

MP Khatana confirms essential services being restored on priority

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Senior BJP Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana expressed serious concern over the unprecedented floods that have hit Jammu and conveyed his sympathies to the people affected. He said the heavy rainfall of 380 mm in 24 hours, the highest recorded in Jammu since 1910, has caused widespread damage, including to the historic Madhopur bridge and several other key structures. Khatana said PM Modi is closely watching and monitoring the situation, while Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah is also keeping constant track at the national level. He added that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is personally supervising operations in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that central and local authorities are working in full coordination to deal with the crisis. Khatana said that NDRF, SDRF,



paramilitary forces and the Indian Air Force are carrying out rescue and relief operations continuously. He informed that these agencies, along with the civil administration, are evacuating stranded families, shifting them to safer locations and supplying immediate relief materi-

als. Khatana stated that the administration is working to restore essential services on priority. He said teams are already engaged in bringing back electricity, drinking water and mobile communication in the affected areas. He added that instructions have been given to expedite restoration so that people face minimum hardship. He appealed to the people to remain calm and cooperate fully with the authorities. He said such cooperation will help rescue and relief teams reach every affected locality quickly and ensure that essential supplies are distributed without delay. Khatana assured the people that he will continue to remain in touch with both the local population and the officials until normalcy is restored. He said every possible step is being taken to reduce the suffering of the people and to bring life back to normal in the shortest possible time.

Alyas Khan inspects progress of restoration work on NH-44

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan on Wednesday conducted an extensive inspection of the National Highway-44 from Nashri to Banihal stretch, which has been affected due to heavy rainfall over the past few days. The incessant rainfall triggered landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones at several vulnerable spots, disrupting traffic movement. SSP Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Ahmed, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Project Director NHAI Shubam Yadav, and other senior officers were present on the occasion. During the inspection, the DC inspected critical stretches at Karoal (Batti), Maroge, and Kishtwari Pather, which have suffered damage owing to recurring landslides and shooting stones. He directed the Project Director to intensify restoration works on the highway to ensure safe and timely resumption of traffic movement. Executing agencies were also instructed to



mobilize adequate men and machinery to complete clearance and protection works at the earliest. Apart from the highway, the DC also visited areas affected by flash floods adjoining River Chenab and other Nallas. He also took stock of functioning of designated lodgment centres and reviewed the arrangements made for the affected families. He instructed the concerned departments to remain

vigilant and ensure adequate services and supply of essential services to displaced people. DC further directed Beacon, PWD, and PMGSY to expedite restoration of all internal roads which are blocked due to landslides. The Deputy Commissioner also directed officers of JPDCL, Jal Shakti and other departments to restore Water, Power and other services and supplies on a war footing basis.

BJP holds day-long meetings to assess flood losses, strengthen relief operations

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a series of meetings at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review the situation arising out of the recent flash floods triggered by incessant rains in the region. The meetings began with a homage to the victims of the landslide tragedy on the route to Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, followed by prayers for the swift recovery of the injured. The meetings were addressed by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, party General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, who were also accompanied by party General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev



Singh Billawaria. MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi, Dr. Rajiv Bhagat, Arvind Gupta, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Surinder Bhagat, former Minister Priya Sethi, district Presidents, senior leaders, and the District Units were present in these meetings spanned over the day in the party headquarters. During the deliberations, leaders from different dis-

tricts shared first-hand accounts of the ground situation, highlighting the widespread loss of life and property, severe damage to public infrastructure such as roads, electric poles, embankments of Tawi and Nikki Tawi rivers, drains, houses, household essentials, total loss of electric and electronic goods, eatables, dry ration, vehicles, crops, and livestock. It was

observed that normal life in many areas had been completely disrupted. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meetings, said that the party stands firmly with the affected people in this hour of crisis and it should be witnessed in the working of every activist. He said that the priority is to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation of all victims. Ashok Koul said that the

party cadre has already been actively participating in rescue operations in various affected localities. He said that the party is coordinating with administration to ensure electricity, drinking water, medicines, and communication services, which need to be restored at the earliest. BJP workers will continue to assist the people till normalcy returns, he assured. Jugal Kishore Sharma expressed solidarity with the victims, stating that the scale of damage is massive, and urgent intervention is required. He shared that after having first hand assessment of the situation, he has already taken up the matter at the appropriate levels to ensure adequate measures for the relief to the affected families and for speedy restoration of infrastructure.

Large quantity of suspected synthetic paneer recovered

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a major action, Police Station Bus Stand Jammu recovered a significant quantity of paneer suspected to be synthetic during routine patrolling and checking in the New Bus Stand area. The consignment was found loaded on a bus parked at the location. The suspected synthetic paneer was immediately brought to Police Station Bus Stand, and as per procedure, the Food Safety Department was informed through a wireless message for further verification and necessary legal action. Acting promptly, Inspector Vikas Gupta and Inspector Anju Verma from the Food Safety Department reached the police station. After completing all legal formal-



ities, the recovered paneer was officially handed over to the department for detailed chemical analysis and further proceedings under law. The timely action of Jammu Police has ensured that

potentially harmful synthetic paneer does not reach consumers, thereby safeguarding public health and preventing circulation of substandard food items in the market.

21-day training prog for Master Trainers concludes at CTI HG/CD Kot Bhalwal

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Twenty one day Training programme for Master Trainers concluded today at CTI HG/CD Kot Bhalwal Jammu. The valedictory function was graced by Dy. Inspector General HG/CD & SDRF Jammu, Mohammad Arshad as the Chief Guest. The event began with a welcome address by Dy.SP Dev Raj, Principal CTI HG/CD Kot Bhalwal, who extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants. The Dy. Inspector General HG/CD & SDRF Jammu commended the participants for successfully completing the training and highlighted the importance of Disaster Management skills in mitigating the loss of life and property during emergencies and motivating civil society to serve people.

He urged the trainees to share their expertise with the community and actively contribute during any disaster. He also emphasized the significance of the specialized training in CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, arid Nuclear) disaster response, which has equipped the participants with advanced knowledge and capabilities to act as Master Trainers, thereby strengthening the overall disaster response framework. Later, the Dy. Inspector General HG/CD & SDRF Jammu gave away certificates to the trainees. The culmination ceremony was attended by Dy. SP, Staff Officer to DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu Tajinder Kour, and Dy.SP, Dev Raj, Principal CTI Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, along with other officers/officials and trainees.

DC Ashok convenes introductory meet with members of civil society

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, on Wednesday chaired an introductory meeting with civil society members in the conference hall of the DC Office to deliberate upon pressing developmental issues and to promote communal harmony in the district. The meeting was attended by ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik; ACR Mohammad Sayeed, Executive Engineers, and other district officers, who were present to address local concerns. The Civil society members projected a wide range of developmental demands, seeking the widening and blacktopping of the Poonch-Mandi road, strengthening of hospital infrastructure by filling posts of doctors and staff,

Betar Nallah crate works, repair of Drungali Nala Bridge near Nangali Sahib, crate works from SK Bridge to Police Line for public safety during harsh weather, and extension of the Jogger Park. Other issues such as the establishment of a university campus in Poonch, commissioning of the Mini Secretariat functional to house all departments under one roof, improvement of medical facilities, and upgradation of roads and blacktopping were also raised. DC gave a patient hearing to the concerns and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for resolving genuine public issues. He assured the participants that all highlighted demands would be prioritised and addressed in a time-bound manner. The civil society members expressed gratitude to the



Deputy Commissioner for convening the introductory meeting and providing a platform for open dialogue. In response, the DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to work in close coordination with the community, assuring, "The administration stands with you at every step.

tion's commitment to work in close coordination with the community, assuring, "The administration stands with you at every step.

NC expressed condolences to deceased families

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir national Conference on Wednesday expressed profound grief and anger over the tragic death of more than 30 pilgrims and questioned the LG's decision, who is also the Chairman of SMVD board, to let Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra continue inspite of the inclement weather forecast. In a joint statement Additional General Secretary Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta raised serious questions about the glaring lapses in decision-making that led to the avoidable tragedy. "The buck for the safety and security of every pilgrim stops squarely with the Chairman of the Shrine Board," they stated adding, "When the

severe weather forecast for the Jammu province was well-known, why was the yatra not halted proactively? Why were pilgrims allowed to continue on a track which is prone to landslides during such extreme conditions?" They said that the primary responsibility of the Shrine Board is to ensure pilgrim safety, a duty that appears to have been severely compromised. "This is not the first incident of its kind, and yet, the administration seems to have ignored clear and present dangers. The LG cannot keep getting away with such glaring lapses," they added. The leaders extended their deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and demanded a thorough, time-bound inquiry into the failures that led to this catastrophe.

Three days Workshop on 'Youth Empowerment Skills' concludes

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

POONCH: Shri SKC Degree College Poonch organised a three-day intercollegiate workshop on Youth Empowerment Skills under the aegis of "Art of Living." Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma was the chief guest at the valedictory function. DC delivered a thought-provoking presidential address, highlighting the importance of such workshops for youth. He commended students for their participation and encouraged them to implement the learnings. Earlier, the workshop was inaugurated by Principal, Dr. Jasbir Singh, in the presence of dignitaries and participants from GDC Poonch, GDC Mendhar, and GDC Surankote. Dr. Tabassum Naz, Coordinator of the workshop,

presented an overview of the objectives and highlighted the importance of such programs in fostering holistic development among students. The first technical session was conducted by senior resource persons Amitesh Marwah and Tanushree Gupta, who engaged participants in interactive activities and shared valuable insights on techniques for achieving a stress-free mind. They emphasized the importance of cultivating inner peace and self-awareness to build a violence-free society through self-developmental practices. The second day focused on self-development and its role in creating a peaceful mindset, with Dr. Ram providing students with tools to assess their emotional states and recognize signs of stress. The students were

introduced to self-help strategies such as positive self-talk, journaling, and setting achievable goals. The third day focused on creating a violence-free society through emotional balance and self-awareness, with students participating in role-playing exercises on conflict resolution, empathetic listening, and effective communication. The valedictory session featured Dr. Shamim Ahmed Bandey conducting the proceedings and presenting a formal welcome address. Dr. Tabassum Naz presented a detailed report of the sessions. The workshop concluded on a positive note, with students expressing a strong desire to continue developing their emotional intelligence and contributing toward a violence-free society.

Kundria calls for unity in wake of natural calamity

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Eminent Dogri and Urdu writer Abdul Qudir Kundria has expressed deep sorrow and concern over the widespread devastation caused by the recent spell of heavy rains across Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts of the country. The calamity has resulted in tragic loss of lives, destruction of homes, and damage to infrastructure, leaving almost every family in the region affected in one way or another. Kundria said that this is a time for patience, courage, and collective resilience. He stressed that society must rise above political considerations and focus entirely on humanity. Only through compassion and solidarity, he said, can people ensure that relief and rehabilitation efforts reach every household that has suffered. Highlighting the role of grassroots-level officials, he appealed to the public to extend complete cooperation

to patwaris, electricity linemen, panchayat secretaries, teachers, police personnel, sarpanches, panches, lambardars, chowkidars, anganwadi workers, helpers, and staff of other departments. According to him, it is only with the support and coordination of these officials that the extent of losses can be properly recorded and forwarded to the administration, enabling victims to receive timely aid. Kundria also made a heartfelt request to the district administration and all officers of the concerned departments to personally visit the affected areas. He urged them to meet people face-to-face, listen to their grievances, assess their losses, and encourage them to stand firm in this difficult time. He said such steps would not only help in efficient relief distribution but also restore the confidence of citizens who are feeling helpless in the wake of the disaster.

Thief held with motorcycle

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against criminals involved in theft and snatching incidents, Jammu Police, South Zone has achieved another success by arresting a notorious thief and recovering a stolen motorcycle in a snatching case registered at Police Station Bahu Fort. On 22 May 2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Bahu Fort by Javed Ahmed S/o Bashir Ahmed R/o Nagrota, Jammu regarding snatching of his motorcycle bearing registration number JK-02CV-5667 near Railway Pulli, Narwal. Acting swiftly, Police registered a case under relevant sections of law and initiated investigation. During the course of investigation, Police team of PS Bahu Fort and PP Narwal led by SHO Bahu Fort and ICPP Narwal developed leads and arrested the accused Alex Matoo S/o Kenny



Matoo R/o Telli Basti, Bari Brahmana, District Samba. On sustained questioning, the accused confessed his involvement in the crime. On his disclosure, the snatched motorcycle was recovered from his possession. Further investigation into the case is underway and more recoveries/arrests

are expected. The action was carried out under the close supervision of SDPO East and overall guidance of SP South Jammu. Jammu Police assures the citizens that stringent action shall continue against criminals and anti-social elements to ensure safety and security of the public.