearlessly on issues of day-to-day concern to farmer, farm workers, traders and small businesses, youth, women, minorities, Dalits and Adivasis and the weaker sections of society, the resolution said. The party said Rahul Gandhi raised his voice boldly against the growing atmosphere of "fear and intimidation in our country". These issues continue to be of significant relevance irrespective of the electoral verdict of May 2019, the party said.

## More State News

### Assam Rifles Organises Monthly Village Chief Meet



IGAR (South) Imphal Aug 11, Moreh Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised monthly village Chief/Secretary meeting at T-Minou on yesterday. Village Chiefs, Secretaries and villagers

attended the meeting. The various requirements in village to include the projects to be taken up under BADP was discussed. The recent developments and security situation with respect to the forthcoming Independent Day was deliberated upon. The

importance for maintaining peace and harmony in the area was discussed in detail during the meeting. Village Chiefs/Secretary have agreed to maintain close liaison with Assam Rifles the border guarding force, they assured their wholehearted support in the overall aim and larger interest. A total of 14 village chiefs attended the meeting. The other agenda points of the meeting included security aspects and exchange of info. The village Chiefs and Secretaries thanked Assam Rifles for its efforts to ensure peace and tranquility in the area. They also assured their wholehearted cooperation with Assam Rifles in future also.

### "Free Gall Bladder keyhole surgery held in RIMS"



IT News Imphal Aug 11, A two days workshop on free Gall Bladder Keyhole Surgery was inaugurated yesterday, by the Director of RIMS, Imphal Prof. A. Santa Singh at the Seminar Hall, Department of Anesthesiology, RIMS, Imphal. The Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital, Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh, Dean (Academic) Prof. Brogen Singh Akojiam, Head of Surgery Department Prof.

M. Birkumar Sharma, Head of Anesthesiology Department, Prof. L. Deban Singh, faculty members from Surgery & Anesthesiology Departments, PG students were present in the inaugural function of the two days workshop. The workshop was jointly organized by the Departments of Surgery and Anesthesiology, RIMS, Imphal. On the first day of the workshop, 9 cases were operated and the workshop will continue till tomorrow from 9.00am to 4.00pm. A renowned surgeon Dr. Purnendu Roy from Genesis Hospital, Kolkata was also participated in the workshop. Dr. Purnendu Roy also delivered a talk for the Post Graduate students during the talk.

### Physiotherapy camp at press club



By a Correspondent Guwahati Aug 11, Anchal in association with city based Diganta's Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre (DPRC) organized a physiotherapy camp for scribes at Guwahati Press Club

on Saturday (10 August 2019), where the participants got the opportunity to treat neck, shoulder & chest pains and consultations from experienced physiotherapists namely Ajit Kumar Choubey and Ribha Payeng.