

Kashmiris in Lucknow cut off with kin in Valley

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LUCKNOW: People from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) living in the state capital are also going through a misery of sorts - they are completely cut off with their families in the flood ravaged Valley.

Nawaz Ali of Anantnag in J&K, a scientist at Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP) here told HT that he had his fingers crossed because he had not been able to talk to his family for the last two days.

"There's no telecom connectivity with J&K. The TV images are scary. I don't know how to contact my family. The helpline numbers are not much of a help," he lamented.

Ali was supposed to go on Haj with his family on September 10, but won't be able to do so as flight operations in the flood-hit state have come to a halt.

Imran Khan, a research scholar in the geology department of Lucknow University,

has a similar plight. This resident of Srinagar is trying hard to get in touch with his loved ones back home, but in vain.

His worries have no bounds as he is getting married next month. "I had to go home and make arrangements for the occasion. I don't know what to do. Above all, there's no communication. God save my family," he said.

Tariq Malik who works with a cable TV network in Lucknow, just returned from Kashmir. He spoke to his brother on Saturday who told him his family was safe.

There are many others, including a few working in CDRI labs, who are yearning to talk to their near and dear ones in J&K.

Worse still, they can't even travel to their home state as all roads there are blocked due to floods.

Transport services got affected after water from river Jhelum started gushing into Srinagar.

Flood of misery



There's no telecom connectivity with J&K. The TV images are scary. I don't know how to contact my family. The helpline numbers are not much of a help.
—Nawaz Ali, scientist

I last managed to speak to my brother on Saturday, who told me that my family was safe.



—Tariq Malik, professional



I had to go home and make arrangements for my wedding. I don't know what to do now. Above all, there's no communication. God save my family.
—Imran Khan, research scholar

UP residents rescued from rooftops in flood-hit Srinagar

CHANDIGARH: "I don't know what happened to my boss and his family. Only a few of us could be airlifted on Sunday evening, and after that the night descended," said Devinder Giri, 26, a resident of Jaunpur (UP), who was working as an engineer with a private firm in Srinagar. He was among the lucky ones to be evacuated in time from a rooftop at Jawahar Nagar in flood-hit Srinagar.

Giri, along with 66 others, reached the Chandigarh air force station on Monday morning. His boss, Neeraj Pandit, called him to his house as there appeared to be no danger of floods in his area on Saturday. But on Sunday morning, the area was flooded. "We shifted to the second floor of his house. The water was consistently rising, and by 10am, a Scorpio parked outside got submerged. We built



■ IAF's helicopters in action during flood relief operations in Srinagar on Monday. PTI PHOTO

a boat ourselves and reached a safer building. We waved a red flag to an air force helicopter. Later, I was rescued," he said.

Shaukeen, 18, of Muzaffarnagar, had to climb up to the third floor of the building in Jawahar Nagar, where he was working as a labourer.

"On Sunday, there was no rain, but the water level kept rising in the area. We waved a red flag to the air force helicopter and that is how we were rescued," he said. There were about 40 people on that floor of the building from where Shaukeen and his friends were rescued. **HTC**

Civil hosp work hit after doc beaten up

BOYCOTT OPD services, surgeries deferred, peeved medics resume work only after one of the assailants arrested

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LUCKNOW: Doctors in Civil Hospital abstained from work on Monday morning after two attendants of a woman patient thrashed one of them late on Sunday night.

The doctors, upset with the attack on their colleague, remained off work till 10.30 am and consequently, OPD and operations had to be postponed. Patients, a majority of whom was poor, kept waiting for check-up. "I am told a doctor was beaten up. I know it is wrong but what is my fault?" questioned Rakesh who was waiting in the OPD with his aged father.

"Someone told me that the doctors will come after the attackers are arrested, so I am waiting. I don't have money to go elsewhere," said another patient.

The two accused attendants - Vikram Singh and Ravi - had come with their mother Kamla to the emergency of the hospital at around 11.30 in the night and were referred to ICU for check-up. After check-up, the doctor on duty told them that the condition of the patient was near normal so they could get her admitted to the ward or even take her home, but the two insisted on ICU admission.

On being refused admission to the ICU owing to near normal condition of the patient and scarcity of beds there, Vikram and Ravi took the patient home. However, they returned at around midnight, thrashed Dr R Pradhan, damaged hospital property and then ran away. What was more, when they got information that hospital authorities had

SECURITY A MUST, SAYS PMSA CHIEF

LUCKNOW: Provincial Medical Services Association president Dr Ashok Yadav has said that hospitals should be provided adequate security so that doctors are not beaten up every odd day.

"In this case also, a doctor was beaten up even after performing his duty in the hospital at mid-

night," said Dr Yadav.

He said that ex-servicemen could be hired instead of private security personnel as the guards provided by private agencies were not capable of handling such situations. "An army man is trained to tackle the crowd," he said. **HTC**



■ Dr R Pradhan, who was assaulted by two attendants of a patient on Sunday night. ASHOK DUTTA/ HT PHOTO

lodge a police complaint, they again came back at around 3 am and broke windscreens of cars parked on the hospital campus.

"Some of the equipment and glasses in the hospital and also those of vehicles were broken," said hospital superintendent Dr Ashutosh Dubey.

Annoyed doctors refused to sit in the OPD chambers in the morning and demanded immediate action against the attackers.

Later, the cops arrested one of the accused and assured the second one would also be arrested soon. Only then did the doctors resume work. However, by then all the planned operations (about half a dozen) were postponed and even the patients were kept waiting in the hospital OPD. Civil hospital gets about 3,000 to 4,000 patients every day on an average. It being a Monday, the number was higher than the other days.

SBI launches e-lounge in city

LUCKNOW: State Bank of India, Lucknow recently launched an e-lounge in the precincts of the historic site, Tarawali Kothi, housing its Lucknow main branch. Opened on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the SBI in Lucknow circle, the lounge was inaugurated by Karnam Sekar, chief general manager of Lucknow circle.

The E-Lounge is a more sophisticated version of bank's e-corners situated in other parts of the city here, the customers can avail of self-service banking in a quiet and relaxing atmosphere, at their own pace.

The e-lounge is open 24 X 7 and has facilities like ATM, cash deposit machine, cheque deposit machine and a self service kiosk (SSK). Through the SSK, customers can print their passbooks and transfer funds, apart from viewing balances in their accounts and mini-statements.

For prospective customers, there is a provision to open accounts through Internet counters too. The e-lounge aims at developing a self-operating banking channel for customers. In course of time, more such facilities will be added to the e-lounge, to provide a single point self service channel for a host of banking transactions. **HTC**

THE LOUNGE IS OPEN 24 X 7 AND HAS FACILITIES LIKE ATM, CASH AND CHEQUE DEPOSIT MACHINES, AND A SELF SERVICE KIOSK

DRIVE AGAINST RASH DRIVING

Checking on, admn plans more rumble strips



■ Police checking licences and registration papers of drivers at Samta Mulak crossing on Monday. DEEPAK GUPTA/ HT PHOTO

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LUCKNOW: Aiming to curb stunt biking and rash driving, the Lucknow police conducted an intensive vehicle checking drive at several places in the state capital for the second consecutive day on Monday.

In all, 2,516 vehicles were checked, of which 650 were issued challans for violating traffic rules and 65 bikes were seized for violating rules.

Cops in large groups positioned themselves at different places such as Gomti barrage and Samta Mulak Crossing and checked all suspected vehicles. In particular, they stopped speeding bikes if the driver was not wearing a helmet.

The majority of such drivers did not have their documents in order, for which they were slapped fines. Vehicles were checked for valid documents and safety gear such as helmets and seat belts (in cars).

Many people, including the bike riders and those on the roads, have been injured while a few lost their lives on account of rash driving.

The district administration has also joined the campaign. District magistrate Raj Shekhar has asked the PWD to put up rumble strips on roads where stunt biking, rash driving and show biking are common.

The work will be completed by September 15.

In a press statement, the DM said that efforts had been made in the past to stop such activity which was dangerous not only for speeding bikers but also for the common man walking on the road. Some of the identified spots are Lohia Path, the stretch near office of 1090, Ambedkar Smarak and the roads nearby where stunt bikers show off at night.

The administration has also started control room numbers 0522-2611117 and 0522-2611118 where anyone can report incidents of stunt biking.

PRESERVING TREASURE

State archives digitising pages from history

LUCKNOW: Historically and administratively important documents, including Sher Shah Suri's 'farman' dating back to 1540, board of revenue documents of 1803 and those of the Freedom Movement are being digitised by the UP State Archives.

The work of digitisation of about 1.25 crore pages from history began in 2013 as part of a project funded by the state government. In the first phase, about 8 lakh documents have been scanned and digitised, said Rubina Beg, director state archives.

The second phase includes

18 lakh pages of Public Works Department, education, medical and forest departments and Awadh general district.

In addition to conservation, digitisation of the documents would facilitate research scholars, said officials of the state archives. Talks are also on with the state government to digitise permanent records of secretariat files. A project regarding the same has been prepared at the collectorate.

"If the state archives gets the nod, it would get down to the digitisation of the secretariat documents as well," added Beg.

PROCESS BEGAN IN 2013

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■ A document related to Freedom Movement.

In addition to the regular transfer of the documents to the archives, files and documents of

all the government departments that are closed down are also shifted to the state archives. **HTC**

Dr. Kurien's White Revolution continues...



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REGIONAL SCIENCE CITY TO HOLD COMPETITIONS ON OZONE DAY

LUCKNOW: Regional Science City has organised a number of interesting and unique educational programmes on the occasion of "World Ozone Day" from September 14 to 16 on its premises. On September 14, painting competition will be held and the topic for it will be given on the spot. It will be organised for students of Class 1 to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 under separate categories. Similarly, slogan-writing contest on 'Ozone layer and its importance for future' will be held on September 15 for Class 9 and 10. Many other events have been planned till September 16 including lecture by eminent scientists. Interested students may register their name for participation in above programme directly at education cell of the Regional Science City. World Ozone Day is observed each year on September 16 all over the world. Ozone acts as a shield to protect the earth's surface by absorbing harmful ultraviolet radiation. If this ozone becomes depleted, then more UV rays will reach the earth and affect the flora and fauna as well as aquatic eco systems.

SMS best tech institute under UPTU

LUCKNOW: The School of Management Sciences has been recognised at the best technical institute under Uttar Pradesh Technical University for its outstanding contribution towards the growth of education. Sharad Singh, secretary and CEO of the institute, received the award during the programme organised by Confederation of Education Excellence, New Delhi on September 6. Teacher's Excellence Award 2014 was given to director of SMS-IT, Lucknow prof Bharat Raj Singh.

BBD 90.8 FM spreads message of education

LUCKNOW: BBD Group spread the message of empowering people through education with the help of its 90.8 FM community radio station. During the event several competitions were organised by the group where students of BBD Vidya Niketan School participated in large numbers. Dean Students Welfare BBD University SMK Rizvi said that literacy was key to the promotion of sustainable development in the society, while director radio & socio-cultural department, BBDU Neelima Deepak said education empowers people to make right decisions in the areas of economic growth, social development and environmental integration.

KL Garg award for GB Pant institute prof

LUCKNOW: Chief minister Akhilesh Yadav would bestow the prestigious KL Garg Higher Education and Humanities award on professor Badri Narain of GB Pant Social Sciences Institute, Allahabad during a programme on September 10. MP Naresh Agarwal, minister of state vocational education Abhishek Mishra and minister of state for secondary education Mehboob Ali would be present on the occasion. Professor Badri Narain would be given a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, while other teachers who

would be felicitated on the occasion would be given prize money of Rs11,000 each. The committee that short listed the winners consisted of noted public figures like professor Roop Rekha Varma, Dr Sudha Bajpai of Mahaveer Prasad Post Graduate College and T Dixit of KL Garg trust.

700 pilgrims leave for Haj

LUCKNOW: 700 pilgrims left for Haj from Chaudhary Charan Singh airport on Monday in two different flights. The first batch of 350 Haj pilgrims left on flight number SV 5131, while second batch of pilgrims left by flight number SV 5123 of Saudi Arabian Airlines. Secretary of Uttar Pradesh State Haj Committee Sultan Ahmed said that in all 1,133 pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh have left for Medina on Monday. Till now 20865 pilgrims have gone to Medina for pilgrimage.

'Virtuous foundation the basis for success'

LUCKNOW: Underscoring the 'rediscovery' of Indian traditions and principles in recent times, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi sought to highlight the significance of the 'seed of thought' and a strong and virtuous foundation, which he said was the basis for success. Addressing students at the 19th Founder's Day celebrations of the Jaipuria Institute of Management (JIM) here, Trivedi talked about the power of 'zero' and linked it with infinity. He further said a guru's role lay in helping the shishya to discover the absolute knowledge and wisdom within oneself. Trivedi concluded by saying that abandoning a strong foundation would result in losses to the individual and to the country. JIM director general Pankaj Gupta said everyone should focus on the seed of possibility. Later, members of the student excellence council took an oath to serve for the betterment of the college. They also presented various cultural performances to celebrate the occasion. **HTC**



■ Students presenting a classical dance performance at the 19th Founder's Day celebrations of the Jaipuria Institute of Management in the city on Monday. ASHOK DUTTA/ HT PHOTO

Drinking, smoking can cause vision loss

LUCKNOW: Drinking and smoking can cause permanent loss of vision.

"Alcohol, especially the local-make contains methyl alcohol, forms harmful organic compounds when it reacts with the enzymes in the human body. Along with harming other body organs, it causes vision loss and leads to complete blindness," said Dr Sudhir Srivastava of Sun Eye Hospital while addressing an awareness lecture on Monday to mark eye donation fortnight.

The retina is the delicate, light-sensitive tissue that covers the interior wall of the eye. Like the film in a camera, it receives images projected through the lens of the eye. The retina then

sends these images to your brain through the optic nerve. When the retina is damaged, your vision may become impaired.

Smoking also damages the eyes in several ways. It leads to macular degeneration because it slows the circulation of blood to the eye and retina, which damages the blood vessels of your eye. "Studies have shown that smoking makes a person twice as likely to develop macular degeneration as a non-smoker. It also decreases the level of antioxidants in the blood which help maintain healthy eyesight," said Dr Srivastava.

One of the best ways to improve the health of retinas is through simple everyday eye

exercises. Many people don't even realise that the eyes are made up of muscles and get weak if not used properly. By exercising your eyes, you are reducing eyestrain and strengthening all the muscles connected to your eyes. **HTC**

