

Tara Chand demands special package to deal with devastating floods situation

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JAMMU: In response to the wide-spread devastation caused by recent flash floods in Chhamb and Akhnoor constituencies, the Former Deputy Chief Minister and Working President of J&K Congress Tara Chand on Monday, visited the flood-affected areas of Indri, Chak Sikander, Bakore, Gardh,Saint, Gigrial and Khour.

During his visit, he personally assessed the damages, interacted with the affected communities, and expressed his deep concern for the wellbeing of the residents, many of whom have lost their homes, livestock, and crops due to the calamity.

Tara Chand demanded early announcement of special relief package for Jammu and Kashmir. The former Dy CM began his tour early in the morning,



visiting several villages and towns across the flood-hit regions. The visit provided a first-hand account of the widespread

destruction caused by the floodwaters, which have left many families in distress.

The former Dy CM was seen

engaging in numerous discussions with local residents, community leaders, and volunteers who have been actively involved in relief operations.

Roads, bridges, and homes in multiple areas have been destroyed, making it extremely difficult for residents to access basic necessities. In several areas, the floodwaters have washed away vital infrastructure, leaving communities isolated. Many families have been displaced and are now living in makeshift shelters. The extent of the damage to homes and agricultural lands has made it harder for people to return to normalcy.

The floods have not only disrupted daily life but also destroyed the livelihoods of many families. Farmers in particular have been severely impacted, with vast swathes of crops and livestock lost to the floods.

Alongside the destruction, health and sanitation concerns have been raised. Many villages lack access to clean drinking water and sanitation, putting residents at risk of waterborne diseases.

During his visit, the former Deputy Chief Minister made an impassioned appeal to the state and central governments to provide immediate and comprehensive assistance to the affected regions. He highlighted the urgency of providing financial aid, relief materials, and medical support to the communities that have been left in dire conditions.

Beyond immediate relief, the former Deputy Chief Minister also called for a long-term rehabilitation plan, which will involve rebuilding homes, restoring agricultural lands, and providing necessary financial assistance to those who have lost everything.

Rampal urges Centre for support to flood-hit people

JAMMU: Babu Rampaul Former Minister and President Central zone JKNC has urged the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir governments for a comprehensive package of aid and significant financial support aimed at bringing out of the quagmire of devastating flood damages suffered by the flood-affected victims in Jammu region.

In a poignant expression of sorrow, Babu Ram Paul, a senior leader of the National Conference (JKNC) and former Minister articulated his profound shock and deep sense of grief in response to the catastrophic cloudburst that recently struck various districts and other vulnerable areas within J&K, he emphasized, adding that a comprehensive package of aid and significant financial support aimed at addressing the urgent needs of the flood-affected victims in the region of Jammu and Kashmir is urgently required.

In light of the overwhelming scale of destruction and the ensuing human suffering, Babu Ram Paul has called upon the Government of India to officially recognize this disaster as a national disaster. Such a recognition would facilitate the mobilization of key resources and support needed for effective disaster response and recovery efforts.

Donate generously to CM’s Relief Fund: Kalsotra

JAMMU: State President of the Doma (Dalit, OBC, Minority, Adivasi) Confederation, R.K. Kalsotra, has donated his one-day pension to the Chief Minister’s Flood Relief Fund, Jammu and Kashmir, in order to support those affected by the recent devastating floods across the Union Territory.

Kalsotra expressed deep concern over the widespread destruction caused by the floods, noting that entire communities have suffered irreparable losses—from lives tragically cut short to houses, farmland, and essential belongings being washed away.

He emphasized that while the government is working to provide relief, the scale of destruction requires collective efforts and generous public support.

He further appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as citizens across the country, to contribute wholeheartedly to the Relief Fund. “The Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, is making every effort to reach out to the affected families. With the people’s support, the administration can extend timely help to those who have lost their homes, livelihoods, and sources of income,” he said.

Umesh projects plight of rehri-fari operators

JAMMU: Umesh Kumar Gabbar, President, BJP SC Morcha, District Jammu South, expressed deep concern over the hardships being faced by Rehri-Fari operators in the aftermath of the recent flash floods.

Umesh Kumar was addressing a meeting of the affected community held near the Railway Station, Jammu.

During the interaction, the Rehri-Fari operators apprised Umesh Kumar of the grave situation that has disrupted their livelihoods. They shared that ever since the flash floods, life has been thrown out of gear, particularly for those dependent on daily earnings to sustain their families. Even individuals not directly hit by the floods have lost their meager incomes due to the disruption in normal business activity.

Army conducts lecture on drug abuse

RAJOURI: The Indian Army organised a lecture on drug abuse and the harmful effects of smoking to spread awareness among the younger generation and local populace of Hasplot and nearby areas.

The event, attended by 25 locals (10 men and 15 children), aimed at promoting healthy practices for physical and mental well-being, with refreshments provided to all participants. An Army representative highlighted the grave consequences of drug abuse, including addiction, behavioural changes, depression, suicidal tendencies and serious health problems such as kidney failure and heart disease.

He also briefed the children and youth on preventive measures such as avoiding peer pressure, seeking help for mental health issues, understanding addiction and maintaining a balanced lifestyle. The youth were advised to pursue their goals responsibly and contribute positively to society, with the Army assuring continued guidance and support.

DC Rajesh reviews progress of RDD sector works under Capex 2025-26

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Rural Development Department sector works being executed under the Capex Budget 2025-26. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the meeting discussed in detail the tendering process, pace of according approvals and field-level issues hindering the smooth execution of works. It was informed that out of the 1551 proposed works in the RDD sector for the current fiscal, approval has been accorded to 1430 works, while 61 works remain pending due to procedural and technical reasons.

DC directed the concerned field functionaries to expedite the removal of bottlenecks in the tendering process to avoid delay in the execution. He emphasized to take up feasible works to ensure optimal utilization of funds and timely completion of projects. He further directed the



field staff to promptly resolve nomenclature-related issues, in consultation with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) without any further delay.

Highlighting the importance

of close monitoring at the grass-roots level, the DC instructed the Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure regular supervision of the field staff for efficient implementation and

quality of works. He asked the officers to focus on achieving 100% physical and financial progress within the stipulated timelines to maximize developmental outcomes for the rural population.

During the meeting, the ACD apprised the DC that BDOs have been directed to prepare and submit supplementary MGNREGA plans for repair of damages caused to infrastructure due to the recent incessant rains, ensuring timely redressal of public grievances.

The meeting also discussed the importance of synergy among different wings of the department and the PRIs for better planning and execution of projects. The DC called for enhanced coordination and timely reporting to ensure that development initiatives reach the targeted beneficiaries without delay.

ADDC Kathua, Surinder Mohan; Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur; ACD Akhil Sadotra; Executive Engineer, REW and field functionaries of the RDD sector attended the meeting.

DC Ashok Sharma reviews status of road connectivity, Jal Shakti projects

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POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma visited Surankote and convened an interaction meeting with prominent members of the civil society to listen to their concerns and review developmental requirements of the area.

The meeting discussed at length the damages caused due to recent adverse weather conditions, particularly its impact on infrastructure and essential services. DC laid strong emphasis on strengthening road connectivity in the subdivision and directed the concerned engineers to ensure timely execution of all ongoing works. He stressed that improving road links, especially to far-flung habitations, is vital for economic



growth and smooth public mobility.

DC also reviewed the progress of Jal Shakti projects and issued strict instructions to the officers of

the department to expedite execution and ensure timely completion. He underlined that uninterrupted water supply is a basic necessity and warned that accountabil-

ity will be fixed in case of delays or lapses.

While concluding, the DC highlighted the growing challenge of drug abuse and urged civil society, parents and educational institutions to work in close coordination with the administration to safeguard the youth from this menace.

The meeting was attended by local SDM, SDPO, SEs, XENs, Tehsildar, BDOs, officers/officials of line departments and prominent members of civil society who actively participated and shared their concerns with the District Administration. The Deputy Commissioner assured that more such interactive meetings will be held regularly to monitor progress on development works and address public grievances.

Revenue teams outset flood damage assessment in Paddar

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KISHTWAR: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar leading a revenue team on Monday visited remote villages of Kohal and Chadas (Matti) to assess the damage caused by recent flash floods and landslides. The local Lambardar also accompanied the team during the inspection.

To speed up the process, the revenue team has been divided into smaller groups. Tehsildar Vijay Gupta visited Laie and adjoining villages, while Naib Tehsildar covered the Sohal and Tiyari areas. A team led by local Girdawar has been tasked with the assessment of damages in Karthie and Sazar villages.

The administration has already initiated relief measures for the affected families and assured a fair and



transparent evaluation of losses.

Earlier, SDM Paddar had also visited Affani, Jar and Tatapani areas with revenue officials to review the situation.

Meanwhile, electricity has been restored in four feeders of the sub-division,

while water supply has also been temporarily restored in the majority of the areas.

The Paddar-Kishtwar road, which was blocked at Kadhail and Trinallah has been reopened for traffic this afternoon.

In an official statement, SDM Paddar urged resi-

dents living in vulnerable locations to remain cautious and, if required, shift to safer places as a precaution against further landslides and flash floods.

He assured that timely relief distribution will be carried out as per government guidelines.

Dr Pardeep hails decision to shift operations from unsafe building in Gandhi Nagar Hospital

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JAMMU: Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, has commended the Health and Medical Education Department, Office of the Principal Government Medical College, Jammu, the Health Directorate, and other concerned administrative departments for their prompt decision in reviewing the situation following the recent safety audit report that declared the 65-year-old Government Hospital building at Gandhi Nagar unsafe.

Dr Pardeep emphasized that Gandhi Nagar Hospital caters to the healthcare needs of thousands of people on a daily

basis, including patients, attendants, doctors, paramedics, and administrative staff. He said that in such crucial institutions, where human lives rely on timely treatment, infrastructure safety and quality healthcare facilities, their precious lives cannot be compromised under any circumstance.

He noted that while the concerned departments have already initiated the process to shift the existing set-up to the adjoining maternity hospital building, there is an urgent need to expedite this transition.

He stressed that the process must be carried out swiftly yet smoothly to ensure that essential med-

ical services remain uninterrupted.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the hospital, Dr. Pardeep said Gandhi Nagar Hospital, located in the heart of Jammu, caters to a very large number of patients on both OPD and IPD basis. It also becomes a focal point in medical emergencies, supplementing the Medical College at Bakshi Nagar. Therefore, operationalizing its functioning in a safe and efficient environment is critical for the city’s healthcare system.

Dr. Pardeep further cautioned that Jammu is presently facing incessant rains, with forecasts predicting heavy downpours in the coming days.

DC Nidhi sets two-day deadline for reopening of PMGSY roads

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REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik on Monday chaired a meeting to review the rain triggered damages and pace of restoration works in the district.

DC assessed the restoration status in key sectors including PHE, JPDCL, PWD and PMGSY. She directed the PMGSY Executive Engineer to deploy adequate men, machinery and material for road clearance. She set a 2-day deadline for restoration of all motorable roads. “There is a need for enforcing accountability among contractors and round-the-clock monitoring of restoration works,” she added. Reviewing the PHE sector, the DC was informed that 60% of the water supply has been restored. She instructed the department to submit a detailed report on the number of

damaged schemes. The Executive Engineer PHE, Dharmari briefed that 14 schemes have been damaged and that repair works are currently underway. Regarding the Power sector, the DC directed immediate restoration of electricity across the district. It was informed that power supply has been restored in most areas, with only 2% of transformers pending repair. The DC instructed officers to relocate transformers from sinking zones and complete the restoration work on priority. DC Nidhi Malik also directed the District Mineral Officer (DMO) to conduct a joint inspection with Executive Engineer PWD and PMGSY to check bridges and culverts. She stressed on immediate clearance of drainage channels to prevent obstruction of river flow for the safety and stability of bridges and culverts.

BGIF felicitates Ritu Singh at Bharat Mandapam

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JAMMU: In a grand celebration of India’s industrial resurgence, the Bharat Global Industries Forum (BGIF) hosted its landmark mega event at the iconic Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Rooted in the ethos of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch and dedicated to shaping India’s industrial future, the forum brought together leading industrialists, policymakers, innovators, and changemakers in a showcase of the nation’s march toward self-reliance and global prominence.

The event witnessed the august presence of eminent dignitaries, including Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, MP, Rajya Sabha; A.S. Mittal, Vice Chairman, Sonalika Tractors; Madhusudan, Vice-President, Haldiram’s; Bhupendra Yadav, Union Cabinet Minister for Envi-



ronment, Forest and Climate Change; R. Sundaram, National Convener, SJM; and Satish Kumar, Akhil Bhartiya Co-convener, SJM. Amidst this distinguished gathering, Kunwari Ritu Singh, scion of the Royal Dogra dynasty of Jammu and Kashmir, was felicitated for her extraordinary contributions to nation-building. The honor recognized her unwavering commitment to empowering women, promoting indigenous entrepreneurship, and pre-

serving India’s rich cultural heritage through sustainable economic initiatives. Her leadership exemplifies the fusion of modern Indian vision with deep-rooted traditional values.

The national forum also featured strong representation from Jammu & Kashmir through Anita Sharma, Convener, and Deepali Handa, Co-Convener of the J&K Province, highlighting the region’s active role in advancing the Swadeshi industrial movement.